New England Environmental Justice Forum
Environmental Justice Summit July 20, 2013
Afternoon Discussion Notes

	QUESTION # 1 **How do we stay connected as the EJ Forum?**	*QUESTION # 2* **What do we want to accomplish together as the EJ Forum?**	*QUESTION #3* **Should We/How do we make scholar happen?**	*QUESTION #4* **What strategies do we use to get EJ legislation at the state levels?**
Summary Findings Tables #1-10	• Social media: Facebook, twitter, instagrame, email. • General calendar online with log in • New England EJ blog that all of us can post on • Establish Annual Conference / More Summits: face to face • Develop a communications committee • Develop working groups around common issues. • Have conference calls, webinars. • Google group/list serves. • Getting funding for forum and branding the forum.	• Share codified vision and mission. • Share resources. • Inform people, create stronger network, raising money through events and put money back into the forum. • Networking • Come up with ways to spread the EJ movement • Equality, respectful treatment. • Build a national presence, visible to all for environmental movement. • Work to make EJ policies stronger (enforced) on local & state level • PR/ outreach/ media strategies.	Yes! Yes but with: • Trusted people/ coordinators/ interfaces • Come up with values that guide this process • Process for ensuring quality + community driven and to pair researchers • share success stories of how community groups + researchers work together	• Convince people in power why making changes will benefit them. • Raise community awareness through youth involvement • Theater, art • Sharing personal stories that build a case for the need for EJ laws/policies. • Lobby and maintain relationships with legislators. • Educate ourselves about existing legislation • Online petitions.

TABLES	*QUESTION # 1* **How do we stay connected as the EJ Forum?**	*QUESTION # 2* **What do we want to accomplish together as the EJ Forum?**	*QUESTION #3* **Should We/How do we make scholar happen?**	*QUESTION #4* **What strategies do we use to get EJ legislation at the state levels?**
#1	• Email/ list serve(by topic) • Monthly EJ newsletter. • Regularly announced upcoming events. • **Quarterly or semiannual regional EJ meetings.** • **Working groups around common issues.** • Online meetings-webinars-skipping-conference calls. • Resource library. • Website/Facebook.	• Networking. • Information/experience sharing. • Mutual support-action (showing up) • Sharing, reinforcing hope, telling our stories. • Getting state/EJ legislation, building political power, lobbying • EJ respect/ compliance from state, local, fed government. • **Share codified vision**. • Getting EJ ordinances locally. • **Equality, respectful treatment.**	• EJ researchers networking. *YES* Have each EJ organization list priorities and place in a share database.	• **Develop a vision statement.** • **Collect powerful stories.** • Create a petition throughout EJ forum to get EJ passed as law. • Get reps from each state to draft an EJ constitutional amendment. • Find out how Connecticut got EJ legislation passed. • Build EJ power, expand EJ forum: look to other states nationwide. • Get more local EJ ordinances. • **Develop political pathway including legislation.**

#2				
	• More in-person events. • Work on collaborative projects, such as community gardens. • **General calendar online with log in/Explain wiki pages.** • NEEJ blog with guest blog writers with accountability. • **Conference calls, webinars.** • EJ tour bus to visit other projects sites. • Regional campaign/ events planned/ shared with other groups. • Presentation at schools, library. • Build model program that could be used tailored to different communities.	• Raise awareness re: EJ issues. • **Come up with ways to spread the EJ movement/networking.** • Create some actions that can be used by communities. • Have formal EJ staff of organizers. • Environmental sustainability/Justice. • Educate, inform communicate issues of EJ. • Help create new policies. • Find regional EJ issues, band together to resolve, then celebrate the victory. • **Expand the program-create funding opportunities**. • Reach out to groups who may not be EJ community groups.	*YES* This would be a valuable service. NEEJ RN should be proactive outreach. Website with ability to log issues/projects that need assistance –link to wiki pages.	• **Online petitions**. • EJ issues in the classroom. • Call state legislators. • **Sharing personal stories that build a case for the need for EJ laws/policies.** • Elect pro EJ candidates. • Build coalition with other communities. • Have conversations about what the needs are for EJ legislation. • Peaceful demonstration at state house.

