



Environmental Justice & Pollution Prevention

Monica Espinosa, EPA Region 7

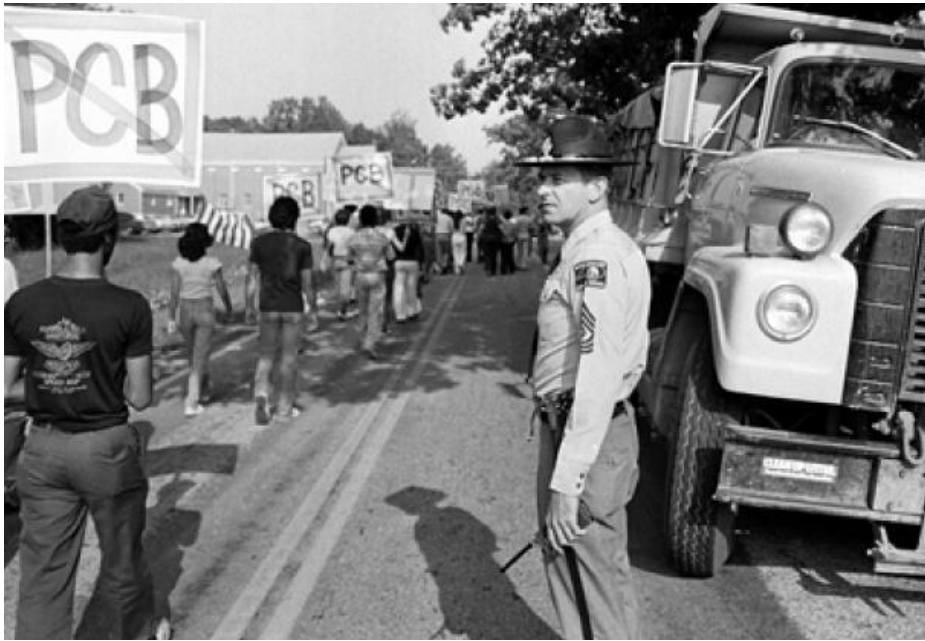
EJ Program Coordinator

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1. EJ Program overview & connection to P2
2. Review of tools & resources
3. Discussion/ Q&A

