

# Environmental Justice



For people of color, environmental issues are not just a matter of preserving ancient forests or defending whales. While the importance of saving endangered species is recognized, it is also clear that adults and children living in communities of color are endangered species, too. Environmental issues are immediate survival issues... [I]f there is to be a partnership made with the environmental movement, it must be based on equity, mutual respect, and justice. The environmental justice movement of people of color rejects a partnership based on paternalism.

—Dana Alston ("The Summit: Transforming a Movement" page 14)

Photos:

From *RP&E* Vol. 8, No. 1:  
*Reclaiming Land and Community*  
and  
*RP&E* Vol. 15, No. 1:  
*Who Owns Our Cities?*

© Scott Braley



The environmental justice frame and the intellectual work that that movement did revealed how racism can work as a system even if the individuals within it are not consciously racist. Even if Union Carbide doesn't have consciously racist executives deciding—"We're going to make sure every community we target is a community of color because we just hate them"—the activities of Union Carbide have that impact, have the result of not just disproportionately creating health problems and poverty for people of color but actively exploiting those communities so that money can be made by someone else.

—Rinku Sen ("Organizing for Racial Justice" page 65)

# & the **Race, Poverty Environment** the national journal for social and environmental justice

**Editor Emeritus**  
Carl Anthony

**Publisher**  
Juliet Ellis

**Editor**  
B. Jesse Clarke

**Design and Layout**  
B. Jesse Clarke

**Copyediting and Proofreading**  
Merula Furtado

**Publishing and Layout Assistant**  
Christine Joy Ferrer

**Urban Habitat Board of Directors**  
Joe Brooks (Chair)  
*PolicyLink*

Romel Pascual (Vice-Chair)  
*Mayor's Office, City of Los Angeles*

Tamar Dorfman (Treasurer)  
*Policy Link*

Carl Anthony  
*Cofounder, Urban Habitat*

Malo Andre Hutson  
*Department of City and Regional Planning  
University of California, Berkeley*

Felicia Marcus  
*Natural Resources Defense Council*

Arnold Perkins  
*Alameda Public Health Department (retired)*

Deborah Johnson  
*San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency*

Wade Crowfoot  
*Environmental Defense Fund*

Organizations are listed for identification purposes only.

**Subscribe to RP&E**

Annual subscriptions are \$20 for groups and individuals; \$40 for institutions. (Free for grassroots groups upon request.)  
Subscribe online at [www.urbanhabitat.org](http://www.urbanhabitat.org) or Send subscription checks to: *RP&E*, 436 14th Street, #1205, Oakland, CA 94612.

© 2010 by the individual creators and Urban Habitat. For specific reprint information, queries or submissions, please email [editor@urbanhabitat.org](mailto:editor@urbanhabitat.org).

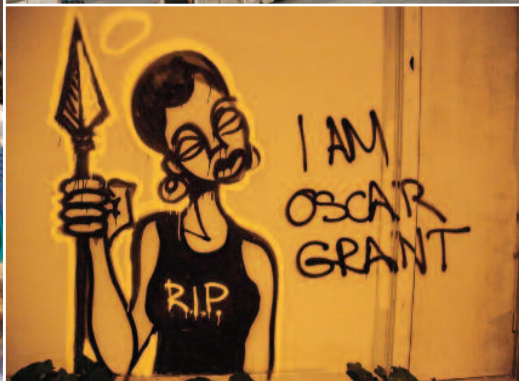
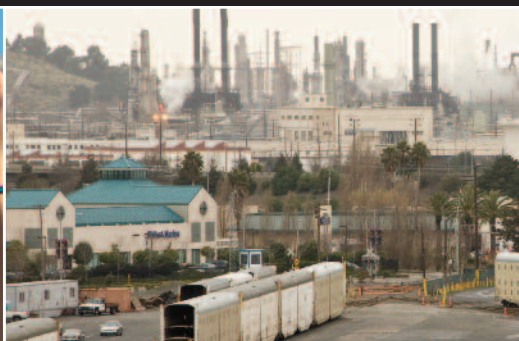
ISSN# 1532-2874

*Race, Poverty & the Environment* was first published in 1990 by Urban Habitat Program and the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation's Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment. In the interest of dialogue, *RP&E* publishes diverse views. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editors, Urban Habitat, or its funders.

