





EPA National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call

February 22, 2022

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Housekeeping

-  Please join by phone or computer, not both
-  You are on mute, please enter questions and comments into the Q&A pod
-  If selected to speak during dialogue, please limit comment to 1 minute
-  Recording and transcript will be available online in the near future

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En Español

Tenemos interpretación en español disponible para aquellos que prefieren escuchar en español.

- Cómo cambiar el canal de audio en español
- Las personas pueden agregar preguntas en español al módulo de preguntas y respuestas
- Los materiales de la reunión estarán disponibles en español.



Spanish-language interpretation is available for those who prefer to listen in Spanish.

- How to switch to Spanish language audio channel*
- Individuals can add questions in Spanish to the Q&A Pod*
- Meeting materials will be made available in Spanish.*

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Agenda

Welcome
Mindfulness Moment

EPA Leadership Updates

EJScreen 2.0: What's New in EPA's Environmental Justice Screening

Update on EPA's Strategies to Incorporate Environmental Justice into Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Work

Listening Session and Dialogue

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

Closing Remarks

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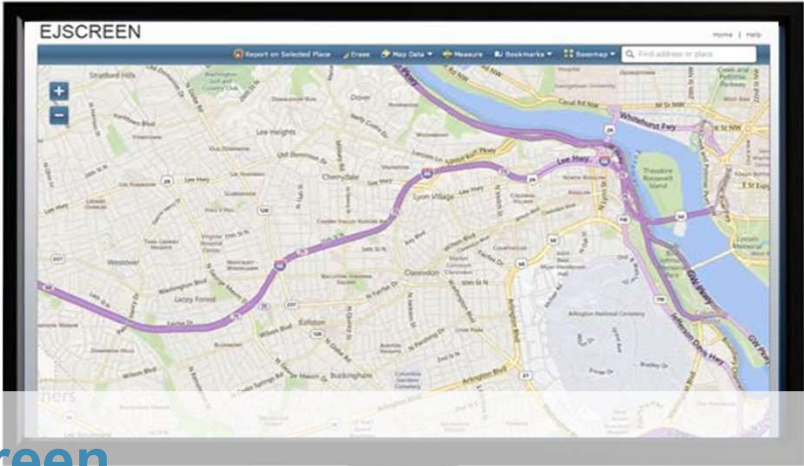


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A slide with a dark teal background featuring a large, light teal circular graphic on the right side. The text "Leadership Updates" is centered in a light green font.

Matthew Tejada
DIRECTOR, EPA OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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EJScreen
EPA's Environmental
Justice Screening Tool



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Overview

EJScreen Overview

What's New in EJScreen

EJScreen Data

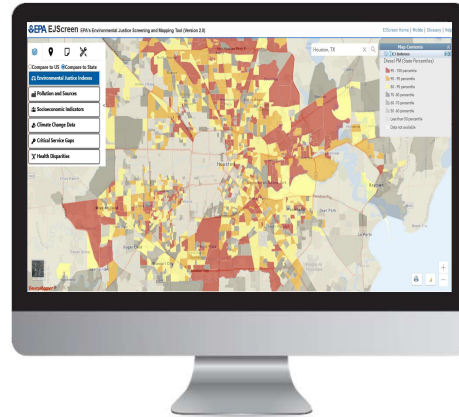
EJScreen Resources & Events

Demonstration

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What is EJScreen?

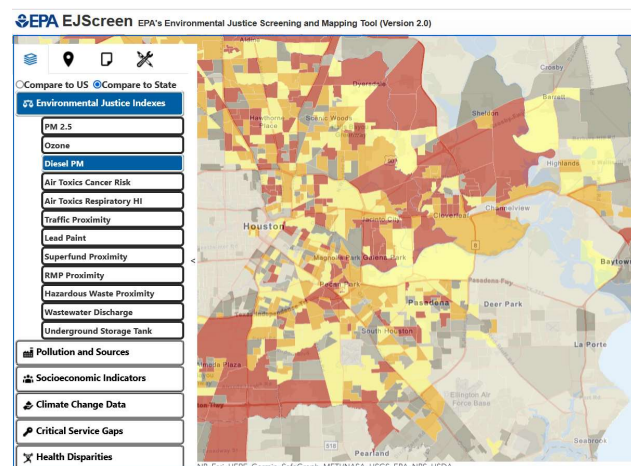
- EPA's web-based GIS tool for nationally consistent EJ screening and mapping
- Combines environmental and demographic data to highlight areas where vulnerable populations may be disproportionately impacted by pollution
- Starting point for agency considerations of environmental justice



