

OCTOBER 7, 2024

www.COPALMN.org



Environmental Justice

COPAL NEWS

EJ College Tour, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, events and more .

Hello,

Welcome to COPAL's Environmental Justice Newsletter, where you can expect to find information about outdoor events, access to green spaces, forced migration, green jobs, pollution reduction, and an equitable transition to clean energy. We are excited for you to join us again!

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

COPAL 2024 College Tour: Extractivism & Conflict in Latin America

As part of COPAL's environmental justice work, we organize annual college tours, where we bring a Latine guest from a community outside of Minnesota to speak about their experiences, leadership, and projects related to the environment, climate or any related issue. Our speaker spends a week in Minnesota, visiting and speaking at 5-7 colleges/universities across the state.

This year, we are honored to welcome [Michael Wilson Becerril](#) as our College Tour speaker! Michael brings a unique perspective and blend of academia and grassroots advocacy through his time in Mexico, Peru, Costa Rica, and Guyana. We will be visiting colleges in the metro area, Western, and Southern Minnesota touching on themes such as extractivism and conflict in Latin America, as well as the importance of civic engagement in ensuring our voices are heard!

Interested in hosting us at your college next year? Reach out to info@copalmn.org.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: Cumulative Impacts Working Session

In the 2023 legislative session, environmental justice areas were defined in Minnesota. These areas are neighborhoods in and around the Twin Cities, Duluth, and Rochester. Many of these neighborhoods are where communities of color live.

The law states that when a new building is getting permission to be built in these neighborhoods, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) will be required to do an analysis of how much pollution the building will add to existing pollution in the area, or in other words, a cumulative impact analysis. Currently, the MPCA is creating the rules that will determine the strength of this law.



On October 23rd at 5:30 p.m., at John Marshall High School (1510 14th St NW Rochester, MN 55901), the MPCA will host their fourth working session. This fourth session will focus on community engagement and community benefit agreements. [Find the details of the meeting here!](#)

Farm Tour and Dinner: Deepening Roots and Building Community

Last month, COPAL and Land Stewardship Project (LSP) co-hosted a farm tour and dinner in Austin, MN. Over 60 community members gathered to enjoy a beautiful September afternoon at the Jovaag Family Farm. Participants learned how to press apples for delicious and natural cider, saw honey spinning, heard inspiring stories from our speakers, and shared a farm-to-table community meal. A COPAL member made fresh carnitas on the spot for participants at the event. We are always hosting family-friendly outdoor events, and we hope you can join us in the future!



Community members enjoying their time at the Jovaag Family Farm during COPAL and LSP's Farm Tour and Dinner

Upcoming COPAL 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 efforts to preserve it. Therefore, we are always looking to host and promote outdoor events. If you have an outdoor event that you would like advertised in future newsletters, please email info@copalmn.org.



SOPITAS PODEROSAS ON THE TRAIL

October 5 | 12pm – 3pm
Crosby Farm Regional Park; 2595 Crosby Farm Rd.
Saint Paul
Free

Radio Jornalera MN

Radio Jornalera is COPAL's community digital station that contributes to building community power and influencing processes of positive social change through popular education, debates on issues of interest, and the promotion of social values and our rights. It features weekly programming including our Environmental Justice program, What's Up Minnesota? ¿Qué onda Minnesota?, where we discuss environmental topics related to health, economy, forced migration, public policies, and much more.

Join us every Thursday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. [Tune in here!](#)

