

SISTERS OF CHARITY  
OF NEW YORK



Office of  
Peace, Justice &  
Integrity of Creation

## PJIC June Special Update Series 2 of 3

# Air and Energy

“I will put breath in you, and you will come to life.” – Ezekiel 37:6

### Resources adapted from the 21 Day Environmental Justice Challenge

As we give thanks for gifts of clean air and safe clean renewable sources of energy, may we take a moment to reflect on how air and energy impact the lives of all of us, especially those whose breathing and health are affected because of polluted air from fossil fuel burning plants, industrial sites, and toxic waste. May we be inspired to act on behalf of our Common Home, Earth, and her communities of life, human and non-human.

### Fenceline Communities

Port Arthur, TX, exemplifies what it means to be a “fenceline community” or “sacrifice zone” where the population lives adjacent to hazardous petrochemical and other air polluting facilities. These communities tend to be disproportionately Black, Latino, or impoverished and face elevated rates of respiratory disease, cancer, reproductive disorders, birth defects, learning disabilities, psychiatric disorders, eye problems, nosebleeds, nausea, and early death. Elevated rates of



An air polluting facility outside of Port Arthur, Texas

COVID-19 have also been documented. As you learn about Port Arthur, TX, think about “fenceline” communities in your county, state, or region.

[Click here to learn more about fenceline communities](#)

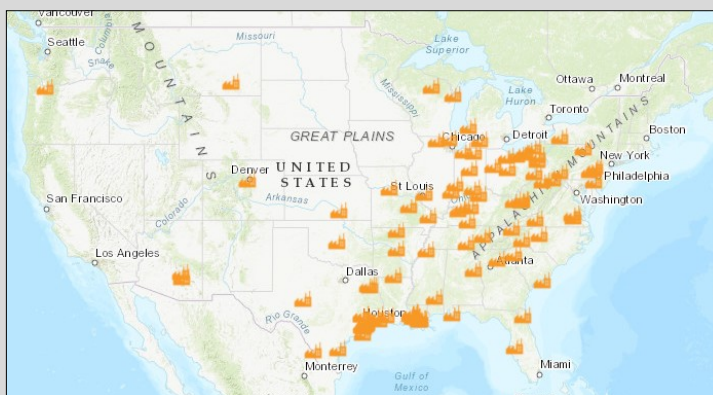


**WE ACT for Environmental Justice**, located in Manhattan, organizes low-income people of color to build healthy communities for all. WE ACT is addressing two critical environmental justice issues: poor air quality and rising temperatures because of climate change.

[Click here for more information](#)

**100 top industrial facilities** emitting more than a third of U.S. toxic air emissions

[Click here to get a visual picture of their location and then click on the icon to learn more about each facility.](#)



# QUERIDA AMAZONIA

**Querida Amazonia (Beloved Amazon): Study Guide on Select Themes**, from the USCCB is an excellent 20 pages document that can be prayed and reflected on in sections. As we read about the rights of the Indigenous in the Amazon, let us keep in mind the Indigenous of Guatemala, especially the Quiche peoples with whom the Sisters of Charity live and minister, and Native Americans, the indigenous peoples in the USA, especially the Lenape of Hudson River bioregion on whose land the Sisters of Charity have lived and ministered since 1817. Indigenous people around the world experience the effects of polluted air, land, and water.

We pray for indigenous peoples, especially the communities of the Amazon who are facing multiple crises, including the coronavirus pandemic, the devastation of extractive industries, and the threats of climate change.



[Click here to read the Querida Amazonia Study Guide](#)

## Act for the Amazon

[Click here to sign a letter to President Biden and Vice President Harris urging policies to protect the Amazon rainforest.](#)

Learn more about the organizations sponsoring the 21 Day Environmental Justice Challenge: [Catholic Climate Covenant](#), [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#), [Ignatian Solidarity Network](#), the [Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology](#) and the [Sisters of Mercy](#).