#3				
	• Social media: Facebook, twitter, instagrame, email to SHARE STORIES AND MAKE CONECTIONS. • PROGRAMS: farmers market, fun things to do in groups, get kids involved reaching out local schools. • Rally: EJ rally • Fun environmental events to engage local communities. WHERE: Park, neighborhood block, vacant lot take over, Boston, place that is accessible by public transportation	• Inform people, create stronger network, raising money through events (farmers market) and put money back into the forum. • Engage younger people, bring in new leaders. • Focus on themes: justice, EJ. • Open up to people of different backgrounds, find out what people wants.	***YES*** We need research, different roles (professor, teacher, community, leader) Connect the researchers (group chat, Gmail) How do we make sure the research collected is not abused? R/ person providing the support should be local, member of the community, someone they trust. R/ collaborative with other groups (share ideas through an online forum) (can add requests of research needs/ create a data base to share information)	Spread information on what's going on with communities. • Engage the youth- show legislators how EJ is impacting younger generations. • Go to city meetings, engage city councils. • Convince people in power why making changes will benefit them. • Coming together as EJ communities to show people in power the strength • Get a celebrity to join the movement and leverage the power of communities. • Power mapping

| #4 | • Experiential learning working groups -water as a human right.
• Social media-create law in one state + pass it in other states.
• Get our issues in the media.
• EJ is a big topic-don't get too scared on too many websites (wiki or digital portfolio).
• **Share successes.**
• Research every year in different states.
• Website can be managed by volunteers.
• **Rotate the information.** | • Community.
• Organization (list different issues, fight for them as a whole.
• Approach issues holistically.
• State EJ laws.
• Need clear mission statements.
• Summit could be a non-profit org.
• Innovation-share ideas with new people (try to move beyond getting grants)
• Need big change, something, and something like EJ laws.
• Coordinate resources among organizations.
• Start conversation about race and violence post.
• **Strengthen our community based-organization to share resources and fight for social justice holistically by community non-violently and effectively.**
• **Create mission** | • Community based participatory research (research needs to come from community)
• Agree with matching researchers with communities.
• Mandatory curriculum in schools about violence, justice.
• Ensure conversations at school on EJ.
• Where schools are founded by corporations, don't want pro-business professors.
• Ownership community should have a say in how the research is being conducted
Conditional YES
Must be 2 way street, research done in | • Raising awareness and public support (events).
• Make relationship with legislators and be prepared for prolonged advocacy.
• Need persistence.
• Build a following to get the law (similar to public transit campaign in MA)
• Youth involvement: good way to convince legislators to pass EJ law.
• Art, culture, theater, storytelling to bring people together.
• Jobbing for good causes in smaller states (RI) it is easier to maintain relationships w legislator.
• Never underestimate the power or prayer.
• **Raise community awareness through youth involvement events using theater, art.** |

				statement.	partnership w community	• **Lobby and maintain relationship w legislator.**
#5	• **Google group/list serves.** • **Getting funding for forum and branding the forum.** • Identify a responsible group to organize next event and pass that responsibility around. • Include photo and gender in e-mails. • Note the existence of digital divide in EJ communities. • More local organizing. • Get forum members to tithe a %of their grant $ to fund the forum.		• **Sharing resources.** • **Teaching organizing and listening skills. Not being a specialist.** • Cross pollination and ideas and enthusiasm. • How to include residents in the forum. • Break down barriers. • Sharing best practices. • Building a movement. • Strategies to fulfill community's desires and needs. • Developing messaging that cuts across race and class.	YES, we should bios on researchers and transparency process and research resources.	Depend on the community and the issue. Issues need time to percolate in EJ communities to develop proposals for legislation. Training on messaging Write laws that provide enforcement mechanisms by members and the public (private right of action)	

#6			
		• Bring together regional orgs to unite our efforts through a network – fighting together NEEJ Network to link leverage resources to make greater impact • Where do those companies who lose EJ fights go- other EJ communities. • Create how – to manual-toolkit- linked to research + data from committee- researchers, communities • How to get started, what resources exist? Community organizing/ climate justice tailored to different issues • Info portal for media about EJ: popular ED. Conference webinars - focus on education + action • Data base for orgs doing work map of EJ communities	• Network • Share, build rather than recreate same research. • Two way street- foster partnership between researchers +community to prevent economic displacement when community becomes more desirable. • Urban/environ mental gentrification.	• More clear directions for state agencies • EJ coordinator , no funds for position- to much work for the staff taking on projects • Other criteria (than law) = if community is disproportionally targeted- like affirmative action- may give directive/ impetus for Gov.

#7				

	• Email/ list serve
	• Newsletter
	• Finding leaders in communities/ in groups(steering communities)
	• Regionally based meetings
	• Move annual conference to other address (ensure participation)
	• Website (link to anchor organizations)
	• Data generator / list management + (mailing & membership)
	• Phone calls/ face to face visits
	• Develop sharing projects
	• *** blogging NEEJ blog that all of us can post on**
	• ***establish annual conference**
		• Exchange of information on issues
		• Spread the word – get people involved
		• Help people feel more empowered/ less isolated
		• Create resources for local communities
		• *toolkit- develop shared knowledge/ research/ actions. Legal/ health/ organization/ media. Available in several media
		• Identify EJ communities
		• ***work to make EJ policy stronger (enforced) on local & state level**
		• Discuss case studies
		• ***PR/ outreach/ media strategies.**
			Do we want this network?
			• Yes, with the following
			  1. Trusted people/ coordinators/ interfaces
			  2. Come up with values that guide this process
			  3. Process for ensuring quality + community driven and to pair researchers.
			• Yes we want access to these resources
			• Very important, with those relationship because academic + community to produce evidence
			• You need certain types of researchers, also many
				• ***EJ policy**
				• **EJ statute**
				• EJ executive order
				• EJ law (easier to enforce
				• EJ regulations
				• Develop model legislation- both local and state, because issues differ E:g in Hartford, local leg, would require EJ groups' approval. Develop model advisory communities.
				• Laws passed hat to be made specific enough that most businesses aren't threatened
				• 7 types of facilities- have to notify individual and community has a right to benefits.
				• Much moral discussion/ process needed to develop this strategy

