Discussion Questions to accompany the movies What is Environmental Justice? and Cancer Town

The harm that comes with rising seas and contaminated water systems isn't evenly distributed. To the contrary: Those who are already disadvantaged by race, wealth, and income are usually the most affected by environmental disasters. Without recognizing that inequality, we're not always solving the problems with our water, air, and soil in ways that serve the people who need it most — which is why environmental justice is a critical part of planning a green future that's good for everyone.

Had you heard of environmental justice before watching this video? If so, in what context? Additionally, while this is an extreme example of environmental injustice, it is not at all out of the ordinary - what instances of environmental injustices have you seen in your communities?

- 2 What are some of the ways injustice is systemically perpetuated in the videos?
- Though the air quality in Louisiana has improved significantly since the 1980s, as it has in the rest of the nation, the recent history is less encouraging. Not only is toxic air pollution in Louisiana's industrial belt rising in absolute terms, the estimated air quality relative to its peers is getting worse. And, as noted in the video, the burden is not being shared evenly. Many of the new plants planned in Louisiana's petrochemical heart are being built in or near communities that EPA models estimate already have some of the most dangerous air in America. Our analysis shows the problems are especially acute in predominantly black and poor communities, like St. Gabriel, but whiter and more affluent sections like neighboring Ascension Parish are hardly immune.

What are some ways we can support communities like these, especially black and poor communities, in desperate need of change and legislative action?

- 4 In the second video Bob Taylor talks about how the company running the plant claims to be a leader in the community and supports the local economy. By gaslighting the community, the company gets community members to forget or even ignore the dangers that the plant produces. What are some other examples of companies gaslighting communities?
- Injustice exist in every facet of American culture, with the professional services world being a prime example. What are some 'action items' that everyone on this call can do to slowly help fix the systemic race issues in our country? Additionally, what are some things that Deloitte can do better to help the same?