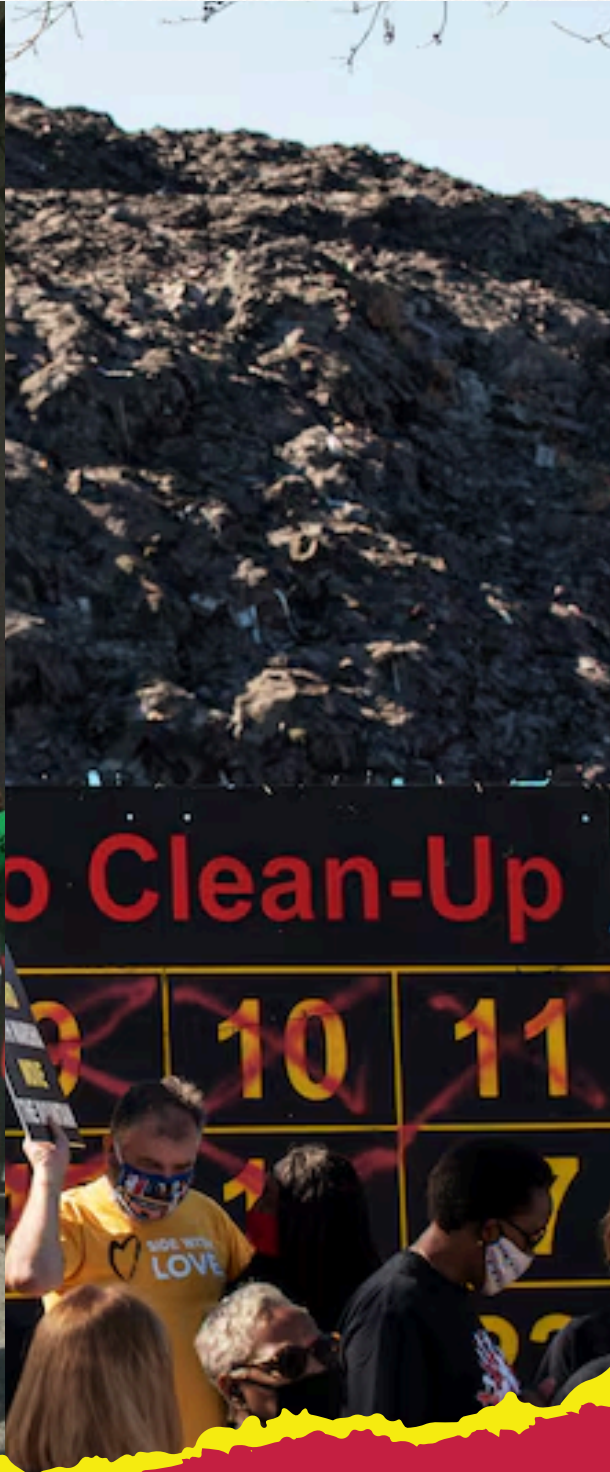


CELEBRATING THREE DECADES OF GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING



DOWNWINDERS AT RISK
IMPACT REPORT 2024

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RALLY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
SUN. APRIL 21ST 2-4PM HERE @THE PARK
DÍA DE LA TIERRA EN DALLAS
DALLAS EARTH DAY ACTION





LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I want to personally thank each and every one of you for your contributions and support in helping Downwinders reach its 30th year of service to the DFW community. This year we made a major step in planning for Downwinders next 30 years of service; our founding Executive Director, Jim Schermbeck, retired from his long tenured leadership of Downwinders and I have succeeded Jim as only the second Executive Director to hold the position. We have also added more staff to our team, reaching a total of five staff

members during the summer of this year. Since taking over in May, I am incredibly excited about the future of Downwinders, but also passionate about the change we have already made.

We have accomplished a lot this year. We convened a multi day deep dive into the environmental justice issues facing DFW with our Dallas Earth Day Action. We completed the West Dallas Environmental Health Study that showcased the rampant rates of pollution and high levels of asthma and COPD in West Dallas.

We are deindustrializing Joppa, West Dallas and Floral Farms through the future land use map and Environmental Justice policies through the passage of Forward Dallas. We convened a dozen groups as a part of the Fort Worth Environmental Coalition of Communities to alter Fort Worth's 2050 Comprehensive Plan as we did in Dallas. We have hosted over 120 residents and supporters in Joppa for a Community Fall Festival to kick off the much needed rezoning process in Joppa, and by December 11th City Council will be deciding on the Floral Farms rezoning process which will create a full circle moment from our advocacy around Shingle Mountain.

Even as optimistic as I am about the ability of this organization to continue to break the mold of environmental racism in DFW, I would be remissed not to mention the significant political swings on the local, state, and federal arenas that aim to rollback all of the social justice policies implemented over the last few generations. The first election of Donald Trump caused a major strategic shift in this organization's focus to address the root cause of environmental racism, and that's long standing

land use and zoning policies that still remain from the Jim Crow Era. The second election of Donald Trump will also force us to change strategically, because we know that both the Federal and State Governance will not be in our favor. Our organization will continue to lean deeper into our grassroots organizing roots and push for a greater mobilization of the working class locally in DFW. We will not be able to rest on our laurels for the next phase of work, the next chapter of the organization must be forged from our ability to connect with our base. We needed your help to get us through the first 30 years and your support has never been more valuable to us as it is today.

My only question for you moving into 2025 is, ARE YOU WITH US? The new year will demand more voices and I hope to continually rely on you.



LETTER FROM THE BOARD CO-CHAIRS

Downwinders at Risk turned 30 this year, and with this major milestone came some major changes. **Jim Schermbeck**, the sole Director of the group since its founding in 1994, **retired from the organization** in June, and is now leading up his new non-profit “The Organizing School” full time. **Caleb Roberts**, former Co-Chair of the Board, **stepped in** as the second ever Director of Downwinders in May and has hit the ground running since day one.

We are now the ‘old guard’, since we have been on the Board together for 7 years (!), and we are actively recruiting new Board members to continue stewarding Downwinders into this new phase of its existence.

Even with these major organizational changes, we have stayed steadfast in our commitment to our campaigns and educational programs, with some demonstrable results in advancing both clean air and better democracy.



We brought **residents from Joppa and West Dallas together** in the fight against the “Toxic Twins” this Spring, increasing **support from elected officials** like State Rep Venton Jones and Senator Anchia to shut down GAF.

The most **comprehensive environmental justice related land use policy reforms were passed** through ForwardDallas, turning the tides for industrial growth in Dallas major environmental justice communities.

Councilman Bazaldua has agreed to **initiate a zoning change in Joppa to deindustrialize** the South Central corridor. Small stuff adds up, and this year demonstrated the big ways it can create systemic change.

None of this would have been possible without YOUR relentless commitment to funding the frontlines and ensuring the demand for our services are met by paying for our staff and programs.

