Create Social Responses to a Changing Environment

The Issue

Unprecedented environmental changes threaten human health and well-being in communities worldwide. Urbanization and population growth are on the rise, and extreme weather events are increasing in frequency and severity. Escalating environmental threats are a social justice issue: social, economic, and environmental inequities are deeply intertwined. People in poverty, children, older adults, members of racial or ethnic minority groups, and people with a history of mental health problems are especially vulnerable to the harmful impacts of environmental change.

Societal Goal

We aim to catalyze social responses that strengthen individual and community capacities for anticipating and adapting to environmental changes, particularly for vulnerable groups, and reduce inequities in exposure to environmental risks and access to needed resources.

A Decade of Work

Over the next ten years, researchers, practitioners and policymakers can engage in a variety of activities that will advance this Grand Challenge and ignite social work achievements focused on disaster risk reduction, environmentally displaced populations, community adaptation and resilience to environmental change, and environmental justice. We envision close partnership with diverse disciplines and sectors, and progress in all areas of social work research, policy, practice, and education.

Resources

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- Website: [https://csd.wustl.edu/OurWork/EnviroSocialDev/Pages/default.aspx](https://csd.wustl.edu/OurWork/EnviroSocialDev/Pages/default.aspx)

**Network Leadership**

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**Get involved!**

Sign up to the Grand Challenges mailing list:  

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