

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FUND

5-Year Impact Report 2018-2022

Executive Summary



The Environmental Justice Fund (**EJ Fund**) was created in 2018 to directly invest in community-led environmental solutions from our priority communities. Over the last 7 years, the EJ Fund has been a critical resource to support Seattle's ecosystem of environmental and climate justice efforts that are grounded in the needs of our priority communities. By empowering community groups to design programs that reflect their lived experiences, beliefs, traditions, and cultural values, the EJ Fund ensures that their strengths are at the forefront of environmental justice work. This program continues to foster meaningful, community-driven environmental change.

We define our **priority communities** as those most affected by environmental inequities and climate change: Black, Indigenous, People of Color, immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes, youth, and elders.

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income.

EJ Fund Growth

Rooted in Community, Growing in Impact

The EJ Fund was developed to invest in community groups and organizations that:

- ▶ Already serve priority communities and are doing work that they may not call “environmental justice” but fall within the definition of that work
- ▶ Provide a broader set of services and include environmental justice as part of their community's priorities but lack funding, staffing, and relationships with funders to grow that work
- ▶ Are growing their own environmental justice impact and need more funding, staffing capacity, and resources to accomplish that objective

EJ Fund Impact Highlights



\$2,612,252

TOTAL FUNDING AWARDED



43 TOTAL GRANTEES



53 PROJECTS FUNDED

Laying the Groundwork

Our Guiding Goals

To achieve our mission of investing in climate and environmental justice solutions led by or in partnership with our priority communities, the EJ Fund follows the Guiding Goals outlined below, which serve as the foundation for the program's success and impact:



1. Centering Community

Community-centric grantmaking prioritizes the needs of the priority communities that the EJ Fund serves.



2. Building Trust

Building trust is central to the grantmaking practices of the EJ Fund to establish strong relationships with grantees through intentional, trust-building efforts.



3. Growing Community Leadership

The EJ Fund seeks to deepen the bench of environmental justice leaders from our priority communities to grow representation in this work.



4. Strengthening Collaboration

Recognizing the power of collaboration and partnerships, the EJ Fund Team seeks to strengthen collaboration between organizations and local government as well as facilitate collaboration amongst grantees.

"I think the biggest impact was that [the EJ Fund was] one of our early stage funders. And it was huge. I'm not sure we'd still be in existence without it because it wasn't just the funding, it was also the support and the acknowledgement."

— KEY TECH LABS 2019 GRANTEE



To read the full report and learn more about the program please visit seattle.gov/environment/EJFund