Thank you for keeping us working effectively and relentlessly towards environmental justice in North Texas. **Here's to 30 more years of getting s*** done.**

In solidarity,

Evelyn Phay

Misti O'Quinn



LETTER TO THE DOWNWINDERS AT RISK COMMUNITY ON MAY 1, 2024

Thanks Much.

Your Small Stuff Added Up.

I'm stepping down as Director of Downwinders at Risk. This move has been planned for some time. For the past two years my business card has listed me as the group's "Interim Director."

It's impossible to compress 30 years of glorious struggle in a few paragraphs. To do right by all the amazing people I've served with since 1994, to acknowledge the lessons I've learned, would take at least a book or two, something I probably ought to think about now.

During the last three decades of work, Downwinders at Risk has amassed a record of success unmatched by most other social change groups, much less environmental groups, including many that were much bigger and better financed. We really did stop the Midlothian cement kilns from burning toxic waste - and changed national EPA policy. We really did close an illegal lead smelter in Frisco.



We really did keep gas drilling out of Dallas. We really did build one of the nation's best independent air quality monitoring networks. We really did close and clean-up Shingle Mountain. And we really will close the TAMKO and GAF shingle factories.

As we've reminded you every time we ask for your money, we're the only environmental group in DFW that puts professional community organizers in neighborhoods to work with residents on long-term campaigns for change. I sincerely believe our record of success is directly tied to our being able to do that, and I hope you'll keep contributing to make it happen. The right person showing up at the right time can make a big difference.

I want to tell you that you have real power. Power that I'm not sure you're aware of, but which has been fundamental in my being able to do the job for as long as I have. You might not believe it, but we're not always very popular with the Status Quo we're trying to change. Elected officials and regulators disparage us. Opinion makers look down their noses and tsk tsk at our approach to winning. Polluters keep telling us how wrong we are about the harms their poisons are causing. There's a wall of fresh negative feedback awaiting us each and every morning, and it's often hard to get motivated to keep hitting our heads against it.

But one - just one! encouraging comment, or a \$25 contribution, or a "like" about a post or story we ran from you, or showing up at a meeting or fundraiser - can change that. I can't tell you how much these relatively small acts of support mean to me, and us. Some days such things feel like winning the Nobel Prize. Their effect never wears off.

You don't have to be a board member, you don't have to come to every meeting. You don't have to respond to every plea. Just saying thanks every once in a while, however you choose to do it,

Downwinders at Risk

is enough to help us summon the energy for another run at that wall. Your Small Stuff Adds Up, just like ours.

Downwinders at Risk has done a lot of remarkable things over the last 30 years. Perhaps the most remarkable is surviving. Your steadfast support has been a major reason why. I'm proud of my role in being able to shepherd the group to this point and look forward to watching it thrive under the stewardship of others. This transition is how I know, despite making lots of mistakes, I did the job I was supposed to do.

Please keep using your power to help this group do remarkable things and winning the fights we have to win. Your heartfelt support is always the best paycheck we get.

See you in class,

Jim Schermbeck



THE ORGANIZING SCHOOL
theorganizingschool.org



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

~100

HOURS OF CANVASSING

IN WEST DALLAS, JOPPA,
FORT WORTH AND FLORAL
FARMS

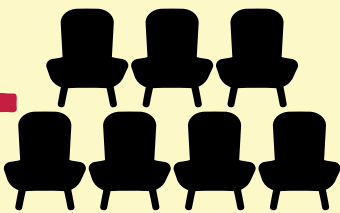


~115

MEETINGS

ATTENDED WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS



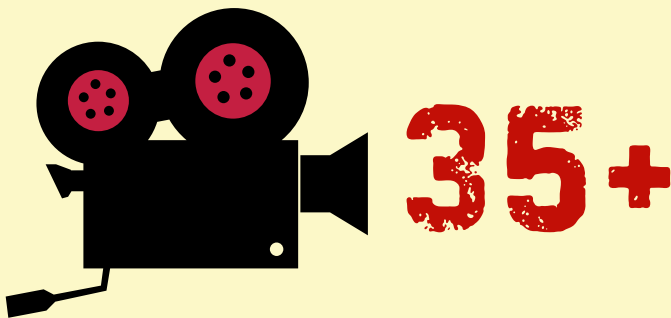
600+ 

ATTENDEES IN ALL

SPONSORED EVENTS: DALLAS EARTH DAY
ACTION, WEST DALLAS HEALTH STUDY
RELEASE, JOPPA FALL FESTIVAL

4

**ACTIVE
GRASSROOTS
CAMPAIGNS**



MEDIA FEATURES

INCLUDING ON KERA, THE DALLAS
MORNING NEWS, NBC NEWS AND MORE

**KEYNOTE
TALKS
DELIVERED**

CLIMATE CHANGE AND COLONIALISM,
YOUTH EMPOWERMENT, FAITH BASED
GROUPS AND MORE

15+





DENTON COUNTY

DALLAS COUNTY

JOHNSON COUNTY

ELLIS COUNTY

NORTHSIDE

**ECHO
HEIGHTS**

WEST DALLAS

JOPPA

**FLORAL
FARMS**

Fort Worth

Arlington

Grand Prairie

Irving

Carrollton

Plano

Frisco

Denton

Lewisville

DOWNWINDERS TODAY

OUR MISSION

Downwinders at Risk Education Fund is dedicated to taking **effective action on behalf of those being harmed by air pollution**. Our goal is to build a strong **grassroots constituency** and **create new strategies for clean air in North Texas**.

OUR VISION

We envision a North Texas **free of environmental racism** where all communities breathe clean air.

OUR PROGRAMS

Downwinders' programs are divided into three pillars.

EDUCATION

We educate all peoples on how to monitor air pollution, its public health impacts, & how to use zoning and civic engagement to advance environmental justice.

ADVOCACY

We advocate for environmental justicesolutions that reduce pollution exposure and the harms of climate change by participating in land use permitting processes.

ORGANIZING

We lead grassroot campaigns and organize alongside frontline communities to build political power and enact social change to fight bad polluters and policies.



With **SharedAirDFW**, Downwinders **has** Increased the number of calibrated air quality monitors in DFW to track and show pollution in real time.



The **Neighborhood Self-Defense Project** is a coalition of Dallas neighbors, organizers, and urban planners reversing racist zoning through land use policy reform.



For years, Downwinders has partnered with Texas universities to conduct **Community Health Research**, investigating the relationship between air pollution exposure and public health.



