

MARYLAND COMMISSION on CLIMATE CHANGE

Ben Grumbles, Chair

Excerpt from ECO Work Plan 2020:

Expand outreach to disadvantaged and vulnerable communities. ECO will work with the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) to identify communities and grassroots organizations to partner with to increase awareness of State climate change work. CEJSC is a twenty-member body that is tasked with advising State government on environmental justice and analyzing the effectiveness of State and local government laws and policies to address issues of environmental justice and sustainable communities. ECO, with support from CEJSC, will review how programs included in the GGRA Plan, specifically in the energy and transportation sectors, could impact local communities. ECO can support effective dialogue around this topic, and in doing so can inspire positive action against the negative effects of climate change on our State.

The Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) defines environmental justice (EJ) as follows:

Environmental justice seeks equal protection from environmental and public health hazards for all people regardless of race, income, culture and social class.

Additionally, environmental justice means that no group of people including racial, ethnic or socioeconomic groups should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, land-use planning and zoning, municipal and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local and municipal program and policies.

The Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)

Was established by Executive Order on January 1, 2001 and [statutorily codified](#) under § 1-701 of the Environment Article of the Maryland Annotated Code.

Website:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/crossmedia/environmentaljustice/pages/details.aspx>

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