



# Environmental and Climate Justice in Vermont: Issues and Opportunities



VECAN Conference Workshop  
December 6, 2021



# Background

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- Vermont is one of the last states in the US with no EJ policy
- EPA required EJ framework in 2015 ANR performance agreement

BILL AS INTRODUCED  
2007

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H.463

Introduced by Representatives Weston of Burlington, Barnard of Richmond, Cheney of Norwich, Edwards of Brattleboro, Johnson of South Hero, Larson of Burlington, Lippert of Hinesburg, Lorber of Burlington, Mitchell of Barnard, Pearson of Burlington and Trombley of Grand Isle

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Conservation and development; environmental justice

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to establish an environmental justice policy for the state of Vermont and would establish an advisory committee on environmental justice within the agency of natural resources to advise the state on environmental justice issues.

# Energy Poverty

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## BIPOC individuals were

- **7 times more likely** to have gone without heat in the past year
- Over **two times more likely** to have trouble affording electricity
- **Seven times less likely** to own a solar panel than White Vermonters

# Disparities in Impact

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# What is an Environmental Justice Policy?

## Equal access to...

Clean Air

Clean Water

Outdoor Recreation

Healthy Homes

Health Care

Fresh Food

**SUBSTANTIVE**

## Enhancing...

Public Participation

Access to Information

Language Access

Disaster Resiliency

**PROCEDURAL**

## Ensuring...

No discrimination based on  
race, national origin,  
disability or income

Equal distribution of  
environmental burdens and  
benefits

**DISTRIBUTIVE**

# S.148: An Overview

- Findings & Definitions
- EJ in mission, framework of the state agencies with reporting requirement
- Environmental Justice Advisory Group
- ANR Officer of Civil Rights
- Use of mapping tool to identify environmentally distressed communities

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2021

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S.148

Introduced by Senators Ram, Campion, Hardy, Lyons, Pearson, Perchlik and  
Pollina

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Conservation and development; government; environmental justice;

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish an environmental justice policy for the State of Vermont and require the State agencies to incorporate environmental justice into their work. It would establish the Advisory Council on Environmental Justice within the Agency of Natural Resources to advise the State on environmental justice issues. It also would require the creation of an environmental justice mapping tool.