



## JOIN US!



Yes! I want to become a member of NJEF! Contributions to NJEF are not tax deductible, so that we can advocate effectively for or against legislation.\* NJEF's memberships are for a term of 1 year. We encourage you to give what you can!

\_\_\_ **Sustaining Members:** \$60 or more per year.  
(Receive national *Clean Water Action News* and state programmatic updates)

\_\_\_ **Subscribing Members:** \$25 per year.  
(Receive the national publication, *Clean Water Action News*)

\_\_\_ **Supporting Members:** Contribute \$5.

\_\_\_ **Affirming Members:** Contribute less than \$5.

### SIGN ME UP!

(Print Neatly)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution: \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$36 \_\_\_\_\_ \$60 \_\_\_\_\_

\$120 \_\_\_\_\_ \$365 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (      ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \*\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*Contributions to NJEF are not tax deductible. NJEF is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. NJEF is the state chapter of national Clean Water Action.

\*\*Emails added to NJEF's email action alert listserv.

When you join NJEF at any of the above levels, all of your family members residing in the same household are also included as members.

All members are entitled to vote on the organization's national program priorities and on the selection of the Board of Directors. If you would like to have input into the national program priorities or vote for the Board of Directors, please provide your e-mail address, call 1-800-70-WATER or visit [www.cleanwateraction.org/njef/](http://www.cleanwateraction.org/njef/)

For information about how to participate in elections for state leadership of Clean Water Action, please call NJEF's State Office at 732-280-8988.

# ENVIRONMENTAL



# JUSTICE

**"Low-income communities receive less treatment for environmental disease because they have less access to health care, yet are often at much greater risk from their environment."**

—*Georges Benjamin*  
**Executive Director**  
**American Public Health Association**



## Who is NJ Environmental Federation & Clean Water Fund?

NJ Environmental Federation (NJEF), the NJ chapter of Clean Water Action, is a non-profit, action-oriented organization with nearly 100,000 individual members and over 100 environmental, community, religious, labor and student member groups.

Clean Water Fund (CWF) is a national 501(c)3 grassroots nonprofit organization. CWF is the research, training and education partner of NJEF.

NJEF and CWF work hand in hand to reduce the use, exposure and health impacts of toxic chemicals in our homes, workplace, community and schools. Ensure the safety of both drinking water and protect the natural areas from which it is drawn, and improve the quality of life of NJ's children by reducing diesel pollution, pesticides and toxic cleaning product use in schools, playgrounds, and parks. NJEF and CWF achieve these goals through education, training, advocacy and grassroots mobilization. In doing so, NJEF and CWF make democracy work in a manner that achieves environmental justice for all.

### State Office

1002 Ocean Ave., Belmar, NJ 07719  
Phone: 732-280-8988; Fax: 732-280-0371  
Email: [jvickers@cleanwater.org](mailto:jvickers@cleanwater.org)

### North Jersey Office

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### Central Jersey Office

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### South Jersey Office

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### National Office:

4455 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite A300  
Washington, DC 20008  
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### Websites:

[www.cleanwateraction.org/njef](http://www.cleanwateraction.org/njef)  
[www.cleanwaterfund.org](http://www.cleanwaterfund.org)

## NJEF & CWF's Environmental Justice Allies:



Camden Unity  
Ironbound Community Corporation  
International Black Women's Congress  
North Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance  
Newark/North Jersey Black Clergy  
New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance  
Quest Ink  
South Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance  
South Camden Citizens in Action  
Urban Environmental Institute  
Urban Voices  
Weequahic Park Association

## Environmental Justice

The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) affirms that urban areas are disproportionately impacted by a wide range of air toxics, contaminated soil and water. Diesel exhaust levels alone cause a tripling of the cancer risk in comparison to suburban areas. Unfortunately, this primarily affects people of color, low-income and working-class communities. This is an environmental injustice.

All peoples should have an opportunity to live in a healthy environment. Children living in polluted communities are hardest hit. It affects their ability to learn, stay healthy and succeed in the world.



Nationwide, 1 in 15 kids have asthma. Yet 1 in 4 school age children in our cities are asthmatic. A statewide study showed that Essex and Bergen Counties were #1 and #2 for asthma related mortality rates

with a doubling of rates within minority populations. All of these environmental injustices impact an individual's health and quality of life, but also the financial stresses of the family (i.e. lost work days & medical bills).

To prevent future injustices, NJEF seeks to:

- **shift our fundamental way of thinking** from "finding the *cure* after the damage has been done" to "*preventing* harm" as embodied by the precautionary principle.
- **engage the community** affected by environmental exposures in designing & ensuring implementation of strategies that will reduce exposure to toxins & their related health impacts.
- **build advocates & leaders** that will conduct community outreach and mobilization efforts for local and state-wide environmental justice (EJ) campaigns, as well as work to get urban-based decision-makers to champion EJ policies.
- **develop model programs** that are affordable, effective and replicable at the individual, facility and institutional levels that give particular attention to those most vulnerable to pollutants—children, the elderly and those with compromised immune systems, including cancer, diabetes, dialysis and HIV/AIDS patients.