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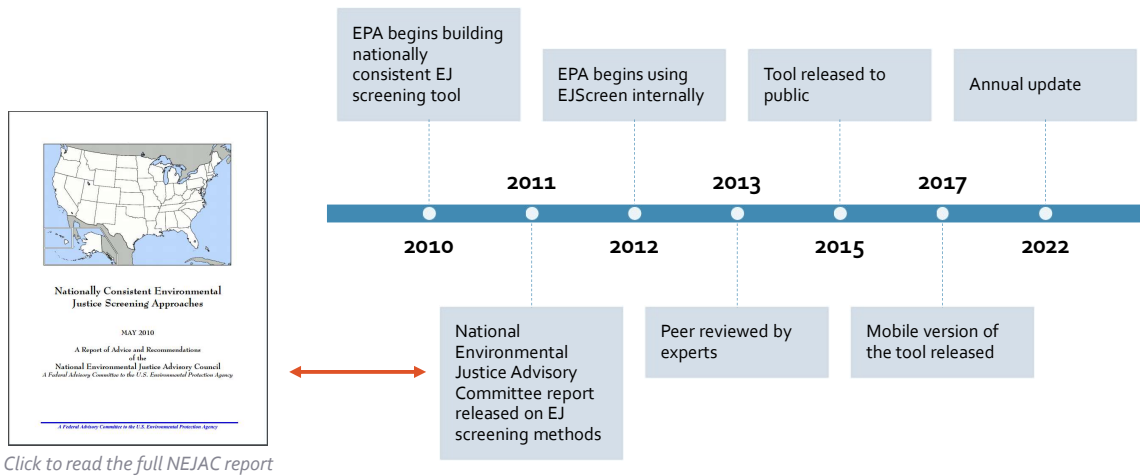
EJScreen Key Features

- 12 EJ Indexes – one for each environmental indicator
- Annually updated environmental data
- Annually updated demographics – from most recent U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS)
- Highest resolution data available
- Ability to download data
- Accessibility / ease of use



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EJScreen Background



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Caveats & Limitations

EJScreen does not cover all environmental or EJ issues

Environmental indicators are mostly screening-level proxies for actual exposure or risk

Indicators vary in vintage

Census data has limitations and can obscure small communities

Results should be verified on the ground when possible

EJScreen does not label EJ communities

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What's New in EJScreen

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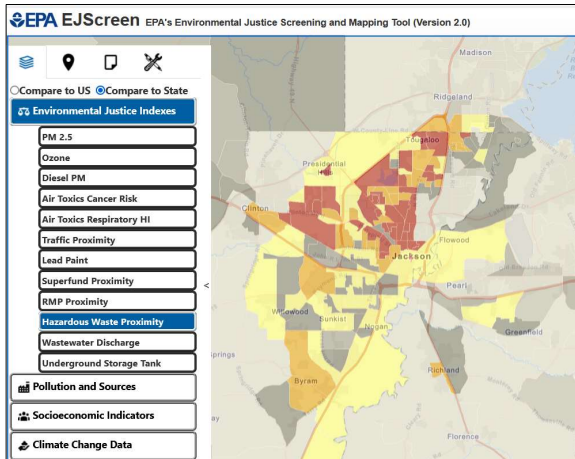
New EJSCREEN 2.0 Features

- Updated **user-interface**
- Updated ACS data & Environmental Indicators
 - New Air Tox Screen datasets
- Added **12th EJ Index**/Environmental indicator:
 - Underground storage tanks
- New Socioeconomic Indicator
 - Unemployment
- **Health** data
 - Low-life Expectancy, Heart Disease & Asthma
- Additional **climate change** indicators:
 - Wildfire Hazard Potential & Drought
- **Critical Service** Gaps
 - Food Deserts, Medically Underserved & Broadband Service
- Publicly available **census tract data** for download

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EJScreen 2.0 Interface

New maps, places, reports, and tools widget



- **Maps Tab** – EJ indexes, environmental and socioeconomic indicators, maps of health/climate/critical services
- **Places Tab** – Ability to overlay important community locations and EPA regulated facilities
- **Reports Tab** – Select user defined areas and access various reports
- **Tools Tab** – Access to more of the advance features and specialized tools

