



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

BOB MARTIN  
*Commissioner*

### ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2016-08

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is charged with formulating and implementing policies to protect public health, the environment and the State's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, all residents of the State of New Jersey, regardless of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, or income, deserve to live in communities free from the effects of pollution and are entitled to participate in decision-making that affects their environment, communities, homes, and health; and

WHEREAS, Environmental Justice means the fair and equitable treatment in environmental decision-making of residents of all communities, regardless of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, or income; and

WHEREAS, by Executive Order No. 131 (2009), the Environmental Justice Advisory Council was created in DEP after a finding that the cumulative exposure to pollution and other hazards from multiple sources in communities whose residents are predominantly low-income and persons of color creates a disproportionate impact on the health, well-being, and quality of life of those residents, and that addressing those impacts requires a coordinated response across multiple governmental agencies and a more inclusive process of decision-making; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order 131, the Environmental Justice Advisory Council was charged with making recommendations to the Commissioner of DEP about issues involving environmental justice, including recommendations on developing effective communication programs and on policy and regulatory changes so that cumulative impacts that may unfairly burden any segment of the population with a disproportionate share of environmental pollution are considered in DEP decision-making; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 131 expired on December 31, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Environmental Justice continues to be a priority for DEP, and DEP recognizes the importance of the continued role for the Environmental Justice Advisory Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Martin, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, by virtue of the authority vested in me by N.J.S.A. 13:1B-3, do hereby

ORDER and DIRECT:

1. There is hereby created the Environmental Justice Advisory Council (Council) in DEP whose purpose is to advise me on issues involving environmental justice and public health in New Jersey.
2. The Council shall consist of 18 individuals appointed by the Commissioner for a term of two years. The Council shall meet at a minimum, once each quarter every calendar year. The exact meeting frequency shall be determined by the Council. The Council shall establish a two-year work-plan in coordination with the DEP's Office of Environmental Justice.
3. The Commissioner shall appoint 18 representative members on a regional basis to serve on the Council, with at least two members from each of the following regions: Northern New Jersey (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic and Sussex counties); Southern New Jersey (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties); Eastern New Jersey (Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Union counties); and Western New Jersey (Burlington, Hunterdon, Mercer, Somerset and Warren counties). Additional members shall be appointed as "at-large" Statewide members.
4. The Council membership shall comprise representatives of county and municipal governments; community-based groups/organizations; public health, academic, and educational institutions; faith-based organizations; grassroots organizations; State and Federally recognized tribal governments or indigenous groups; non-governmental groups, environmental groups; and/or business and industry.
5. In appointing members, the Commissioner shall aim to ensure the composition of the Council reflects the regional, racial, gender, religious, and ethnic diversity of New Jersey.
6. The Council shall provide recommendations and report to the Commissioner through DEP's Office of Environmental Justice. Any future related actions based on such recommendations shall be at the discretion of the Commissioner.
7. The Council shall create work groups to establish comprehensive strategies and identify best practices that address health disparities, sustainability, equitable development, community and economic revitalization, and resilience in overburdened communities.
8. The Council shall make recommendations to encourage the utilization of community-based efforts to engage business and industry to promote sustainable practices beneficial to both businesses and communities.
9. The Council shall focus on a community-based approach with measureable goals and outcomes, similar to the Camden Collaborative Initiative ([www.camdencollaborative.com](http://www.camdencollaborative.com)), which approach DEP will be extending to other communities through its Community Collaborative Initiative .
10. The Council shall make recommendations for the Commissioner's consideration to incorporate environmental justice throughout the DEP's programs where appropriate and

to the extent permitted by law, including providing assistance in developing effective communication programs, outreach to encourage direct community participation in environmental decision-making, and implementing and enforcing environmental laws.

11. Nothing in this Administrative Order is intended to create a private right of action to enforce any provision of this Order; nor is this Order intended to diminish any existing legal rights or remedies.
12. The Council shall operate under the terms of this Administrative Order until December 31, 2018.
13. This Administrative Order shall take effect immediately.

Date:

9/12/2016



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Bob Martin  
Commissioner