

Environmental Justice Reading Group: EJ + Cities

Meeting Feb. 8 at 5:30pm (NY time)

- [Google Meets link](#)
- [About the reading group](#)

Here are the NYU Environmental Law Society's recommendations for things to read, watch, and listen to for the *EJ + Cities* session of the EJ Reading Group. Urban planning will likely be a frame for our conversation, so if you can't read anything else, we suggest you read something from that section. As always, please feel free to bring anything you've read, seen, heard, or experienced into the discussion!

Urban Planning in General, and Who Gets to Do It

- **Recommended starter:** [Noxious New York](#), (interview with WE ACT activist Cecil Corbin-Mark), Gotham Gazette
- **Also recommended:** [The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York by Robert Caro. review – a landmark study](#) (book review), Oliver Burkeman, The Guardian (we'd recommend the full book were it not 1,200 pp)
- [The Meaning of Urban Environmental Justice](#), Michel Gelobter, Fordham Urban Law Journal
- [As Rising Heat Bakes U.S. Cities. The Poor Often Feel It Most](#), Meg Anderson & Sean McMinn (NPR segment, c. 8 min. listen, recommend reading for the literal heat maps)
- [The Infrastructures of Equity and Environmental Justice](#), Marccus D Hendricks (PhD dissertation; recommend just the abstract and section intros)

Industrial & Public Housing Siting

- [Environmental Justice in Chicago: It's Been One Battle After Another](#), NRDC (short read)
- [Poisonous Homes: The Fight for Environmental Justice in Federally Assisted Housing](#), Shriver Center on Poverty Law, Earthjustice (report, long but executive summary is valuable on its own)

Freeways & Tailpipes

- **Recommended:** ['The Wrong Complexion For Protection.' How Race Shaped America's Roadways And Cities](#) (NPR segment, c. 4 min, or read)
- [Nominee Buttigieg Vows To Dismantle 'Racist' Freeways](#), Aaron Short, Streetsblog NYC
- [Environmental racism in the Bronx: Why the asthma rate is so high in the borough](#) (PIX 11 News segment, c. 5 min or read transcript)

- [City Council Moves on Environmental Health. But What About Tailpipes?](#), Noah Kazis, Streetsblog NYC
- EJ Atlas [entry on the Cross-Bronx Expressway](#)
- [Freeways Almost Ruined San Francisco](#), City Beautiful (video, 9 min) (case study in local opposition to highway construction, and gives a sense of how midcentury federal and state transit policies carved up cities)

Transit/Transport Siting

- **Recommended:** [Streetfilms: Fixing the Subway is About Racial and Economic Justice](#) Streetsblog NYC (video, 2 min)
- ['The Wrong Complexion For Protection.' How Race Shaped America's Roadways And Cities](#) (NPR segment, c. 4 min, or read) [also included in the "Freeways" section]
- [Black History Matters: The Case for an Arturo Alfonso Schomburg Subway Station](#), Florentino & Jordan, Streetsblog NYC (a different facet of urban EJ -- the naming of our physical environment)

Community Organizing

- **Recommended:** ["Neither the Destruction of the Ninth Ward Nor the South Bronx Was Inevitable" – Majora Carter on the Struggle for Environmental Justice](#), Democracy Now (video of Ted Talk by Majora Carter, c. 20 min, or read transcript)
- [The Blackest City in the US is facing an environmental justice nightmare](#), Drew Costley, The Guardian (fairly short)
- WeAct page on [access to green spaces](#) in the city