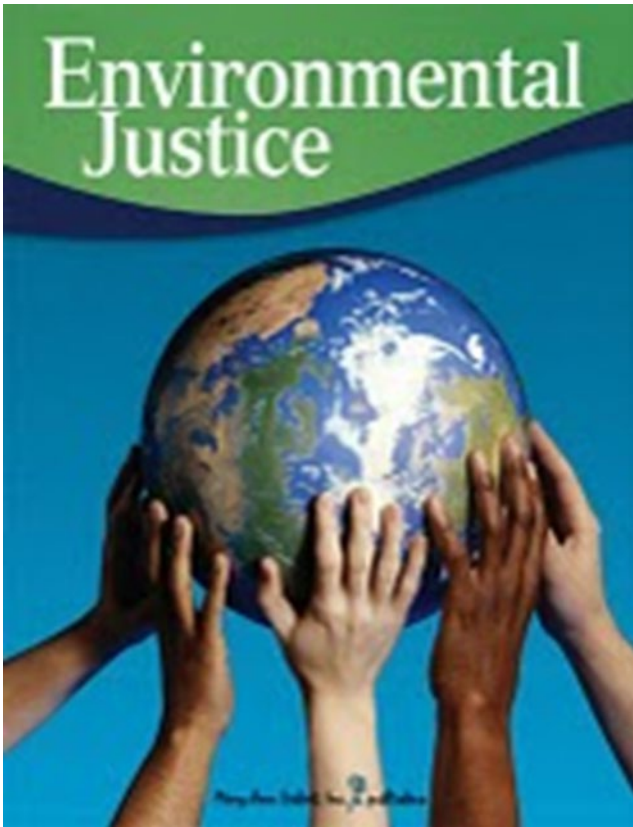




Overview of EPA R6 ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

Aaron Greenquist, EJ, Community Engagement & Environmental Review Division
Katie Vogle, EJ, Community Engagement & Environmental Review Division

What is Environmental Justice (EJ)?



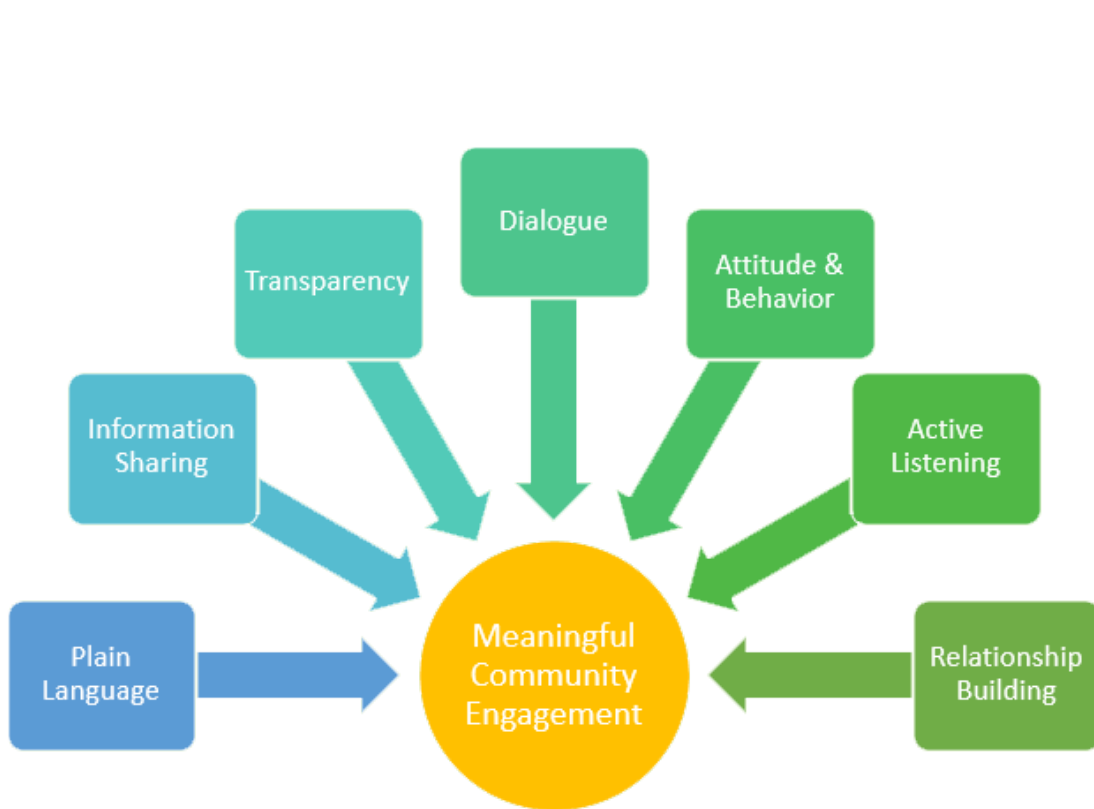
EPA defines environmental justice as the **fair treatment** and **meaningful involvement** of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income, with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