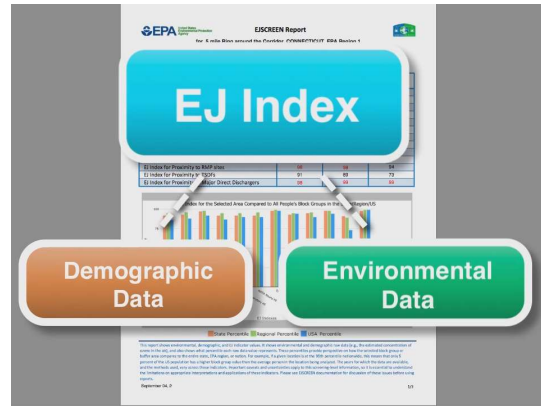
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EJScreen Data

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Primary EJScreen Datasets

- **EJ Indexes** (12 indexes)
- **Environmental** (12 indicators)
- **Socioeconomic** (7 indicators)
- **Health** (3 indicators)
- **Climate** (5 indicators)
- **Critical Service Gaps** (3 indicators)



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Socioeconomic Indicators

Indicator	Definition
People of color	Individuals who list their racial status as a race other than white alone and/or list their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino
Low-Income	Households income is less than or equal to twice the federal "poverty level"
Unemployment	All those who did not have a job at all during the reporting period, made at least one specific active effort to find a job during the prior 4 weeks, and were available for work (unless temporarily ill).
Linguistic isolated	Households in which all members age 14 years speak English less than "very well" (have difficulty with English)
Less than high school education	People age 25 or older whose education is short of a high school diploma
Under age 5	People in a block group under the age of 5
Over age 64	People in a block group over the age of 64
Demographic index	$(\text{Low income} + \text{People of Color}) / 2$

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Environmental Indicators

Indicator	Description	Year
Particulate matter 2.5	Annual average of PM 2.5 levels in the air	2018
Ozone	Ozone summer seasonal avg. of daily maximum	2018
Diesel particulate matter	Diesel particulate matter level in air	2017
Air toxics cancer risk	Lifetime cancer risk from inhalation of air toxics	2017
Air toxics respiratory hazard index	Air toxics respiratory hazard index (ratio of exposure concentration to health-based reference concentration)	2017
Traffic proximity and volume	Count of vehicles on major roads, divided by distance in meters	2019

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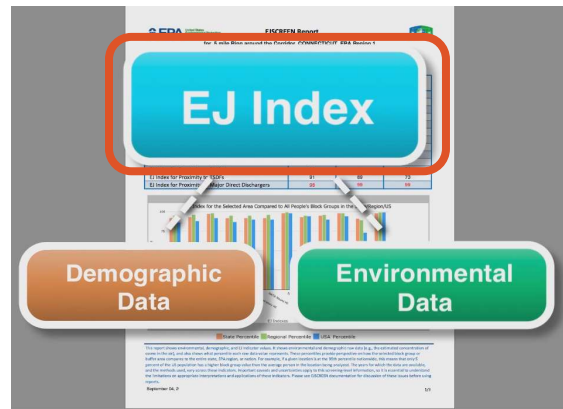
Environmental Indicators (cont'd)

Indicator	Description	Year
Lead paint	Percent of housing units built pre-1960, as indicator of potential lead paint exposure	2015 - 2019
Superfund proximity	Count of proposed or listed NPL - also known as Superfund - sites within 5 km, each divided by distance in kilometers	2021
Risk management plan facility proximity	Count of RMP (potential chemical accident management plan) facilities within 5 km, each divided by distance in kilometers	2021
Hazardous waste proximity	Count of hazardous waste facilities (TSDFs and LQGs) within 5 km, each divided by distance in kilometers	2021
Underground storage tanks (UST) and leaking UST (LUST)	Count of LUSTs (multiplied by a factor of 7.7) and the number of USTs within a 1,500-foot buffered block group	2021
Wastewater Discharge Indicator	RSEI modeled Toxic Concentrations at stream segments within 500 meters, divided by distance in kilometers	2021

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What does the EJ Index mean?