Polluter Removal Campaigns. We support frontline residents in removing polluters from their communities

EDUCATION



**WE EDUCATE THE
PUBLIC ON HOW TO
MONITOR AIR
POLLUTION, ITS PUBLIC
HEALTH IMPACTS, AND
HOW TO LEVERAGE
ZONING & CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT TO
ADVANCE
ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE.**

SHARED AIRD FW



2019

**SHARED AIRD FW NETWORK
LAUNCHES**

2020

**SHARED AIRD FW 1.0 MONITORS
DEPLOYED IN JOPPA**

2021

**SHARED AIRD FW 1.0 MONITORS
DEPLOYED IN HIGHLAND HILLS**

2022

**CONTINUED DEPLOYMENT OF
SHARED AIRD FW 1.0 MONITORS IN
JOPPA**

2023

**SHARED AIRD FW 1.0 MONITORS IN
WEST DALLAS**

2024

**SHARED AIRD FW 2.0 MONITORS
REPLACED***

2025

**NETWORK
EXPANSION**



*Upgraded SharedAirDFW 2.0 version monitors have greater solar capacity



SharedAirDFW is the first and only regional and hyper-local air quality monitoring network in Texas. Based out of the University of Texas at Dallas and built and calibrated by its graduate and undergraduate students, Downwinders at Risk has led the charge to organize, maintain, and secure funding for SharedAirDFW in effort to increase air quality monitoring in the region.



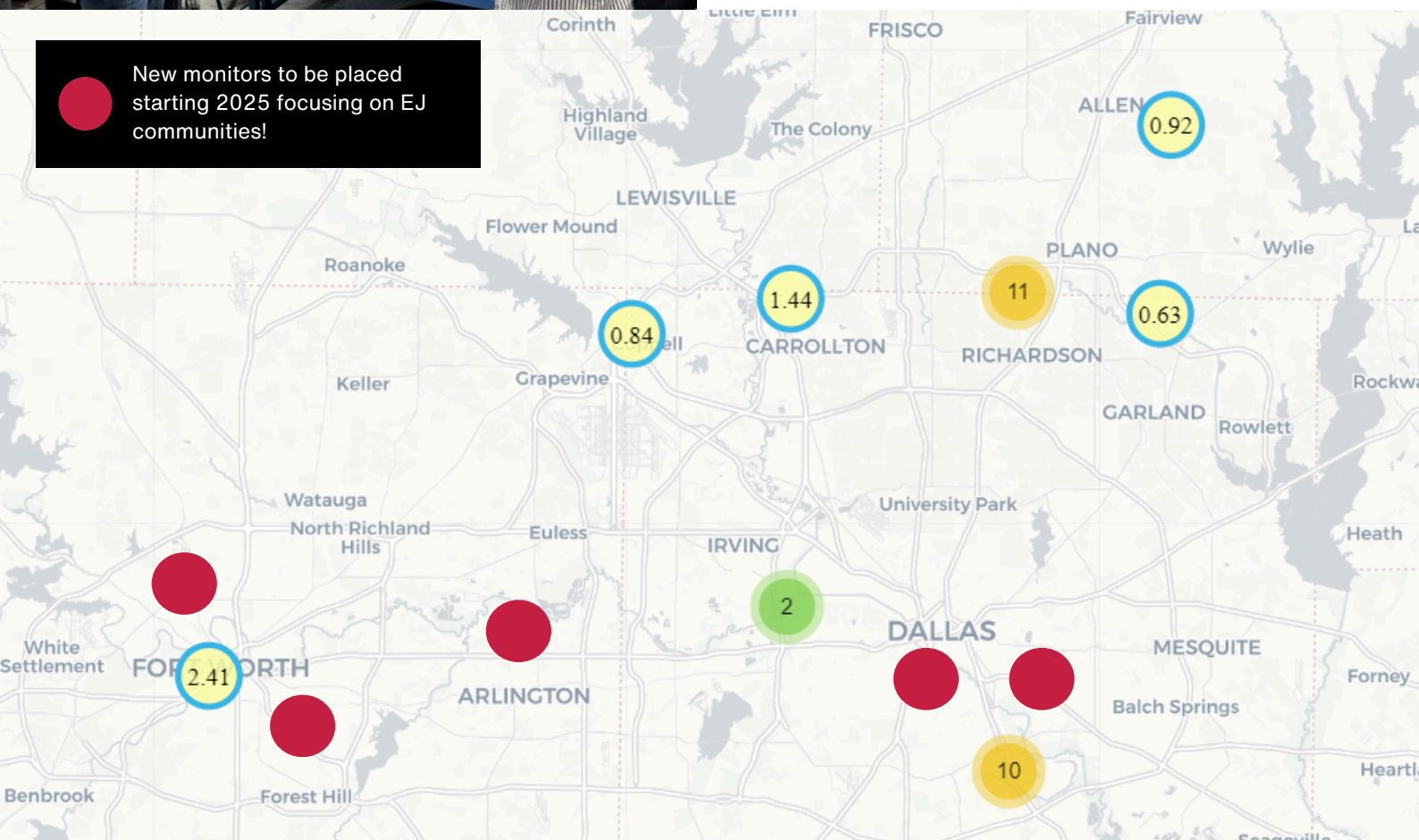
This year, we were awarded a \$500,000 grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of their Community Problem Solving Grant in their environmental justice program.

Top: DAR Board and Staff with UTD's David Lary research group and Justice for Joppa members

Middle: Senior lab manager Lakitha walks through how air monitors are constructed

Bottom: SharedAirDFW dashboard

New monitors to be placed starting 2025 focusing on EJ communities!



WEST DALLAS ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

From July to December 2023, certified community volunteers collaborated with Texas A&M University to survey West Dallas residents living adjacent to GAF for a public health study. 38% of the households within the Singleton Corridor participated in this study.

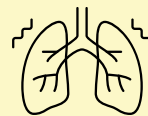
The results were analyzed in early 2024 and presented to the public in June 2024.



SUMMARY OF RESULTS



14%
are at medium or high
risk for COPD



34%
had been diagnosed
with asthma



29%
shared they had unhealthy
pregnancies



86% (of the 34% above)
reported 1 or more
respiratory symptoms
worsened after moving to
Singleton Corridor