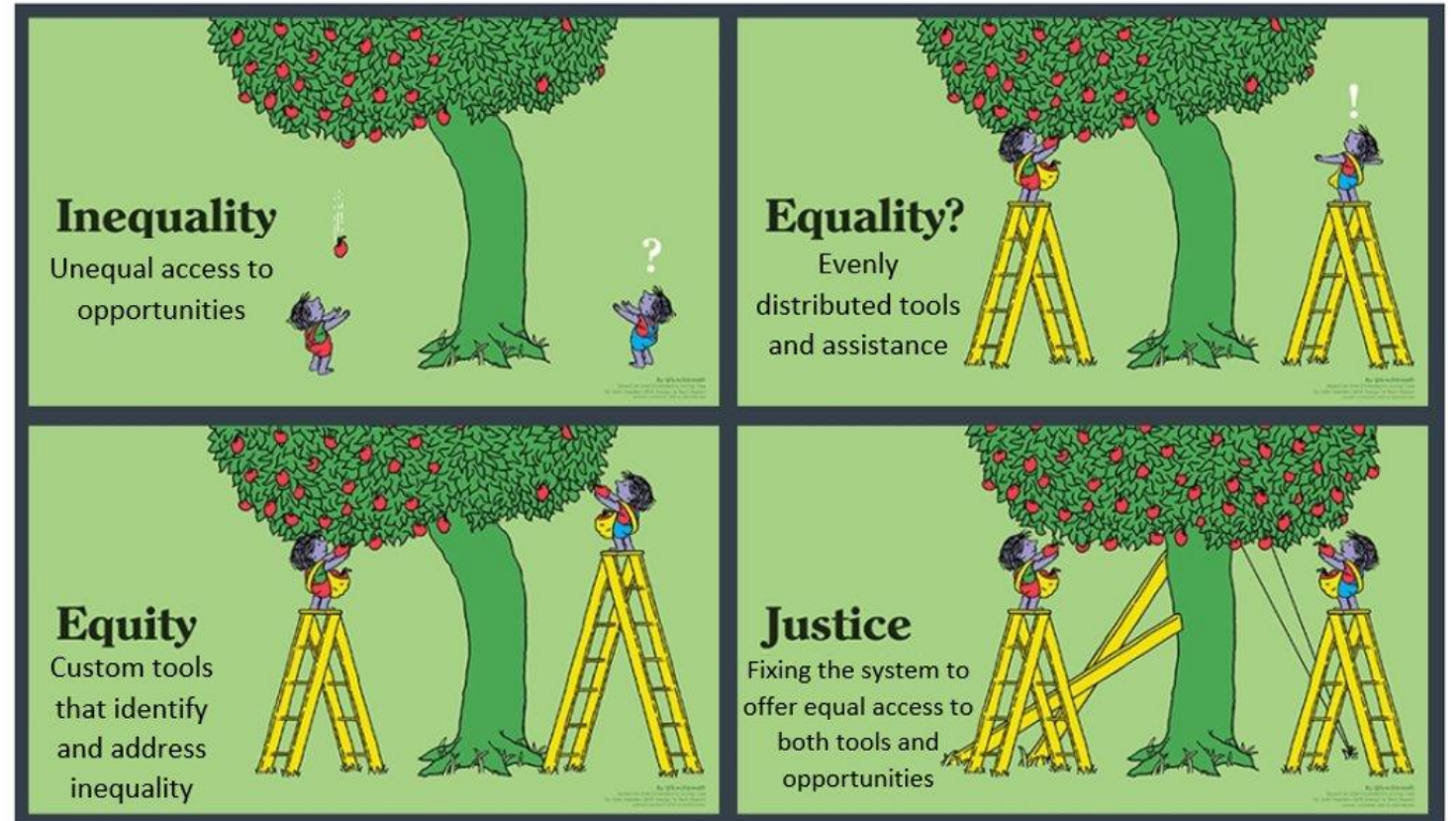
AGENDA



WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

History of Environmental Justice (EJ)

- Examples of injustice are embedded throughout laws, policies, and practices of the government's structures and systems.
- Examples include:
 - Redlining / segregation
 - Siting facilities
 - Access to loans / lack of fair housing practices
 - Access to education
 - Lack of voting rights / voter suppression



Graphic depicting inequality, equality, equity and justice by Tony Ruth.