What is Fair Treatment?



Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

What is Meaningful Involvement? (Community Engagement)



Communities with EJ Concerns: Common or Similar Traits

Low-income

Minority or people of color

Indigenous or Native Americans

Special populations, such as immigrants, farmworkers, etc.

Proximity and exposure to pollution sources (mobile or point)

Health impacts and disparities

Language barriers

Lack of trust

Unable to access traditional communication channels

Cumulative and disproportionate environmental impacts

Social vulnerability

Psycho-Social Stress

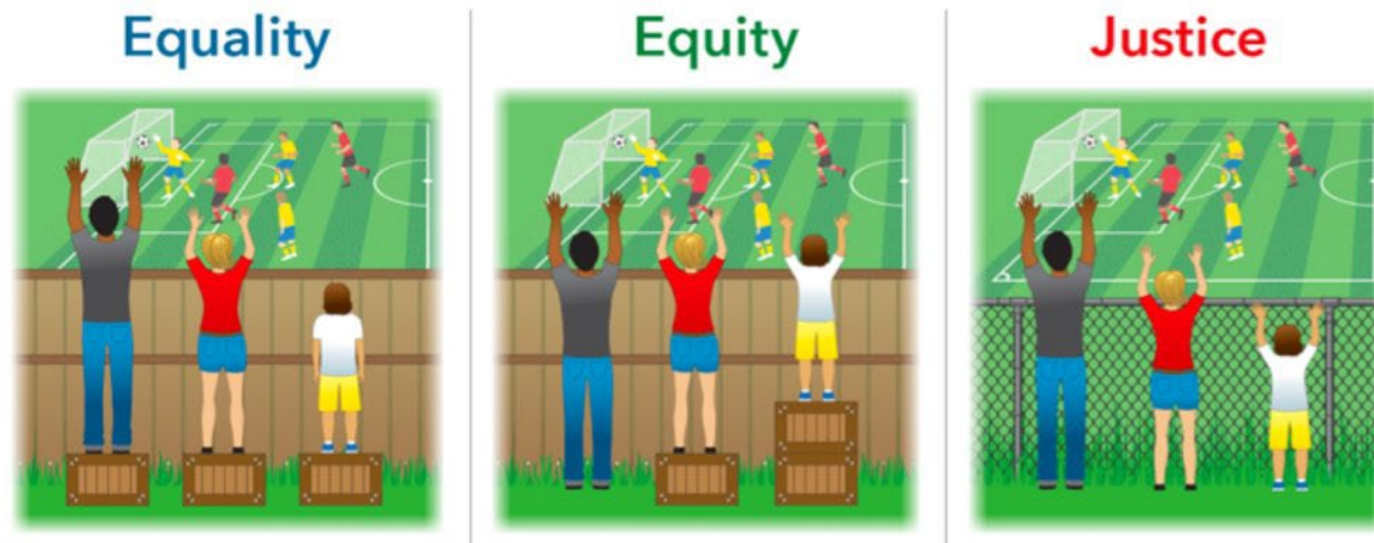
Health and wellness vulnerabilities

Vulnerable populations of children and elderly

Lack of meaningful participation

Lack of political power and understanding

Limited capacity to access technical and legal resources



EQUALITY, EQUITY AND JUSTICE THROUGH THE EJ LENS

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: FOOD FOR THOUGHT

EJ is not something intangible and did not happen by accident – it is everyone's responsibility to seek equity and justice

If you wait until you need to engage communities, then you are already too late

Communities have the right to influence what happens in their communities

The impacted community might not be where you think it is

There are tools, people, and practices to help on the Justice Journey

Investing in justice practices now will always pay off in the long run

Why is EJ Important?

