



Institute for
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NEW REPORT DETAILS HOW FEDERAL AGENCIES CAN IMPROVE CLIMATE-RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ANALYSIS

In an Executive Order issued yesterday, the Biden administration announced new actions to prioritize environmental justice in federal policymaking. In addition to these much-needed new steps, federal agencies can improve environmental justice outcomes by better fulfilling their obligations under an existing Executive Order from 1994.

A [report released today by the Institute for Policy Integrity at NYU School of Law](#) provides detailed guidance on how federal agencies can conduct better environmental justice analysis by more fully considering how certain communities will be impacted by climate change, as required under Executive Order 12,898. Improved analyses would ensure that agencies fully consider the effects of governmental decisionmaking on low-income and minority communities, which are disproportionately harmed by global climate change.

Distributional and equity concerns have typically received short shrift in federal decisionmaking. Executive Order 12,898, issued by President Clinton in 1994, requires agencies to identify adverse environmental impacts on low-income and minority populations. But its application has been often focused on the impacts of local pollutants on particular geographical communities, and many believe the Order has fallen short of its potential. The connection between global climate change and environmental justice is exceedingly clear. Greater and more consistent focus on climate change-related impacts is not only required by Executive Order 12,898, but may also help reinvigorate it.

The new report, “[Improving Environmental Justice Analysis: Executive Order 12,898 and Climate Change](#),” provides both background and guidance. The authors explore the legal basis, under Executive Order 12,898, for considering climate impacts, and highlight real-world evidence of the disproportionate harms that affect vulnerable communities as climate change intensifies. They then offer concrete steps that federal agencies can take to incorporate climate impacts into their environmental justice analyses. The authors also include illustrative examples of how agencies have done so in the past.

The report is available at: <https://policyintegrity.org/publications/detail/improving-environmental-justice-analysis>

The authors are available for interviews on these issues.

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