

Georgia Brownfields Association 2018 Seminar: Environmental Justice

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What is Environmental Justice about?



- The Environment
- Jobs
- Health
- Transportation
- Education
- Quality of Life
- Engagement



Potential Disproportionate Exposures in EJ Areas

- High percentages of low income/minority populations
- Locations of municipal landfills or industries/facilities
- Contaminated of drinking water sources
- Health Impacts and Disparities
- Contaminated Sites & Air Toxics
- Probably Various Brownfield sites



Historical View of Environmental Justice

- Many point to 1982, when North Carolina revealed a plan to move PCB-contaminated soil to a landfill in Warren County, one of the few NC counties with a majority Black population.
- Unfortunately, the landfill was permitted, but was placed within 7 feet of groundwater, and capped incorrectly, was predicted to fail from 1979 and eventually leaked!
- Communities kept holding the state accountable and in 2002, NC paid \$17.1 to clean up the landfill. (much of this spending went to admin & studies)



What is Environmental Justice?

(EPA)

Executive Order 12898: signed Feb. 11, 1994

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 and policies.





Approach to addressing Environmental and Public Health Disparities

The EPA's Goal to Address Environmental Justice:

- Aim to provide the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards
- Equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work

Through the implementation of existing environmental and public health laws, policies, programs and procedures.

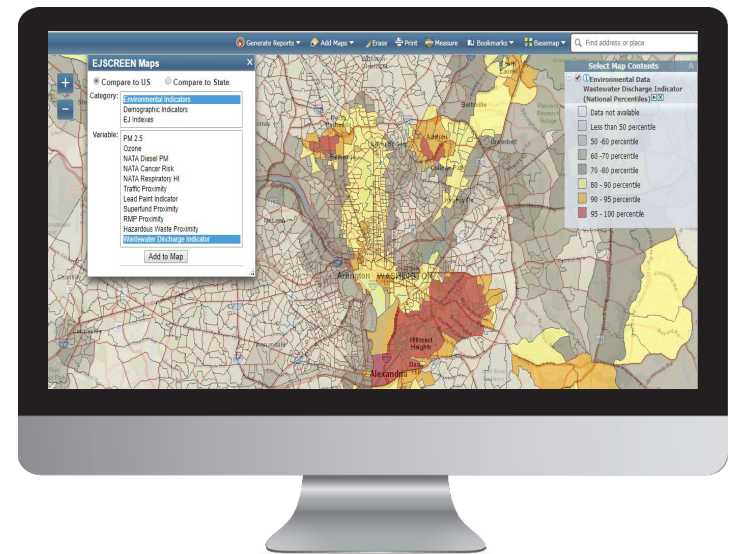
EPA's EJ Mapping/Screening Tool - EJ Screen

Pros:

- Metadata used for data layers
- Updated Annually with new EJ index datasets
- 2017 EJSCREEN Technical Documentation on website
- 2010 Census & 2015 American Community Survey data
- EPA application; not accessing it via third party
- Has a “Contact Us” button on website for further info

Cons:

- National-level screening tool; limited data types
- Datasets are infrequently updated; may depict an outdated representation of a community



Wastewater discharge indicator

Funding for EJ Communities (Non Profits)

Environmental
Justice Small
Grants

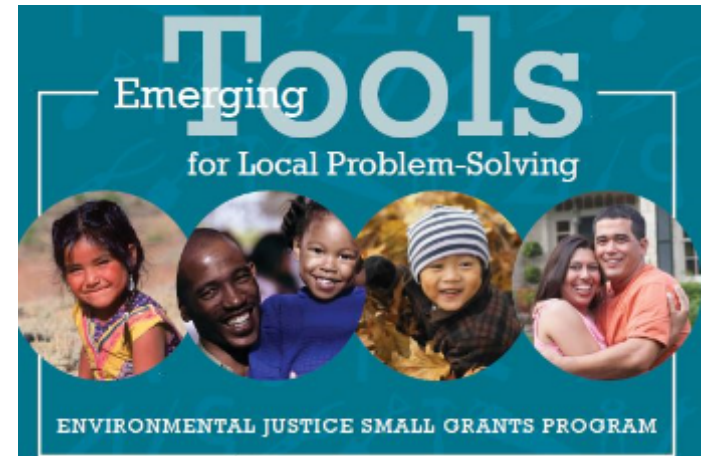
~ \$30 K

RFP Open Q1
of Odd Years

Environmental Justice
Collaborative
Problem Solving
Agreements

~\$120 K

RFP Open Q1
of Even Years



Technical Support for Local Government

Technical
Assistance

Local Foods
Local Places

Greening
America's
Communities

Healthy
People
Healthy Places

Cool &
Connected



Questions and Comments?

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