

How have the places where we live, play, work, and pray been turned into toxic dumping grounds?

A coalition of over 70 environmental justice, social justice, public health, human rights, and worker's rights groups have launched the Environmental Justice for All Tour to highlight the devastating impact of toxic contamination on people of color and poor communities across the United States. ■ In September, three bus caravans packed with activists, health researchers, environmental scientists, and public policy experts will tour communities in the Northeast, South, and West Coast, where people are suffering serious health affects associated with toxic pollution.

JOIN US. JOIN THE TOUR. Visit our website for more information on a stop near you.

www.EJ4all.org



Environmental justice and health groups from all over the country are hosting a national tour of communities directly impacted by industrial contamination to meaningfully link these communities together with environmental justice and health anchor groups and to call for safe solutions to toxic contamination.

TOUR This Tour is designed to highlight available solutions to our health and environmental problems. We want a new way of protecting ourselves from unnecessary dangerous chemicals; we want clean businesses that do not force us to choose between the health of our communities and economic development, and new leaders who will fight for environmental justice (EJ) for all!

COMMUNITIES Local communities can join in with a national effort with media and publicity resources to share. Together we can promote our campaigns locally, regionally and nationally and drive our solutions for chemical contamination and health impacts on a faster timeline. With the Tour leading up to Congressional elections in November, we have a real opportunity.

ORIGIN OF THE TOUR EJ organizers from Los Angeles, Louisville, New York, Mossville (LA), New Orleans, and Texas gathered in Louisville, Kentucky in May 2004 — together with environmental health groups from across the country — to support the grassroots work of Louisville activists. Local activists had been struggling for nearly 15 years to force a clean up the industry contaminated section of West Louisville, coined by industry as “Rubbertown.” There 12 plants along a 1/2-mile stretch polluted an adjacent African-American neighborhood on a daily basis. People were sick and dying. So activists from around the US descended on Louisville to show their solidarity and highlight available solutions.

EJ organizers at that Louisville meeting brainstormed a National Environmental Justice For All Tour to highlight EJ struggles and meaningfully link community groups together.

TOUR ROUTES AND DETAILS Simultaneous bus routes in the Northeast, South, and West Coast will kick off on September 24. Activists and organizers with experience in air quality monitoring, health effects and pollution, as well as photographers, and videographers will travel from city to city for high-profile local events. Direct media feeds from these events will be uploaded to the Tour website on a daily basis. Communities not on the Tour route are encouraged to hold solidarity events during the week of travel and plug into our media resources, publicity and website: www.EJ4all.org.

Northeast and Southern route buses will meet in Washington, DC on October 1, while the West Coast route bus will end in Los Angeles. Oct. 1, “Environmental Justice Sunday,” is a day to signify our unity and remember those who have lost their lives to pollution and the survivors who continue the fight! On Monday, Oct. 2, “EJ Lobby Day,” we will flood Capitol hill and home districts with calls for environmental justice and health protections for all communities.

COORDINATORS AND PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS The Tour is guided by community and labor groups, tribes, and anchor environmental justice and health groups working together in a democratic, grassroots fashion.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR ALL TOUR '06 & THE HISTORY OF FREEDOM RIDES The 1961 Freedom Ride began in Washington, D.C. and was destined for New Orleans. The African American and white Freedom Riders never reached their goal because of beatings by mobs of white racists in Alabama and Mississippi and arrests on trumped-up charges. But they achieved important civil rights victories in the form of federal laws that outlawed racial segregation in interstate travel and accommodations. Building on the legacy of the Freedom Ride, the Environmental Justice for All Tour '06 can create momentum for reforms of governmental, corporate, and institutional policies and practices that result in environmental racism, expose people to toxic pollution, and damage our environment.

www.EJ4all.org

GOALS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR ALL TOUR '06

- Bring together multi-racial and multi-regional grassroots community activists, environmental, health, and social justice advocates, medical professionals, policymakers, celebrities, and journalists aboard buses, fostering solidarity among these diverse groups.
- Lift up the powerful voices of environmental justice community leaders to attract business, media and political attention to calls for solutions to chemical contamination.
- Share hands-on knowledge and resources that support and strengthen grassroots community organizations and health-affected groups.
- Ensure that policy initiatives at the state and national level are informed by, and have the participation of, grassroots environmental justice organizations.
- Create a stronger political base for environmental justice work; and
- Create a drumbeat for positive change in leadership in the 2006 Congressional elections.