24%
report being diagnosed
with childhood lead
poisoning



34%
have been hospitalized in
the last 12 months because
of respiratory symptoms

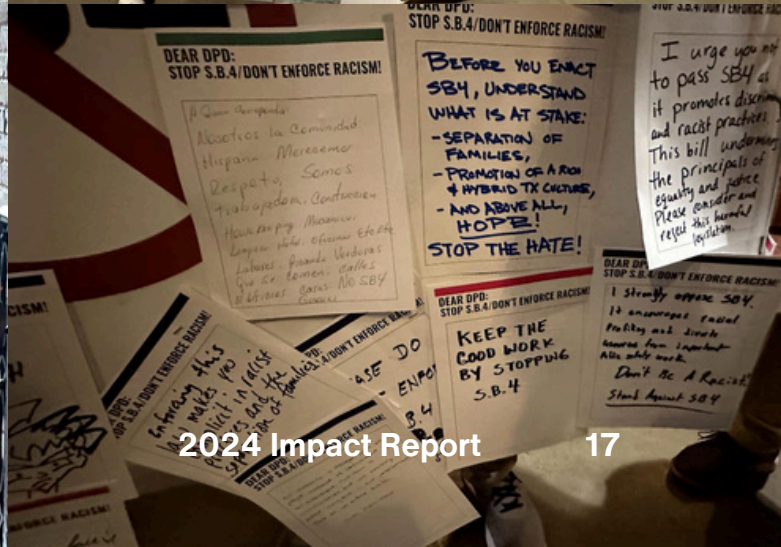
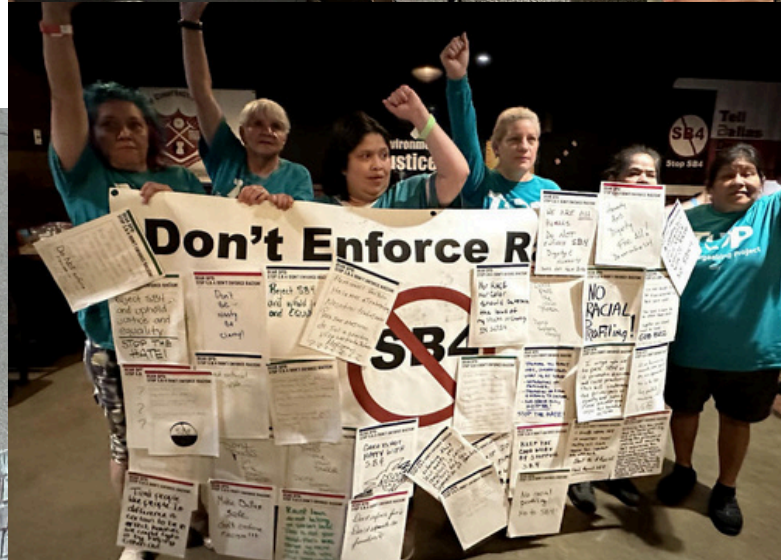
West Dallas residents were found to breathe 11x as much daily PM2.5 air pollution compared to the average of Dallas County per the official EPA monitor.



Read the full results at
joppahealthproject.wixsite.com/health
or scan the QR code.

COLLEGE OF CONSTRUCTIVE HELLRAISING

This year the College graduated 10 additional members as part of the class of 2024. The focus of the graduation event was on Senate Bill 4, a racist anti-immigrant bill being challenged in court. The event featured State Representative Maria Ramos and local entertainment such as Hijos de Munoz. We concluded the night with a letter drop at the Dallas Police Central Headquarters on Bothom Jean Boulevard. The College will be directed by The Organizing School from 2025.



Downwinders at Risk

2024 Impact Report

17

ADVOCACY



"ENOUGH IS ENOUGH" rally at Earth Day Action 2024

**WE ADVOCATE FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE SOLUTIONS
THAT REDUCE
POLLUTION EXPOSURE
AND HARMS OF
CLIMATE CHANGE BY
PARTICIPATING IN
LAND USE PERMITTING
PROCESSES.**

FORWARD DALLAS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICIES ADOPTED!

Since 2017, we have been advocating alongside residents in environmental justice communities to remove the racist industrial zoning that keeps them intertwined with industrial polluters. The Neighborhood Self-Defense Project was launched during the Shingle Mountain campaign in 2019 specifically to use land use planning and zoning to separate people from polluters.

Since then we have developed two neighborhood-led land use plans (Floral Farms in 2020 and

Singleton Corridor in 2021) and initiated zoning changes in both. ForwardDallas is the comprehensive land use plan that will guide future growth, development and inform zoning changes throughout the entire City. Since its update began in 2020, we have advocated for the inclusion of environmental justice policies like separating people from polluters. Thanks to non-stop advocacy from frontline communities through our city-wide coalition efforts, several major environmental justice wins were adopted this year.

CITY OF DALLAS- FINAL FUTURE PLACETYPE MAP - 9.25.24

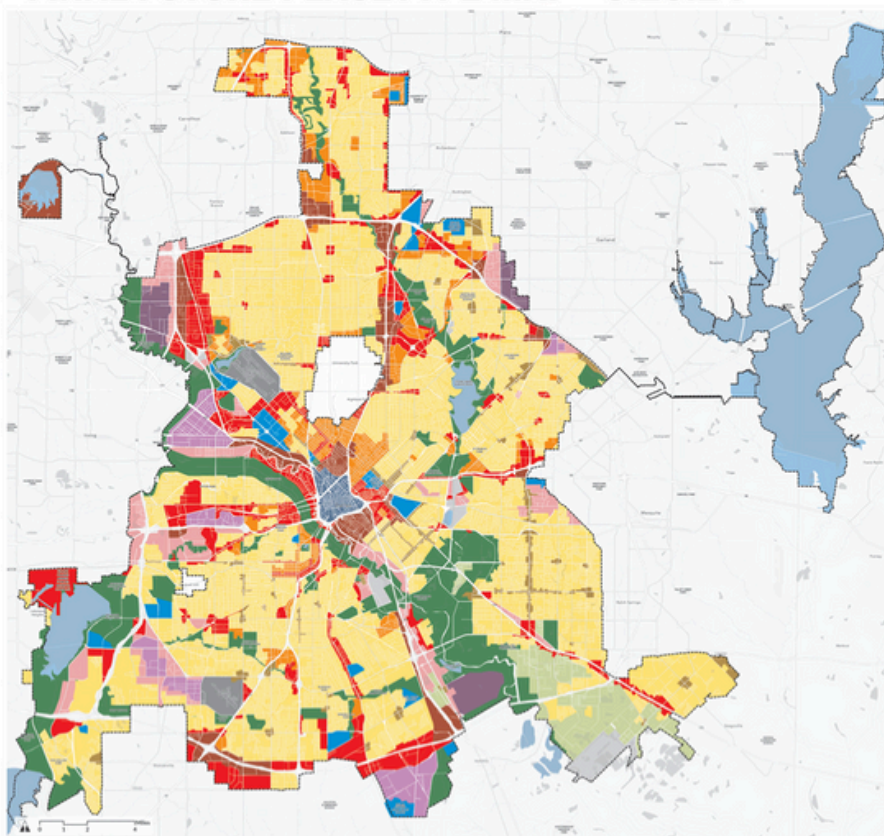
FORWARD DALLAS

City of Dallas Boundary

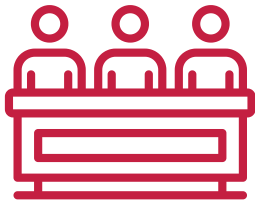
Lakes

FuturePT

- Regional Open Space
- Small Town Residential
- Community Residential
- City Residential
- Regional Mixed-Use
- Neighborhood Mixed-Use
- Community Mixed-Use
- City Center
- Institutional Campus
- Flex Commercial
- Industrial Hub
- Logistics/Industrial Park
- Airport
- Utility

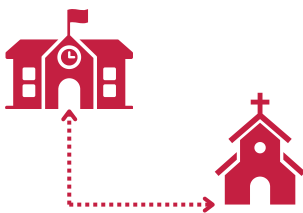


FORWARD DALLAS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICIES



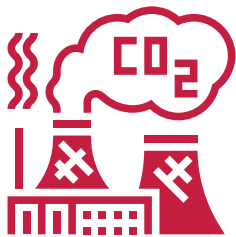
Authorized Hearings

Develop a comprehensive land use strategy that addresses EJ issues and goals and prioritize authorized hearings in areas with EJ concerns.