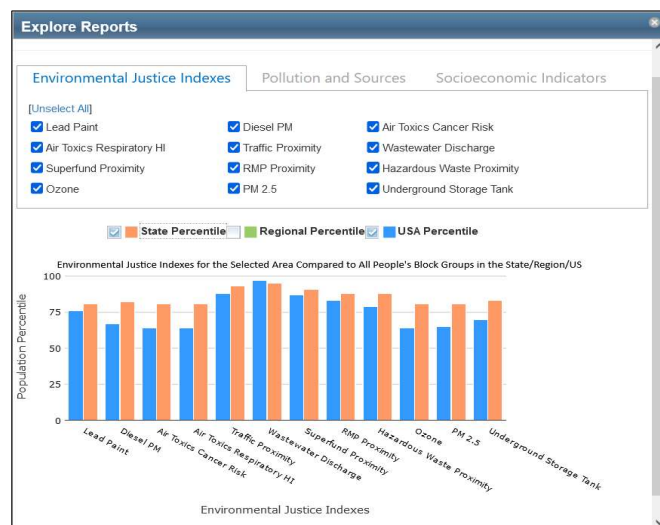
- It helps identify areas that may have higher pollution burdens and vulnerable populations present
- The demographic index is an average of people of color and low income
- The EJ index shows areas with the highest intersection of high pollution burden, low-income populations, and communities of color



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Results are Ranked as Percentiles

- Percentiles put indicators into common units of 0 – 100.
- A place at the 80th percentile nationwide means 20% of the US population has a higher value.
- Ranking values as percentiles allows comparison of indicators measured with different units. It does not mean the risks are equal or comparable.



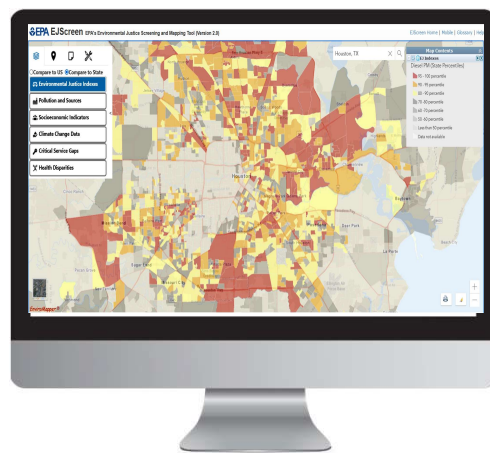
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EJScreen Resources & Events

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EJScreen Tool Learning Resources

- EJScreen website
- Guidance documents
- Video tutorials
- Technical information
- Understanding results
- Other tools and resources



[Click to access EJScreen Tool](#)

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Upcoming Events:

- Release of EJSCREEN2.0 on **Feb. 18th**
- EPA will be hosting a few different opportunities to engage with EPA staff on the changes to the EJScreen tool:
 - **February 23rd**, Bimonthly EJScreen "Office Hours" (open forum to ask questions about the tool or talk through issues)
 - **March 9th**, External Training on EJScreen 2.0 (overview and training on how to use the tool)
 - <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen/ejscreen-office-hours>

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Questions?

Contact Information

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Implementing Strategies to Incorporate Environmental Justice into Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Work

Thanne Berg, OECA
Amy Miller, Region 9
February 22, 2022

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Overview

- About Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA)
- OECA's EJ Priorities
- Actions and Strategies
- Additional Information

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EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

- Enforce the nation's environmental laws through civil and criminal enforcement.
- Compliance assistance to help regulated entities comply with environmental laws and regulations.
- Enforcement and compliance data to provide public transparency (ex. Enforcement and Compliance History Online - ECHO)

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EJ is our Priority

- President Biden has called upon EPA to strengthen enforcement of environmental violations with disproportionate impacts on overburdened communities. (EO 14008)
- With respect to enforcement, Administrator Regan directed EPA to "strengthen enforcement of violations of cornerstone environmental statutes and civil rights laws in communities overburdened by pollution." (April 7, 2021)
- OECA issued four directives:

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Using All Appropriate Injunctive Relief Tools in Civil Enforcement Settlements

April 26, 2021

Directs staff to use the full array of policy and legal tools available to deliver benefits to all individuals and communities, including:

- Advanced monitoring
- Audits and independent third-party verification
- Electronic reporting
- Increased transparency of compliance data
- Settlement provisions that address past harm to communities caused by violations, including mitigation and, when available, Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs)

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Strengthening Enforcement in Communities with Environmental Justice Concerns

April 30, 2021

- Increase the number of facility inspections in overburdened communities
 - By 2026, 55% of inspections in overburdened communities
 - Incorporating EJ considerations into National Compliance Initiatives
- Resolve noncompliance through remedies in civil enforcement cases that ensure tangible benefits for communities
- Increase community engagement



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Strengthening Environmental Justice Through Criminal Enforcement

