

HOW TO ADVOCATE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Low-income and communities of color in South Florida face a disproportionate amount of environmental injustice, dating back to segregation and implementation of discriminatory zoning practices. Today, attacks on these communities come in the form of commercial and residential development policies and market-driven land use planning. Additionally, low-income and communities of color are most at risk of breathing dirty air and disproportionately carry the burden of pollution. Florida currently ranks 10th in the nation for the highest CO2 emissions. Clean air and equitable conditions are key components for a community to thrive. Together, through collective advocacy, we can move the needle toward a more just environment for all.

ADDRESSING AND ATTACKING PATTERNS OF INJUSTICE

We must break down barriers and address instances where those in power are able to take advantage of low-income and communities of color. Much of environmental justice issues reside with long-standing systems that have received little to no attention. Therefore, it is critical that these communities have a seat at the table and meaningful opportunities to participate in the local and national discussions that affect their lives.

ADVOCATING FOR EQUITABLE PUBLIC POLICIES

Our elected officials have a responsibility to implement public policies that protect and reflect the desires of the community. We must take notice and be active in defeating harmful policies, and when elected officials fail to meet this basic responsibility, we must hold them accountable and take control of our future.

HIGHLIGHTING LIVED EXPERIENCE

It is critical that we amplify the voices of those experiencing daily environmental injustices. Those with the lived experience know the gaps and best solutions to the problems. If we want to see true transformation in our movement for justice we must uplift and support those directly impacted.

GETTING INVOLVED

For more information on how you can get involved, please contact FCVEF South Florida Lead Organizer Olivia Nedd at olivia@fcvoters.org

INCREASING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND EDUCATION

If we want to create a healthy and just environment all members of our community must participate and be educated on the issues. Together, we can spread the word and increase public participation and education, for a more empowered and equipped community.

ORGANIZING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

We must collaborate as a community to solve issues. You can organize a group of local residents to address an injustice in your community and develop a plan or action campaign. Some actions include writing a collective community letter to a local representative or hosting regular community meetings around the issue. We rely on a community's input in order to advocate for good environmental policy.



At **Florida Conservation Voters Education Fund**, we engage people in our democracy to protect our environment and sustain healthy communities for everyone. For more information visit www.FCvEdFund.org