Environmental Justice

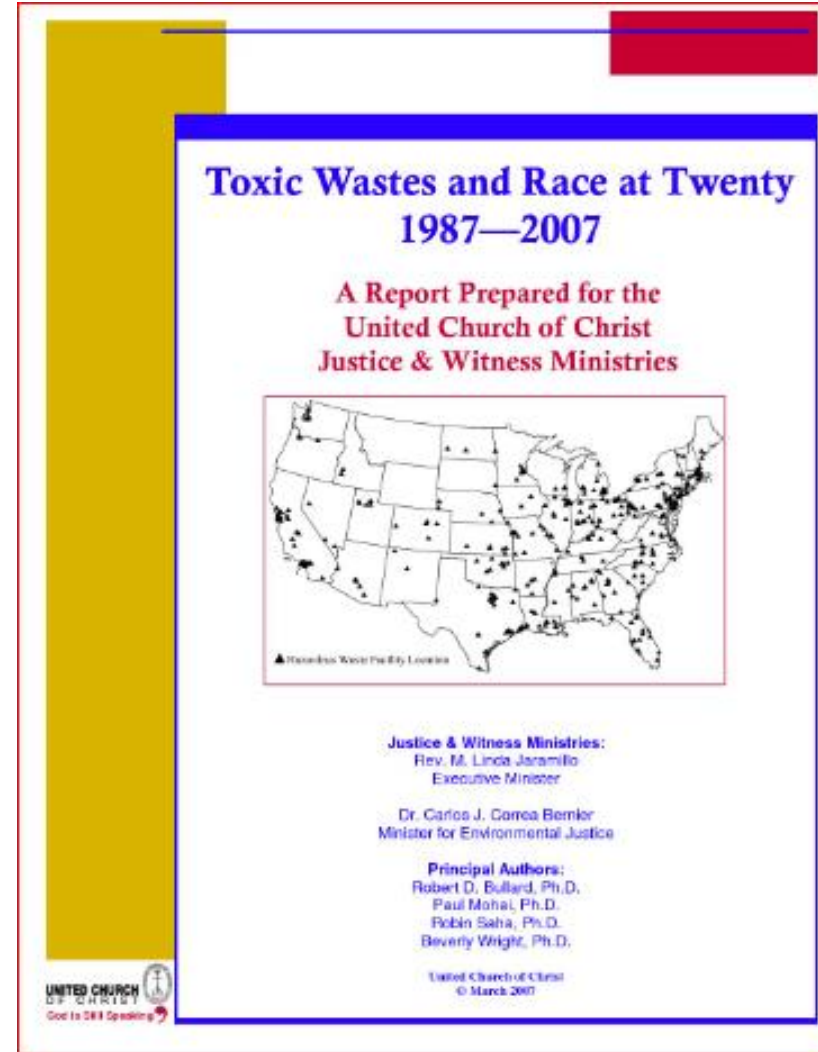
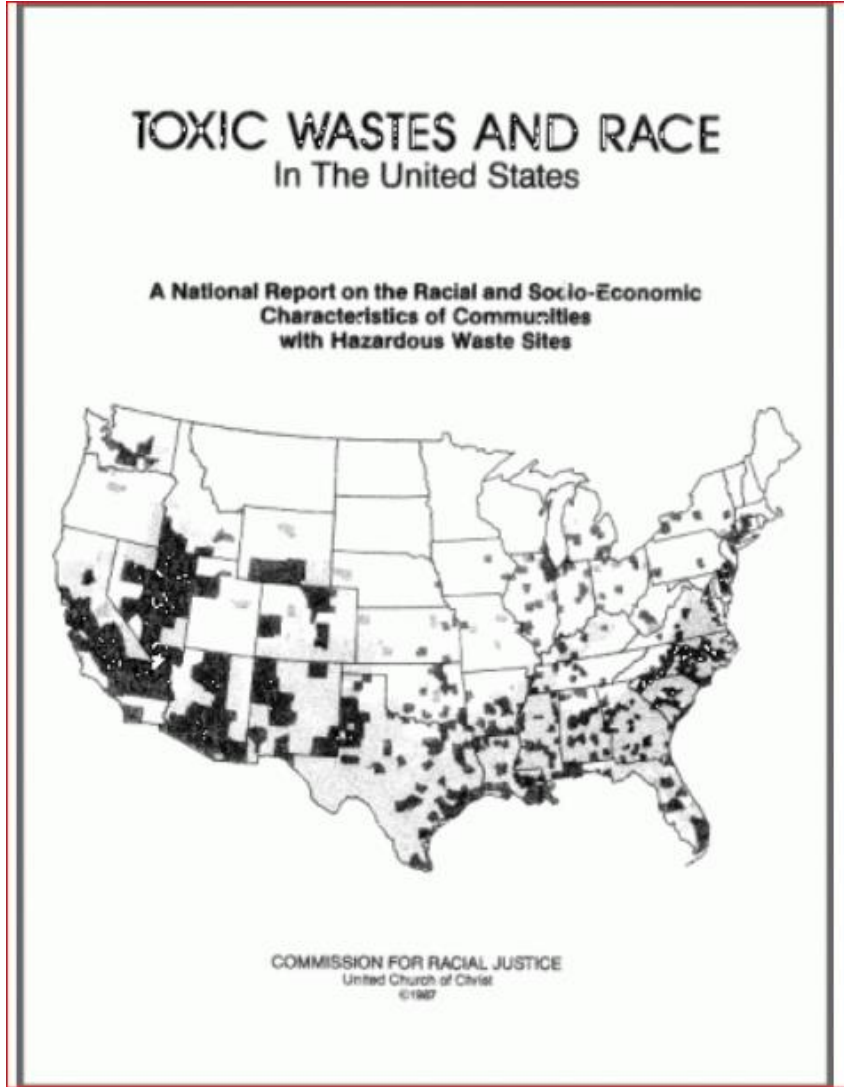
EPA definition

