



PILLARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY

AN ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TRAINING RESOURCE

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE:

Below is a checklist of actions to fulfill each of the three main components of environmental justice—recognitional, procedural, and distributional justice. Use this resource to ensure you integrate each type of justice into your program to maximize environmental justice efforts in your organization.

YOUR CHECKLIST!

- STEP 1 Recognitional justice
- STEP 2 Procedural justice
- STEP 3 Distributional justice



STEP 1:

RECOGNITIONAL JUSTICE

The perspectives, values, experiences, preferences, and/or knowledge of disadvantaged groups and neglected groups are recognized and/or prioritized within urban forestry. They are considered during decision-making, planning, and/or tree-planting and tree stewardship events.

Describe how these groups and people are recognized and prioritized below:

A large, empty light gray rectangular area intended for text input, serving as a workspace to describe how groups and people are recognized and prioritized.



STEP 2:

PROCEDURAL JUSTICE

Members of the public have access to accurate information and resources related to:

- The benefits and burdens of urban trees
- Tree care and maintenance responsibilities
- Location and times of tree-planting and tree care events

Describe how you ensured that neglected and disadvantaged groups had access to accurate information and resources about trees.

- This should include how you gathered feedback from these groups to verify the resources were accessible to them—i.e. Was the language clear and understandable? Was the information in a place people in the community saw it or knew where to find it?

The decision-making process was fair (i.e. included the perspectives of those closely affected by decisions at each stage of decision-making) and transparent.

Engagement strategies for public participation are fair and accessible. Describe how you ensured fairness and accessibility:

A large, empty rectangular box intended for the user to provide detailed responses to the questions above.



STEP 3:

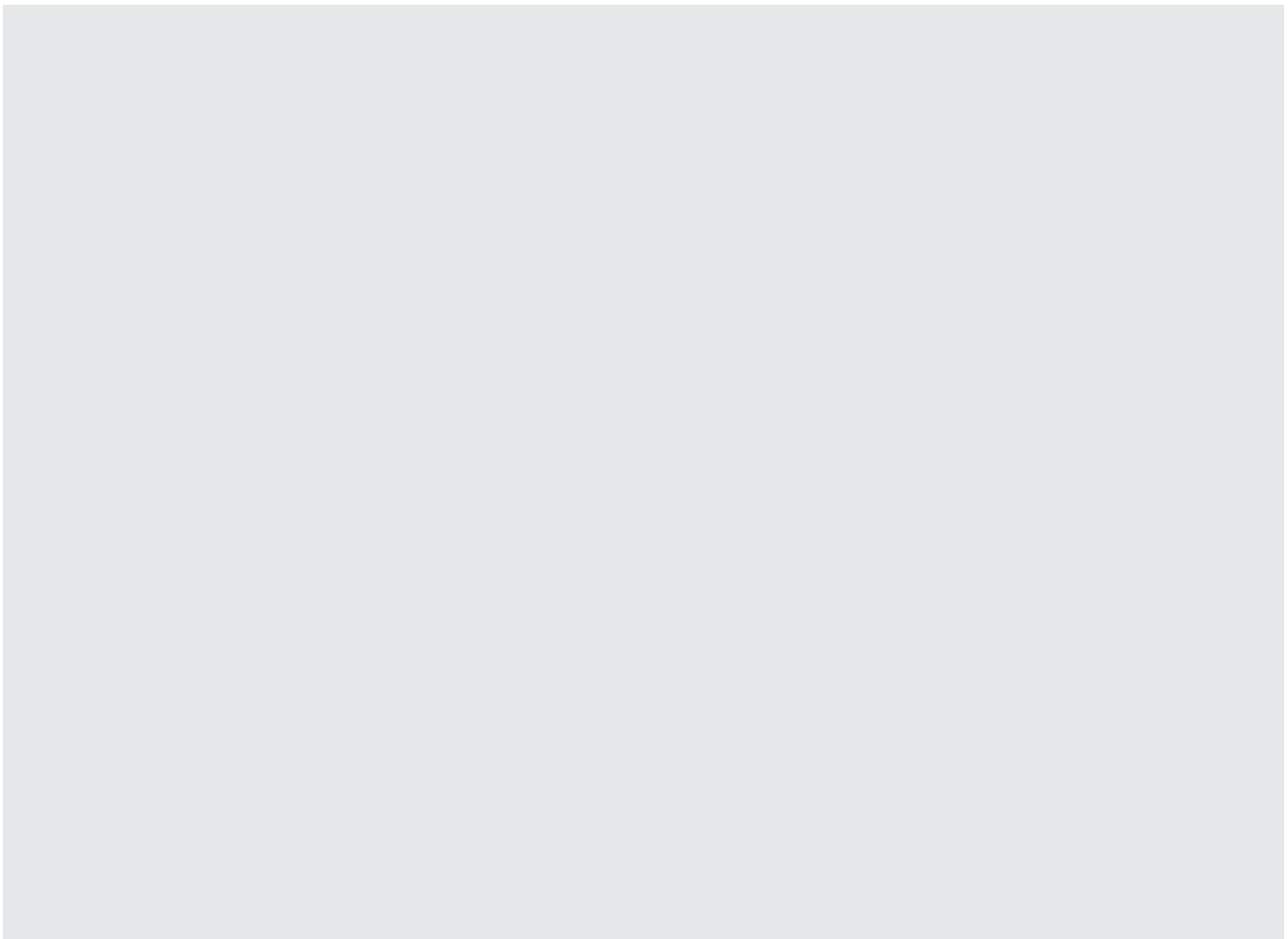
DISTRIBUTIONAL JUSTICE

Trees are being distributed equitably (i.e. according to greatest need) across city neighborhoods.

Maintenance practices are being distributed equitably (i.e. according to greatest need) across city neighborhoods.

NEXT STEPS

Based on your responses to this checklist, determine which components of environmental justice you need to focus on more moving forward. Then, use [this worksheet](#) to create specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timebound (SMART) goals to improve environmental justice in your urban and community forestry programs.





THE ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION AND FAIR FORESTS CONSULTING

At the Arbor Day Foundation, we believe everyone should have access to the powerful benefits of trees. To help strengthen our focus on communities that need trees most, we partner with experts like Dr. Christine Carmichael from Fair Forests Consulting. This resource, crafted by Dr. Carmichael, is part of our ongoing commitment to empowering our partners to grow their environmental justice work in urban forestry.

Alliance for Community Tree members have access to our full environmental justice training series in the ACT Member Resource Center. Learn about this network and how to join at arborday.org/ACT.