Distance Requirements

Update the development code to increase the distance requirements between industrial land uses from school, homes, and churches.



Monitor Air Pollution

Monitor commercial activities emitting air pollution throughout the city and conduct inspections to advance EJ goals.



Green Infrastructure

Update the development code and Article X to incorporate green infrastructure practices such as rain gardens and native planting.

Scan to view the adopted
ForwardDallas plan



FLORAL FARMS REZONING (ALMOST) COMPLETE

After years of advocacy, the authorized hearing to rezone Floral Farms away from industrial, finally was approved at the City Plan Commission this year.

During the hearing, residents and allies still fought back against industry operators and prospective land owners for their right to live free from pollution and other nuisance issues.

This is a full-circle moment for us. We began with the Shingle Mountain crisis in 2019 and ends with the complete rezoning away from industrial polluters at City Council next year.

Polluting industries could be blocked from Dallas' 'Shingle Mountain' area by zoning proposal

KERA | By Nathan Collins
Published May 3, 2024 at 5:00 AM CDT



Karen Carrillo / KERA News



AMORTIZING NONCONFORMING USES & SENATE BILL 929

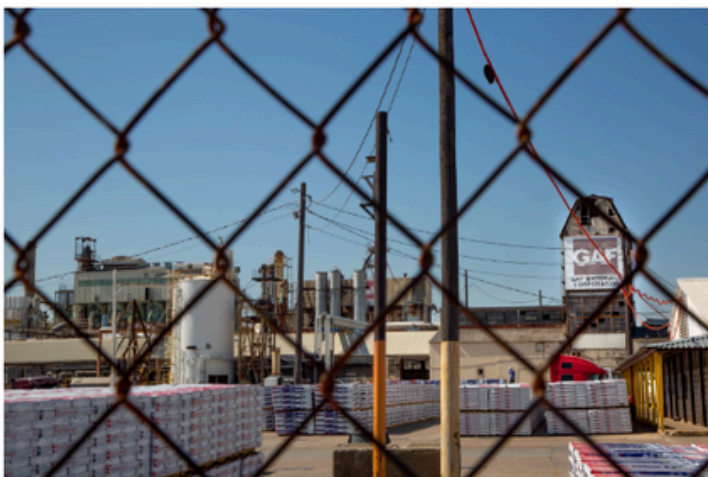
In May 2023, GAF lobbied and successfully passed a bill at the Texas State legislature that disincentivized the use of amortization by cities to remove nonconforming polluters. Janie Cisneros, leader of the GAFs Gotta Go Campaign, sued the City for blocking her attempt to use this tool before the law came into effect in September 2023.

To continue to block residents, the City Attorneys Office initiated a code change within the City to not only align with the state law, but take a step further in restricting resident participation.

We fought back against these recommendations at the Zoning Ordinance Advisory Committee in October 2023 and won the inclusion of residents right to file. In May 2024 the City Plan Commission reversed that win and sided with the City Attorneys office to limit resident participation. In November 2024 the City Council Quality of Life Committee was briefed on the update, and due to our advocacy and meetings with Council people, several great questions were posed. The full Council will be briefed on it in January 2025 and we will continue to advocate for the inclusion of residents in this process.

Code change could limit efforts to battle polluting industries, and Dallas officials want more info

KERA | By Nathan Collins
Published November 13, 2024 at 5:00 AM CST



Downwinders at Risk



ORGANIZING



GAFS GOTTA GO/ GAF VETE YA CAMPAIGN IN MINNESOTA

**WE LEAD GRASSROOT
CAMPAIGNS AND
ORGANIZE ALONGSIDE
COMMUNITIES TO BUILD
POLITICAL POWER AND
ENACT SOCIAL CHANGE
TO FIGHT BAD
POLLUTERS AND
POLICIES.**

TOXIC TWINS: DALLAS EARTH DAY ACTION 2024

For this year's Earth Day, residents in Joppa and West Dallas teamed up with allied organizations across the City to highlight GAF and TAMKO, two major polluters in both of their communities, as the "Toxic Twins." The effort manifested in **three days** of programs and activities including a **teach in, rally and, civil disobedience**.

The Dallas Earth Day Action team is a grassroots alliance of community organizers, neighborhood organizations, and environmental & racial justice non-profits working towards a more just Dallas by highlighting patterns of racist zoning that have resulted in disproportionate pollution exposure within Black and Brown communities.

We call for the:

1. Use City ordinances to close GAF & TAMKO now.
2. Levy a local shingles production tax on GAF & TAMKO with proceeds going to the impacted neighborhoods.
3. Declare West Dallas and Joppa as NO INDUSTRY ZONES.
4. Prohibit GAF and TAMKO shingles on the City of Dallas projects.



Scan to view
dallasearthdayaction.com



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TEACH IN

The environmental justice teach in, “Tools for Neighborhood Environmental Justice” was hosted on Saturday, April 21 at Friendship West Baptist Church. The following is the list of workshops held during the teach in:

- Digital Tour: Environmental Racism in Dallas
- Pollution and Public Health: Joppa Environmental Project
- Friendship West: Faith and the Fight for Environmental Justice
- Latines for Environmental Justice: Equitable Engagement in the Fight
- Zoning 101
- Dallas Power Mapping



100% BILINGUAL
50+ ATTENDEES
12+ PARTICIPATING ORGS
7 UNIQUE SESSIONS

Scan the QR for archived session materials
dallasearthdayaction.com/archive-teachin



Joppa Health Project overview by Dr. Ping Ma from Texas A&M



Friendship West: Faith and the Fight for Environmental Justice with Pastor Danielle Ayers

RALLY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The “Enough is Enough” rally was hosted on Sunday, April 22 at Fish Trap Lake Park in West Dallas. The rally featured lineup of speakers from community organizations including Marsha Jackson of Southern Sector Rising, Janie Cisneros of Singleton United/Unidos, Julio Chapparo and Emmanuel Davis of Justice for Joppa.

State Representative Venton Jones spoke at the rally and publicly apologized for voting in favor of SB 929 and committed to supporting the fight for clean air in West Dallas.