- 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.
- This goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys:
 - **The same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and**
 - **Equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.**

Justice40 commitment

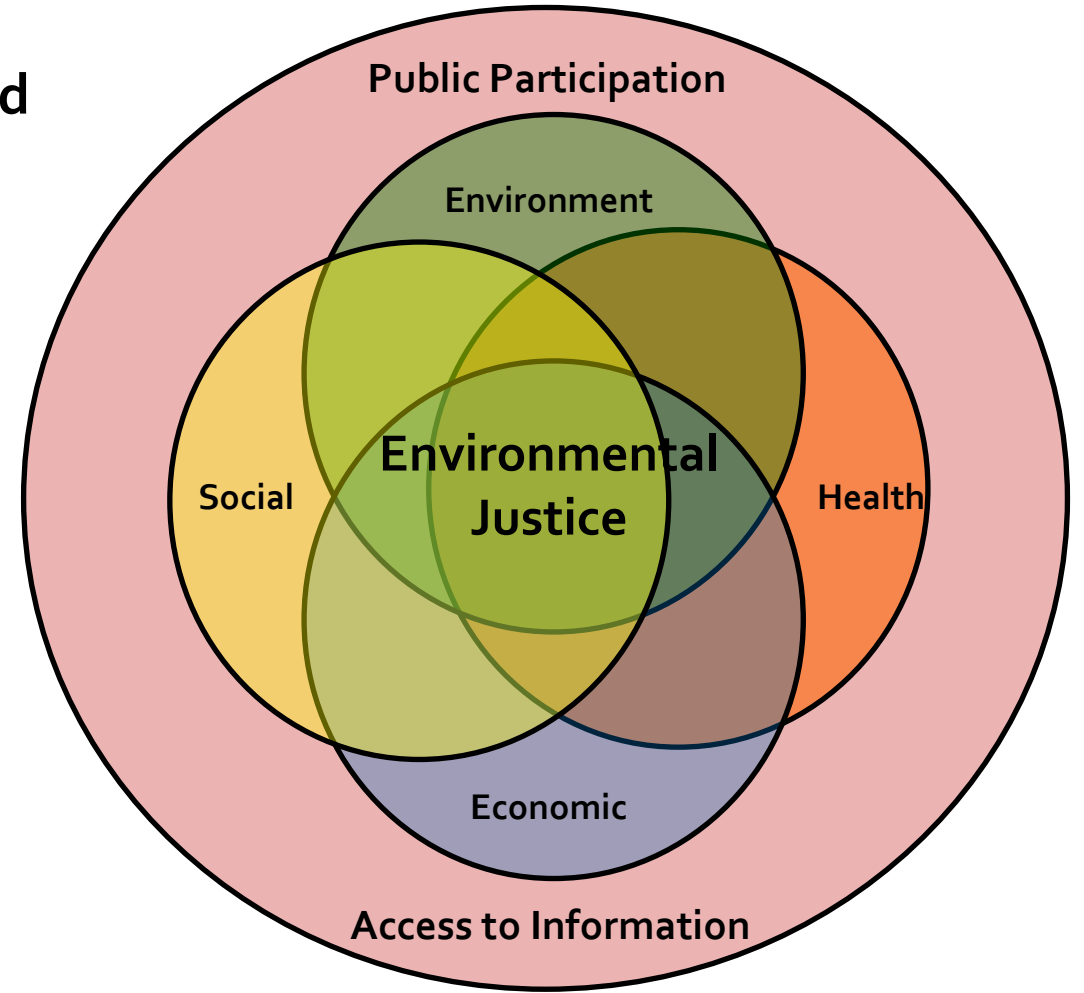
- The Federal Government has made it a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and **overburdened by pollution.**

Landmark “Toxic Wastes & Race” Reports



What is a Community with EJ Concerns?

- People who live, work, and play in the most polluted environments are commonly people of color, indigenous, and/or low-income.
- They suffer from disproportionate impacts from four stress categories: Environment, Health, Economic, Social.
- Impacts often from generations of systemic racism and disinvestment like lack of meaningful public participation and poor access to information.