			- Caution who is funding this? - Communities empowered to choose researcher - communities aren't large enough for significant researches, so we could do multi community projects	

#8			
	• **More Summits → face to face** • Online wiki • Facebook • **Database of EJ groups across NE** • Location based • Issue based with best practices • Who is doing what • NE local energy network- established a community of practice • Identify the info we really needed to share and deliberate about it. • Q: local connections vs. building power • A: use NE as an example • NE grassroots environmental fund could convene us….? • NE region→ organizing an issue that affects our regain as a whole	• **Support/ network/ best practice** • **Build power! → climate change as driving issue, heading umbrella for EJ issues** • Issues climate change, food justice, food web map, production, import, processing, ID food deserts, integrate all other community assets, land trust, co-ops, banks/ credit unions, • Strategies Coalition, sierra club, 350.org, peace movements, consider: maintain group integrity, cooperative, group solidarity, day of action, EJ movement, media awareness, display group panel, build political power, *build communities of practice.	• Models Urban Boston Boston food systems, BFs-tuffs Urop→ MIT program, use student interns Brown diverts coal • Considerations Community driven research, long term research vs. short term. • How to use academics, uncovered evidence of problems, health + economic impact re: climate change, Make case that its cost effective • ***share success stories of how community groups +** • **Uncover Evidence of problems** • academics work	• ID legislator self-interest and use them • Power map → ID stake holders + lowest hanging fruit Who is on our team? Who can be moved? • Make it personal Faith Family Target the decision makers • Multiple pressure points • Framing is everything • Position as opportunity Policy→regulation →law

			together→ share best practice to model cooperation Don't hesitate to approach universities to help on issues.	

#9				
	• Get folks up dated info • EJ forum communities/ keeps folks connected (EJ everyday) • **Social media/ email (twitter, Facebook, newsletter)** • **Connect and follow up/ skill sharing (follow up)**	• **Connection between EJ community/ building** • **Networking** • **Research out to public/ education** • Realizing the common goal • Look at quarterly convenience/ discussion • Story telling/ understanding • **Get children and adults involved, and working together** • Continue work to get in the school curriculum.	Yes • How to educate without research? • Should be available to all • Find resources to fun EJ research network • Need to provide • **Utilize groups that specialize in this** • **Asset map/ figure folk's abilities and adapting with other skill sets- team of professionals.**	• Lobbying / target city officials (know who to target) • Being conservative • Protest/rallying • **Create a platform/ demands and goals** • Always have a backup plan / know what gov wants (evidence, support) • Publicity and brand EJ • **Research and network** • *the people *

#10	- Use the contact sheet to reach out individually. - Hold annual forums (or twice a year) - Google group/ other online vehicle for sharing info - Conference calls-sharing experiences, practices- on topics of interest ***communications committee** - Site visits to see each other's work in action - Committees around specific issues- legal, education, e.g. - Newsletter- electronic and paper - All communications in English, Spanish, other languages - Connect with national EJ groups, identify common priorities share practices. - ID liaison for each partner organization **Ongoing paper and electronic communications**	- Sharing: strategies, experiences, success, failures, struggles, questions, passions. - Sustain: the forum-promote longevity of the EJ movement - Promote reflection and analysis of our work - Plan common campaigns or actions around shared issues - Identify network-wide goals - Provide mutual support - In order to : - None critical hot button issues where we can move to the dial quickly - Prevent harm caused by chemicals through their entire life cycle - Broaden the community of EJ advocates, **Build a national presence, visible to all for environmental movement.** - Mobilize EJ communities to keep	Yes Here's what would be helpful: - Legal council - Info on legislative models - Survey development - Scientific expertise - Economic impact - Health impact assessment - Toxic research - Case studies on effective policies	- Work at the legal office building - Organize communities to work in legislature - Faith communities, schools are key constituencies - ID key issues that help legislature understand EJ - Make sure bill isn't watered down as it moves - ID impact of key issues- how are communities impacted - Persistence - Build broad base of support-constituencies from a variety of geographic areas (not just cities) - Work with agency that's developing regulations to ensure it **ID statures that need to be amended to include EJ language** **Educate ourselves**

		it on the agenda, • Provide support to each other's local campaigns		**about existing legislation**

*items in bold represent priorities