What is Environmental Justice?
Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Environmental racism makes it impossible to have environmental justice.

"But there's no way race is used in environmental decisions!"
A 1987 report titled "Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States" showed:

Three out of every five African Americans and Hispanics live in a community housing toxic waste.

Race was the single most important factor in determining where toxic waste facilities were sited in the United States.

Strong statistical correlation between race and the location of hazardous wastes sites, highlighting that the siting of these facilities in communities of color was the intentional result of local, state and federal land-use policies.

So now that that's out of the way...
...How is environmental racism possible?
Poor communities and those of color often lack:

1. Connections to individuals on and representation in zoning boards and city councils who could protect their interests.

2. Funds to hire legal and technical representation to protest sitings.

3. Information or access to information about how the proposed technology would pollute their homes and impact their health.

4. Translations for important information available on English-only documents.
How does this environmental racism impact these communities?

The community is more likely to:

1. Be an area of **food apartheid**. This is similar to a 'food desert' but the term is more reflective of the impacts of race.

2. Have fewer **green spaces** for residents

3. Receive less funding and aid to rebuild after being impacted by **natural disasters**
How does this *environmental racism* impact these communities?

The *community members* are more at risk for health related issues including:

1. Breathing difficulties and asthma from air pollutants.
2. Anemia, seizures, and brain development issues from lead poisoning.
3. Waterborne diseases, blood disorders, and cancer from water contamination.
Timeline
"The EPA chose this county for a toxic dump because its residents were ‘few, black, and poor’"