The term **environmental justice** was introduced in 1980s to describe a growing movement and field of research that combined both environmental and social justice concerns.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, environmental justice refers to “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.” ([www.epa.gov/Compliance/environmentaljustice/](http://www.epa.gov/Compliance/environmentaljustice/))

Interdisciplinary in scope, environmental justice crosses a growing number of fields including law, geography, political science, sociology and health.

**Environmental racism** is a related term that refers to the disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards faced by racialized minority groups.

While environmental justice is an international issue, this research guide focuses mainly on the American context.

### Getting Started

For an overview of environmental justice, try searching the following sources:

- An electronic resource, do a title search for this item in CUNY+
- Enter terms such as “environmental racism”

**Gale Virtual Reference Library**
- Access the Gale Virtual Reference Library directly from the library’s homepage
- Enter search terms such as “environmental justice” and “environmental racism”
Search for Books in CUNY+

- Under the “All Fields” search, enter terms such as “environmental racism” and “environmental justice”

- Also, try a “Subject begins with…” search using the following terms:
  Environmental justice
  Environmental justice – New York (State) – New York
  Environmental justice – political aspects
  Environmental justice – United States

Also try an All CUNY Libraries search to find more books

Below are some books you can start with.

**TIP:** Browse the shelves where these books are located to find related titles.

**Confronting environmental racism: Voices from the grassroots.**
HC 110 .E5 C665 1993 Stacks
- Edited by one of the leading writers on environmental justice issues, this anthology brings together different voices in environmental justice activism and illustrates the range of issues addressed by the movement

**Deceit and denial: The deadly politics of industrial pollution.**
RA 566 .M265 2002 Stacks
- Examines corporate involvement in the production of toxic chemicals and their effect on workers and the wider public

**Noxious New York: The racial politics of urban health and environmental justice.**
GE 235 .N7 S94 2007 Stacks
Sze, J. (2007)
- Covers the history and emergence of environmental justice organizing in New York

The quest for environmental justice: Human rights and the politics of pollution.

GE 220 .Q47 2005 Stacks

- Provides an updated portrait of environmental justice activism and struggles in the early twenty-first century

Finding Articles
Try searching the following databases:

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<tr>
<th>Academic Search Premier</th>
<th>GreenFILE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Enter terms such as “environmental justice and New York”</td>
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<td>- You can also search “environmental justice” as a subject</td>
<td>- You can also search “environmental justice” as a subject</td>
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You can also try searching:

- Sage Political Science Full Text Collection

Environmental Justice Quarterly
- A journal devoted entirely to environmental justice issues
- Available electronically by searching CUNY+’s Journal Title Search and browse for articles
Websites

Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University
www.ejrc.cau.edu
- Provides a wealth of information and links to news, reports, articles, hot topics, transportation issues and updates on Katrina

Principles of Environmental Justice
www.ejnet.org/ej/principles.html
- Drafted in 1991, the Principles of Environmental Justice have been used to define the Environmental Justice movement

United States Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Page
www.epa.gov/Compliance/environmentaljustice
- Provides a definition of environmental justice, a FAQs page, links to reports and newsletters, and much more

New York City Resources

New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYCEJA)
www.nyceja.org
- Comprised of member groups within low-income communities in New York, NYCEJA coordinates environmental justice campaigns and produces related publications

West Harlem Environmental Action, INC. (WE ACT)
http://weact.org
- A non-profit organization involved with community organizing, advocacy, research, policy development and education
- This site provides links to their publications

07/2009 K.O.