Disproportionate Impacts

Proximity & Exposure to Environmental Hazards



Unique Exposure Pathways



Cumulative & Multiple Environmental Impacts



Lack of Voice & Public Participation



Vulnerable Infrastructure



Vulnerable Population





EJ & Equity Related Executive Orders:

- 1994 [E.O. 12898](#): Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations
- 2021 [E.O. 13985](#): Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government
- *2021 [E.O. 14008](#): Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad
- *2021 [E.O. 14958](#): Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis

FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan Framework

Mission: To Protect Human Health and the Environment

Principles: Follow the Science, Follow the Law, Be Transparent, **Advance Justice and Equity**



EPA Strategic Plan Goal Two:

Objective 2.1:

Promote Environmental Justice and Civil Rights at the Federal, Tribal, State, and Local Levels

Empower and build capacity of underserved and overburdened communities to protect human health and the environment.



2.1. Promote EJ & Civil Rights at Fed. State, Tribal & Local Levels.

2.2 Integrate EJ & Civil Rights within EPA Programs, Policies, & Activities.

2.3. Strengthen Civil Rights Enforcement in Communities with EJ Concerns.

*New Principle: **Advance Justice and Equity.**

Part of the Current EJ Landscape & Resources





Funding & Structure for New P2 Grants

- Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA), aka Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Signed in 11/2021
 - Includes \$20M/ year over (FY22-26) for EPA's P2 grant program (under section 6605 the PPA)
- EPA established **two new P2 grant opportunities** in FY23 & FY25 to provide P2 technical assistance to businesses to: 1) increase access to safer and sustainable products to support EJ, and 2) promote P2 among businesses that are impacting human health and the environment in disadvantaged communities.
- [Pollution Prevention Grant: Environmental Justice in Communities](#) – Closed on 6/1/23
- [Pollution Prevention Grant: Environmental Justice Through Safer and More Sustainable Products](#) – Closes on 6/20/23

Examples of Possible EJ Projects



- Use the P2 EJ Facility Mapping tool or other approaches to target P2 technical assistance to facilities located in or adjacent to disadvantaged communities.
- Convene meetings with businesses and members of the underserved communities to identify environmental and human health issues that could be addressed through the adoption of P2 practices.
- Develop and conduct training for businesses in disadvantaged communities on P2 practices.
- Work with industry associations to educate members on how to implement P2 practices to address human health or environmental impacts in disadvantaged communities.

Examples of Key Considerations for Communities with EJ Concerns

01

Learn about the history of the community.

02

Be visible to the community & find leaders.

03

Build trust and communicate early and often.

04

Ensure the community knows their rights.

05

Address any language considerations.

06

Understand their information dissemination needs.

07

Take family needs into consideration.

