

APRIL 1 2024

www.COPALMN.org



Environmental Justice

COPAL NEWS

Hello community,

Welcome to COPAL's Environmental Justice Newsletter where you can expect to find information about forced migration, green jobs, pollution reduction, and an equitable transition to clean energy.

If you have any news or events that you would like to add to next month's newsletter, reach out to info@copalmn.org.

Environmental Justice Committee

The COPAL Environmental Justice Committee is a community-led group that meets biweekly to create strategies, plan events, and take action that empowers the community to change environmental policies at the state and federal levels. We believe that environmental justice is centered around community, and community input is crucial to creating meaningful change.

The EJ Committee is open to everyone!

Our next upcoming EJ committee meeting is Monday, April 8th at 6:30 p.m. If this sounds interesting to you or if you would like more information, [register here!](#)





Maple Syruping at Fort Snelling

COPAL kicked off Maple Syrup Season during the first weekend of March at Fort Snelling State Park. A group of COPAL members joined a naturalist at that park for a guided bilingual lesson (in English and Spanish) on how to make maple syrup! Participants learned everything from what is needed to tap a tree to processing the sap to make it into syrup. A member that participated reflected the following:

"I never knew such a beautiful and spiritual public space was right in our backyard! The maple syrup was sweet and delicious, I had a great time. Thank you, COPAL!"

This Maple Syruping event was part of COPAL's monthly outdoor events. We seek to provide free and engaging outdoor opportunities for BIPOC Minnesotans by removing barriers that prevent our communities from enjoying these spaces, such as language, transportation, and cost. If you have suggestions for future outdoor events, please reach out!



Inflation Reduction Act and the Benefits for our Homes

This past month, Carolina Ortiz, Associate Executive Director of COPAL, and Zorayda Ávila, Leadership and Capacity Building Manager, hosted a virtual live event via Facebook and Radio Jornalera discussing the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and its impact on home savings. The program was conducted in Spanish to make it accessible for Latine community members.

The Inflation Reduction Act is a federal law passed to incentive people to reduce their carbon emissions. Viewers learned how this legislation could help them save money by incentivizing energy efficient upgrades to their home, including furnace and boiler replacements. People who watched the show live were able to ask questions and comment during the conversation.



If you missed the show but want to check it out, [watch the recording here](#).

Upcoming Outdoor Events

One aspect of COPAL's Environmental Justice work is connecting community members with outdoor activities. BIPOC Minnesotans are less likely to utilize and connect with Minnesota's outdoor spaces. COPAL recognizes the importance of connecting to nature to invest in the fight to preserve it. Therefore, we are always looking to host and promote outdoor events. If you have an outdoor event, you would like advertised in future newsletters, please email info@copalmn.org.

MN outdoor events:



CITYWIDE SPRING CLEANUP

April 20 | 9am – 11:30am
Hidden Falls Regional Park
(North Gate)
Cost: free



ARBOR DAY

April 26 | 4pm – 8pm
McRae Park
Cost: free

Radio Jornalera MN

Radio Jornalera is COPAL's online radio station. It has grown and now has five weekly shows every day of the week.

Join us every Thursday, from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m., for our Environmental Justice show, What's Up Minnesota? ¿Qué onda Minnesota? where we will discuss environmental issues relating to health, economics, forced migration, public policy, and much more.

We will be hosting a special virtual concert on Thursday, April 18th, in honor of Día de la Tierra! Special musicians will be joining us from Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Minnesota! This is a show you do not want to miss. Tune in here!

A promotional graphic for the radio show '¿Qué Onda Minnesota?'. It features a portrait of the host, Carolina Ortiz, smiling against a teal and yellow background. Below her name, the show's logo 'RADIO JORNALERA COPAL MINNESOTA' is displayed. The show title '¿QUÉ ONDA MINNESOTA?' is written in large, bold letters, with the broadcast time 'JUEVES 5-6PM' in a purple box. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner, and social media icons for YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook are in the bottom center. A colorful geometric pattern is on the right side.

With solidarity,
Copal.