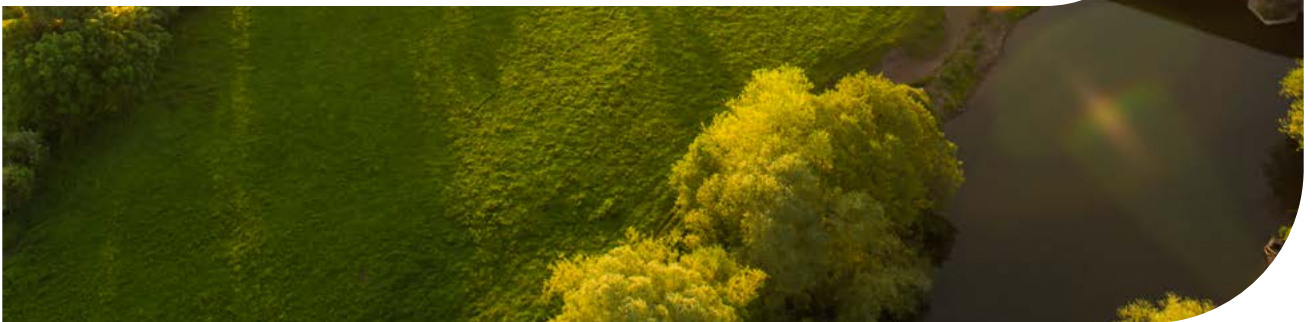




# Environmental Justice



## Elevating Equity Across Sectors

With increasing visibility and focus on environmental justice issues in recent years and government agencies creating significant momentum with recent policy, the potential to advance equity in communities that have experienced disinvestment and exclusion is evident. However, sustainability strategies are becoming increasingly complex, which means organizations often don't have a clear understanding of how to ensure goals like environmental justice and equity are adequately planned and met.

At the local level, counties and cities are developing plans and updating policies aimed at improving equity.

In the private sector, business leaders are identifying technologies to help achieve sustainability goals, be good community stewards, and improve business operations.

As a leader in the innovation, infrastructure, engineering, and environmental sector, Black & Veatch can support both public and private sector clients by providing a range of solutions that fulfill client and business needs while being mindful of the health and well-being of impacted communities. We work with clients to define environmental justice impacts early in the project to plan for successful outcomes.

Black & Veatch [partnered with the City of Omaha, Nebraska](#) to design and implement a green infrastructure system that captures stormwater to lessen the stress on the downstream combined sewer system and improves water quality. The design includes an expansive community park for families, fishing enthusiasts, and health-minded people from all over the city. Through community engagement during the planning process, the city ensured the park could be leveraged as a resource for nearby community organizations and citizens alike.



### Partnering for Environmental Justice

Environmental, social and governance goals should be integrated into broader organizational strategies. Identifying and quantifying the impact not only on equity, but also on the organization's triple bottom line is an important step to analyzing potential projects and investments.

Using in-house tools, Black & Veatch assesses specific criteria that impact environmental justice, including:

- Percent of disadvantaged and vulnerable populations in an area
- Number of existing air, water, waste, and hazardous waste discharging facilities present
- Location of landfills for waste disposal
- Proximity to neighborhood parks, schools, and churches
- Potential air toxins, cancer risk and other respiratory hazards
- Location feasibility and distance from overburdened areas
- Available buffer around waste storage and disposal facilities

### How We Can Help

- Site selection and environmental threat assessments
- Envision® rating system to ensure sustainability by design
- Community assistance to apply for and obtain funding from federal grants and/or loans or from other alternative funding
- Climate analytics and green infrastructure
- Brownfield and community cleanup programs
- Anti-displacement programs
- Master planning
- Rate payer affordability and customer assistance programs
- Environmental justice and human rights evaluations

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