People of color, as well as low-income and indigenous populations, suffer disproportionate burdens of pollution and are denied equal access to a healthy environment.



HISTORY

Historical Highlights of EJ



The EJ Movement:

Is grounded in the civil rights and environmental movement

Is focused on those who are disenfranchised and are in need of making significant community improvements

Seeks to systemically address the disproportionate burden placed on low-income, minority, and indigenous populations in the U.S.

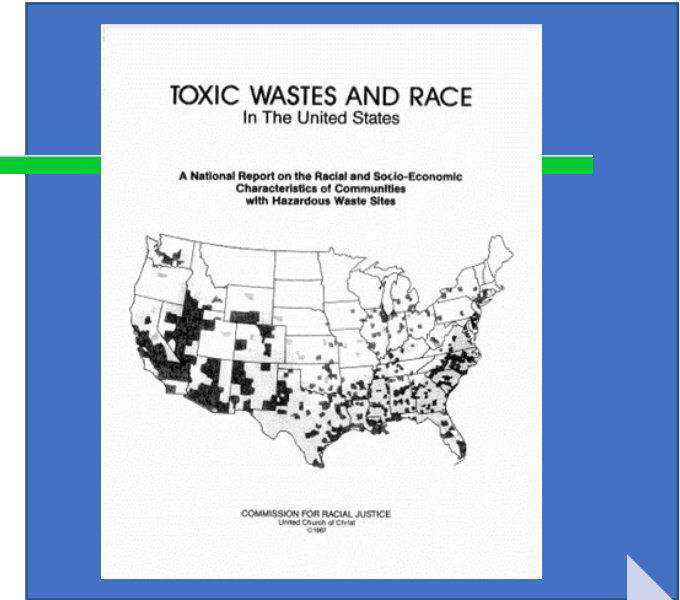
Has grown stronger since the 1980s, through EJ voices within many local, regional and national networks.



Historical Highlights of EJ

**1982 The Warren
County PCB Landfill,
NC**

**1987 The United
Church of Christ-
Toxic Wastes and
Race in the United
States Study**



**1983 US
Government
Accountability
Office (GAO) Study**

**1990 The First
National People of
Color
Environmental
Leadership Summit**

17 principles of EJ

History of Environmental Justice at EPA

1992:
Office of
Equity
formed at
EPA

1994:
President
Bill
Clinton
signs
EO12898

1994:
Office of Equity
becomes
Office of
Environmental
Justice

Plan EJ 2014
foundation
for
integrating
EJ in EPA
programs

2022:
Office of
Environment
al Justice
and External
Civil Rights



What are EPA's Responsibilities?

- EPA follows direction from:

- **EO 12898 (1994) *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations***
- **EO 13166 (2000), civil rights laws, and EPA's civil rights regulations to provide meaningful access to EPA programs and activities for persons with limited English proficiency (LEP) and persons with disabilities.**
- **EO 14008 (2021) *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad***
- **EO 13985 (2021) *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government***
- **EO 14096 (2023) *Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All***



What is Justice 40?

40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution.

Justice 40

The Biden-Harris Administration articulated a commitment to the issue of environmental justice within its first 90 days.

The President appointed an EPA Administrator, signed several related Executive Orders, and created the Justice 40 Initiative.



EPA ADMINISTRATOR MICHAEL REGAN

Journey to Justice

- Strengthening environmental & civil rights enforcement
- Integrating Environmental Justice
- Meaningful community engagement
- Justice40 (and investment leverage)
- Resources spread across numerous EPA activities and across all ten regions
- Significant opportunity to engage communities and other partners (states, tribes)





EPA Region 6 Priorities

Embed the Administration's Policy Priorities

- Distribute New Federal Resources to Region 6
- Embed Climate Change and Environmental Justice into All Aspects of Region 6
- Implement Follow-up Actions for the Region 6 Journey to Justice Tour
- Create a Region 6 Environmental Justice Action Plan as Requested by the Administrator
- Create a Region 6 Climate Adaptation Report as Requested by the Administrator

Make Environmental Justice and Climate Change Top Priorities for all Region 6 Programs

