

EPA National EJ Community Engagement Call

May 19, 2021

Q&A COMMENTS

Question	Answer(s)
When will the most recent census data be added to EJSCREEN	We will try to answer this question live, if we cannot, please email our EJSCREEN lead Tai Lung at lung.tai@epa.gov. Thank you for your question!
Can we see the answer anyway - I missed it as he's covering a lot of info?	We will try to answer it live during our Q&A session. If we cannot, I will type a public answer for everyone to see. Thank you for your question!
Will this information be made available after this meeting?	Hi, thank you for your question. Yes, a recording of this call and all meeting materials will be available on our website a few weeks after the call here: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls
can EPA use the ARP funds for ethical buy outs?	Hi, thank you for your question. I do not believe ARP funds can be used for those purposes.
Please consider making the EJ money coming from the ARP available directly to non-profit partners without going through State agencies. Some States are setting up barriers for community groups that make it difficult to act timely.	Thank you for your comment. I will pass this along to our office and make sure your concerns are noted.
Has the FLIR program resumed operating?	Hi Anthony, thank you for your question. Are you referring to the Forward Looking Infrared Radiation program?
Thank you!	You are welcome!
Hi Matthew, In a video you recorded, you mentioned EPA will start drawing borders around certain communities and labeling them as disadvantage. What's the progress of this effort and when do you anticipate sharing it more broadly across the Agency? Thank you, David (EPA Region 10).	We will try to answer this question live. If we cannot, please email environmental-justice@epa.gov for a follow-up. Thank you!
Could Lilian pls talk briefly about prospects and plans for providing guidance to recipients addressing substantive as well as procedfural T6 requirements, i.e. what recipients should do in permitting, planning etc to ensure they do not result in disparate impacts ? Thank you.	Hi Richard, thank you for your comment. We will try to have Lillian touch on that but if she cannot during this call, please email her at Dorka.Lilian@epa.gov

EPA National EJ Community Engagement Call

May 19, 2021

Q&A COMMENTS

Question	Answer(s)
Will your work include safety for people in poor housing at risk before and during heatwave weather which will increase with climate change?	<p>Dionne - yes, we are acutely aware of the threat posed by exposure to heat and that more vulnerable populations have a greater risk of being impacted by increasing heat. That is part of the all of government approach and will take collaboration by EPA and our colleagues at HUD.</p> <p>Thanks for your question, Dionne. We are discussing issues regarding extreme heat implications on vulnerable communities. Please see our Climate and Safe Communities session on May 5th as part of our EJ and Systemic Racism Speaker Series. Recordings and transcripts of our series are available at https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-systemic-racism-speaker-series</p> <p>Also, you can follow-up with Charles Lee (lee.charles@epa.gov) or Sabrina Johnson (johnson.sabrina@epa.gov).</p>
Lilian - 1) does EPA address “overburdened” communities or must be both “overburdened” and “disadvantaged”? 2) does EPA include the aviation noise and health impacts in its “environmental” scope?	Hi Darlene, thank you for your comment. We will try to have Lillian answer this. If she cannot on this call, please email her at Dorka.Lilian@epa.gov .
Will COVID data be available in EJSCREEN at some point to make comparisons across areas with elevated PM2.5, NOx, and other health and demographics information?	<p>We are currently examining a number of different health indicators for their potential addition into EJSCREEN. We also want to remind everyone that EJSCREEN is completely transparent and open for public users to download and use/combine the data in the tool with other datasets such as those related to COVID for awareness, research, and policy purposes.</p> <p>Hi Emily, thank you for your question. EPA updates the data in EJSCREEN annually based on user feedback and the needs of the agency. We will be adding new data on climate change, pollutants, and other topics to upcoming updates. It is not certain at this time what types of health and environmental data will be included in the next update. However, for more information about EJScreen, please contact Tai Lung, EPA OEJ, Lung.Tai@epa.gov</p>
Thank you.	You are welcome!

