



Connecting Environmental Justice & Immigration

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RECOMMENDED ARTICLES

ERUUF's 10-Year Support of the Migrant Farmworker Movement

<http://www.eruuf.org/justice/farm-worker-support>

Detailed history of the Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's work with National Farm Worker Ministry, how they got started, and what they learned.

Race, Migration, & the Environment (Center for New Community)

http://www.newcomm.org/images/stories/ATB/rme_paper_final.pdf

This paper examines the way nature and society are interconnected, the destructive impacts of the "population stabilization" movement, how immigrants are impacted by environmental injustices, and what they're doing to prepare for a more equitable and sustainable future. The Center for New Community provides a number of articles & resources on this topic.

Everybody's Movement: Environmental Justice & Climate Change (Environmental Support Center)

<http://envsc.org/esc-publications/everybodys-movement>

Successfully addressing the scale and urgency of the climate change crisis will require strong partnerships between mainstream environmental organizations and organizations from low-income and communities of color. This article is the result of a year's research and interviews with leaders who work closely with organizations in low-income communities and in communities of color.

How Immigration Hastens Environmental Destruction (FAIR: Federation for American Immigration Reform)

http://www.fairus.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ic_immigrationissuecentersa45e

Succinct explanation of anti-immigration environmentalism.

Why the EPA is Important for Latino Families (Center for American Progress)

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/03/epa_latino_families.html

Low-income and minority Americans are most impacted by the air, water, and land that the EPA protects, and Latinos both show strong support for the EPA and bare the highest risk if EPA programs are cut.

FILMS:

- *The Tanton Film*, <http://www.youtube.com/nativismwatchtv>
A short educational video revealing the forces behind the anti-immigration movement in the United States.
- *A Village Called Versailles*, about the Vietnamese refugee community in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina
- *The Other Side of Immigration*, asks why so many Mexicans leave home & what happens to their families

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“There is no place for the greening of hate in our movement.”

What are some examples of connections between Environmental Justice & Immigration?

- “Foreign-born and non-English speaking populations in the United States are much more likely to live next to toxic waste sites than the average native-born resident.” (*The Silicon Valley of Dreams*)
- According to the 2000 census, people who were born abroad and now live in the US have a median income of $\frac{3}{4}$ of that of the national median. In the event of a weather emergency, like a hurricane, tornado, flood, or drought, low-income families are less likely to financially prepare for a hit to their industry or if evacuation or relocation is needed. They are also more likely to live in lower-quality housing, making them more vulnerable to wind and water damage.
- Immigrants make up 40% of farming, fishing, and forestry industries, industries dependent on natural resources that are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters.
- “Numerous studies document that people of color have borne greater health and environmental risks than society at large, independent of income and class status. They also face elevated health risks from workplace hazards, municipal landfills, incinerators, abandoned toxic waste dumps and polluting industries.” This means
- The Sierra Club, the oldest and largest environmental organization in the US, has been a target of anti-immigration activists for decades. They faced a hostile takeover in 2004 by well-organized anti-immigrant groups who organized a faction called SUSPS (formerly known as Sierrans for US Population Stabilization).

What are anti-immigration opponents saying?

- “Only with a much smaller population can we protect our fragile ecosystems, conserve our finite resources, and ensure that future generations will inherit a clean and healthy environment where all Americans can enjoy a quality standard of living.” (Negative Population Growth website)
- “Immigration is responsible for over forty percent of the population growth since 1970. The United States will never be able to level off or reduce the amount of overall damage we do to the environment unless we can get the size of our population to level off. But the size of our population can never level off as long as we continue to have the heavy immigration we have now. For sake of our environment, we need a moratorium on immigration.” (Federation for Immigration Reform website)
- “The mainstream environmental movement has continually refused to support environmentally reasonable governmental action (such as enforcing work-eligibility laws) to stem the well of documented, environmentally destructive flood of illegal immigrants into the United States.” –Ben Zuckerman, Vice President of the Board of Californians for Population Stabilization, 2008

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UU Ministry for Earth

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