



Learn More About...

Environmental Justice

An Annotated Bibliography

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Web Links

Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice <<http://www.dwej.org/>>

DWEJ is a coalition of community leaders, academia, environmentalists, and others committed helping residents of the city of Detroit create an empowered community that has the capacity to address environmental concerns and to participate in decision-making activities where they are able to offer solutions to the problems that they face.

Environmental Defense <<http://www.environmentaldefense.org/home.cfm>>

Guided by scientific evaluation of environmental problems, Environmental Defense is dedicated to protecting the rights to clean air, clean water, healthy food and flourishing ecosystems. They seek answers that are equitable and just for all, including low-income communities and communities of color that have been disproportionately exposed to many environmental threats. The organization pays special attention to U.S. environmental problems and to America's role in causing and solving global problems.

GreenFacts <<http://www.greenfacts.org/index.htm>>

GreenFacts is an independent, multi-stakeholder non-profit organization based in Brussels. Its mission is to provide non-specialists with unbiased scientific information on environment and health matters through the Internet. The site posts summaries of authoritative scientific consensus documents on environment and health issues. They are peer-reviewed and published under the authority of a Scientific Board of independent experts.

Michigan Environmental Council <<http://www.environmentalcouncil.org/>>

Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) provides a collective voice for the environment at the local, state and federal levels. Working with member groups and their collective membership of nearly 200,000 residents, MEC promotes alternatives to urban blight and suburban sprawl; advocates for a sustainable environment and economy; protects Michigan's water legacy; promotes cleaner energy; and works to diminish environmental impacts on children's health.

Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health <<http://www.mnceh.org/>>

The Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health is a coalition of health professionals, health-affected groups, environmental organizations and others dedicated to a safe and less toxic world for Michigan's children. Through education, outreach, and advocacy, MNCEH works to change current policies and practices that result in exposure of children to environmental toxins.

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences <<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/>>

This large repository of outreach and educational materials covers the full range of environmental health subjects, from allergies to water pollution. The collection includes K-12 lesson plans, fact sheets, booklets, newsletters, and more. This site also helps interested individuals identify and connect with the scientists and environmental health experts who created these materials, in order to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, the exchange of ideas, and collaboration among people with similar concerns about environmental health issues.

Physicians for Social Responsibility <<http://www.psr.org/>>

Physicians for Social Responsibility is committed to the elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, the achievement of a sustainable environment, and the reduction of violence and its causes. The web site includes fact sheets and other information on air pollution and health, chronic disease and the environment, climate change and health and an energy security initiative.

Science and Environmental Health Network <<http://www.sehn.org/>>

SEHN encourages the practice of science in the public interest and the accurate interpretation of scientific information; identifies information, ethical concepts, and logic that have the potential to provoke essential change; and helps communities, organizations and governments develop and implement sound environmental policies.

Books

Theo Colburn et al., *Our Stolen Future: Are We Threatening Our Fertility, Intelligence and Survival?* (London: Penguin Books, 1997).

This book lists the compelling effects of chemical contamination revealed from wildlife studies, laboratory experiments and human data. Synthetic chemicals are now linked to reproductive problems, neurological and developmental disorders in children, the abnormal functioning of the thyroid, endocrine and immune system and mental and emotional development. Eighty thousand chemicals have been registered with the Environmental Protection Agency in the last 60 years. Twenty new chemicals, including pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, industrial detergents and household cleaners, enter the market every week. Few are properly tested.

Sandra Steingraber, *Living Downstream: A Scientist's Personal Investigation of Cancer and the Environment* (New York: Random House, 1998).

Writing as a survivor and concerned scientist, the author traces the high incidence of cancer and the terrifying concentrations of environmental toxins in Illinois and shows similar correlation in other communities, where cancer rates have risen alarmingly since mid-century. The book is a compelling blend of scientific research and gripping memoir.

Carolyn Raffensperger, *Protecting Public Health & the Environment: Implementing the Precautionary Principle* (Washington, DC: Island Press, 1999).

This book is a collection of articles that were first presented at the Wingspread Conference in 1998 in which the term "precautionary principle" was first articulated. The authors discuss how this principle, representing the Hippocratic promise to "first, do no harm," can influence environmental policy, law, and corporate behavior.

Drew Christiansen, S.J. and Walter Grazer (Eds.), *And God Saw That It Was Good: Catholic Theology and the Environment* (Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference, 1996).

This collection addresses the need for religious believers to approach environmental issues from a theological and pastoral foundation rising from religious tradition, including scripture, spirituality, liturgy and worship, ethics and social teaching.

Articles/Papers/Study Guides

Robert D. Bullard, PhD et. al. "Toxic Waste and Race at Twenty: 1987-2007," *United Church of Christ Justice and Peace Ministry*, March 2007, <www.ucc.org/justice/pdfs/toxic20.pdf>

A follow-up study to the landmark study "Toxic Waste and Race in the United States," a report commissioned by the United Church of Christ and released 20 years ago that put the environmental justice movement on the map two decades ago. The 2007 report again finds a clear racial pattern where waste sites are located and the way the government responds or does not respond to contamination emergencies in people of color.

