

Environmental Justice Root Cause Tree

(taken and modified from People for the American Way Foundation)



FRUIT: What impacts or problems do you see facing the people and environment | the community?

1. High asthma rates in communities of color and low income communities
2. Higher cancer rates in communities of color and low income communities
3. Greater incidence of diabetes among black children

TRUNK: What structures, practices, and policies institutionalize the problems?

1. Disproportionate placement of toxin-producing industry and hazardous materials in low-income communities and communities of color
2. Food deserts in low-income communities and communities of color
3. Lack of accessible quality affordable health care system for poor youth

ROOTS: What are the big underlying historical, social, political, or economic systems or contexts that lead to the problems (the root causes of the trunks and the fruits)?

1. Racism
2. Classism
3. "Treadmill of production" / Environmental degradation