

# SELECTED ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE VIDEOS

Information on environmental justice has become bountiful in the past decade. Although attention has focused on literature about this subject, there is an increase in videos related to Superfund, hazardous waste, toxins, facility siting, environmental justice and environmental racism. Organizations such as Greenpeace, the Video Project and Bullfrog Films have made videos on environment and race, poverty, and political disenfranchisement. In addition, a number of people of color grassroots activists, community groups, environmental organizations, social justice and civil rights advocates have captured their struggles on film. Several university lectures and panels are included to demonstrate the role of educators and students in the environmental justice movement.

Environmental justice issues go well beyond the anti-toxins campaign to include public health, housing, land use, transportation, energy, political empowerment, pollution prevention, etc. The environmental movement is no longer considered the sole domain of the middle-class and elite. Today, grassroots activists, civil rights leaders and environmental justice advocates are demanding fair treatment and equal enforcement of the nation's environmental, health, housing, transportation, energy and civil rights laws.

The videos in this directory attempt to highlight some diverse problems linked to environmental injustice. Many show communities telling their stories and speaking for themselves. The listings are by no means exhaustive, but they can help educate the public about major environmental problems in or near people's homes, neighborhoods and work places.

Any new video listings or news clips should be sent to Environmental Justice Resource Center, Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA 30314. Fax: (404) 880-6909 or e-mail: [ejrc@cau.edu](mailto:ejrc@cau.edu).

## **American Agenda: Environmental Racism**

1991. 4 minutes.

ABC News' American Agenda focuses on environmental justice, discussing how environmental hazards disproportionately impact African American and Latino communities. This shows footage of "Cancer Alley" but mentions that there are hundreds of cancer alleys across the nation. Hosted by Peter Jennings.

### **For more information, contact:**

WABC-TV Ch 7 ABC News  
7 Lincoln Square  
New York, NY 10023  
212-456-7777  
212-456-2290 (fax)

## **...And Justice for All**

1995. 26 minutes.

This discusses the concept of "Not In My Backyard" (NIMBY) and how people of color are affected by the siting of landfills and other types of waste disposal. It shows how community activists were unable to stop a landfill that contained a dangerous pesticide (PCB). The video examines how environmental justice spans across the U.S. as well as across borders.

### **For more information, contact:**

Media Services  
Presbyterian Church (USA)  
100 Witherspoon Street  
Louisville, KY 40202-1396

## **Bethel New Life: "Weaving Community Together"**

1998. 15 minutes.

Bethel New Life is a church-based environmental organization that has challenged the hopelessness of individuals on the west side of Chicago. It creates partnerships with schools, communities and businesses.

### **For more information, contact:**

Bethel New Life, Inc.  
4950 West Thomas  
Chicago, IL 60651  
773-473-7870

## **Brownfields Redevelopment: Tools for Environmental Justice**

1998. 17 Minutes.

In 17 minutes, find out how your community can achieve environmental justice by redeveloping brownfield sites. This video highlights New Orleans' successful efforts to encourage meaningful community involvement through its brownfields pilot program. The video captures how two neighborhoods are working to overcome a history of environmental injustice and the negative impacts of brownfields properties.

### **For more information, contact:**

Deitra Crawley  
International City/County Management Association  
777 North Capitol Street, NE  
Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20002-4201  
1-800-745-8780

## **The Center for Environmental Resource Management: Environmental Concerns on the Border**

1993. 11 minutes.

The United States–Mexico border is 2,000 miles from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico. The population is growing rapidly along the border due to the increase in 300 or more industries relocating there. Poverty and unemployment rates are still high despite these new companies. Scarce and fragile resources lead to environmental problems, poor air quality, depletion of water resources, poor water quality, problems with waste disposal control, transportation of hazardous materials and the destruction of the desert habitat. Residents, who are forced to live the best they can, have inadequate health care and many have tuberculosis, respiratory problems, chorea, hepatitis, pulmonary diseases and life-threatening birth defects.