## "Just Say No More"



Low income & communities of color living in urban areas are disproportionately impacted by the cumulative impact of multiple pollution sources and toxins. Neighborhoods like Waterfront South in Camden and the Ironbound Section of Newark are heavily burdened with truck traffic, incinerators, industrial & port operations, as well as abandoned & contaminated sites. There is currently no mechanism for the community or the State of NJ to "just say no". This has got to change!

NJEF & CWF can:

- **work with local community groups** to seek redress to the cumulative impact of multiple pollution sources and permits in a localized area.
- **help develop a "just say no/no more" policy** regarding future state permits in these overburdened areas, including the reversal and/or no more air permits in Waterfront South.

## Kids Clean Air Zones



NJ has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest diesel emission levels in the nation (NY is #1). Up to 25% of NJ's school age children are asthmatic—the leading cause of school absenteeism & increased visits to the emergency room on hot summer days. In 2005, NJ voters approved a dedicated fund to retrofit publicly owned diesel vehicles & school buses with emission controls. But it doesn't go far enough.

NJEF & CWF can:

- **assist in the passage of** municipal and school "no idling" ordinances to enhance enforcement of an existing state "no idling" law for diesel vehicles.
- **help create "kids clean air zones"** where trucks are rerouted, electrified while stationary for long periods of time, and/or local diesel vehicles and equipment are retrofitted with exhaust filters.
- **seek state policy** to require the retrofitting of diesel vehicles and equipment utilized in a public contract. This would in effect almost double the diesel reduction levels at a much faster pace than the 2005 law currently requires.

## Urban Drinking Water



In Camden, they fight to cleanup and/or shut down wells that have been contaminated for decades with solvents & other toxins. In cities like Newark and Jersey City, the battle is to protect their relatively pristine water supply in the Highlands from sprawl development. In addition, older city pipes contain lead, which, if not controlled or replaced can cause irreparable damage to the nervous system, lower IQ, as well as affect a person's ability to learn and pay attention. Those most vulnerable—infants—may receive 40-60% of their lead from baby formula that is mixed with tap water.

NJEF & CWF can:

- **Help you interpret** water quality reports, find contaminants of concern, and call for action.
- **Seek a state requirement** that all public water supplies detecting volatile organic compounds must install carbon filters to prevent future harm.

## Healthy Schools



Children are considered more sensitive to contaminants due to their faster breathing patterns, rapid growth and development, and high consumption of water. Their exposure to toxic pesticides and cleaning products is amplified in a school setting where the air is 5 times worse indoors than out. This toxic environment can trigger asthma, the leading cause of school absenteeism. Drinking water contaminants, such as lead, e.coli, radionuclides, & trihalomethanes (disinfectant byproduct) have been found in schools throughout NJ, requiring the shutoff of water fountains & other actions.

NJEF & CWF can:

- **train facility managers** regarding the implementation of the School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) law and "green" cleaning. School IPM and green cleaning utilize products with no or low-impact chemicals.
- **work on a strategy** for requiring the testing & remediation of drinking water supplies in schools.

## Pesticide Free Zones



Lawn pesticides are associated with various forms of cancer, nervous system disorders, asthma and learning disabilities. Children and pets are the most sensitive and vulnerable to the adverse impacts of pesticides because they take in more pollutants per body weight than adults, have immature immune systems, hand to mouth behaviors, and are rapidly developing. In polluted urban communities, having a healthy, pesticide free park and playground for children to play is a must.

NJEF and CWF can:

- **help secure local resolutions** and/or policies that establish "Pesticide Free Zones" (PFZ) where children most frequent including schools, parks & recreational areas. Brick, Chatham, Irvington and Ocean City have already adopted PFZs for their parks. For more information, visit our website at: [www.cleanwateraction.org/njef/PFZ.html](http://www.cleanwateraction.org/njef/PFZ.html)

## Leadership Development



For too long our urban areas, largely low-income communities of color & immigrants, have not had a voice in decision making. Its public officials for the most part have not engaged in, much less championed, environmental justice issues in town hall or NJ state house. But there are new leaders on the horizon.

NJEF and CWF are committed to the following:

- **Urban Voices:** Train & develop community leaders committed to instill the EJ movement in NJ. Establish an Urban Environmental Institute (UEI) to address the environmental injustices that exist in these communities.
- **Urban Roundtables:** Educate public officials through solution-oriented dialogues about the community's environmental health concerns, concurrently, educate the community about the role of government in addressing those concerns.
- **Engage local residents, leaders and government officials:** Collaborate with the community and government officials to develop strategies that solve potential environmental health harms. Urge public officials to not only speak out about urban environmental issues, but create public policies that address these issues.