

Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice: Flint Michigan

LEARN

What happened in Flint? The river water was not treated with anti-corrosive agent in violation of Federal law. Water eroded the iron water mains turning water brown. 50% of homes in Flint have water pipes made of lead and due to the water not being properly treated the lead began leaking into the water supply in addition to the iron. For two years the residents drank the contaminated water and were told it was safe for them by the local government.

“The water crisis gripping Flint, Michigan is shining a bright light on how structural racism is found in our environmental resources and is costing people their lives across the nation.” – 1

“The concept of environmental racism- the idea that nonwhites are disproportionately exposed to pollution- emerged more than 10 years ago with the United Church of Christ’s study, *Toxic Waste and Race in the United States (1987)*”. - 2

Environmental Justice’s Three Fold Development

REFLECT

“Environmental justice pushed beyond many boundaries: it challenged the very notion of ‘environment’, examined the construction of *injustice* beyond inequity, and illustrated the potential of pluralistic conceptions of social justice.”

“Spatial expansion of the use of the term Environmental Justice; horizontally into a broader range of issues, vertically into examinations of the global nature of environmental injustices, and conceptually to the human relationship with the non-human world.

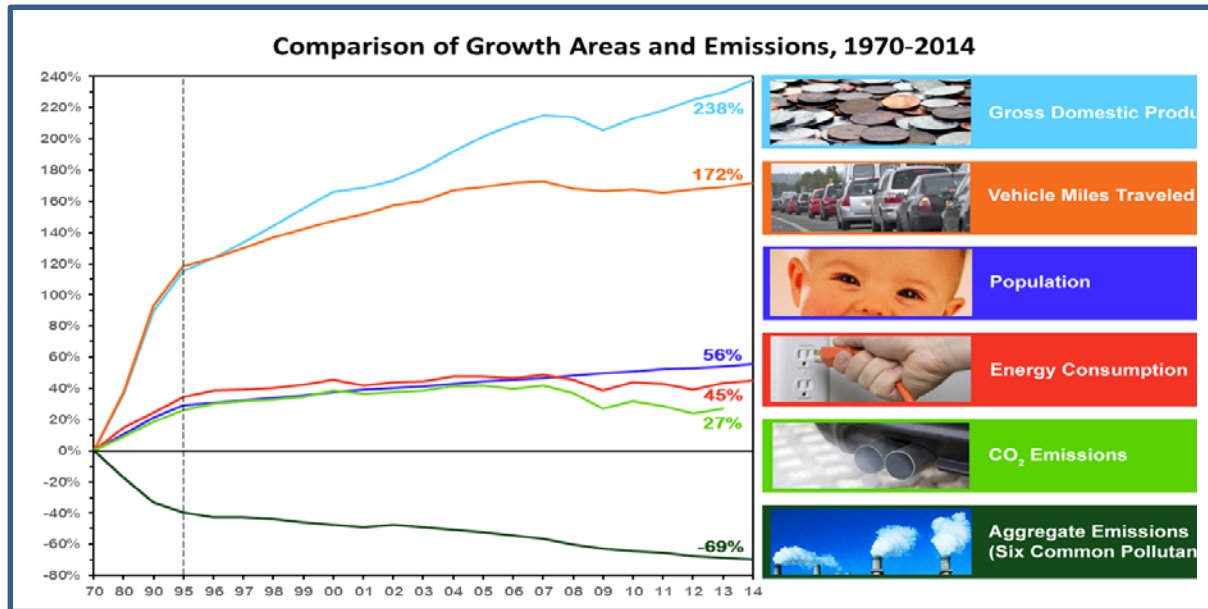
“Recent extensions of the environmental justice frame move the discourse into a new realm – where environment and nature are understood to create the conditions for social justice.” -3

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICY CREATION AND IMPLICATION

1970: **Environmental Protection Act and The Clean Air Act** established to control harmful air pollution

1994: President Clinton issued **Executive Order 12898** which focused on Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations.

2010: President Obama issued the **America’s Great Outdoors Initiative** which preserves and highlights numerous natural features, and also raises public awareness.



Picture Source: United States E.P.A
<https://www3.epa.gov/airtrends/aqtrends.html> 2/29/ 16

Document sources

- 1- Ganim, Sara and Linh Tran. "Environmental Racism Harms Americans in Flint - And Beyond." *Portside*. CNN, 13 Jan. 2016. Accessed. 29 Feb. 2016
- 2- Pulido, Laura. "Rethinking Environmental Racism: White Privilege and Urban Development in Southern California". *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 90.1 (2000): 12–40.
- 3- Schlosberg, David. "Theorising environmental justice: the expanding sphere of a discourse." *Environmental Politics* 22.1 (2013): 37-55. Nichols, Jason.
- 4- "Environmental Racism Harms Americans in Flint - And Beyond." *Portside*. The Guardian, 23 Jan. 2016. Accessed. 29 Feb. 2016.
- 5- "Questions and Answers on Environmental Justice." *General*. U.S. Department of Transportation, 22 Sept. 2014. Web. 02 Mar. 2016.
- 6- "Pope's Eco Quotes: The Gift of Knowledge." Pope's Eco Quotes: The Gift of Knowledge. National Catholic Reporter, 22 Apr. 2015. Accessed. 06 Apr. 2016.

Pope Francis and Environmental Justice

ACT

“God saw that it was good” (1:12, 18, 21, 25); if God sees creation as good, as a beautiful thing, then we too must take this attitude and see that creation is a good and beautiful thing.”- Pope Francis- 6

“The knowledge that comes from the Holy Spirit, however, is not limited to human knowledge; it is a special gift, which leads us to grasp, through creation, the greatness and love of God and his profound relationship with every creature.” - Pope Francis - 6

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