EPA National EJ Community Engagement Call

May 19, 2021

Q&A COMMENTS

Question	Answer(s)
Good Afternoon, How is the Office of the Chief Financial Office, Office of Anaylsis, Accountability & Policy involved being this office emphasized importance of marginalized, oppressed, are protected under civil rights. point Office of CiviRiggts Office was actively engaged in this looking program funding reported to OMB	Hi, thank you for your comment. Administrator Regan has made EJ a top priority for every office at the EPA. I encourage you to reach out to The Office of Planning, Analysis and Accountability (OPAA) for more information on their EJ Work: obrien.kathy@epa.gov
Christina - Yes, the FLIR camera program for imaging polluters	Hi Anthony, I am not entirely sure but as it is an Office of Research and Development initiative, I encourage you to reach out to them: ord@epa.gov. Thank you for your question!
How is tribal governments included in this process to protect their human and environmental climate rights in that they were recognized underprivileged rights in 1974. which part of Reagan Federalism 2.0.	Thank you for your question. Please note our EPA Environmental Justice Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples. The purpose of the webinar series is to build the capacity of tribal governments, indigenous peoples and other environmental justice practitioners, and discuss priority EJ issues of interest to tribes and indigenous peoples. For more information about the Tribal and Indigenous Peoples webinar series, please contact Daniel Gogal, EPA OEJ (gogal.danny@epa.gov)
What is the link to the DOJ panel tomorrow?	live answered https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8781970210150880016
Will interagency collaboration extend to the OFCC, ie the disproportionate hiring and contracting in disadvantaged communities?	Hi John, thank you for your question. Are you referring to the US Department of Labor - Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs? If yes, it might be helpful to reach out to them directly about how they will be participating in the Justice40 initiative. Here is a link: https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ofccp/contact You may contact EPA with contracting questions at: https://www.epa.gov/contracts/forms/contact-us-about-contracting
We don't have the participants pod visible.	We are working on it, thank you Linda!
hand	
FYI. The raised hand feature is not turned on.	Sorry about that, we will try to get it fixed!

EPA National EJ Community Engagement Call

May 19, 2021

Q&A COMMENTS

Question	Answer(s)
Will EPA be offering training to States and local jurisdictions regarding the civil rights/Title VI enforcement obligations?	<p>Hi Vernice, I am sorry we did not get to answer your question live. I encourage you to reach out to Lilian and ask! Dorka.Lilian@epa.gov</p> <p>Hi Vernice, hope you are well! Yes, we have already begun to develop additional training for state and local agencies about civil rights obligations - including an on-line video that we hope to release this winter. We will also develop additional training to go along with the additional guidance we are working on with respect to more substantive civil rights standards and analyses such as disparate impact and cumulative impacts.</p>
their	
(there's no option to hand raise)How is the EPA planning to work with community/residents who are most impacted by EJ Issues to properly execute EJ evaluations and initiatives? Are there any direct plans to be inclusive of impacted communities	live answered
For Lilian, how do you plan to guard against the negative aspects of gentrification as Justice 40 moves forward?	live answered
Cant raise hand!	Please send in a question!
Thanks for your remarks. It's great to hear about making civil rights enforcement an EPA priority. In addition to the "whole of government" approach, can you talk about how civil rights enforcement will make its way into different programs like CERCLA Superfund program. How will this affect NGO and community engagement opportunities with EPA?	Hi Thomas, thank you for your question! I encourage you to reach out to Lilian to find out more: dorka.lilian@epa.gov
Will a recording of this webinar be available?	Yes, a recording and the meeting materials will be made available a few weeks after the call on our webpage here: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls
What EPA can do to intervene with state agencies that are doing little to prevent discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin? How EPA is going to collaborate with the state agencies?	live answered

EPA National EJ Community Engagement Call

May 19, 2021

Q&A COMMENTS

Question	Answer(s)
I did not hear "low income" as a potential basis for discrimination. Will that not be part of the assessment for disparate impacts?	<p>Hi Susan. EPA absolutely acknowledges and takes into account income status as a barrier to access and a factor that influences environmental justice. By our definition "Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income"</p> <p>From a civil rights perspective, our jurisdiction under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act addresses discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin but the federal civil rights laws we enforce do not address discrimination on the basis of "income."</p>
Thanks; please post the DoJ panel call link.	Register for the Federal Title VI Virtual Workshop at https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8781970210150880016
In regards to the compliance review and what is placed on the docket you stated that ECRCO is seeking input and suggestions from stakeholders, as well as receiving information, data and data analysis-what is the process that this type of information can provided to ECRCO?	Hi! I encourage you to reach out to Lilian Dorka to submit and discuss this information! dorka.lilian@epa.gov
health --> promote community gardens in food "deserts"?	<p>Hi Rose -- Thank you for your question. Community gardens are a great idea. EPA has supported gardening and agriculture in a variety of ways. For example, see this resource on brownfields and urban agriculture: https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/resources-about-brownfields-and-urban-agriculture</p> <p>To contact this program about urban and community garden, you can send an inquiry here: https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/forms/contact-us-about-brownfields</p>
Does EPA include protecting people from the harms from 5G and radioactivity of cell phones?	Hi Helen -- EPA provides information about this issue. Please see this webpage for resources and additional contact options for receiving additional information: https://www.epa.gov/radiation/where-can-i-find-information-about-cell-phone-safety-concerns
If a Title VI complaint is found valid, does EPA have the authority to rescind permits in a local area?	Hi, thank you for your question. I encourage you to follow up with Lilian and ask! Dorka.Lilian@epa.gov