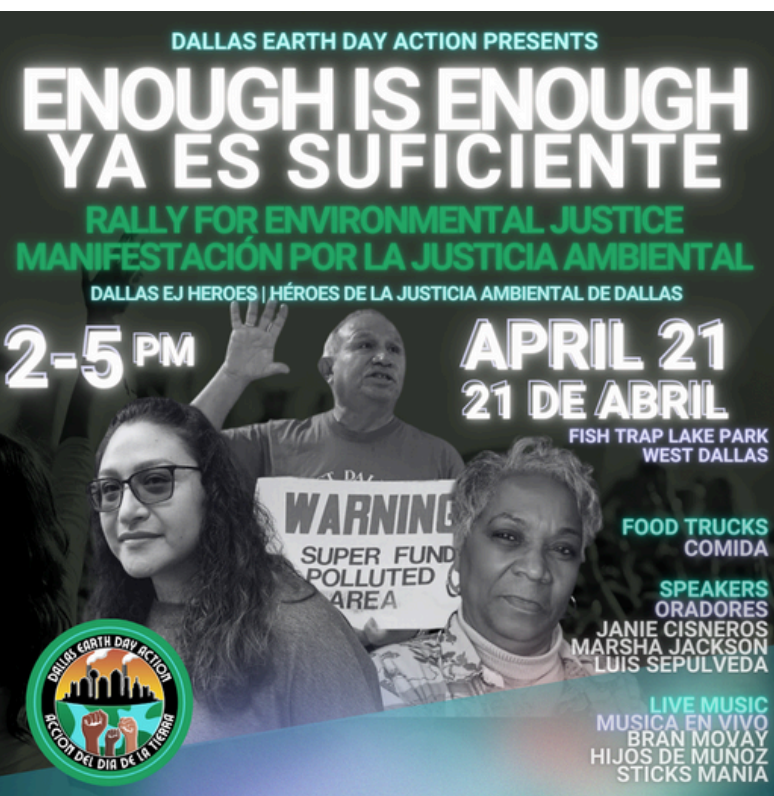
Julio Chapparo, Co-Chair of Justice for Joppa

100+

ATTENDEES

7

**PERFORMERS/
SPEAKERS**



Rally event overview



Judge Luis Sepulveda, West Dallas Coalition for EJ

EARTH DAY CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE BLOCKADE OF GAF

The weekend-long activities culminated with civil disobedience on Earth Day, blockading the gates of GAF. Five blockaders including West Dallas leader Janie Cisneros, Justice for Joppa leader Emmanuel Davis, Chair of Southern Sector Rising Allen McGill, former DAR Director Jim Schermbeck, and a concerned volunteer, Ruth Alhilali, shut down GAF's operations for the day. They were ticketed and given citations for blocking passage.

Earth Day 2024 brings citations for West Dallas demonstrators – and an apology

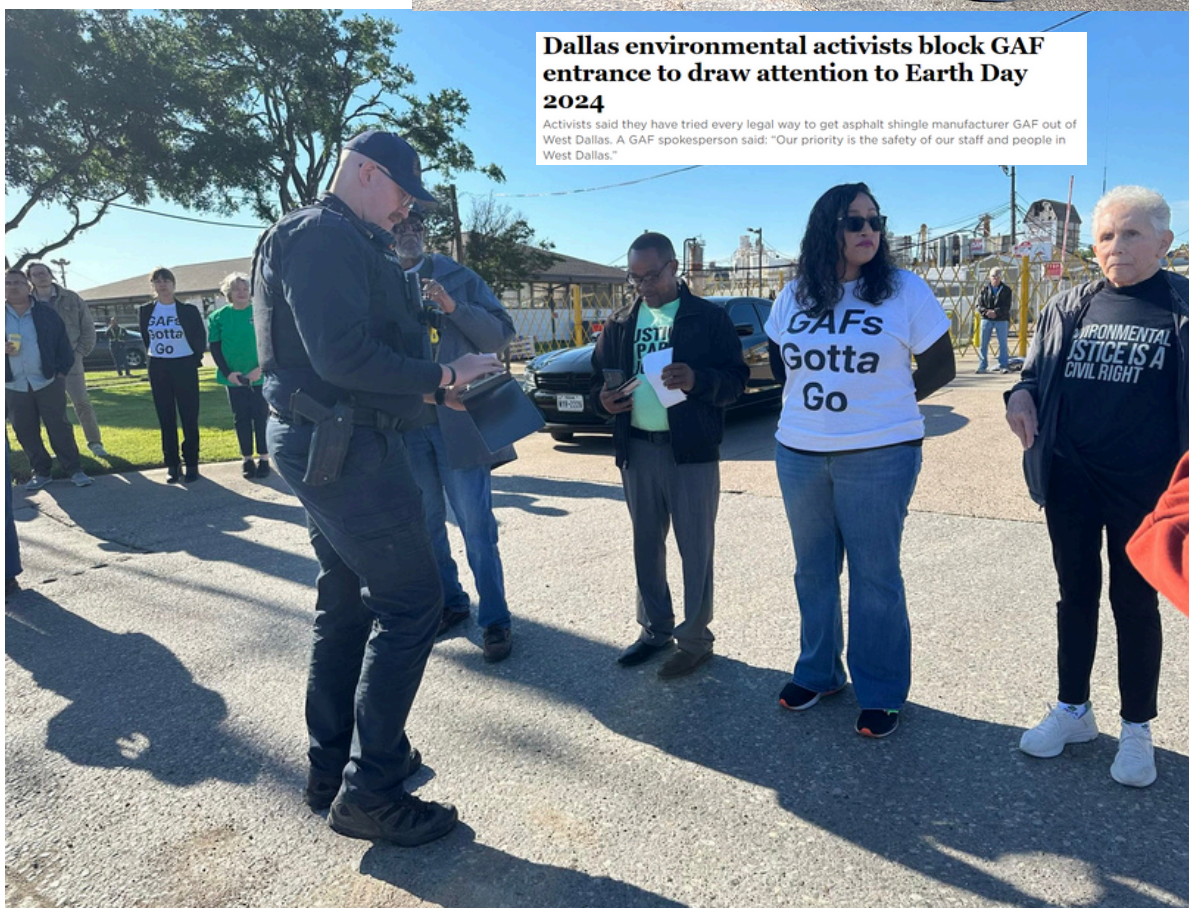
KERA | By Nathan Collins
Published April 23, 2024 at 5:00 AM CDT



Top: KERA article on the civil disobedience blockade

Middle: Blockaders from left to right Jim S., Ruth A., Allen M., Emmanuel D., and Janie C.

Bottom: Blockaders getting citations in front of GAF facility



Dallas environmental activists block GAF entrance to draw attention to Earth Day 2024

Activists said they have tried every legal way to get asphalt shingle manufacturer GAF out of West Dallas. A GAF spokesperson said: "Our priority is the safety of our staff and people in West Dallas."

GAFS GOTTA GO GOES NATIONAL

In an effort to increase the pressure on GAF, members of the GGG West Dallas campaign coordinated a joint action at the oldest GAF facility in the U.S.: GAF Minneapolis. Residents and EJ organizations in North Minneapolis near GAF had been dealing with similar environmental health issues and concerns for decades.

