



**YOUR  
ENVIRONMENTALISM**

**SHOULD  
CENTER**

**A SUNRISE  
BROWN GUIDE**

# **JUSTICE**

## Why does my environmentalism need to center justice?

As you can see from the history, mainstream environmentalism has often sidelined, silenced, and contributed to many of the environmental injustices marginalized communities face.

Taking on a justice-oriented lens is not only essential to creating an inclusive movement – it allows us to challenge the very oppressive and exploitative systems that are the root cause of environmental destruction.

By being conscious and actively working to incorporate justice in our environmentalism, we are able to build wider, more diverse, and more effective environmental coalitions!

*- But if you connect environmental issues to my lived experience... then I might feel more not waited. "*  
Iyonna N. Onyeador



## BROWN AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

*(or a lack thereof)*

Brown has often claimed to be a bastion and first-mover on many issues surrounding justice and sustainability.

While Brown has many commitments to Providence inked on paper, these promises often fall short in practice.

if brown paid land tax, the university would owe the city of providence yearly...

**50 MILLION**



So now that you know all of this history and background...  
• How can we incorporate this into our activism work?

One place to start is by reflecting on your own positionality and privilege. Our identities don't only impact the level of access granted to us – they also impact how we view the world around us! This can influence so much of how we organize, and how our work is received.

Why are we doing this? Simply put, many privileged individuals have the privilege of being unaware of their privilege.

## READY TO PUT YOURSELF TO THE TEST?

1. Did you grow up with access to green space and natural landscapes? How do you feel the presence or lack of greenspace impacts your mental and physical health?
2. Is extreme weather more of an inconvenience than a life-threatening obstacle to you?
3. Did you grow up with constant access to efficient transport? Are you from a walkable community?
4. Do you see people who look like you in the environmentalist movement a lot? Have you considered why or why not?
7. When you advocate for climate action/environmental justice, what exactly are you advocating for/against?

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF ENVIRONMENTALISM...

Hi!!

We are **SUNRISE BROWN**, a **STUDENT-LED ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE** advocacy group dedicated to fighting oppressive systems and environmental destruction.

*That's so cool! I care for the environment and about climate change, how can I help? And also-- what is Environmental Justice???*

That's awesome! We're so happy to have you here!

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE** is the idea that **ALL PEOPLE** and **COMMUNITIES** have the **RIGHT** to equal environmental protection under the law and the right to live, work and play in communities that are **SAFE, HEALTHY** and **FREE** of **LIFE-THREATENING CONDITIONS**.

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE** is for me, you, our communities, our environments, our histories and for our futures.

Over this short zine, you will learn not only about EJ but also why we center justice in our environmentalism, and why you should too!

Take a moment to reflect on what the notion of environmentalism looks like to you. What does an environmentalist look like to you? Do you think of yourself as one?

Early environmentalism was rooted in **INDIGENOUS ERASURE AND WHITE SUPREMACY**. The conservationist movement of the early 20th century was based on the romantic notion of an idyllic "wilderness".

This premise rested on not only the fictional argument of a **NON-EXISTENT INDIGENOUS PRESENCE**, but **CLASSIST AND RACIST IMAGINATIONS** of the city.

Due to this history, environmentalist are often perceived as practiced only by rich and white communities, when really, environmentalism has always been practiced by diverse groups of people, cultures, and traditions.

# THANKS FOR READING!

We hope this Zine was enjoyable,  
and challenged your own knowledge!  
Environmental Justice contains far more  
multitudes and history that can't be  
captured in this single-page zine. If you want  
to know more, check out the full EJ Guide!!:

[BIT.LY/  
SUNRISE-  
EJ-GUIDE](http://bit.ly/sunrise-ej-guide)



**YOUR  
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*A Sunrise Brown Guide*

((psst!! flip the page for a cool poster))

This poster demonstrates the different ways entrenched systems have led to the current environmental injustices many face today. Colonialism and capitalism facilitated the material forms of dispossession and tools used to justify these actions (such as extraction, land theft and white supremacy), leading us to many of the current issues we face today



# CAPITALISM

# COLONIALISM