EPA National EJ Community Engagement Call

May 19, 2021

Q&A COMMENTS

Question	Answer(s)
<p>Will the EPA be setting up a complaint submission form to monitor issues with facilities that may be permitted at a state level?</p> <p>For example, if a facility was inappropriately granted a FESOP permit and is receiving substantial numbers of local complaints, it may warrant closer federal scrutiny despite the state being the primary regulator</p>	live answered
How do you look for those resources? How can individuals/organizations share grassroots solutions with the EPA?	live answered
Will the scope of your work create mechanisms for local communities that refuse to comply with regulations, help their residents gain access to resources such as water & wastewater?	live answered
Thanks!	You are welcome!
Oops tribes recognized in 1984 not 1974	
Appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the Implementation Plan. How is EPA influencing the production of new plastic products and the proliferation of single use plastics?	live answered
Is EPA seeking CBO partners in this program	Hi John, was this a question for Nena?
Yes, on the National Recycling program.	Hi John, I encourage you to reach out to Nena and ask! Shaw.Nena@epa.gov
Great. should be regions in that they work within their communities. Headquarters is not boots on the ground. but more politand interagency	
Thank you both very much for this information. I will follow it all up	You are welcome!
Will the power points be available?	Hi there, yes the slides and recording will be made available a few weeks after the call here: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls
How do advocates find out what communities/pollution sources the EPA is currently looking at for EJ enforcement? How can they share sites in need of intervention?	live answered

EPA National EJ Community Engagement Call

May 19, 2021

Q&A COMMENTS

Question	Answer(s)
We lost audio for the last several minutes. We thought it would return but it has not.	I am sorry to hear that, we have not heard that from others. Perhaps try leaving and reentering. That often helps!
Explain explain general environmental justice questions via federal entities. so is this headquarters to headquarters vs regional to regional?	Can you please clarify a bit?
I hope that hybrid in-person & zoom meetings are considered post-COVID because that significantly increases the participation options for people in geographically, racially, and economically diverse areas. Is that a consideration in the decision?	Hi Velma, thank you for your comment. That is a great point. I will make sure we pass this forward to our team at EPA.
Where can I learn more about the upcoming Tribal and Indigenous Peoples webinar sereies?	Hi! You can learn about upcoming webinars as well as see past webinars on our webpage here: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-tribes-and-indigenous-peoples#webinars
What is NEJAC, what's the topic of its virtual workshop and when is the next public meeting?	Registration is now open for the NEJAC June 17, 2021 Public Meeting: https://usepa.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsf--rqzIsHzFtyWuLQ5BsIMA7c50Vi_g . Learn more about the NEJAC and the meetings here: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-advisory-council
Can you tell me more about the upcoming Oil and Natural Gas Methane Rule training webinars?	For information and to register to attend a training or listening session, visit https://www.epa.gov/controlling-air-pollution-oil-and-natural-gas-industry/epa-announces-public-listening-sessions .
Please list the grant funding programs!	EJ Small Grants: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-small-grants-program EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Awards: https://www.epa.gov/environmental-justice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-0
Thanks, Theresa! You guys rock!	You are welcome!

EPA National EJ Community Engagement Call

May 19, 2021

Q&A COMMENTS

Question	Answer(s)
What is the link for the EJ grants? Is having a SAM number sufficient?	<p>EJ Small Grants link: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-small-grants-program and EJCPs link: https://www.epa.gov/environmental-justice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-0</p> <p>You will need an active SAM registration AND a registration with the Grants.gov website. If you already have your SAM registration all set, then registering in Grants.gov will be fairly quick.</p>
How can we receive additional information about the EJ Consultations on Risk Management Rulemakings?	Hi! To learn more about the upcoming meetings and webinars on risk management, visit https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/risk-management-existing-chemicals-under-tsca
More information on EPA's EJ and Systemic Racism Speaker Series?	Hi! Learn more here: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-systemic-racism-speaker-series
When you are reviewing grant proposals how do you plan to prioritize proposals that seek to address racial disparities in environmental outcomes?	<p>The EJ Small Grants and EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving applications will be reviewed this summer. We are setting aside half the total funding for the EJ Small Grants for small non-profit organizations defined as having 10 or fewer full-time employees on staff.</p> <p>All the EJ grants are specifically designed to address the disparate environmental issues impacting low income communities and communities of color.</p>
When are grant applications due?	Hi, they are due June 1st. Learn more about EPA's EJ grants and resources: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-and-resources
Are there programs specific to Climate Change?	Hi! Thank you for your question! Yes, Climate Change is a top priority for the Biden-Harris Administration and for EPA Administrator Regan. Learn more here: https://www.epa.gov/climate-change
When will 2020 census data be added to EJSCREEN?	live answered
<p>are you thinking incentive for public to recycle discounted water and heating bills</p> <p>many don't recycle and it goes to the incinerators in Minnesota polluting our air</p> <p>who to contact in Minneapolis is the person</p>	