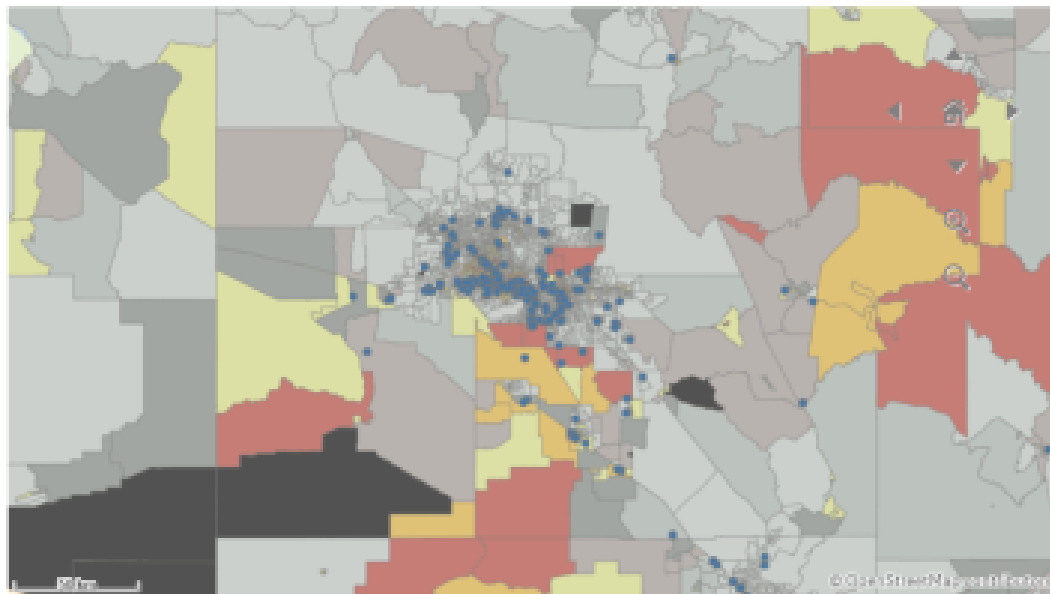
P2 EJ Facility Mapping Tool

Pollution Prevention (P2) Environmental Justice (EJ) Facility Mapping Tool

[Tour This Dashboard](#)[Information](#)

Census Block and Facility Map

To select an entire geographic area, click the map once to bring up the lasso and circle selection features.



Note: Depending on the number of census blocks and facilities in your selected state, there may be a significant delay in the refreshing of the map.

Filters:

[State](#)[NEA Sector](#)[NAICS Dr...](#)

Map Legend

Percentile Colors

US Percentile

85 - 100 percentile

80 - 85 percentile

65 - 80 percentile

70 - 80 percentile

55 - 70 percentile

50 - 60 percentile

Less than 50 percentile

Data Not Available

EJ Metric (Percentile):

[Demographic Index](#)[People of Color](#)[Low Income](#)[Less Than HS Education](#)[Linguistically Isolated](#)

Scope:

[US Percentile](#)[State Percentile](#)

Show + 80th Percentile?

 Yes

Census Blo...

4,178

Facilities

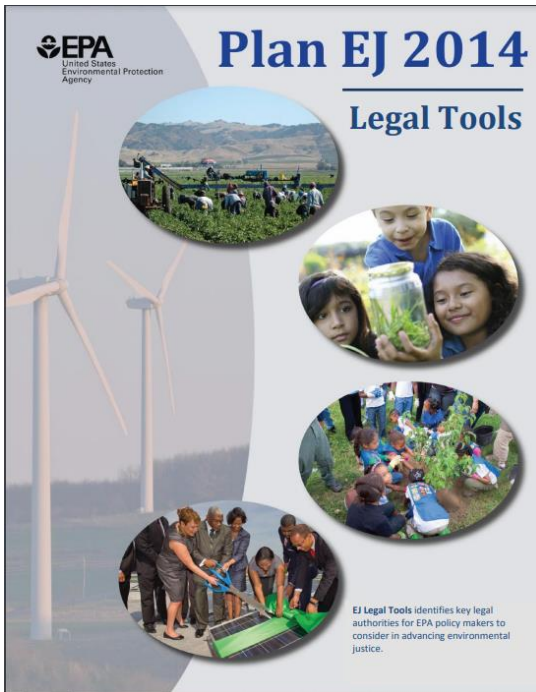
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System...

[TSS](#)[BCRA](#)[GHG](#)[MEI](#)[Water](#)[Download Details](#)

P2 EJ Facility Mapping Tool

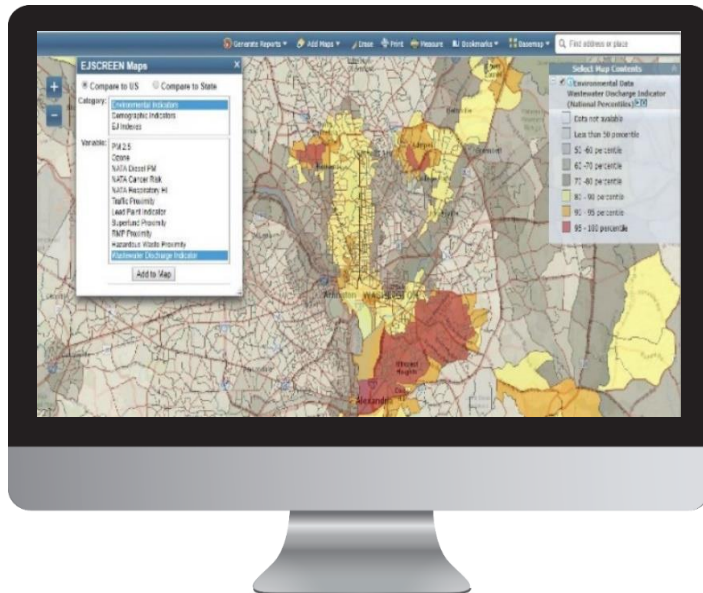
- Helps P2 grant applicants, grantees and interested stakeholders target facilities in or near underserved communities within P2 program's 5 industrial sector-based National Emphasis Areas (NEAs) framework
- Allows users to identify industrial facilities that may be contributing to pollution levels in certain areas, including communities with environmental justice (EJ) concerns.
- Grants awarded under FY 2022 & FY 2023 grant cycles will provide beneficial P2 practices to businesses receiving technical assistance (information, training and tools).
- Grants will help those businesses reduce pollution from air, water and land affecting all communities, & especially address pollution concerns disproportionately impacting overburdened and vulnerable communities.