We partnered with a dozen organizations from Texas to Minnesota and held a march and rally to GAF. Over 50 people participated, including a representative from Congresswoman Ilhan Omar's office. Similarly to the Earth Day blockade in Dallas, GAF shut down operations for the whole day - something residents had never seen before.

MINNEAPOLIS ANTI POLLUTION RESOLUTION SIGNED
3 MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSWOMAN OMAR
50+ RALLY PARTICIPANTS
14+ COALITION ORGANIZATION



Top: Angel and Alap from Singleton United/Unidos at the Minnesota rally

Middle: From Texas to Minnesota: GAF'S GOTTA GO poster

Bottom: National coalition of groups rallying outside GAF in MN



GAF BLOCKADERS V. CITY OF DALLAS

After several court date postponements, finally in October 2024 the 5 Blockaders had their day in court. Despite preparing a necessity defense, where the blockaders planned to outline why their actions were 'necessary' for public safety, the judge complied with the City of Dallas' attorneys and prevented them from putting on a defense.

The City limited the defenses' ability to talk about GAF, air pollution, public health because it was not 'expert' testimony, despite it reflecting the lived experiences of the blockaders. All five were found guilty and charged a minor fine (\$28.00) despite the City requesting 'maximum penalty'.

Environmental activists fined over Earth Day protest against West Dallas shingle plant

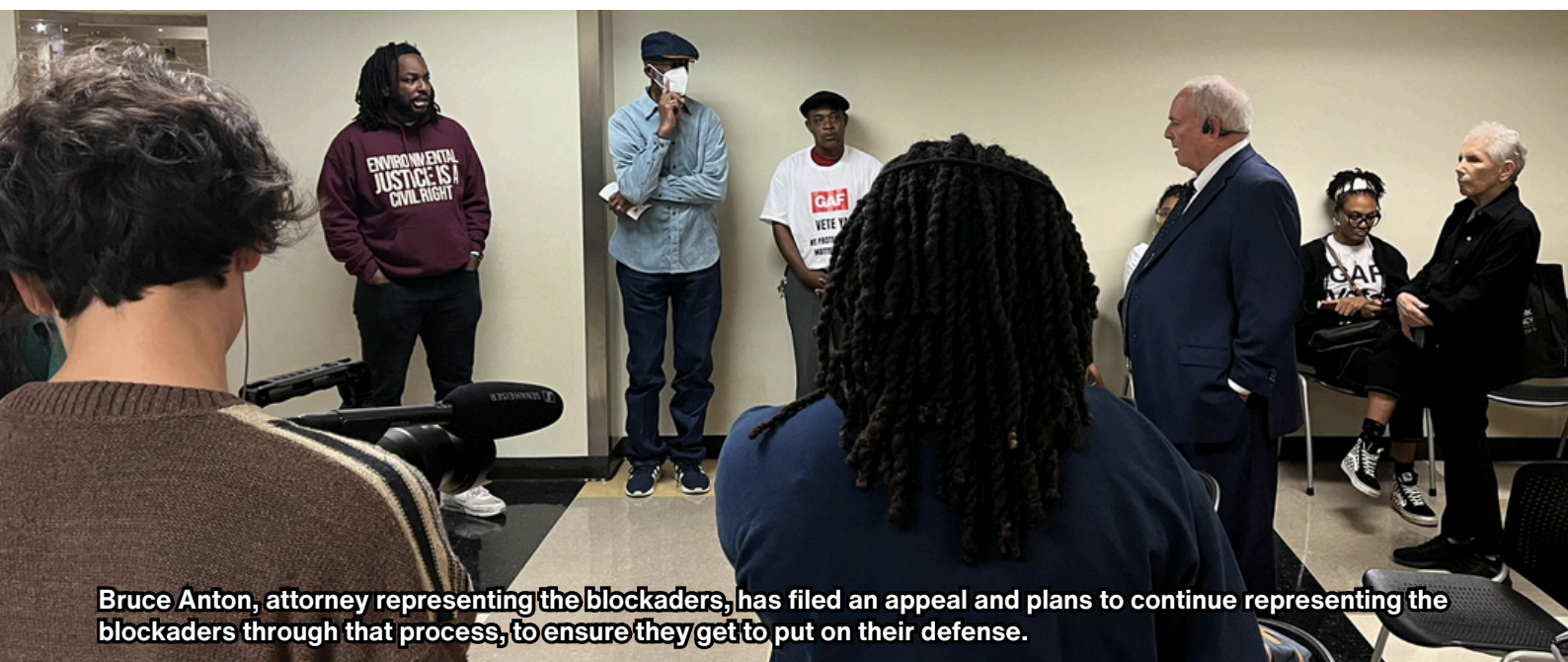
KERA | By [Zara Amaechi](#)
Published October 30, 2024 at 5:00 AM CDT



West Dallas residents and environmental activists continued their protest against the GAF shingles plant outside the Dallas Municipal Court on Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024, ahead of a hearing for five activists cited for a protest earlier this year.

"THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE WANTS THE PUBLIC TO KNOW THERE IS NO ROOM FOR PEACEFUL PROTEST IN DALLAS."

Bruce Anton, Lawyer



Bruce Anton, attorney representing the blockaders, has filed an appeal and plans to continue representing the blockaders through that process, to ensure they get to put on their defense.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (TCEQ) GAF PERMIT RENEWAL

State Representative Venton Jones successfully requested the TCEQ to hold a community meeting in West Dallas regarding GAF's new air pollution permit in October 2024.

In anticipation of the meeting, members of the GAFs Gotta Go campaign hosted several neighborhood canvassing days throughout the month, and helped garner over 50+ community written comments in opposition to the permit renewal.

The meeting had 30+ community and advocate speakers in opposition with several questions posed to both GAF and the TCEQ regarding the harms of the air pollution to community health. TCEQ will consider these written and oral comments in their review of the permit.

200+

**HOUSEHOLDS
CANVASSED**

50+

COMMENTS SUBMITTED

30+

**ELECTED OFFICIALS
SPOKE IN OPPOSITION**

3

SPEAKERS IN OPPOSITION

Downwinders at Risk



JOPPA FALL FESTIVAL & REZONING EFFORT KICK OFF

Downwinders staff worked with Justice for Joppa leaders to coordinate a series of meetings with Councilman Bazaldua and his City Plan Commissioner, to advance their goal of deindustrializing Joppa.

The Councilman agreed to support the rezoning of the community through the creation of a Planned Development District (“PD”) that would limit industrial growth in alignment with the recommendations in ForwardDallas.

To kick off this idea of rezoning the community, DAR and Justice for Joppa hosted a “Fall Festival” featuring vendors, live music, food, and games.



