



Ensuring Climate and Environmental Justice

From increased exposure to air pollution and environmental toxins to greater susceptibility to flooding and heat, communities of color and under-resourced urban communities suffer more from the impacts of climate change. John will prioritize advancing climate justice across all policies to address climate change and make investments in the communities impacted most.

John believes everyone deserves to live in a healthy and clean environment, no matter their income or zip code. Unfortunately, today there are wide gaps between neighborhoods in the quality of air, water, and soil Marylanders work and play in every day.

One of the most glaring examples of environmental injustice in our state is in Baltimore City, where most of the city's trash is burned in a majority Black neighborhood. Between Baltimore's lower-income, mostly Black neighborhoods and its wealthier, whiter ones there is a 20-year-gap in life expectancy. Across the state, this disparity continues as fossil fuel and industrial plants are often located in communities of color.

These disparities aren't just seen in Baltimore, but across the state. Black Marylanders are more likely to suffer from asthma, and over two times as likely to die from asthma than white Marylanders. They also see a disproportionate risk of cancer from exposure to toxins in the air.

As Governor, John will:

- Crack down on polluters, especially serial offenders.
- Seriously implement the largely ignored recommendations from the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities, and build on 2021 reform legislation.
- Ensure government agencies take a proactive approach to environmental justice when drafting rules and policies, instead of a reactive one that waits until problems arise to make changes.
- Make sure stakeholders from front line and fence line communities historically affected by pollution and environmental injustice have a role in decision-making.
- Develop Maryland's Clean Energy sector and tighten our environmental regulations to protect our air and water across the state.