



Roy Cooper, Governor

Todd Ishee, Secretary

**North Carolina Department of Adult Correction
Executive order 292, Advancing Environmental Justice for North Carolina
DRAFT: Goals and Measurable Outcomes**

Overview

The mission of this Executive Order and its task to state agencies, is to incorporate environmental justice into policies and programming, to provide clarity and consistency to the agencies approach on environmental justice, and to collaborate on, develop, and enhance state strategies to advance environmental justice.

DAC is tasked with developing at least three draft Environmental Justice goals with measurable outcomes. These goals will be submitted to the Governor's Environmental Justice Advisory Council for review. Following review, each agencies' goals will be posted for a 60-day public comment period, then published to the NC Environmental Justice Hub. Each agency is permitted to refine EJ goals throughout this process.

These goals were developed in alignment with North Carolina Executive Orders 303, 246, 292, and 80, DAC Strategic Plan, and the NCDAC Climate Strategy Report. Goal #1 is contingent on the completion of the DIT/DEQ mapping tool, and Goals #2 and #3 are currently in progress. All four goals have a process for completion that is not outlined in detail within this document.

"Environmental Justice" means the just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of income, race, color, national origin, or Tribal affiliation, in agency policies and programming that affect human health, well-being, quality of life, and the environment so that people:

- are protected from disproportionate and adverse human health effects and environmental hazards, including those related to climate change, the cumulative impacts of environmental and other burdens, and the legacy of racism or other structural or systemic barriers;
- and have equitable access to a healthy, sustainable, and resilient environment in which to live, play, work, learn, grow, worship, and engage in cultural and subsistence practices.

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Goal 1

Implement a Department of Adult Correction (DAC) Environmental Justice and Equity Plan by January 2025 to address disparities and promote resilience.

Measurable Outcomes

1. Utilize Geographic Information System (GIS) technology and DEQ/DIT Mapping tool to map the spatial distribution of prison facilities, DAC communities disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards (e.g., pollution, hazardous waste sites), and populations under correctional supervision (both incarcerated individuals and those under community supervision). Collect and analyze demographic and environmental data to identify intersections and disparities, including factors such as race, income, health outcomes, and environmental quality indicators.
2. Develop a comprehensive Environmental Justice and Equity Plan that outlines strategies to address environmental disparities, promote resilience, and enhance the well-being of incarcerated individuals, staff, and surrounding communities. Identify priority areas for intervention based on mapping and data analysis, considering factors such as vulnerability, historical inequities, and potential for positive impact.
3. Implement targeted mitigation and adaptation measures to address environmental injustices and enhance climate resilience within correctional institutions and surrounding communities. Examples of mitigation strategies include implementing green infrastructure projects, improving indoor air quality, enhancing disaster preparedness and response, and promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives.

Goal 2

Improve the environmental health for offenders and employees through the Air Conditioning (A/C) state-wide project, vulnerability assessments, and mitigating the impacts of extreme weather due to climate change.

Measurable Outcomes:

1. Improve the air quality and living conditions for offenders through the design and installation of air-conditioning in uncooled offender bed areas. Complete A/C designs for an additional 6,100 beds and HVAC installations for 2,200 in 2024.
2. Conduct a vulnerability assessment within our prison facilities. Funding in the amount of \$3 million was approved to begin Phase I of a Comprehensive Facility Strategy for our prison facilities. The funding is an initial step of a \$25 million effort to develop an operational model for the prison system. Phase I will include vulnerability assessments to review the condition of as many prisons as can be assessed in Phase I of the total work. The vulnerability assessments will be coupled with operational data to determine the most efficient use of resources for the custody management of offenders.
3. Mitigate the impacts of climate change by identifying and maintaining site capacity to handle extreme weather events. Identify energy and water efficiency efforts that can mitigate extreme weather challenges while reducing energy/water intensity. Identify NCDAC facilities and work locations vulnerable to flooding due to impacts such as (but not limited to) riverine or coastal flooding, stormwater and sewer flooding, and dam breaches. Determine the most cost-effective strategies to implement flood mitigation and improve offender safety (such as relocating equipment above flood plain areas, etc.). Address potential impacts to our farmlands including flooding and droughts.
4. Maintain offender and employee safety by assessing plans for hurricane evacuation routing for offender and staff populations and identifying the potential for heat stroke and other potential physical and mental health issues related to increased threats of severe weather due to climate change.

Goal 3

Reduce greenhouse gas and other air pollution emissions to minimize potential health impacts to DAC staff, offenders, and local communities, especially those disproportionately affected by climate change and environmental pollution. Increase Offender environmental, sustainable, and renewable vocation.

Measurable Outcomes:

1. Incorporate green spaces and community gardens to help improve outdoor air quality and provide benefits to incarcerated individuals.
2. Increase vocation to match industry demand, assist this effort using grants, and environmental and sustainable (ES) partnerships.
3. Consider greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions evaluation.
4. Completely retrofit all DAC facilities with LED lighting.
5. Use performance contracting to reduce on-site energy use.
6. Update water management systems at select NCDAC Facilities.
7. Install solar power at select NCDAC Facilities.
8. Convert vehicles to clean diesel.
 - Purchase at least 32 shuttle buses, 26 Heavy Duty class 4-8 trucks and decommission all vehicles involved in VW grant.
9. Convert vehicles to ZEVs.
 - Install charging stations at four 1000-cell facilities as part of our Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contract.
 - Deploy 19 Beam Solar Charging stations that have already been purchased.
 - Order and Deploy 15 more Beam Solar charging stations, grant permitting.
 - Work with DOA to get Beam Solar on a State Term Contract.
 - Convert 25% of our internal combustion engines (ICE) units to hybrids.

Goal 4

Land dedications and ecological, best management practices for land use. Partner with the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Natural Heritage Program to evaluate acreage owned and managed by DAC, and determine the viability of additional Nature Preserve dedications, and Triable land dedications.

Measurable Outcomes:

1. Partner with the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for dedications.
2. Talent Acquisition: Biologist/Ecologist/Environmental Scientist.
 - Land use management through the acquisition of professional staff in the above discipline.

3. Promote conservation, and biodiversity.
 - The Biologist/Ecologist/Environmental Scientist acquired will promote conservation and biodiversity through the deployment of best management practices for land use.
4. Inform DAC of the current success stories across the agency footprint.