Despite promises to protect and elevate environmental quality for all citizens, poor and minority communities across the United States still bear the brunt of toxic pollution. A new edited volume probes previous shortcomings and asks how government can do better at ensuring environmental justice.

In Failed Promises: Evaluating the Federal Government’s Response to Environmental Justice, Konisky and his invited contributors take a comprehensive look at the pursuit of environmental justice in the United States, examining steps the federal government has undertaken to ensure that underprivileged communities are not overlooked or negatively affected by public policies intended to assure clean air and water and promote clean energy. Overall, the findings are bleak – the federal government simply has not been able to adequately address the needs of poor and minority citizens, whose home cities and regions have a disproportionate number of landfills, contaminated properties, and other polluting facilities. In those places, health and wellbeing lags behind areas with greater wealth. Konisky summarizes the key findings in his new SSN brief and suggests new steps currently
under way at the Environmental Protection Agency to equalize environmental protections for the future.

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