

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND CIVIC SUSTAINABILITY AT PENN

## WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

Environmental justice grew from the recognition of a disproportionate number of environmental burdens concentrated in communities of color. We cannot come together to protect the planet while racism tears us apart. If we want to create communities that are safe, just, and equitable, we must fight for the dignity of all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.



### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Penn Sustainability acknowledges the indigenous communities native to this region and recognize that our campus was built on indigenous homelands. To learn more about the Lenape people, visit the [Native Land website](#).

Penn Sustainability also acknowledges Penn's role in displacing the residents of Black Bottom, a predominantly Black neighborhood, in order to clear land for university expansion in the 1950s and 60s.

### NETTER CENTER FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The [Netter Center](#) manages the Academically Based Community Service (ABCS) course program, rooted in research, teaching, and learning. Environmental ABCS courses span topics like air pollution, lead, water, tobacco, and asthma. Visit The Netter Center's website for more information about ABCS courses and other programs, including the University-Assisted Community Schools (UACS) program.



### CIVIC HOUSE

[Civic House](#) is Penn's hub for civic engagement, centering community organizations and social justice education, promoting mutually beneficial collaborations between Penn and Philadelphia community nonprofit organizations. Through social justice education, trainings and workshops, Civic House prepares students for responsible community engagement and empowers them to become advocates for social change.

The Student Sustainability Association at Penn (SSAP) frequently hosts programming related to the intersection of environmental sustainability and social justice. [Visit the SSAP website](#) ([ssapenn.com](https://ssapenn.com)) to learn more, and be on the lookout for other groups at Penn doing important intersectional work.

For additional resources, visit the [UC Berkeley website](https://serc.berkeley.edu/environmental-justice) (<https://serc.berkeley.edu/environmental-justice>)



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