June 21, 2021

- Strengthen detection of environmental crimes in overburdened communities
- Improve outreach to crime victims
 - Environmental Crimes Assistance Program
 - Using Nextdoor to conduct outreach in vulnerable communities
- Enhance remedies sought in criminal cases
- Nearly 30% of the defendants charged in 2021 committed crimes that impacted communities with EJ concerns



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Strengthening Environmental Justice Through Cleanup Enforcement Actions

July 1, 2021

- Early cleanup actions to address the most urgent risks to human health
- Expedite cleanups and develop enforcement instruments targeted to mitigate impacts to communities
- Increase community engagement
- Enhance oversight of cleanup agreements



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Early action to protect communities.

In 2021, EPA issued:

- Two Clean Air Act emergency orders in the U.S. Virgin Islands (Limetree) and South Carolina (New Indy), respectively
- 47 Safe Drinking Water Act orders to public water systems in overburdened communities, including Cahokia Heights IL, Clarksburg WV, Jackson MS, and systems in Indian Country, such as at the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Reservation
- Two Resource Conservation and Recovery Act emergency orders to facilities handling and storing hazardous waste



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EPA Journey to Justice

In November 2021, EPA Administrator Regan embarked on a “Journey to Justice” tour, through Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas to spotlight longstanding environmental justice concerns in overburdened communities and hear directly from residents impacted by pollution.

Pollution Accountability Team

- Deploy air pollution monitoring equipment in the sky and on the ground
- Boots-on-the-ground inspectors conducting unannounced inspections
- Share findings with communities
- Hold facilities accountable for violations

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Early and more frequent community engagement

- Pursuing opportunities to increase community engagement
- Providing information to communities about facilities, pollution, and enforcement activities
 - ECHO
 - ECHO Notify
- Seeking input from communities
 - Report a Violation
 - Nextdoor application



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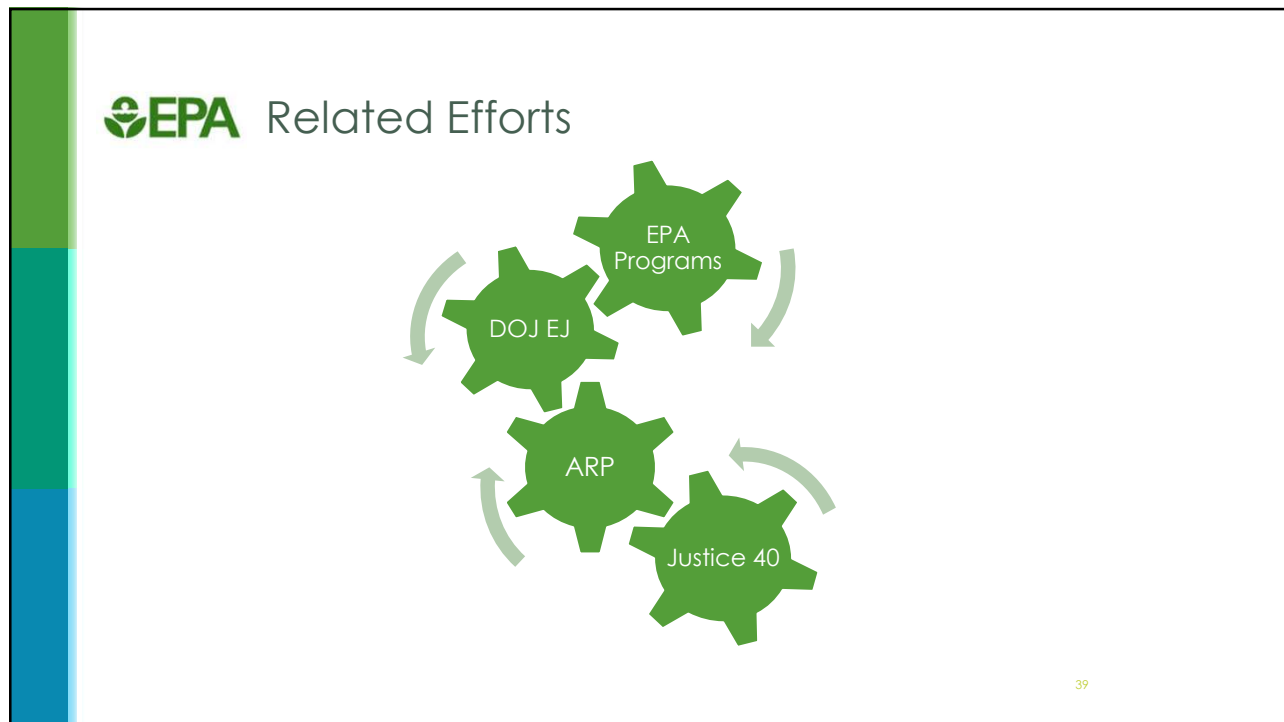
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Compliance Advisor Program