Dallas officials support rezoning Joppa to limit industrial polluters near residences

KERA | By Nathan Collins
Published October 21, 2024 at 5:00 AM CDT



Nathan Collins / KERA



FORT WORTH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

In 2023, Downwinders helped form the Fort Worth based coalition, Fort Worth Environmental Coalition of Communities (FWECC) that was spurred from work with Echo Heights/Stop Six Environmental Coalition and Northside Fort Worth Air. This year has been about growing the coalition and influencing Fort Worth's Comprehensive Plan to include environmental justice.

Currently, environmental justice has not been a major theme of the plan or even a term regularly used in their planning efforts.

The avoiding of environmental justice concerns in Fort Worth cannot continue, Fort Worth needs to hear the voices of communities that are being hurt by the lack of progressive EJ policies. FWECC have successfully created a letter and petition campaign that has resulted in over 2,000 letters being sent to City Council and City Staff demanding that EJ become a major theme of Fort Worth's Comprehensive Plan. More is to come from this effort, but so far, 3 city council representatives have noted their support for EJ and will work to create a public forum to discuss EJ into the plan.



FWECC has also looked to build connections with other organizations and neighborhoods across Fort Worth. Texas A&M's Law School, based in Fort Worth, recently completed a semester-long analysis of some of the industrial concerns in Echo Heights and Northside communities. That resulted in a guidance document that gives residents ways to hold the City and TCEQ accountable for environmental issues. The guidance document gives step by step ways to file a public information request, review a TCEQ permit, and the details of Fort Worth's Zoning process.

FWECC also received the help of ULI mTAP, which provided land

use recommendations for parts of the Echo Heights community that had been at risk of becoming industrial. This plan gives residents a professionally backed analysis of other land uses that could be used in place of industry in the community. That plan also comes with innovative ideas on how to strengthen the residential feel of the community and a potential budget for development.

The connections that FWECC has built throughout the year and has been a stepping stone to making substantial policy changes in Fort Worth next year. Our goal is to make sure Environmental Justice is a substantial theme for the city moving forward and the partnerships created this year will help the coalition accomplish that goal.





INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT

NEW TEAM MEMBERS

5

Grew our staff to 5 team members including three full time and two part time workers. This included the addition of a Bilingual (Spanish) Community Organizer role.

New Board Members

3

Recruited 3 new Board Members, Veronica Alvarez Vega, Kayla Butler and Leah Butler.

Interns

2

Hosted 2 interns, Bran Movay in Spring 2024 and Cydney Curtis in Fall 2024.

Donors

300+

Hit over 300 unique grassroots donor contributions from our community of supporters!

\$170,000+

Secured in grants and contributions to our staff and program work as of November 2024



DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS

Who are our donors?

- 95 (53%) First-Time Donors contributed to 2024 Giving Day
- Of those that reported their age (101 donors), 58% were younger than 44 years old
- 77% of donors live in Texas; 23% live outside Texas
- Over 300 unique donors in our network cumulatively as of this year

Small stuff adds up.



PEOPLE'S
CLIMATE
INNOVATION
CENTER



Downwinders at Risk

**THANK YOU TO OUR
2024 GRANTORS &
INDIVIDUAL DONORS!**



2024 Impact Report

37

THANK YOU !

Rogelio	Cresanda	Richard	Carolina	David	Virginia
Heather	David	Anonymous	Anonymous	Brett	Emily
Adam	Greg	Summer	Gillermo	Eileen	Sally
Fran	Leslie	Kay	Anonymous	Aaryaman	Claudia
Heather	Sarah	Greg	Audrey🐼	Demetria	Koren
Adam	Anonymous	Anonymous	Ginny	Taha	Iris
Fran	Aly	Sandra	Gilberto	Alma	Harold
Marc	Richard	Davion	Stacey	Katherine	Heather
Jazmin	Ageda	Paula	Anonymous	Amber	Adam
Leon	Thomas	Anonymous	Yolanda	Carrington	Harold
Donna	Chelsea	Pamela	Melanie	Gaurav	Anonymous
Anonymous	Susan	Scott	Kim	Jamal	Marion
Rogelio	Hannah	Beth	Gerardo	Troy	Heather
Michaela	Derrick	Kayla	Anonymous	Deborah	Adam
Hilda	Inh	Jerry	Frances	Shelia	Harold
DeAngela	Inh	Daniel	Anonymous	Brandee	Heather
Tom	Diane	Ronald	James	Korinne	Adam
Michael	Letitia	Oliee	Becky	Marion	Anonymous
Hope	Emma	Janie	Jimmie	Susan	Beth
Molly	Chris	Denise	Paul	Meagan	Harold
Jeffrey	Theresa	Anonymous	Madison	Diane	Heather
Nancy	Macario	Nick	Arthur	Fran	Adam
Marcia	Catherine	Jackson	Soniris	Luisa	Harold
Sarah	Tara	Josh	Qiana	Brian	Cindy
Jeff	cinthia	Eva	Chris	thomas	Amy
Anonymous	Rachel	Mavis	Jalen	Regina	Lauren
Janille	Anonymous	Anonymous	Paul	Anonymous	Arturo
Anonymous	Alberto	Anonymous	Jackie	Patricia	Danielle
Carolee	Shaniece	Janet	Simbarashe	Harrison	Rebekah
Michelle	Ravenne	Karen	Lauren	Chris	Marion
Nancy	Jennifer	Kevin	Jacqueline	Mark	Heather
Andy	Douglas	Courtney	Ray	Sophie	Diane
Ryan	Anonymous	Brittani	Stephanie	Richard	Daniel
Angela	Bekah	Elizabeth	Anonymous	Ken	Adam
Anonymous	Heather	Adam	Anonymous	Richard	Ken
Orlando	Patrina	Kidus	Erica	Anonymous	Nancy

Garrett	Jon-Carlos	Frances	Heather	Theresa
Richard	Andrew	Marie	Adam	Diane
Amber	Rebekah	Marion	Harold	Caryl
Fran	Bryan	Margie	Mary	Anonymous
Meha	Catherine	Thomas	Allison	Michael
Steven	Virginia	Helen	Michael	Adam
Paris	Lee Lee	Donovan	Sandra	Harold
			Adrian	Cindy
				Melinda

DOWNWINDERS BOARD AND STAFF



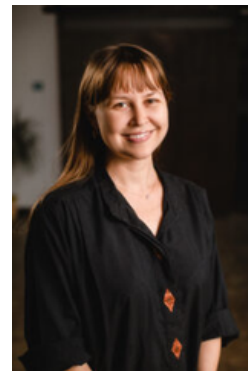
Caleb Roberts
Executive Director



Alicia Kendrick
Organizer



Misti O'Quinn
Co-Chair Board



Evelyn Mayo
Co-Chair Board



Cindy Hua
Outreach & Education



Tae Hopkins
Treasurer



Essence Tetteh
Board Member



Laura Quintero
Board Member



Vero Alvarez Vega
Board Member



Collin Yarbrough
Secretary



Leah Butler
Board Member



Kayla Butler
Board Member