- Train all Region 6 Employees on Environmental Justice and Climate Change
- Positively Protect/Innovate Methods to Better Protect Public Health and the Environment
- Identify the Environmental Justice and Climate Change Impact Areas in Region 6
- Evaluate the Environmental Impacts of the Energy Transition
- Improve Region 6 Communication with Communities and NGOs
- Enhance Relationships with Region 6 States and Tribes
- Improve Morale among Region 6 Employees

Use Local Action to Impact National Policy

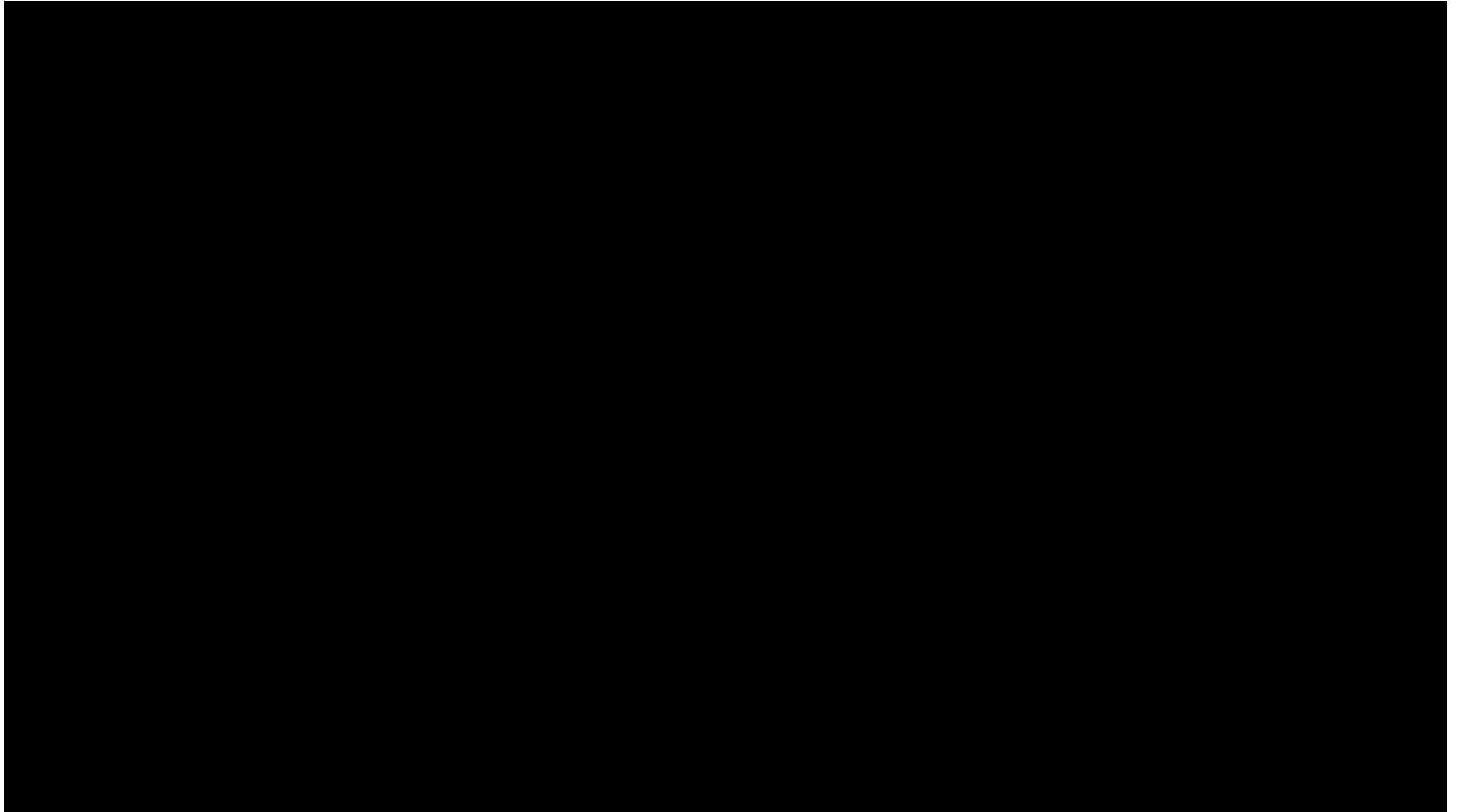
- Improve Communication of Risk to Residents
- Improve Air Monitoring to Protect Communities
- Improve the Science of Risk Analysis at Superfund Sites
- Improve the Evaluation Process for Permitting UIC Class VI Wells

A Message From the Region 6 Administrator Highlighting Quarter 1 Accomplishments - YouTube




A Message From the Region 6 Administrator Highlighting Quarter 1 Accomplishments

Quarter 1 Accomplishments video- click to play



- EJ Leaders Roundtable calls
- Summits
- End of year reports



EJ WEEKLY

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 6

Save the Date!
EJ Leaders Roundtable
 June 6, 2023, 1:00-3:00 CST
 Agenda and Zoom link to come.

