



ANNUAL WATERSHED CONFERENCE

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

IN-PERSON SESSION

Tuesday, October 24, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Henry A. Wallace Center, FDR Presidential Library & Museum in Hyde Park, NY

[Register here](#)

The in-person session will be on Tuesday, October 24 from 9 AM to 3 PM at the Henry A. Wallace Center, FDR Presidential Library & Museum in Hyde Park, NY. This session will focus on DEIJ strategies and case studies from the Hudson River watershed. The day will be structured with both plenary and breakout sessions, along with space and time for networking. This session includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and coffee/tea throughout the day.

Registration for the virtual session held on Wednesday, October 25 is included with the in-person conference registration, and is also available to view on its own. The webinar will be recorded and shared with all conference registrants. It will set a valuable foundation for the content of the in-person session, and we highly recommend that everyone who plans to attend in-person watches the webinar beforehand, either live or the recording.

For more information about the Annual Watershed Conference, visit:

<https://hudsonwatershed.org/2023-annual-watershed-conference/>

AGENDA

9:00-9:30 PM - Welcome and Introduction

Emily Vail, Executive Director, Hudson River Watershed Alliance

Katherine Meierdiercks, Board President, Hudson River Watershed Alliance

Jeffrey Urbin, Education Director, Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

9:30-9:55 PM - Adding to Your DEIJ Toolbox

*Rodney M. Fuller, LMSW, MBA, PhD-C, President, Pursue Your Excellence and
Facilitator, The Support Center*

9:55-10:30 AM - Quassaick Creek & Fall Kill Greenway Trails

Duane Martinez, Program Director, River Cities Program, Scenic Hudson

10:30-10:50 AM - Break

10:50-11:25 AM - Language Justice Best Practices

*Laura Montoya and Verónica Martínez Cruz,
Language Justice Collective of the Hudson Valley*

The Language Justice Collective helps connect folks seeking language practitioners to interpreters (spoken language) or translators (written language) for their events, meetings, or documents, etc., as well as Language Justice consultation. Laura and Verónica will describe guidance around implementing Language Justice principles in your work.

11:25-11:55 AM - WE ACT Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center: Building Power in Environmental Justice Communities through Access to Grant Opportunities

*Jordana Vanderselt, MPH, TCTAC Director of Operations,
WE ACT for Environmental Justice*

WE ACT is launching an EPA funded Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC) for New York and New Jersey. This presentation will introduce the key objectives of the TCTAC as well as planned activities, which include training and other assistance to build capacity for navigating federal grant application systems, writing strong grant proposals, effectively managing grant funding, engaging in environmental and energy justice decision-making, and creating EJ networks and partnerships throughout the region.

11:55 AM - 12:25 PM - Engaging, Educating and Empowering Communities through Environmental Justice Grants

*Dana McClure, Environmental Program Specialist, Office of Environmental Justice,
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*

The DEC's Office of Environmental Justice offers multiple competitive grant programs that assist communities in developing and implementing programs that address environmental issues, harms, and health hazards, build community consensus, set priorities, and improve public outreach and education. Join us to find out about the different grant opportunities available and be inspired by some successful water- and watershed-related grant proposals that have been funded.

12:25-12:55 PM - Lunch

12:55-1:30 PM - Roles of County and Municipal Government in Improving DEIJ

Esi Lewis, Chief Diversity Officer, Office of Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger

1:30-1:40 PM - Break/Prep for Breakout Rooms

1:40-2:45 PM - Breakout Rooms

Environmental Justice in Newburgh

Jennifer Rawlison, Steering Committee, Newburgh Clean Water Project

Ronald Zorrilla, Founder/CEO, Outdoor Promise

This session will focus on how Environmental Justice issues are impacting the City of Newburgh's land, water, and people. Ronald Zorrilla, Outdoor Promise, and Jennifer Rawlison, Newburgh Clean Water Project, will share the challenges of these impacts, along with the work of their organizations to improve conditions.

Inclusive Community Engagement in Planning

Candida Rodriguez, Director of Community Relations, Groundwork Hudson Valley

Karen Strong, Principal, Strong Outcomes, LLC

Candida Rodriguez will present Groundwork Hudson Valley's Climate Safe Yonkers Task Force, a dynamic community-led initiative that showcases the significance of community empowerment, building awareness, and bridging the gap between policy makers and the public in addressing climate challenges. Building on this example, Karen Strong will share considerations and recommendations for approaching community engagement in planning.

Sharing Power in Your Collaborations

Susan Grove & Micah, Worker Trustees, Good Work Institute

In this session, Micah and Susan from the Good Work Institute will facilitate practice with a tool for acknowledging the way resources flow within and between collaborations in different ways and for equitably balancing those resources. Along the way, we'll define human social power, suggest factors that contribute to power flowing in healthy ways, expand our thinking about what generates abundance, and connect with one another in the process of generating actionable insights.

2:45-3:00 PM - Closing

Emily Vail, Executive Director, Hudson River Watershed Alliance

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