



Executive Director's Report

NACAA Fall Membership Meeting

October 20, 2021

Miles Keogh, Executive Director, NACAA
mkeogh@4cleanair.org * @WeAre4CleanAir

39
WAS SO
LAST YEAR.

My agenda

- Looking outward
 - ◆ Comments & letters since our last meeting
 - ◆ Talking to the Hill & the Administration
 - ◆ Funding Issues
- Talking together
 - ◆ Environmental Justice Survey
 - ◆ Other things we've worked on
 - ◆ Community & support
 - ◆ Committees – get involved!
- Plenty of time for questions



Comments since we last chatted

- ❑ Proposed LDV GHG standards (9/21)
- ❑ Early input on OAR and OECA National Program Guidance (9/21)
- ❑ Letter to EPA on Air Toxics Concerns (9/21)
- ❑ Letter on Urgency of Heavy Duty NOx Rules (8/21)
- ❑ Comments on Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Drawdown Proposal (7/21)
- ❑ Senate FY2022 Appropriations Testimony (6/21)
- ❑ SAFE 1 Repeal to EPA and NHTSA (6/21)
- ❑ Letter to EPA on NATA and other Toxics Concerns (5/21)

**THE FIRST
40 YEARS OF
CHILDHOOD
ARE ALWAYS
THE HARDEST.**

Making progress on the transition

- 1) Center Environmental Justice
- 2) Respect State and Local Authorities as a Pillar of the Clean Air Act
- 3) Ensure Scientific and Technical Integrity for Core EPA Actions
- 4) Advance New EPA Programs to Protect Public Health and the Environment and Address Climate Change
- 5) Reset Permitting and Enforcement Priorities to Emphasize Public Health and Equity
- 6) Improve Technical Assistance to State and Local Air Agencies
- 7) Address the Urgent Need for Significant Increases in Federal Funding
- 8) *Act in Partnership with State and Local Clean Air Agencies.*

4

**I'M 40 BUT I STILL FEEL
LIKE I'M 20...

UNTIL I HANG OUT WITH
SOME 20 YEAR OLDS.
THEN I'M LIKE NO, NEVER
MIND, I'M 40.**

Interactions with the Hill

- ❑ Appropriations in 2022-2023
- ❑ American Rescue Plan
 - ◆ \$22.5 million in direct grants
 - ◆ \$20 million in competitive grants
 - ◆ \$5 million in mobile monitoring
 - ◆ How NACAA can help
 - ◆ How can NACAA help?
- ❑ BIF and BBB: What else are we working on?
- ❑ Appropriations in the future: help us help you!



A look at Environmental Justice (EJ)



- ❑ Sent to 155 air agencies
- ❑ 30% response rate
- ❑ Variety of agency sizes and budgets, good geographic diversity
- ❑ Results available online at:
<https://www.4cleanair.org/news/nacaa-environmental-justice-survey-explores-challenges-state-and-local-agency-leadership-september-30-2021/>

Agencies are Active on EJ

- ❑ Nearly all 45 agencies that responded to the survey reported that they are already engaged in programs focused on improving protections for EJ communities.
- ❑ 70% said that their agencies have a designated staff person to oversee the EJ components of their activities.
- ❑ Agencies are integrating EJ into every aspect of their programs: planning, permitting, monitoring, enforcement, and more.
- ❑ 80% of respondents collaborate with other units of state and local government on EJ; in some cases, the air agency is not the lead agency

Many acting without dedicated staff, budget, policy support

- ❑ For more than half of the respondents, EJ is not a specific budgeted item, although respondents are investing in staff, training, and EJ-focused programs.
- ❑ almost all of the responding agencies are taking steps to address EJ, but
 - ✓ only 31% have a formal policy identifying and prioritizing specific action on EJ
 - ✓ 33% report having implementation guidance that facilitates their inclusion of EJ in their air program activities.
 - ✓ Among those who reported that they do not yet have a policy, 40% responded that they are currently developing a policy.

Identifying & Working with EJ Communities

- ❑ Only 26% of the agencies who responded to our survey do not have a mechanism for identifying EJ communities.
- ❑ 64% use mapping and facility proximity to assess or anticipate potential EJ issues.
- ❑ More than two thirds of responding agencies perform public outreach to raise awareness or share information about EJ and equity issues.
- ❑ About half the responding agencies provide support, training, or capacity-building to disproportionately affected communities.
- ❑ Over 75% involve trusted community institutions such as churches and community organizations as a matter of course in their actions.

