

Environmental Justice elements/principles

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We understand that:

- Diversity is key to the health and well being of all communities – whether natural ecosystems or human-created cities and towns.
- Restoration, preservation, and conservation of nature – whether individual species or entire ecosystems is important on its own terms. Nature has its own integrity and inherent worth. It is sacred. This does not depend on its beauty or usefulness to humans.
- A healthy environment is the bedrock of all cultures, societies and economies – no matter what their state of development.
- All people have the right to equitably benefit from the extraction and use of natural resources, environmental “goods and services”, and economic life.
- By virtue of our existence, we use natural resources and cause pollution. Our choices link us into a global web of consumption and production, which inextricably ties our fate with that of our brothers’ and sisters’ up and down stream and around the world. We are called to live as consciously, justly, and prayerfully as we can about the impacts of our decisions, and to minimize our environmental “footprint” as individuals and as nations.
- This means that we are called to address systemic discrimination and injustice in the risks and harms certain groups of people face related to the burdens of natural resource extraction, pollution, the siting of waste, transportation, and military facilities, workplace hazards, expropriation of land, etc. We are also called to prevent future inequities by promoting the development and enforcement of appropriate laws and policies.
- Future generations have the right to at least as much access to and enjoyment of natural resources, environmental “goods and services”, health and well-being as we do now. This represents a strong commitment to sustainability in all its fullness for the entire human family.