

## **North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Environmental Justice Goals**

1. Ensure that underserved communities have equitable access to DEQ data and funding opportunities.
  - a) Track % of applications received from counties/towns in Tier 1 counties or serving Potentially Underserved communities as defined by DEQ Community Mapping System (where specific project data is available)
  - b) Evaluate grant ratings systems/scoring criteria within DEQ's purview for inclusion of equity criteria by October 1, 2024
  - c) Evaluate participation/response rates for emerging contaminants testing and filtration options in underserved communities and conduct enhanced outreach to identified communities and households.
  - d) By December 1, 2024, conduct a review of compliance and enforcement data for select regulatory programs, comparing data from underserved communities to statewide data to identify potential areas for further examination.
  
2. Incorporate environmental justice, equity and access throughout Department programs to the extent permitted by law.
  - a) Provide Language Access and Public Participation Plan training to all staff whose daily job requirements include engagement with the public by Dec. 1, 2024.
  - b) Provide refresher EJ training to all staff who work on permitting and competitive funding programs by December 1, 2024.
  - c) Make Title VI and EJ training available to all staff through LMS by Dec 1, 2024
  
3. Enhance transparency by informing stakeholders of DEQ regulatory programs and actions, providing access to community level information, and increasing opportunities for public engagement.
  - a) Continue to increase utilization of translation and interpretation services where resources allow
  - b) Target translation of additional documents with highest request frequency by October 1, 2024
  - c) Evaluate opportunities to provide educational materials in additional languages by October 1, 2024