### **For more information, contact:**

The University of Texas at El Paso  
El Paso, TX 79968  
915-747-5000  
915-747-5111 (fax)

## **Clark Atlanta University Lecture Series: What Is Environmental Justice?**

October 4, 1994. 68 minutes.

Dr. Robert Bullard discusses environmental justice and environmental racism. He also traces the beginning of the environmental justice movement and illustrates examples of environmental injustices.

### **For more information, contact:**

Environmental Justice Resource Center  
Clark Atlanta University  
Atlanta, GA 30314  
404-880-6911  
404-880-6909 (fax)  
E-mail: ejrc@cau.edu

## **Coming to the Light.**

A Production of Healing Democracy Project.

1998. 31 minutes

The video shows how people were misinformed by Reichhold Chemical Company, which made wood-preserving compounds from pentachlorophenol mixed with diesel oil. Small explosions or fires occurred at this site as the result of flammable chemicals stored in drums.

### **For more information, contact:**

Jesus People Against Pollution  
P.O. Box 765  
Columbia, MS 39429  
601-736-0686

## **Documentary Highlights of the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit**

1991. 106 minutes.

The video highlights the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, which projected a bold new vision for environmental justice. The historic meeting, held in Washington, D.C., in October 1991, was attended by over 600 participants. This video summarizes the birth of a new national and international movement of indigenous and grassroots people.

### **For more information, contact:**

Charles Lee  
United Church of Christ  
Commission for Racial Justice  
475 Riverside Drive, 15th Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
1-800-325-7061

## **Earthing: Stories of People of the Planet**

1994. 29 minutes.

This video profiles three people in Los Angeles who are working on environmental issues. It examines Lisa Rawling's work to make Warner Brothers more environmentally friendly; engineer David Easton's work on adobe housing, energy-efficient building techniques, and inexpensive residential architecture; and Robert Bullard's research and work with grassroots groups in California. It also includes congressional testimony from Professor Bullard.

### **For more information, contact:**

Maurice Jacobson  
Alternet TV/City of Santa Monica  
1685 Main Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90401  
310-458-8590

## **Environmental Justice**

1996. 18 minutes.

This video, produced by the U.S. Department of Justice, provides an overview of the topic. It includes interviews with major environmental advocates, government officials and industry officials. It concludes with a statement from Attorney General Janet Reno. Video is closed-captioned.

### **For more information, contact:**

U.S. Department of Justice  
Audiovisual Media Section  
10th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530  
202-514-4694

## **Global Dumping Ground**

1990. 58 minutes.

This PBS Frontline special report hosted by Bill Moyers reveals how toxic exports have become big business. It has become more difficult to dispose of toxic wastes in this country, so much of it is flowing at a lucrative profit to countries with few regulations. This hard-hitting, investigative documentary raises important environmental and regulatory concerns. The video has a 152-page companion book by the Center for Investigative Reporting.

### **For more information, contact:**

The Video Project  
Films and Videos for a Safe & Sustainable World  
5332 College Avenue, Suite 101  
Oakland, CA 94618  
510-655-9050  
510-655-9115 (fax)  
1-800-4-Planet (1-800-475-2638)

## **Grassroots Victory over Browning Ferris Industries**

1994. 26 minutes.

The video examines how a small African American community in Birmingham, Ala., stopped one of the nation's largest garbage companies (Browning Ferris Industries). This is an excellent example of community residents empowering themselves.

### **For more information, contact:**

Paula Welch  
Greenpeace  
20 13th Street, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30309  
404-876-0782 ext. 200

## **Green Dreams**

1995. 30 minutes.

In some of San Francisco's most troubled neighborhoods, urban gardening projects are doing more than enhancing plagued areas. They are actually planting hope by helping combat unemployment, drugs, and violence. The video documents how these gardening projects are offering real job skills and a sense of accomplishment to low-income children, teens, recovering drug addicts, and former convicts.

