## Environmental Justice Assistance Network (EJAN)





## **Denise January**

Environmental Justice Assistance Network (EJAN) Coordinator Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE)



## Alternatives for Community & Environment

Together we are building healthy, sustainable communities

Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE) is a member-led, grassroots organization working to build the power of communities of color and low-income communities in MA to eradicate environmental racism and classism, create healthy, sustainable communities, and achieve environmental justice.

## **OUR PROGRAMS & SERVICES**

Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project (REEP)



Youth-led program supported by ACE that builds power in young adults across Roxbury, Dorchester and Mattapan to organize to win environmental justice campaigns.

### **T Riders Union**



An ACE-organized group of riders that fights for first-class MBTA transit services in Greater Boston, particularly in lower-income communities and communities of color.

#### Environmental Justice Legal Services (EJLS)

Program guiding ACE's organizational and coalition work with a robust legal framework grounded in federal and state civil rights and environmental law. EJLS also provides legal and technical assistance to allies and mobilizes legal and scientific resources to support organizing efforts throughout Boston.

### Environmental Justice Assistance Network (EJAN)

EJAN is ACE's 20-year statewide pro bono technical assistance network responding to the legal, scientific, and technical needs of communities on the front line of environmental and energy hazards.

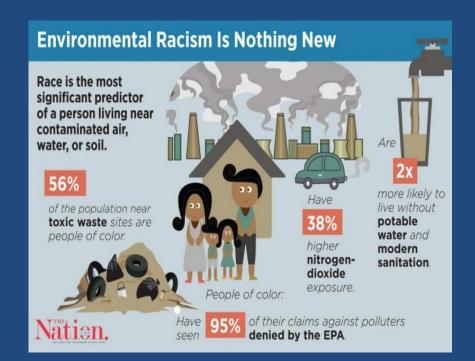
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# Environmental Justice (EJ) and Civil Rights

The environmental justice movement acknowledges that:

- People of color are historically and continue to be disproportionately burdened by environmental contaminants
- Such communities must be actively leading efforts to make their communities healthier and more sustainable
- These communities should benefit from environmental, climate, and public health laws and policies.



## Environmental Justice Assistance Network

Pro bono capacity-building and referral network that matches legal, scientific, public health, and technical experts with communities in MA that are addressing EJ challenges



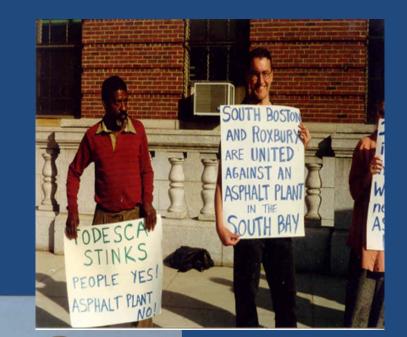
## Why?

- To respond to legal and scientific needs of front line communities
- To build capacity of historically underrepresented groups





- 1994-2015: Before EJAN, ACE had the MA
   Environmental Justice Assistance Network, or
   MEJAN
- Network of 350 legal and technical professionals
- EJAN encourages collaboration between attorneys and other experts





# What can EJAN help with?

- Polluting businesses
- Proposals for development
- Unhealthy air or water
- Repurposing vacant lots for community benefit
- Contaminated property
- Garbage dumping
- Unsafe/rundown parks
- Unsafe Traffic Noise
- Inadequate public services
- Transactional issues
- And more...

## Who are we looking for?

Attorneys, Licensed Site Professionals, Planners, Consultants, Traffic Specialists, Scientists, and other environmental/public health professionals who are:

- Committed to the pursuit of environmental justice
- Want to make a difference in ways that encourage community empowerment and client-centered decision making



# Case Examples

## **Scituate Landfill**

- Review and explanation of technical content
- Recommendations to strengthen risk assessments

## **Fort Hill Water Quality**

 Research on water lines and MWRA test results of water quality for concerned residents





Final braft September 2023



 Roxbury Demolition Site Cleanup
 LSP guidance on developing Public Involvement Plan (PIP) and

possible contamination

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# {Who do we serve?

## EJAN works with residents who:

- Are low-income and/or community of color
- Have identified a significant environmental problem affecting their environment or quality of life



• Are working with a group and are willing to be represented collectively by an attorney/other expert



# Volunteer expectations

- Receive case summaries
- You control your engagement
- No case requirement
- Access to volunteer trainings
- EJAN staff will provide conflict resolution if necessary



## https://www.hear-db.org/

#### QUALIFICATIONS

#### FIELDS OF EXPERTISE

Please choose the professional field(s) which you are most proficient in or in which you have training. (Note that you may need to scroll down to see all choices.)

#### Law

Drag to re-order taxonomy terms.

- None -

#### Medicine

Drag to re-order taxonomy terms.

- None -

#### Professional/Other

Drag to re-order taxonomy terms.

- None -

#### Science

Drag to re-order taxonomy terms.

- None -

#### **Issue Areas**

- Please select issue areas in which you have experience or interest.
- Drag to re-order taxonomy terms.

- None -

#### Experience working with

Communities of color

□ Community organizations

Disabled

### INTERESTS

## Level of engagement

Come to a community meeting to translate or present scientific information
Develop a long-term collaborative program
Fact-check document (e.g., fact sheets and reports)
Give expert testimony
Provide legal advice via phone or meeting
Provide legal representation
Respond to brief questions or quick advice via phone or e-mail
Review a plan / a risk assessment / an EIS / etc
Sign letters / editorials

## Summary of interests

Please include any keywords that people might use in searches.

## **Student Availability**

If students are available for project work, please detail course, experience level, and time available.

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How were you referred to this database?

## What about risks and conflicts?

## Want to Learn More?

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**Thank You** 

MASSACHUSETTS STATE

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Scan the QR code to sign up for EJAN or go to https://www.hear-db.org/





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