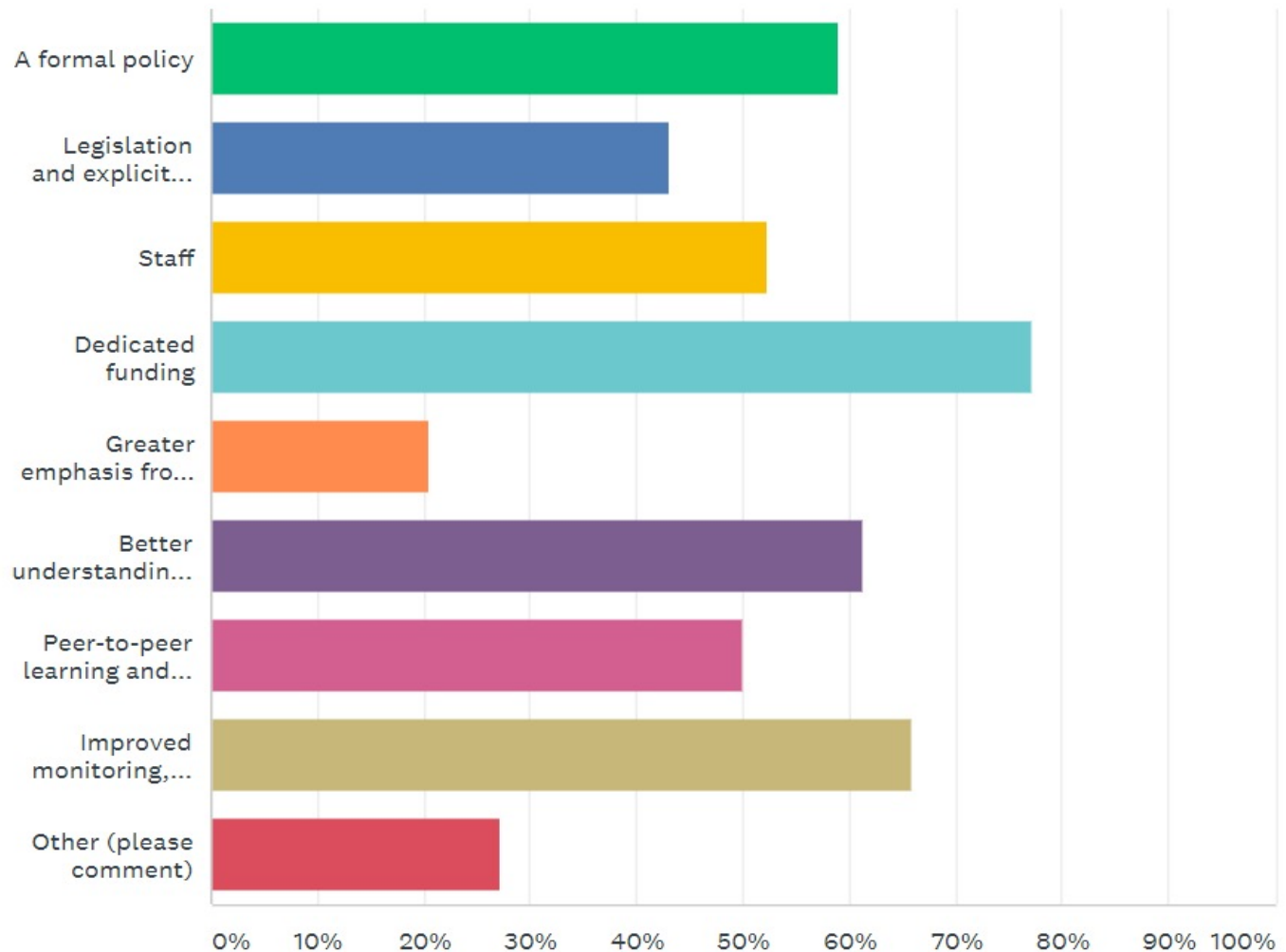
But EJ Is Not Always The Determining Factor In Decisions

- ❑ Half of the responding agencies give a role to EJ communities in creating or implementing policies.
- ❑ However, only 16% of responding agencies undertake mitigation programs targeting impacts in EJ communities and only 12% prohibit, constrain, or restrict projects as a matter of course when EJ issues are raised.
- ❑ Cumulative impacts from multiple projects and/or non-project effects (such as poverty and other stressors) can be considered by 38% of responding agencies.

Agencies Perceive Benefits, But They Are Not Often Measured

- ❑ 60% of responding agencies reported that they believe their programs are making a visible/measurable difference; most of the remaining respondents were “unsure.”
- ❑ However, only 13% reported having success metrics against which to measure their efforts.
- ❑ Only 31% responded that they report on their EJ efforts and 25% have their EJ efforts evaluated externally.

What would help?



How we can support each other

- ❑ Over 85% of respondents said facilitating the sharing of experiences and best practices amongst agencies to enable them to learn from one another would be helpful.
- ❑ Other themes that emerged are advocating for EPA to include EJ considerations in their rules and actions; developing templates, sample policies and guidance, and other tools; and advocating for funding for air agencies to be successful in advancing EJ.
- ❑ NACAA will continue to be active in this area advancing your capability and effectiveness

sharing issue steps information health Continue state helps
agencies burdens best practices Provide information

Community & Support

- ❑ Hello to new friends, farewell to dear friends
- ❑ Committee membership and leadership
- ❑ We have 12 amazing committees
- ❑ Joining is easy, and I hope you will!
- ❑ Here's how...

<https://www.4cleanair.org>



The All-New NACAA Site

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national association of clean air agencies

AirWeb Logout

Search...

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN AIR AGENCIES

Who We Are

NACAA is the national, non-partisan, non-profit association of air pollution control agencies in 41 states, including 115 local air agencies, the District of Columbia and four territories. NACAA exists to advance the equitable protection of clean air and public health for all, and to improve the capability and effectiveness of state and local air agencies.

NEWS AND POLICY

- ➔ NACAA News
- ➔ NACAA Policy

NACAA RESOURCES

- ➔ NACAA VW Settlement Resources
- ➔ "4YI" Technical Factsheets
- ➔ NACAA COVID-19 Resources
- ➔ Air Quality Job Opportunities
- ➔ Contact Us

ABOUT NACAA

- ➔ Our Membership
- ➔ Mission and Values
- ➔ Leadership
- ➔ NACAA Staff

If you've got questions...



I'll try to answer them!