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## **Greenpeace Communities in Crisis**

1998. 15 minutes.

This video describes how industry can divide a community. The industries are emitting chemicals into the air, water and land. Several residents know of someone who has a health problem that they attributed to the chemicals emitted by the industries.

### **For more information, contact:**

Greenpeace Public Information  
1436 U Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
202-319-2444  
202-462-4507

## **I Will Fight Until I Melt**

1998. 14 minutes.

This video is about Northeast Cape, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, where the Air Force operated a surveillance station as part of the Cold War North American Air Defense Command from 1952–1972. In 1982, the Navy occupied the area southwest of Nome, Alaska, as a White Alice communications site. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has assumed responsibility for the cleanup of the site. Due to the contamination, which includes fuel spills totaling more than 220,000 gallons, as well as solvents, heavy metals, asbestos and PCBs, the indigenous people are afraid to harvest food from Northeast Cape. Many residents have died from cancer, and those remaining fear for their lives.

### **For more information, contact:**

Alaska Community Action on Toxics  
135 Christensen Drive, Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-222-7714  
907-222-7715 (fax)

## **The Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice: Public Meeting Live from the Campus of Clark Atlanta University**

1995. 116 minutes.

This video is presented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as part of the National Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice in Atlanta, Ga., on Jan. 20, 1995. Eight federal agencies interacted with representatives of community organizations, academia, and tribal governments, as well as state and local governments. A public meeting was moderated by Julian Bond, and panelists included Richard Moore (Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice), Lois Schiffer (Justice Department), Thomas Grumbly (Department of Energy), Dr. Reuben Warren (Centers for Disease Control) and Wardell C. Townsend (U.S. Department of Agriculture).

### **For more information, contact:**

Environmental Justice Resource Center  
Clark Atlanta University  
Atlanta, GA 30314  
404-880-6911  
404-880-6909(fax)  
E-mail: ejrc@cau.edu

## **Justice on the Border**

1993–1994. 27 minutes.

This introduces the critical issues facing people who live on the Mexican and U.S. border. The video tells the story of community people struggling for environmental justice on both sides of the border in cities such as El Paso, Texas, and Sunland Park, N.M. Now available with Spanish voice-overs.

### **For more information, contact:**

Office of Communication  
United Church of Christ  
700 Prospect Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44115-1100  
216-736-2222

## **Just Transportation**

1996. 45 minutes.

This video includes highlights from “Environmental Justice and Transportation: Building Model Partnerships Conference” in Atlanta, Ga., in 1995. The conference discussed strategies for building livable, healthy and just communities. Transportation and civil rights issues in people of color communities are explored. This was shot on location in Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, West Harlem (New York City) and Washington, D.C.

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Clark Atlanta University  
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## **Laid to Waste: A Chester Neighborhood Fights For Its Future**

1996. 55 minutes.

This video tells the story of a community dealing with the issue of environmental injustice. Zula Mayfield, chairperson of Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living (CRCQL), lives next door to the fourth-largest trash incinerator in the nation and a few doors from a plant that can process 288 tons of infectious medical waste per day. A sewage treatment plant is a few blocks away from her home and a fourth plant, which will process petroleum-contaminated soil, is planned for the Chester, Pa., neighborhood. The video looks at residents who live near these facilities and examines the controversy surrounding an obscure legal maneuver used by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

### **For more information, contact:**

DUTV, Philadelphia Cable Channel 54  
33rd & Chestnut Streets  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
215-895-2927  
215-895-1054 (fax)  
E-mail: dutv@post.drexel.edu

## **Living with Lead**

1995. 58 minutes. (two parts)

This video is co-sponsored by The National Safety Council and the University of Tennessee EERC. It is presented in two parts on one tape, and each part may be shown separately. The first part examines why lead paint poses a significant hazard and the second part illustrates successful community-based lead abatement and preventive programs.