GRANTS, FUNDING, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Registration is open! EPA Grants Webinar Series for Grant Applicants and Recipients

EPA is hosting a series of three webinars for assistance agreement (grant) applicants and recipients. During each webinar, EPA staff will review key aspects of EPA's grants processes and requirements, and you will have the opportunity to submit questions. **You must register in advance for each webinar using the links provided below.**



- New initiative called SERJ will create a consistent rhythm of community engagement that communities can expect.
- Clarity on how divisions can partner with communities in the short and long term
- More accountability and storytelling about the region's progress towards goals.

Liaisons for each state in the region

EPA Region 6 Environmental Justice State Liaisons



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TEXAS
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St. John the Baptist Parish & RISE St. James



South Texas Colonias



Technical Palooza



Distribution of announcements and resources
to R6 EJ Stakeholders

EJ Leaders Roundtables

Bi-monthly meetings with the Regional Administrator
and Community Members

Paul Quinn College
EJ Screen Training



Region 6 EJ Applications and Data



ARD - Region 6 EJScreen and CEJST



EJ / NEPA - Region 6 EJScreen and CEJST



LCRD - Region 6 EJScreen and CEJST



Superfund - Region 6 EJScreen and CEJST



Water - Region 6 EJScreen and CEJST



ECAD - Region 6 EJScreen and CEJST



Region 6 EJScreen and CEJST Layer



LAS - Region 6 EJScreen CEJST

EJ TOOLS

EJSCREEN

EPA'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SCREENING TOOL

Region 6 EJ Applications and Data



ARD - Region 6 EJScreen and CEJST



EJ / NEPA - Region 6 EJScreen and CEJST



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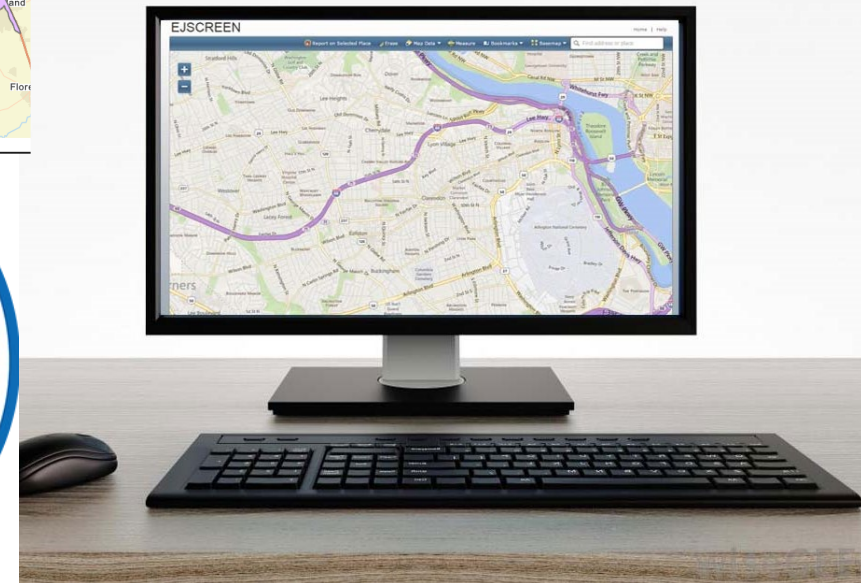
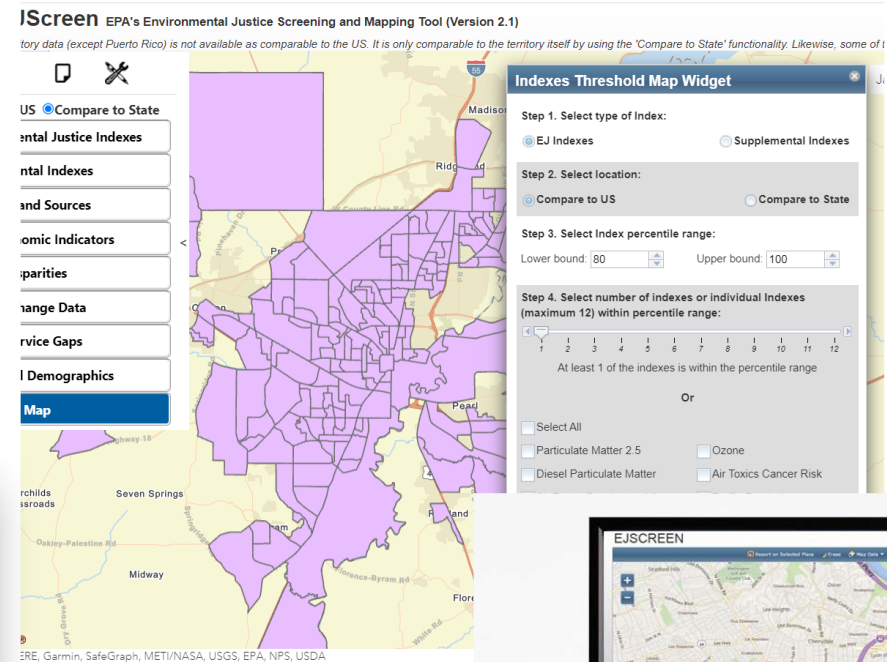
ECAD - Region 6 EJScreen and CEJST