Maria Cone, "Dozens of Chemicals Found in Most Americans' Bodies," *Los Angeles Times* 22 July 2005, <<http://articles.latimes.com/2005/jul/22/nation/na-chemicals22>>

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a report in July 2005 of the largest study of chemical exposure ever conducted on human beings. The report, which looked at 148 toxic compounds, documents larger doses of many chemicals in children than in adults. On a positive note: steep declines were found in children's exposure to lead and secondhand smoke. This article is a summary of major findings in the 475-page report. The complete report (The Third National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals) can be found at <<http://www.clu-in.org/download/contaminantfocus/pcb/third-report.pdf>>

Tim Montague, "A New Way to Inherit Environmental Harm," *Rachel's Environment and Health News*, #819, 9 June 2005, <<http://www.greens.org/s-r/39/39-04.html>>

Epigenetics is showing that environmental influences can be inherited – even without any mutations in the genes themselves. In other words, the cancer you get today may have been caused by your grandmother's exposure to an industrial poison 50 years ago, even though your grandmother's genes were not changed by the exposure. Or the mercury you're eating today in fish may not harm you directly, but may harm your grandchildren.

Manuel Pastor et. al, "In the Wake of the Storm: Environment, Disaster and Race After Katrina," *Russell Sage Foundation* 15 May 2006, <<http://www.urbanhabitat.org/node/501b>>

Facing enhanced environmental vulnerability and stranded by a lack of public transit, residents of the poorest and blackest neighborhoods of New Orleans quickly educated America that disasters and rescues are not equal opportunity affairs. Do environmental disparities by race and class really exist? Although the evidence is still emerging, the best assessment is that disparities are common, and researchers increasingly suspect that some observed differences in health outcomes are attributable to environmental factors, particularly in combination with social stressors related to poverty and lesser access to health care. And it is not just income: race seems to be a more significant predictor in many studies, suggesting the importance of deeply rooted systems of privilege and discrimination.

Michael Shore, "Out of Control and Close to Home: Mercury Pollution from Power Plants," *Environmental Defense*, 2003, <http://www.environmentaldefense.org/documents/3370_MercuryPowerPlants.pdf>

This report examines the toxic effects of mercury, deposited into soil and water from medical waste incinerators, municipal waste combustors and utility boilers for energy generation from coal, with three important findings: 1) mercury pollution from electric utilities remains completely unregulated; 2) mercury pollution within the U.S. puts fetuses and children at risk; and 3) local sources can lead to local mercury "hot spots."

Vicki Wolf, "Global Chemical Contamination Threatens Child Development," *Environmental News Network*, 19 August 2005, <http://www.enn.com/top_stories/article/9017>

Concern is growing worldwide over the long-term health effects of chemicals known as persistent organic pollutants (POPs). This report summarizes research that indicates exposure to POPs is producing more developmentally-challenged people and fewer gifted people. Instead of degrading, these pollutants accumulate and remain in the tissue of humans and animals and other ecosystems for a long period. This bio-accumulation of toxic chemicals increases the risk for diseases such as cancer.

Periodicals/Newsletters

Rachel's Democracy and Health News, a free monthly publication of Environmental Research Foundation
<<http://www.rachel.org/>>

World Watch <<http://www.worldwatch.org/>>

E/The Environmental Magazine <<http://www.emagazine.com/>>

Audio/Visual/Interactive Resources

A Civil Action. Prod. Universal, 1998

John Travolta plays a civil lawyer involved in a decade-long case in a Massachusetts town where two wells supplying water are found to be contaminated with industrial solvents. Residents soon realize that this pollution by local factories is the reason for the unusually high rate of leukemia among local children.

Erin Brockovich. Prod. Universal, 2000

Julia Roberts stars in this true story of Erin Brockovich, a single mother of three who, after losing a personal injury lawsuit, asks her lawyer, Ed Masry, if he can help her find a job. Ed gives her work as a file clerk in his office, and she runs across some information on a little known case filed against Pacific Gas and Electric. Erin begins digging into the particulars of the case, convinced that the facts don't add up, and persuades Ed to allow her to do further research. She discovers a systematic cover-up of the industrial poisoning of the city's water supply, which threatens the health of the entire community.

Omar Freilla, "Greening the Inner-City: Jobs, Health, Justice and the Environment," Omar Freilla 30-minute plenary presentation at the 2005 Bioneers Conference.

Omar Freilla recently launched Green Worker Cooperatives, an initiative dedicated to the creation of worker-owned, environmentally-friendly manufacturing cooperatives in the South Bronx.

Paul Stamets, "Mushroom Magic: Deep Biology and Planetary Healing," 30-minute plenary presentation at the 2003 Bioneers Conference.

Mycologist Paul Stamets has achieved remarkable results cleaning up dangerous toxins using "fungal bioremediation."

The Story of Stuff. Prod. Free Range Studios, 2007 <http://www.storyofstuff.com/>

From its extraction through sale, use and disposal, all the stuff in our lives affects communities at home and abroad, yet most of this is hidden from view. *The Story of Stuff* is a fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. *The Story of Stuff* exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world. It'll teach you something, it'll make you laugh and it just may change the way you look at all the stuff in your life forever. Twenty minutes.

Diane Wilson, "An Unreasonable Woman: Unreasonableness and Where It Gets You," 30-minute plenary presentation at the 2005 Bioneers Conference.

Diane Wilson, a fourth-generation shrimper on the Texas Gulf coast, has used civil disobedience to stop corporate chemical giants from polluting.