### **For more information contact:**

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5332 College Avenue, Suite 101  
Oakland, CA 94618  
510-655-9050  
510-655-9115 (fax)  
1-800-4-Planet (1-800-475-2638)

## **Making Waves Closer to Home: Environmental Justice**

28 minutes.

Part of Greenpeace’s television magazine series on environmental activism, this video gives an overview of the environmental justice movement. It highlights communities targeted as dumps for the nation’s dirtiest industries and introduces people who are organizing and winning against local polluters.

### **For more information, contact:**

Greenpeace Public Information  
1436 U Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
202-319-2444  
202-462-4507 (fax)

## **NBC News: Environmental Racism**

February 1992. 3 minutes.

This examines how environmental racism (particularly as it pertains to lead) affects people of color in West Dallas, Texas.

### **For more information, contact:**

WXIA 11 NBC  
1611 W. Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, GA 30309  
404-892-1611  
404-892-0182 (fax)

## People of Color Environmental Leadership Conference Resource Tape

15 minutes.

Discusses five communities' struggles with environmental injustices: "Cancer Alley" in Convent, La.; Reveilletown, La., an African-American community leveled in 1988 due to chemical poisoning; Altgeld Gardens in Chicago, Ill., an African-American community surrounded by waste disposal facilities, a landfill, hazardous waste incinerator, and sewage treatment; McFarland, Calif., a Mexican farming community with a high cancer rate and land and water contaminated by pesticide spraying; and Dilcon, Ariz., a Native American community that challenged and defeated a company claiming to want to build a recycling plant but actually wanting to build a toxic waste dump.

### For more information, contact:

Charles Lee  
United Church of Christ  
Commission for Racial Justice  
475 Riverside Drive, 15th Floor  
New York, NY 10115  
1-800-325-7061

## Racing To Save the Planet: Environmental Career Opportunities for Minorities

1993. 25 minutes.

This video is narrated by Hank Aaron and produced by Clark Atlanta University with the assistance of the Army Environmental Policy Institute and Florida International University. It introduces environmental problems facing the planet as well as showing that environmental careers are in high demand and command top salaries. It stresses the need for cultural diversity.

### For more information, contact:

FM Media Associates  
894 Wheatfield Place  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404-284-2276

## Sustainable Atlanta

1997. 27 minutes.

This video explores the intersection of race, class, place and the challenges facing Atlanta's Empowerment Zone (EZ) neighborhoods as residents begin dismantling barriers to economic opportunity and residential apartheid. Residents of EZ neighborhoods developed the plans, benchmarks and vision for creating an urban village that is economically viable and sustainable. The video demonstrates how community-based organizations and grassroots leaders are turning their communities around. Produced by EJRC in collaboration with CAU-TV for the Atlanta Empowerment Zone Advisory Board.

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Clark Atlanta University  
Atlanta, GA 30314  
404-880-6911  
404-880-6909 (fax)  
E-mail: ejrc@cau.edu

## Technopolitics

1994. 25 minutes.

This television program hosted by Tim White consists of three segments. The first segment pertains to asteroids striking Jupiter, the second is on private mining on federal lands, and the third is an interview with Dr. Robert D. Bullard. Bullard and White discuss issues of environmental justice including background information, court rulings, the Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898, and the race vs. class and jobs vs. environment debate.

### For more information, contact:

The Blackwell Group  
USA Today Building  
1000 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22209

## Times Beach, Missouri

1994. 57 minutes.

Times Beach was a predominantly African-American town in the Midwest that had been extensively contaminated with dioxin, one of the most toxic chemicals known. The town became the first ever purchased and condemned by the federal government as a result of toxic contamination. Residents were not notified about the contamination until 10 years after the incident. The evacuation and cleanup were handled poorly, and there have been years of legal battles seeking just compensation. This video contains interviews with former residents, government officials and others recounting the community's tragic story.