Region 6 EJScreen and CEJST Layer



LAS - Region 6 EJScreen CEJST



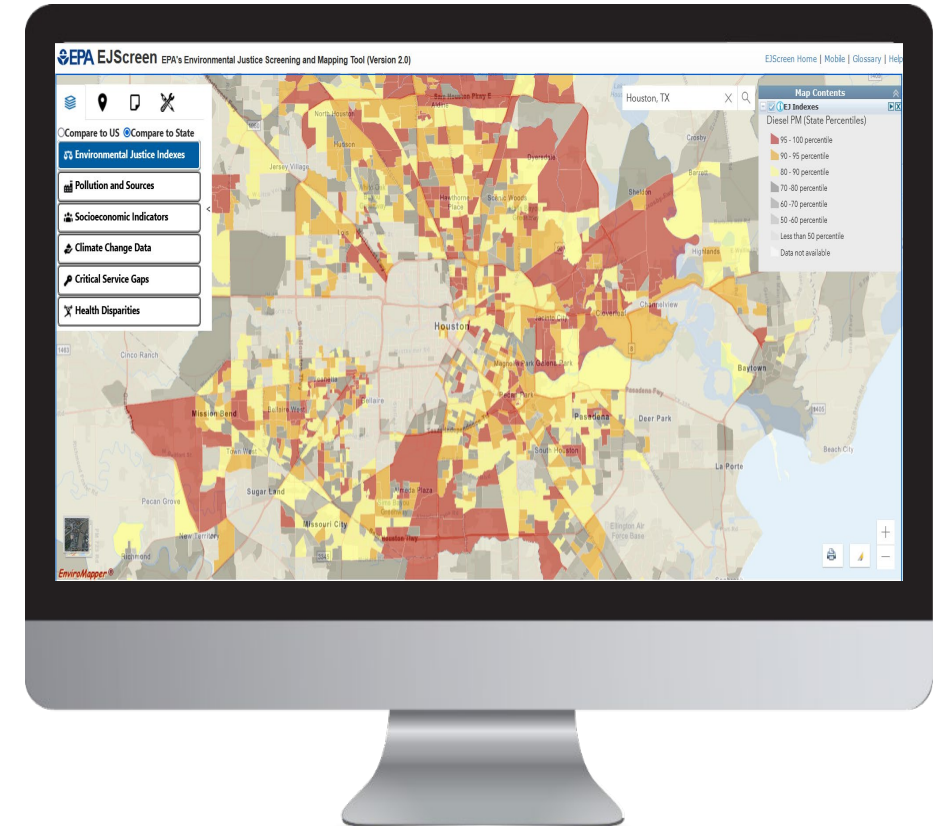
EJScreen: Environmental Justice Screening
and Mapping Tool | US EPA

What is EJ Screen?