- Created to help small or rural towns, or Tribes that own or operate drinking water and wastewater systems to meet drinking water or wastewater protection requirements
- Provides hands-on technical assistance
- In 2021, OECA provided technical assistance to over 100 small drinking systems and 50 wastewater systems that were in noncompliance
- Over 90% of the communities supported by Compliance Advisors are in communities with EJ concerns

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 Additional Information

- Environmental Justice Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Initiative website: <https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/environmental-justice-enforcement-and-compliance-assurance-initiative>
- EPA's EJScreen website: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>
- Enforcement and Compliance History Online – ECHO: <https://echo.epa.gov/>

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Questions?



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Listening Session & Dialogue

WRITE	RAISE	LIMIT
WRITE ANY COMMENTS/QUESTIONS IN THE Q&A POD	WHEN PROMPTED, RAISE YOUR HAND TO ASK A QUESTION OR PROVIDE INPUT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• USING A PHONE? PRESS *9 TO RAISE YOUR HAND	PLEASE LIMIT QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS TO 1 MINUTE

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Upcoming Engagement and Training Opportunities

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Public Meetings on Environmental Justice Considerations Related to Drinking Water Regulation for PFAS

- **March 2, 2022** (1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Eastern) AND **April 5, 2022** (5:00 pm to 8:00 pm Eastern): EPA invites the public to participate in two identical virtual public meetings related to environmental justice and the development of the proposed Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). The sessions will be an opportunity for EPA to share information and for communities to offer input on environmental justice considerations related to the development of the proposed PFAS NPDWR. We encourage the public to share thoughts on addressing PFAS drinking water contamination issues in their communities.
- **Registration is required:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/environmental-justice-considerations-for-development-of-proposed-pfas-ncpdwr-tickets-250307174497>. When registering, you will also have an opportunity to sign up to provide brief verbal comments during a meeting. Translations and disability access support can be requested during meeting registration as well.
- EPA also is accepting **written public comments** submitted to the public docket. You can submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No, EPA-HQ-OW-2022-0114 at <https://www.regulations.gov>
- **More information is available** at: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

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EPA's Brownfields Program invites you to join a virtual listening session to discuss the Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup (MAC) and Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grant funding.

We look forward to hearing from participants about the best ways to implement the BIL funding into EPA's Brownfield Grants and how to maximize the benefits of this historic investment in our underserved communities. EPA is committed to awarding funding in line with the Biden Administration's Justice40 Initiative by advancing environmental justice and incorporating equity considerations into all aspects of our work.

MAC GRANT LISTENING SESSION

March 10, 2022
12:00-2:00 PM Eastern Time

To join, go to:
<https://usepa.zoomgov.com/j/1610792570>

RLF GRANT LISTENING SESSION

March 11, 2022
12:00-2:00 PM Eastern Time

To join, go to:
<https://usepa.zoomgov.com/j/1604426220>

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**White House Council on
Environmental Quality (CEQ)
EJ Survey**

The White House CEQ EJ Team is building an email listserv to share news alerts, funding notices, engagement opportunities, webinars, and other informative announcements from the White House and across the Federal government.

If you are interested in being a part of its EJ listserv, please complete this short online survey form by Friday, April 1.

Access the survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/whceqej>

**EPA Environmental Justice
Webinar Series for Tribes and
Indigenous Peoples**

March 23, 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern: Advancing Considerations of Traditional Knowledge into Federal Decision Making will include information plans to [develop guidance](#) for federal agencies

Register here:
https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_Pr8NnTJ0QhSwWHAf74glmA

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Closing

❑ Next National EJ Community Engagement call:

- March 15, 2022, at 2 p.m. Eastern
 - <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls>

❑ Subscribe to EPA's Environmental Justice listserv:

- For up-to-date information about EJ funding opportunities, events, and webinars:
- Send a blank email to: join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov

❑ Follow us on Twitter:

- @EPAEnvJustice

❑ Send follow-up questions or comments to:

- Environmental-Justice@epa.gov