Examples of Other EJ Resources

EPA Legal Tools to Advance EJ

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/plan-ej-2014-legal-tools>



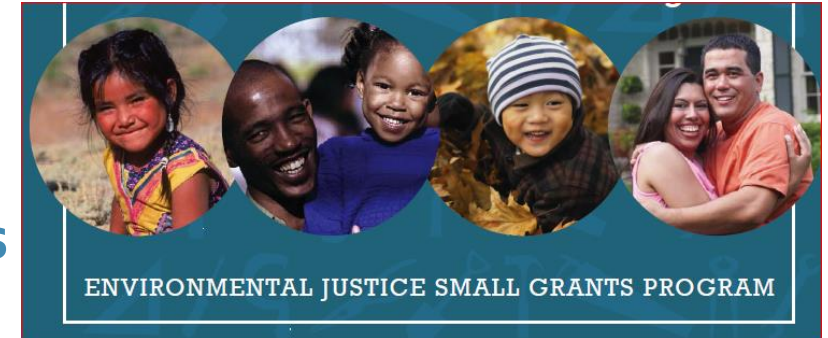
EJSCREEN

<https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>

EJ Resources continued

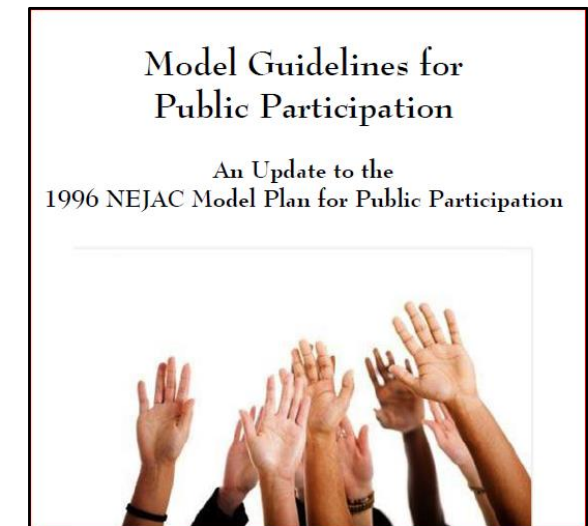
EJ Grant Programs:

- Thriving Communities Tech. Assistance Centers
- Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreements
- Government to Government (for Local, State & Tribal)
- Thriving Communities Grantmaking (EJ TCGM) Program
- closes 6/30/23



Model Guide for Public Participation

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-02/documents/recommendations-model-guide-pp-2013.pdf>



And many more ...

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/resources-creating-healthy-sustainable-and-equitable-communities>





Thank you. Keep in touch!

For up-to-date information on national Environmental Justice funding opportunities, events, and webinars, subscribe to EPA's Environmental Justice listserv by sending a blank email to: join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov. Follow us on Twitter: [@EPAEnvJustice](https://twitter.com/EPAEnvJustice).

Region 7's monthly Community Information Guide provides the latest news and information about funding and technical assistance opportunities, webinars, conferences, and other activities related to the protection of human health and the environment. To subscribe or to suggest content, email [R7 Communities Digest@epa.gov](mailto:R7_Communities_Digest@epa.gov).

EPA Region 7, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Communities Section

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