

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

c/o Department of Environmental Services 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 705 Arlington, VA 22201

February 27, 2018

The Honorable Katie Cristol, Chair
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201

Subject: MWCOG Environmental Justice Toolkit

Dear Chair Cristol:

The Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2) encourages the County Board to review for County application the [Metropolitan Washington Council of Government Environmental Justice Toolkit \(EJ Toolkit\)](#) that was launched July 26, 2017.

Environmental justice is a necessary part of the effort to create and maintain a clean and healthy environment. The EJ Toolkit is intended to be a resource on government measures, practices, and policies aimed at creating cooperative solutions to issues of fair and just treatment and equitable access in the development, application, and enforcement of environmental policies. It is envisioned that this EJ Toolkit will be used to expand ways that Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) members – including Arlington County – can affect meaningful engagement within communities in metropolitan Washington.

The EJ Toolkit is designed to facilitate increased dialogue and encourage proliferation of inclusive measures, where possible. The EJ Toolkit features a survey of environmental justice principles, approaches to building environmental justice capacity, resources, tools, and case studies to assist staff, local jurisdictions, and stakeholders to set the direction for inclusion of equity in all air quality, energy, and climate planning and policy decisions. The EJ Toolkit approaches include:

- Approach #1: Identifying Potentially Vulnerable Populations
- Approach #2: Providing Meaningful Engagement Opportunities
- Approach #3: Assessing Community Impacts
- Approach #4: Developing Metrics
- Approach #5: Providing Data, Information and Resources for Communities
- Approach #6: Using Citizen Science
- Approach #7: Developing Community Leadership
- Approach #8: Supporting Economic and Workforce Development
- Approach #9: Mainstreaming EJ into Public Planning and Programs

There are many advantages of environmental justice. Environmental Justice ensures inclusive and transparent environmental policies through a collaborative process to foster community buy-in and support of policies.

We thank you for your support of MWCOG EJ Toolkit and its applications to Arlington County. We encourage the Board to disseminate information about the MWCOG EJ Toolkit as appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine Ng". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine Ng, Chair
Environment and Energy Conservation Commission