



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.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

TOUR '06 ★ SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 1

The Tour will bring together several emerging issues:

1. Precautionary policies to protect our health;
2. Awareness and redress of cumulative exposures and impacts from multiple pollution sources;
3. Policy and market campaigns to phase out of unnecessary toxic chemicals and protect communities and workers; and
4. Tools of safer alternatives assessment and hi-tech environmental sampling for use by local communities.

The grassroots work of organizing the tour and bridging environmental health and justice voices will set the stage for our movement to move beyond just saying no to projects to build strength and cohesion to our efforts for meaningful reform and community vitality. 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!

Chemical policy and market campaigns for safer chemicals can participate in the



tour to reach new constituencies. Local communities can join in to link 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 to highlight political champions of the people and tell the laggards its time to go.

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.

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. This collaboration, lead by local organizers, paid off. In June 2004, the Louisville Metro Council passed a budget to fully fund a Toxic Air Pollution Reduction Plan. In June 2005, the Council passed the Strategic Air Toxic Reduction (STAR) program, the strongest plan in the country. Although great successes were achieved in Louisville, the STAR program is under attack by big polluters and activists still work tirelessly to ensure pollution reduction goals are made a reality.

Because Louisville’s struggle is common in communities across the country and because groups have found joining together makes us stronger and more effective, environmental justice organizers at the 2004 Louisville meeting brainstormed a National Environmental Justice For All Tour to highlight EJ struggles and meaningfully link community groups together. The goal is to raise the profile of EJ fenceline struggles at the same time as



building solidarity and influencing major chemical policy reform debates with the experiences of grassroots fenceline communities.

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 our 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.

The Tour is held in Fall '06 to offer focus on upcoming political elections. Local events can highlight those who fight for environmental justice, and call out those who support policies favoring corporate profits over public health.

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 is “Environmental Justice Sunday,” a day to signify our unity and remember those who have lost their lives to pollution and the survivors who continue the fight! Monday, Oct. 2 is “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. A National Tour Director, Virginia Giordano of Giordano Productions in NYC, handles production and logistics. To date, more than 70 environmental justice, health and worker rights groups, tribes, and EJ networks are participating in the Tour, working together to determine its direction and outcome.

The Fenceline Action Workgroup of the Coming Clean Collaborative is serving as fiscal sponsor of the Tour.

A few of those groups include: Alternatives for Community and Environment, New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, Coal River Mountain Watch, Los Angeles Asthma Coalition, Worksafe!, National Black Environmental Justice Network, Indigenous Environmental Network, Tennessee Economic Renewal Network, West Harlem Environmental Action, and Physicians for Social Responsibility-LA.

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. Although 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, they achieved important civil rights victories in the form of federal laws that outlawed racial segregation in interstate travel and accommodations. More recently, in 2003, the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride successfully employed this civil rights strategy to advocate for a legal status for immigrants who continue to face exploitation despite living, working and paying taxes in the U.S. 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.

For more information see: www.EJ4all.org • To contact us at the Tour, email: tour06@EJ4all.org