EPA National EJ Community Engagement Call

May 19, 2021

Q&A COMMENTS

Question	Answer(s)
EPA Region 4's Community Webinar series: https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_GwFPNz5ITfKB0RV4FpNUJg	Thank you Tami!
Thanks again, Christina!	You're very welcome!
It seems like 1 staff person is not sufficient for the hot line or is she handing off the work quickly?	live answered
EPA's enforcement and compliance database (ECHO) is available on the Agency's website at https://echo.epa.gov/ .	Thank you!
What is the State EJ rollout via regional grant funding. such as continuation of recycling programs to municipal county, DOE funding/grants via Chesapeake Bay procedures to become truly diverse and inclusion and equity for grassroots without interference from outsiders. get grants and leave communities worse off?	
What is the link to EJSscreen?	Learn more about using EJ Screen: https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen Hi Zina -- Thanks for the question. Here is the link to the EJSscreen homepage: https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen . You can launch the tool at the link about midway down the page.
Thank You	You are welcome!
Is it factual federal government doesn't have oversight of States, via Governors who were elected by residents and outside federal compliance.....????	
https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen	Thank you Tami!
Can you briefly share any EPA EJ coordination activities occurring with CEQ, USDOT and HUD.	live answered

EPA National EJ Community Engagement Call

May 19, 2021

Q&A COMMENTS

Question	Answer(s)
Jacob Burney, Is there a link to the application for EJ Small and Collab Grants problem solving ?	EJ Small Grants: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-small-grants-program EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving: https://www.epa.gov/environmental-justice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-0
Until 2013 (I think) EPA maintained “watch lists” for the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and RCRA. The lists tracked the enforcement process for high priority violations that hadn’t been addressed by the state regulator for a lengthy period of time. Many of the facilities that showed up on these lists are located in low income communities and communities of color. Are there plans at EPA to begin using this tool again and if so, would the lists be made public?	live answered Hi Mary! Feel free to email Matt (Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov) or I on this (Motilall.Christina@epa.gov). Thanks!
CLARIFICATION: I was actually concerned not only about the staff person but also about the funding and staffing of a promoted HotLine reflecting EPA's stated commitment and outreach to EJ impacted communities & individuals.	Thank you for your comment!
Veda, Senior Environmental Employee, which shows the work of seniors at EPA. If this the same lady who has worked in EJ Office for years as an administrative staff member.	Thank you!
What sort of guidance or requirements can state agencies expect for how to better integrate EJ into state agency programs, policies, and design of funding opportunities?	live answered
While working with communités and organizations, what key EPA resources can I point to for a basic understanding of EJ and how they can engage with EJ principles?	Thank you for your question! I encourage you to explore all of our resources on our website: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice . You can also sign up for our EJ listserv by by sending a BLANK email to: join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov .
We talked that meaningful community engagement is a priority at EPA now, and that you are taking efforts to strengthen this...what strategies are in place to evalaute the effectiveness of these efforts?	live answered
Got it, Thanks!	You are welcome!
Will EPA be adapting how the pubic is able to access RMP information online?	

EPA National EJ Community Engagement Call

May 19, 2021

Q&A COMMENTS

Question	Answer(s)
Matthew...can you give more detail on the Director plant shut down? What plant, and why was it shutdown?	Hi there, please feel free to email me at motilall.christina@epa.gov
Please don't confuse input on the color of the brick with meaningful input on fundamental decisions on mode, alignment, etc.	Thank you for your comment
Thank you for this session and asnwering the questions!	You are very welcome!
Thank you, Christina - didn't mean to be the only one with their name out there it just showed up that way.	Haha not at all! Appreciate you engaging with us!
are there plans to lower the air quality since there is an increase in population across the United States	
Thank you Matt and EPA for this great community engagement call!	
<p>Lilian,</p> <p>Thank you for your comments on the call today. You had answered by submitted questions and I wanted to follow up:</p> <p>1) Pls confirm - The scope of the EPA and civil rights defined by Title 6 (on the ground of race, color, or national origin). If a community is environmentally overburdened and is not covered in Title 6, then it is not covered in the EPA and Civil Rights</p> <p>2) You mentioned that aviation impacts such as quality of life was included if covered in Title 6. Can you let me know how a community begins the process with the EPA to have the situation reviewed/investigated?</p>	
<p>THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND THIS WEB VERY INFORMATIONAL. I HOPE THIS CAN CONTINUE FOR ALL TO STAY IN THE KNOW</p> <p>STAY SAFE EVERYONE</p>	Thank you Leslee!