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## Toxic Racism

1994. 56 minutes.

Poor people and people of color suffer disproportionately from industrial and toxic pollution but benefit the least from environmental enforcement and cleanup programs. This video provides an in-depth look at this devastating form of discrimination and profiles three communities. Hosted by Emmy Award-winning journalist Ira Flatow, this was broadcast nationally on PBS.

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1-800-4-Planet (1-800-475-2638)

## **Transportation, Environmental Justice and Social Equity**

1994. 18 minutes.

This video contains highlights from the Transportation, Environmental Justice and Social Equity Conference in 1994 in Chicago. The conference was sponsored by the Federal Transit Administration and the Surface Transportation Policy Project (STPP) and hosted by the Center for Neighborhood Technology.

### **For more information, contact:**

Center for Neighborhood Technology  
2125 West North Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60647  
312-278-4800  
312-278-3840 (fax)

## **Turning the Toxic Tide**

1994. 27 minutes.

The jobs vs. environment conflict is often viewed as a clear-cut problem. The theory states that to save valuable jobs a certain amount of environmental degradation has to occur. This video examines the complexity of the issue. Federal officials in British Columbia were forced to close beaches around mills in Georgia Strait because of dioxin contamination of shellfish. Concerned citizens were up against plant owners who argued that making the necessary changes would eliminate well-paying jobs. However, the paper mills are not the only local businesses. This video looks at the importance of empowerment in connection with environmental issues.

### **For more information, contact:**

Bullfrog Films  
Oley, PA 19547  
610-779-8226  
1-800-543-FROG  
610-370-1978  
E-mail: bullfrog@igc.apc.org

## **Unequal Exposure: A Fight for Environmental Justice in Los Angeles**

1994. 35 minutes.

This video, produced by UCLA urban planning graduate students and narrated by Ed Asner, discusses the environmental and social injustices in Los Angeles. It tells how dust and lead poisoning affect residents, particularly children. It also looks at the problem of raw sewage illegally dumped in the Torres-Martinez Indian Reservation.

### **For more information, contact:**

UCLA Environmental Coalition  
308 Westwood Plaza  
300 Kerckhoff Hall  
Los Angeles, CA 90024  
310-206-4438

## **Voices from the Frontlines**

1998. 38 minutes.

This video addresses labor issues, workers' rights on the job, air and water pollution, health issues and toxic waste issues. Public health is impacted by pollution being emitted by big companies. Low-paying jobs and hazardous jobs are occupied by poor people and people of color. A multiracial social movement is needed to challenge multinational corporations that emit pollution into the environment affecting the quality of life for Los Angeles residents.

### **For more information, contact:**

The Labor/Community Strategy Center  
3780 Wilshire Blvd  
Suite 1200  
Los Angeles, CA 90010  
213-387-2800  
213-387-3500 (fax)

## **"What's Killing the Neighborhood" (Wingate Superfund Site)**

1997. 19 minutes.

This video describes a community fighting to survive. People are mysteriously dying in the Wingate community, where an incinerator poisoned the community for a quarter of a century. High cancer rates in this working-class community can be traced over a two-mile radius from the Wingate Superfund site. Interviews with residents by NBC Channel 6 news proposed a direct link between the high cancer rates and toxic ashes from the incinerator.

### **For more information, contact:**

NBC Channel 6  
2121 W. Oakland Park Blvd  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33331  
954-735-2300

## **Wiedner University Performance and Lecture Series: "Race, Class, and Environmental Quality" with Dr. Robert Bullard**

October 1994. 84 minutes.

Dr. Bullard discusses the impact of race and class on decisions regarding siting of landfills and toxic waste sites. Professor Bullard discusses inequities in the South and institutional constraints that allow environmental racism and other forms of environmental injustice to negatively impact communities across the nation and abroad.

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Atlanta, GA 30314  
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