NEBC Conference 2023

What is the environment?

Raise Your Hand When You See a Photo of the Environment

Raise Your Hand When You See a Photo of the Environment

Raise Your Hand When You See a Photo of the Environment

Raise Your Hand When You See a Photo of the Environment

Raise Your Hand When You See a Photo of the Environment

Raise Your Hand When You See a Photo of the Environment

Think about the photos...
What are the characteristics of an Environment?

Slide 9

1 @orianamagnera@verdenw.org I would appreciate any thoughts you have for how to facilitate this section. I'm borrowing it from your presentation because I thought it gave a good grounding before we talked about defining the terms.
Assigned to Oriana Magnera
Candace Avalos, 12/4/2022

An Environment is...

- An environment is anywhere people experience nature, live, work, play, or practice spirituality
- An environment is based on intricate and interdependent social, ecological, and economic relationships

What is Environmental Justice?

Fair distribution of burdens and benefits of environmental health hazards and meaningful participation in decisions that impact the environment and people who live, work, learn and play.

—Oregon Environmental Justice Task Force

1. Prevent Harm (Who is burdened?)
2. Provide Benefit (Who benefits?)
3. Ensure Inclusive and Accountable Decision-Making (Who's at the Table?)

Artwork: Ricardo Levins Morales

Who Are Environmental Justice Communities?

Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color; communities experiencing lower incomes; tribal communities; rural communities; under-resourced communities; coastal communities; and other communities traditionally under-represented in public processes and adversely harmed by environmental and health hazards, including but not limited to seniors, youth, and people with disabilities.

About

Our Mission

Verde serves communities by building environmental wealth through social enterprise, outreach and advocacy.

Our Values

Community	We are a grassroots, intergenerational, and diverse movement that reflects the communities we serve.
Sustainability	We value environmental, economic, social, and human resilience in all aspects of our programs and operations.
Equity	We promote empowerment by centering frontline communities in environmental justice.
Creativity	We show optimism for our shared future through innovation and ingenuity.
Responsiveness	We adapt to the needs of our community, balancing urgency with purpose.
Collaboration	We leverage our partnerships locally, regionally, statewide, and nationally to make change.

Our Priority: Building Environmental Wealth

Our Theory of Change: Bridging the Green Divide

Verde believes in building environmental wealth as an anti poverty strategy.

Our Programs: Outreach

Our outreach programs engage with community members, peer organizations and policymakers about the connection between protecting the environment and building community.

Our Programs: Living Cully

Living Cully was formed in 2010 by Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East, Hacienda CDC, Native American Youth & Family Center and Verde.

Our Programs: Energy, Climate, & Transportation

Our Energy, Climate and Transportation program engages in legislative work, and combines our outreach and educational work with a legislative agenda.

Quick Legislative Wins Recap? And 2023 session?

Legislative Wins

- HB 2475 (2021): Allows utilities to adopt measures that reduce energy burden like discounts and creates funding for environmental justice organizations to engage in the public utility commission space

- HB 2842 (2021): Creates Healthy Homes program and task force at Oregon Health Authority to address health and safety upgrades in homes
-
- HB 2021 (2021): Requires 100% clean energy in Oregon's electricity mix by 20240 in ways that maximize community benefits and minimize environmental justice burdens

- SB 1536 (2022): Establishes renters rights associated with installing cooling devices and establishes funding programs for emergency air conditioner and air filtration access and heat pump installation

2023 Session Bills:

- Renewable Energy and Transmission Siting: Collaborative process to determine if any changes are need to Oregon's siting system to balance energy pals with community needs

- Green Infrastructure Equity: Funding to increase access to tree canopy and other green infrastructure projects that benefit communities

- Community-Based Water Infrastructure Funding: Funding for water infrastructure, plumbing retrofitting, and water reuse projects that benefit environmental justice communities

- Emergency Heat Relief Fixes: Updates to ensure strong implementation and increased funding for programs

Our Programs: Verde Builds

Verde Builds is Verde's social enterprise and licensed General Contractor. The program can conceive, design and implement environmental infrastructure projects.

Cully Park

A Case Study

A Community-Based Green Space

What do we mean by community-based?

Cully Park is being designed and built by and with the Cully community. Examples include:

Designing the Play Area: Verde worked with designers and 4 local schools to develop initial play area designs, and each school's students presented their designs at a community design event (video). We are building the play area that the students designed.

Building NE 72nd Greenstreet: Verde worked with diverse businesses and workers to transform a rundown NE 72nd Avenue into NE 72nd Greenstreet, which now provides bike, pedestrian and auto access to the Park, with new environmental features that protect local waterways from pollution.

VERDE
BUILDS
KUBOTA

Owens
Brockway
Advocacy in Action

Slide 26

2	@orianamagnera@verdenw.org @viviansatterfield@verdenw.org I could use some help here with a very quick script (in notes) I can read before showing the video in the next slide. _Assigned to Oriana Magnera_ Candace Avalos, 12/4/2022

How to Engage Local Communities

- Ensure informational materials are in multiple languages
- Develop leadership programming to ensure community members can have an active role in decisions
- Understand and learn the history and present day of the land and the people
- Work with organizations that already have trusted relationships with the community

Slide 28

3	@viviansatterfield@verdenw.org @orianamagnera@verdenw.org additional thoughts here welcome Candace Avalos, 12/4/2022

How to Partner with Organizations Like Verde

- Contract with us to do community engagement on your projects
- Hire our social enterprise Verde Builds on green infrastructure construction projects
- Support our legislative agenda
- Provide opportunities for community members' voices to be heard — we can help connect you to people and organizations!

Slide 29

4 @viviansatterfield@verdenw.org @orianamagnera@verdenw.org thoughts on how I could highlight partnership opportunities? _Assigned to Vivian Satterfield_

Candace Avalos, 12/4/2022

Thank You!

Visit our NEW website at www.verdenw.org to learn more about our movement and how you can support environmental justice communities near you.