

COMMISSIONER PRIORITIES

FOR THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

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FAIR AND EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT

- Commissioner Grannis is committed to supporting the agency's enforcement efforts to ensure that violators do not benefit from noncompliance, and is also committed to consistent enforcement across the State.
- Restructuring the Office of General Counsel, the Bureau of Environmental Crimes Investigation, and Marine Enforcement Unit has enabled DEC to better develop and implement its enforcement strategies.
- Hiring staff to address Natural Resource Damages will allow for the recovery of stewardship resources from responsible parties.

SAMPLE INITIATIVES:

- Continue DEC's successful sewage treatment enforcement program for municipal plants discharging into the Hudson River, New York Harbor, and Long Island Sound
- Create new enforcement policies for waste transfer stations, oil and gas, mining, auto recyclers, and wetlands
- Further develop the docket of natural resource damage cases
- Continue DEC's successful use of global enforcement strategy to address those entities that exhibit a range of compliance problems
- Develop model enforcement documents to assure consistent and effective enforcement across the state

WORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- Environmental Justice is the fair treatment 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.
- To achieve environmental justice, DEC must ensure that all communities enjoy the same degree of protection from environmental and public health threats and equal access to the decision-making process.
- Fostering environmental justice in New York involves a range of activities that both reduce environmental burdens and target benefits to under served populations or areas struggling with disproportionate burdens.
- In recognition of the importance of environmental justice, the Department has an Office of Environmental Justice as well as a Commissioner's Policy on Environmental Justice (EJ).
- The Business Council has been a member of the Environmental Justice Advisory Group since its inception

The Office recently added new staff (a Chief Advocate and a Special Counsel for Community Initiatives) and formed a Department-wide network of professionals who will focus on a reinvigorated effort to integrate environmental justice principles into all department activities.

SAMPLE INITIATIVES:

- Continue community based enforcement following the successful 2007 *“Stop Smoking” for Trucks and Boilers* initiative in New York City neighborhoods with high asthma incidence
- Develop strategies to promote urban forestry and urban greening as a way to reduce air and water pollution and reduce the urban temperature increases projected to result from climate change
- Pursue community enforcement initiatives regarding solid waste and illegal dumping violations

- Complete maps of environmental justice areas to inform policymaking with respect to SEQR, Commissioner Policy 29, Part 360 and the potential creation of urban environmental improvement zones
- Better utilize the EJ Advisory Group for meaningful input into DEC's policymaking and employ the new internal network to integrate EJ considerations across all Department activities
- Continue to implement the EJ Community Impact Grant Program to empower community organizations to address environmental and human health impacts in their neighborhoods
- Create an environmental justice benefit project cleaninghouse with project ideas solicited from EJ communities; encourage further use of Environmental Benefit Projects in EJ areas

- Expand the current Campership Diversity and After School Conservation Club programs to enable more under served populations to access DEC's lands and programs
- Continue to promote access to the Hudson River waterfront by disadvantaged and under served communities
- Continue to identify and control sources of toxic and harmful pollutants in urban areas
- Promote environmental justice by working with other state agencies to address EJ issues collaboratively
- Develop a Commissioner's Policy on communication and cooperation with sovereign Indian Nations