

# The National Hispanic Environmental Council

## Mission Statement and Goals

The National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC) is a national, non-profit, membership-based organization founded in 1996, and located just outside Washington, D.C. NHEC seeks to educate, empower, and engage our community on environmental and sustainable development issues; encourage Latinos to actively work to preserve and protect our environment; provide a national voice for Latinos before federal, state, and non-profit environmental decision-makers; and actively assist Latinos to pursue the many career, educational, and policy opportunities in the environment and natural resources field. We develop programs—in partnership with our supporters—that accomplish this mission, and furthers our guiding credo: **“because it’s our environment too.”**

Our goals are:

### Education

Work to enhance the long-standing historical and cultural environmental ethic that exists in the Latino community, and to promote on-going interest in and action by our community on environmental justice and sustainable development issues. Work to educate our community on the importance and necessity of being good stewards of the environment, because of the fundamental principal that “it’s our environment too.”

Simultaneously, strive to educate our community about the enormous economic development potential inherent in the environment; that it is a major source of jobs, minority business, and academic opportunity, and that we have the right to a fair share of these benefits.

### National Advocacy and Representation

Provide a voice for Latinos by serving as a national advocacy organization on a broad range of environmental and natural resource issues that affect our community. We work to:

- ❖ Promote and expand environmental education programs for Latino youth, especially in urban school districts. An entire generation of young Latinos are growing up without the benefit of any environmental education programs in their schools. Similarly, advocate for increased environmental training in higher education targeted to Latinos, to ensure we are building the next generation of trained environmental professionals and leaders.
- ❖ Promote and expand greater professional development and advancement opportunities for Latino environmental professionals in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.
- ❖ Promote and expand greater opportunities for Latino businesses in the multi-billion dollar environmental services industry, especially in government and in the private sector. Fundamentally, work to ensure that the Latino business community receives its fair share of environmental contracting.
- ❖ Promote and expand the role of Latinos in key environmental decision-making bodies, where environmental policies are being made that affect our community. Particularly, work to ensure that the major national environmental organizations, federal agencies, and other entities have Latino representation. Fundamentally, work to ensure that our community has a seat at the environmental decision-making table.

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### Fighting Stereotypes and Dispelling the Myth

Strive to dispel the myth that Latinos do not care about or are involved in the environment. Highlight the many individuals and Hispanic organizations who work every day as good stewards of the environment, yet who labor under misconceptions and stereotypes that somehow our community does not care about America's natural resources and heritage.

### Information Clearinghouse

To the extent possible, serve as a central clearinghouse/repository of information on environmental issues and opportunities—of every kind—and their impact on Latinos. Collect and disseminate this information to the Latino community.

### Networking Link for Hispanic Environmental

### Professionals and Community Organizations

To the extent possible, serve as a networking linkage among Latino environmental professionals and activists, for the purpose of support, encouragement, and professional advancement.

### Opening the Doors of the Environmental Movement to Our Community

Whenever possible, work cooperatively with the mainstream environmental organizations, the public sector, and with Corporate America, to open the doors of opportunity for Latinos in all areas of the environment. We seek collaborative stewardship of the many opportunities—and responsibilities—inherent in safeguarding our environment.

For more information on our programs and goals,

call or write:

**NHEC**

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Or visit us at our web page: [www.nheec.org](http://www.nheec.org)