

The Environmental Protection Network

The [Environmental Protection Network](#) (EPN) was launched in January 2017 to harness the expertise of former EPA career staff and political appointees to protect human health and the environment. Over the last five years, EPN has built a volunteer network of over 550 EPA alumni focused on building the capacity of environmental agencies and the communities they serve to address the most urgent health and environmental crises, such as climate change and environmental injustice.

- EPN provides [capacity-building technical assistance and training](#) to communities of color and low-income communities; the non-profit organizations who represent them; and under-resourced state, local, and tribal government agencies who serve them. By connecting environmental justice communities, nonprofits, and under-resourced government agencies with EPN volunteers who can provide information, knowledge, connections, and contacts that have long been utilized by those with greater financial resources, EPN empowers local efforts and begins to level the playing field. EPN has already connected its members to communities and NGOs over 70 times.
- EPN ensures that EPA advances [policies, budgets, and institutional changes](#) to address climate and environmental injustices, as well as other pressing public health needs. EPN occupies a unique lane. EPN's volunteers have unparalleled experience in all of EPA's work and understand the full extent of legal authority as well as how to build the political will to exercise that authority. And most importantly, EPN members are a sought-out and critical resource for EPA career staff and political appointees alike. EPN not only meets with the agency often, but also delivers substantive and truly helpful formal comments, testimony, and letters that move the needle and make a difference. Since inauguration, EPN has submitted over 25 sets of comments, testimony, and letters, and EPN will continue to have meetings and conversations with EPA to provide ongoing support and guidance.
- EPN trains and mentors EPA staff and managers and recruits and retains underrepresented populations to work at EPA. EPN supports EPA's goals to create an agency that represents all of the communities it serves and has staff and managers who are well prepared to meet critical challenges ahead.
- EPN educates [Congress](#) and serves as a critical resource for facts, objective analysis, and scientific rigor for [reporters](#) and [other nonprofit organizations](#). EPN has connected its volunteers to reporters over 1,800 times to provide background information and ground-truth investigative reports.

For more information on the Environmental Protection Network or our pro bono capacity-building technical assistance work, please email info@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org or call (202) 656-6229.