EPA's web-based GIS tool for nationally consistent EJ screening and mapping

Combines environmental and socioeconomic data to highlight areas where vulnerable populations may be disproportionately impacted by pollution

Starting point for agency considerations of environmental justice



EJSCREEN Features

12 EJ Indexes

Particulate
Matter 2.5

Ozone

Diesel
Particulate
Matter

Air Toxics
Cancer Risk

Air Toxics
Respiratory
Hazard Index

Traffic
Proximity

Lead Paint

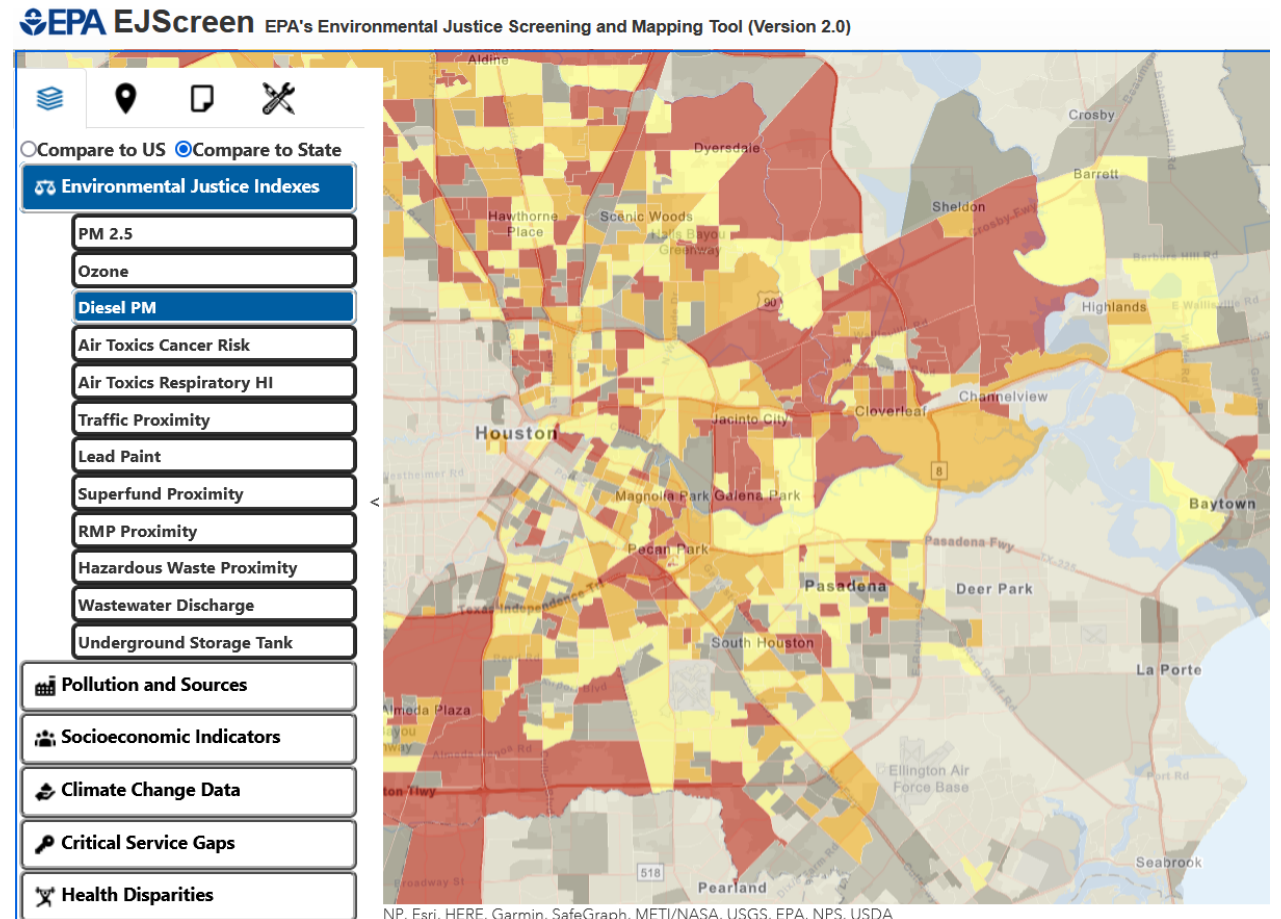
RMP Facility
Proximity

Hazardous
Waste
Proximity

Superfund
Proximity

Underground
Storage Tanks

Wastewater
Discharge



EJScreen Uses: Internal EPA

Brownfields:

Encourage Brownfields grant applicants to use EJScreen to better understand their communities' EJ concerns

Helps inform site selection process

Identify Regional Focus Communities

Identify Targeted Brownfield Assessment (TBA) recipients

Helps with community engagement for residents in more challenged areas

Target areas for outreach on program resources



EJScreen: External Uses

Communities

- Identifying potential issues
- Grant writing
- Comparing environmental burdens

Academia

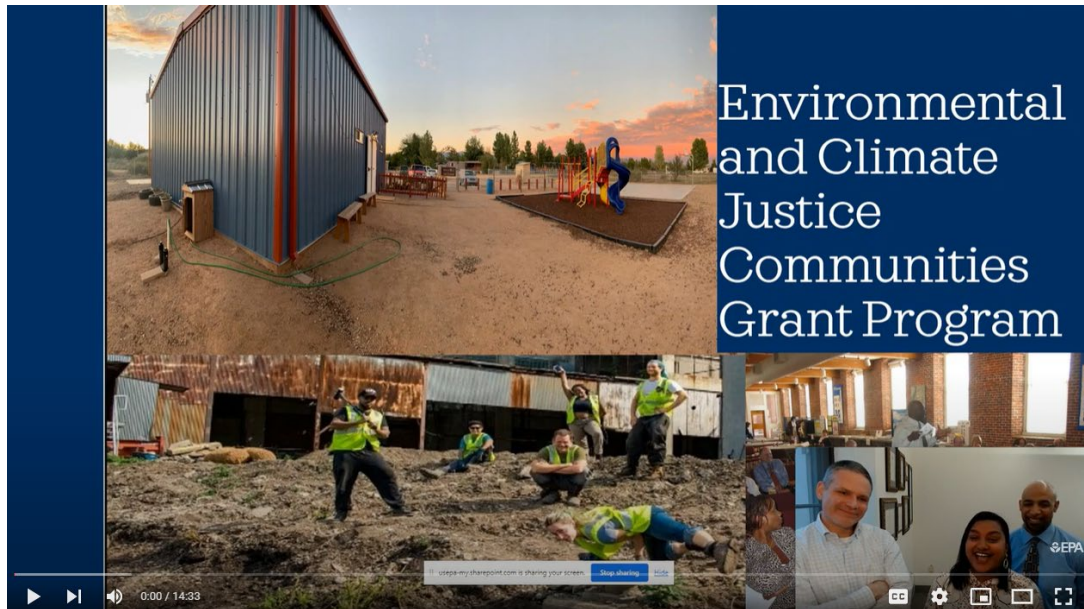
- Teaching about environmental justice
- Research

Industry

- Intersection with ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance)



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GRANTS, FUNDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



[Environmental Justice Grants, Funding and Technical Assistance | US EPA](#)

[Environmental and Climate Justice Communities Grants Program – YouTube](#)

[Home | GRANTS.GOV](#)

Current EJ Grants

EJ Government to Government (EJG2G)
EJ Community Problem Solving (EJCPS)

Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program (Texas Southern University)

Community Change Grants Program

Community Change Grants (CCG)

Who can apply?

- Community-based non-profit organizations (CBOs)
- Local governments, federally recognized tribes, or institutes of higher education **in partnership with a CBO**

What?

- Funding to address environmental & climate justice challenges through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity

When?

- OPEN NOW!
- Rolling applications
- Closes November 21, 2024

How?

- Apply on Grants.gov
- EnDyna can provide technical assistance on applications





Technical Assistance

TCTACs

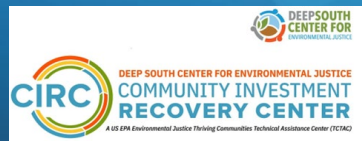
Can provide support with:

- Navigating federal grant applications
- Developing strong grant proposals
- Managing grant funding
- Guidance on community engagement and meeting facilitation
- Translation and interpretation services for participants

EnDyna

Can support applicants and recipients of the **Community Change Grant** with:

- Assistance developing, preparing and submitting a grant application
- Guidance with project planning and development
- Guidance with grants management and reporting post-award



QUESTIONS?

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