*Economic Justice*



*Environmental Justice*



*Racial Justice*

*Transportation Justice*



*Spaces, Places, and Regionalism*

**Photos:** (Left) Green for all Rally. © 2010 Green for All  
(Upper center) Chevron refinery in Richmond. © 2008 Scott Braley  
(Lower center) Oscar Grant memorial graffiti. © 2009 Elliott Johnson  
(Upper right) Bus Riders Union organizes in Los Angeles. © 2009 BRU  
(Lower right) Foreclosed home in Richmond, CA. © 2009 Urban Habitat

# the Race, Poverty & the Environment



the national journal for social and environmental justice

## 20th anniversary CD now available!



There are over 600 articles in the RP&E archives. Together they provide a compelling view of the environmental justice movement from its roots. Visit [www.urbanhabitat.org/rpe](http://www.urbanhabitat.org/rpe) where you can order back issues of *RP&E*, read from our archives, catch up on Environmental Justice news, research environmental justice, climate justice, transportation justice and much more. Our latest addition is *RP&E Radio*: audio recordings of in-depth interviews and speeches from the movements' for racial, economic and gender justice. Our 20th anniversary collection includes all the back issues in PDF format, an Excel or CSV index of issues, authors and articles and our first four podcasts. Order today!

- Spring 1990 ♦ Earth Day
- Summer 1990 ♦ Cultural Diversity
- Winter 1991 ♦ Women of Color
- Spring 1991 ♦ Pesticides
- Summer 1991 ♦ Energy
- Winter 1992 ♦ The Summit
- Spring 1992 ♦ Asian/Pacific Islanders
- Summer 1992 ♦ Water
  - Fall 1992 ♦ Native Nations in 1992
- Spring 1993 ♦ Urban Problems
- Summer 1993 ♦ Population and Immigration
  - Fall 1993 ♦ Latinos and the Environment
- Spring 1994 ♦ Military Base Conversion
- Winter 1995 ♦ Environmental Justice and the Law
- Summer 1995 ♦ Nuclear Technology & Communities of Color
  - Fall 1995 ♦ Social Justice and Transportation
- Spring 1996 ♦ Multicultural Environmental Education
- Fall 1996 ♦ The Border
- Winter 2000 ♦ A Place at the Table:
  - Food & Environmental Justice
- Winter 2001 ♦ Reclaiming Land and Community:
  - Brownfields & Environmental Justice
- Summer 2002 ♦ Fixin' to Stay: Anti-Displacement Policy
  - Options & Community Response
- Summer 2003 ♦ Where Do We Go from Here? A Look at
  - the Long Road to Environmental Justice
- Fall 2003 ♦ Governing from the Grassroots:
  - EJ and Electoral Activism
- Summer 2004 ♦ Reclaiming our Resources: Imperialism and EJ
- Winter 2005 ♦ Burden of Proof: Using Research for EJ
- Winter 2006 ♦ Moving the Movement:
  - Transportation Justice
- Summer 2006 ♦ Getting Ready for Change:
  - Green Economics and Climate Justice
- Spring 2007 ♦ Just Jobs: Organizing for Economic Justice
  - Fall 2007 ♦ Educating for Equity
- Spring 2008 ♦ Who Owns Our Cities?
  - Fall 2008 ♦ Race and Regionalism
- Spring 2009 ♦ Everyone Has the Right to...
  - Fall 2009 ♦ Climate Change: Catalyst or Catastrophe?
- Spring 2010 ♦ 20th Anniversary Edition

88

Use the form below or order online:  
[www.urbanhabitat.org/subscribe](http://www.urbanhabitat.org/subscribe)

**Yes!** I want an annual subscription to *Race, Poverty & the Environment*.  
 Sent free of charge to grassroots groups upon request.  
 \$20 (Individuals)    \$40 (Institutions)

**Yes!** I want to support *RP&E Radio*—send me the CD collection  
 \$125    Other Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

A check is enclosed    Please charge my Visa/MasterCard  
 Visa/MC Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please include the 3-4 digit card verification number found on the back of most credit cards.)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_