

# Illinois EPA

# EJ Enforcement Strategy



# Key Goals of the EJ Policy

*The EJ Enforcement Strategy is aligned with and strengthens the key goals of the Agency's EJ policy.*

- ▶ Ensure communities are not disproportionately impacted by environmental impacts and that they receive an equitable share of protections and benefits
- ▶ Expand community input and consideration in enforcement matters, where practicable
- ▶ Develop consistent EJ practices across Illinois EPA programs
- ▶ Continuously evaluate and evolve EJ strategies to promote greater protection and equity

[Link to Agency EJ Policy](#)

[Link to Agency EJ Enforcement Strategy](#)



# Principles of EJ-Focused Environmental Enforcement



Ensure community access to non-confidential enforcement information

Understand fundamental elements of compliance and enforcement activities  
Increase meaningful public participation



Increase monitoring, inspection, and investigation in EJ areas

Increase compliance  
Reduce environmental burdens



Require responsible parties to address environmental impacts of violations

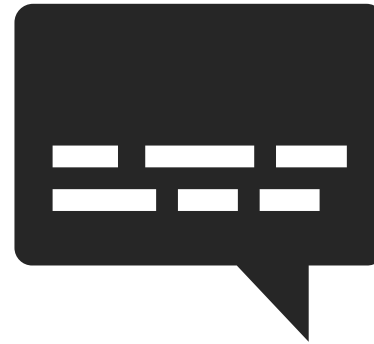
Compliance Commitment Agreements  
Referrals to Illinois Attorney General's Office

# Enforcement Strategies in Areas of EJ Concern

- ▶ Strengthen communication with community members, leaders, and advocacy groups
- ▶ Provide educational and technical support to improve understanding of inspection, compliance, and enforcement authorities and activities
- ▶ Collaborate with the Illinois Commission on EJ to inform enforcement goals including communication and outreach opportunities and identification of environmental mitigation projects
- ▶ Increase emphasis on monitoring and inspections to ensure prompt investigation of complaints
- ▶ Coordinate enforcement with federal, state, and local partners
- ▶ Expand use of mitigation and Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs)
- ▶ Explore penalty escrow opportunities to support community environmental improvements

# Reporting & Communication

- ▶ Publish monitoring, inspection, and enforcement data
- ▶ Provide a convenient and anonymous process for the public to report potential environmental violations
- ▶ Engage community members consistent with the Agency's Language Access Plan



# Thank You!

Office of Environmental Justice  
Bureau of Safety & Sustainability

[epa.oej@illinois.gov](mailto:epa.oej@illinois.gov)

Illinois EPA [Office of EJ webpage](#).

