

Portraits of Environmental Justice

1960s

1964 — US congress passes the Civil rights act of 1964. Title VI prohibits use of federal funds to discriminate based on race, color, and national origin



1970s

1977 — Toxins buried by Hooker Chemical were responsible for the health problems of local residents in New York. United States President Jimmy Carter declared a federal emergency at Love Canal, and those living closest to the site were relocated.



1980s

1982 — Warren County residents protest the siting of a polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) landfill in Warren County, North Carolina. It was here that Benjamin Chavez coined the term environmental racism. This protest is well known as the start of the Environmental Justice Movement.

1990s

1994 — President Clinton issues executive order 12989 addressing environmental justice in minority populations and low income populations.



1996 — Environmental Justice Action Group is founded by a group of North and Northeast Portland residents to address significant environmental health hazards faced by residents of those communities.

2000

2001 — Multnomah County Health Department begins the Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental health (PACE-EH) to assess the needs of environmental justice communities in North/Northeast Portland.



2002 — Environmental Justice Action Group has first major victor to prevent the four lane freeway expansion into North Portland.

2005 — OPAL, (Organizing People, Activating Leaders) formed to work for Environmental Justice in the Portland metro area to support ignored communities that fight against the oppression of pollution and social injustice.



2007

2007 — Multnomah County Environmental Health Services hosts the Healthy Homes Summit, a one day facilitated event that brought together policy makers, community leaders and health and housing stakeholders. The purpose of the summit was to explore the crossroads between environmental justice, health disparities and the built community to create a common framework of public policy that would improve the health and safety of children living in the areas of greatest health disparities.



2007 - Senator Avel Gordly sponsors Senate Bill 420 creating an Environmental Justice Task Force requiring natural resource agencies to perform certain actions relating to environmental justice.

