

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AGENCY GOALS

North Carolina  
Department of Public Safety  
2024

# INTRODUCTION

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety (DPS) serves as the state's chief protector and defender of the public and is the statewide public safety and homeland security agency. It is home to Alcohol Law Enforcement, Emergency Management, Governor's Crime Commission, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, NC National Guard, NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency, Private Protective Services, Samarcaand Training Academy, State Capitol Police, and State Highway Patrol and employs more than 6,000 full time personnel and 12,000 National Guard members. DPS also provides administrative support to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission, the Boxing and Combat Sports Commission, and the State Bureau of Investigation.

DPS focuses citizen and legislative attention on law enforcement and public safety issues, such as justice reinvestment; highway safety; crime prevention; victim services; homeland security; and preparation for, response to, and recovery from natural and man-made disasters.

The DPS goals and objectives around environmental justice (EJ) are listed below

## **1. INTEGRATE THE APPLICATION OF EJ PRINCIPLES WITHIN DPS POLICIES AND PROCESSES**

- 1.1 Create an EJ workgroup to guide policy review and make recommendations to DPS leadership on incorporating EJ principles
- 1.2 Implement staff outreach and develop pilot training on EJ and how it relates to public safety
- 1.3 Develop a standard by which policies could be analyzed during the update process through an EJ lens

## **2. Incorporate Environmental Justice considerations in land and facility usage.**

- 2.1 Use demographics to overlay with hazard mapping to show where hazards intersect underserved populations throughout the state
- 2.2 Allocate 50% of HUD mitigation buyout funds to low-income families (80% area median income) in hazard-prone areas.
- 2.3 Partner with local governments to ensure the preservation of acquired hazard-prone areas to reduce the impacts of future natural disasters.

## **3. Engage with communities most impacted by natural disasters.**

- 3.1 Develop and disseminate an extreme heat toolkit for local governments by May 31, 2024, including resources to support community outreach and engagement through social media, websites and printed educational materials.
- 3.2 Increase, on a quarterly basis, engagement with underserved communities across multiple platforms to increase awareness of and participation in programs available to them.

- 3.3 Translate all vital public-facing policies into at least one community-relevant language in addition to English
- 3.4 Launch the new NC Resilience Exchange website by May 31, 2024, to help local and state leaders understand their community's climate resilience needs, identify appropriate actions, and find resources to implement solutions.

1. Integrate the application of EJ principles within DPS policies and processes.

1.1 Create an EJ workgroup to guide policy review and make recommendations to DPS leadership on incorporating EJ principles.

Status: In progress

Expected Completion Date: September 30, 2024

This objective will involve the creation of an EJ workgroup to make recommendations on EJ project implementation at DPS.

1.2 Implement staff outreach and develop pilot training on EJ and how it relates to public safety.

Status: In progress

Expected Completion Date: December 31, 2024

The workgroup listed in Objective 1.1 will explore opportunities for EJ training at DPS.

1.3 Develop a standard by which policies could be analyzed during the update process through an EJ lens.

Status: In progress

Expected Completion Date: March 1, 2025

The workgroup listed in Objective 1.1 will explore opportunities for examining existing policies through an EJ lens.

2. Incorporate EJ considerations in land and facility usage.

2.1 Use demographics to overlay with hazard mapping to show where hazards intersect underserved populations throughout the state.

Status: In progress

Expected Completion Date: December 31, 2024

DPS will use demographic data to overlay with hazard mapping to provide information on where hazards intersect certain populations.

2.2 Allocate 50% of HUD mitigation buyout funds to low-income families (80% area median income) in hazard-prone areas.

Status: In progress

Expected Completion Date: Continuous

DPS will allocate 50% of mitigation buyout funds from HUD to low-income families – designated at 80% of AMI – in hazard-prone areas.

2.3 Partner with local governments to ensure the preservation of acquired hazard-prone areas to reduce the impacts of future natural disasters.

Status: In progress

Expected Completion Date: Continuous

The NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR) will partner with local governments to convert buyouts from Objective 2.1 into preserved areas that reduce impacts of future natural disasters.

### 3. Engage with communities most impacted by natural disasters.

3.1 Develop and disseminate an extreme heat toolkit for local governments, including resources to support community outreach and engagement through social media, websites and printed educational materials.

Status: Complete

Expected Completion Date: May 31, 2024

NCORR developed the state's Heat Action Plan Toolkit, which aims to help communities adapt and build resilience to extreme heat. Primarily targeted for use by local governments, including health and emergency management departments, the toolkit focuses on approaches to reduce the human health impacts of increasing temperatures and heat waves.

3.2 Increase, on a quarterly basis, engagement with underserved communities across multiple platforms to increase awareness of and participation in programs available to them.

Status: In progress

Expected Completion Date: Continuous

DPS will work to increase engagement with underserved communities to increase awareness of and participation in programs available to them, related to natural disasters.

3.3 Objective: Translate all vital public-facing policies into at least one community-relevant language in addition to English by June 30, 2024.

Status: Complete Expected Completion Date: June 30, 2024

NCORR will translate vital public-facing policies related to natural disaster recovery into at least one community-relevant language in addition to English.

3.4 Launch the new NC Resilience Exchange website by May 31, 2024, to help local and state leaders understand their community's climate resilience needs, identify appropriate actions, and find resources to implement solutions.

Status: Complete

Expected Completion Date: May 31, 2024

NCORR launched the NC Resilience Exchange, which organizes North Carolina's resilience resources for leaders who want to help manage climate impacts. With the support of the NC Resilience Exchange, practitioners can improve the resilience of their communities, natural areas and farmlands