

# **Environmental Justice at EPA Today**

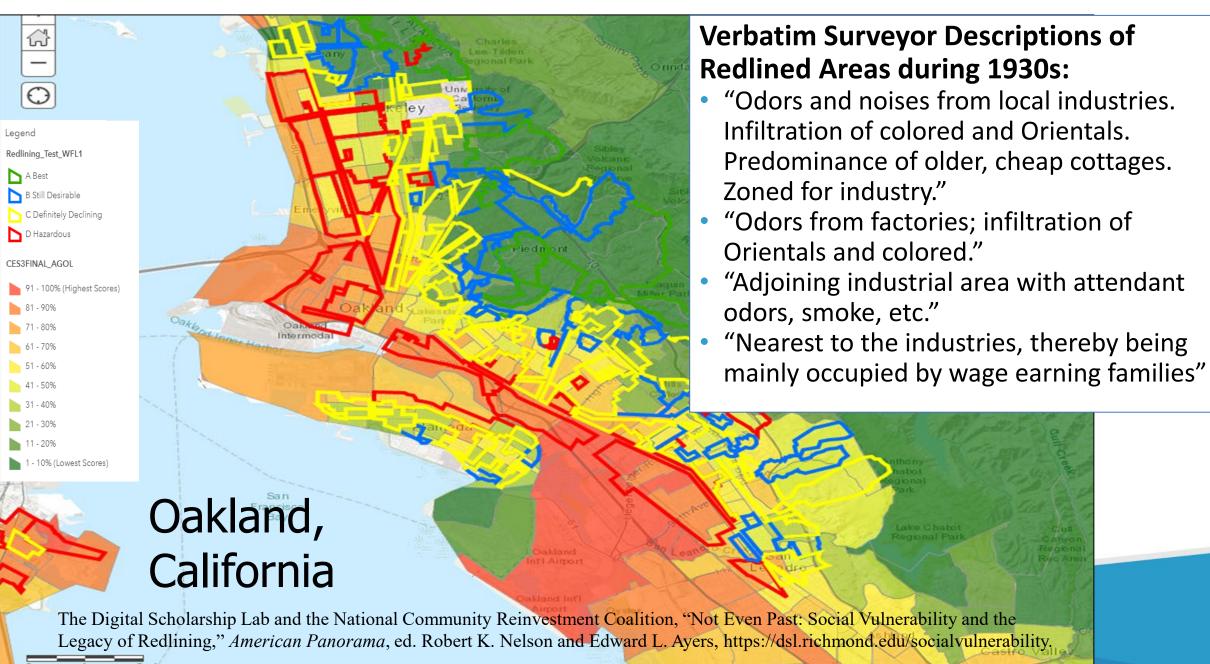
An overview of key EJ concepts and examples of EJ-related activity at U.S. EPA

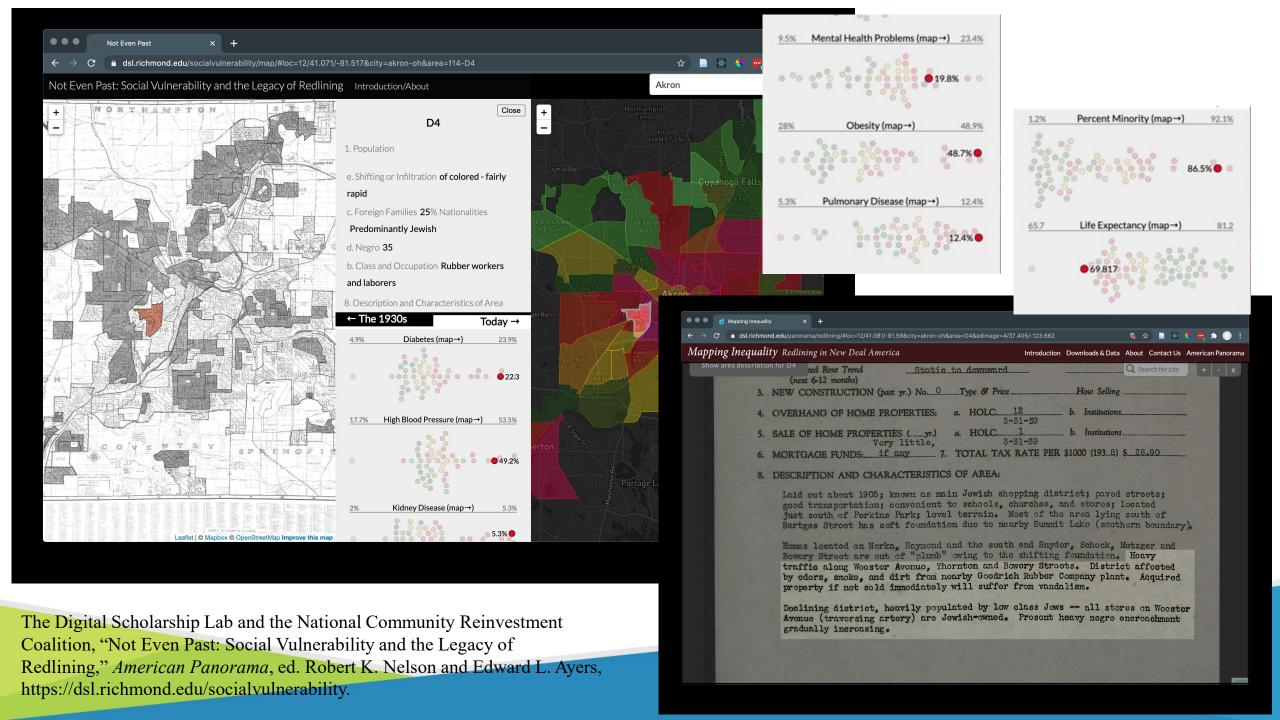
**Presented by Matthew Tejada, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Environmental Justice** 

September 2023

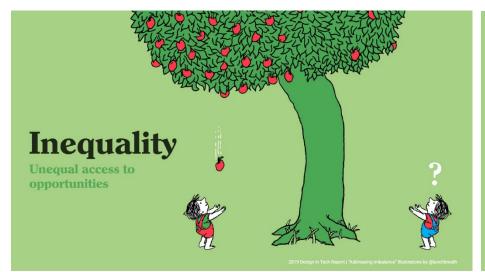
**GWPC Forum – Tampa, Florida** 

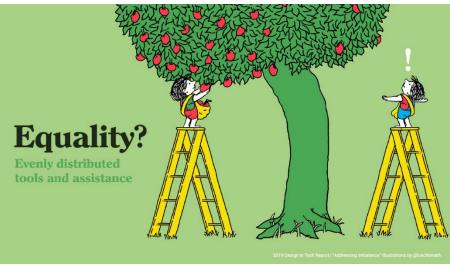
### Historical Legacy of EJ: Redlining and Systemic Racism

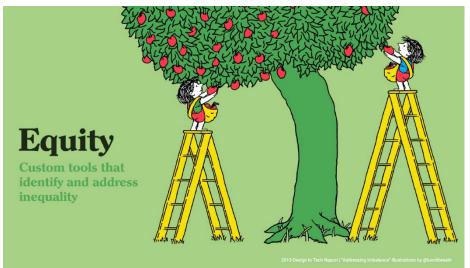


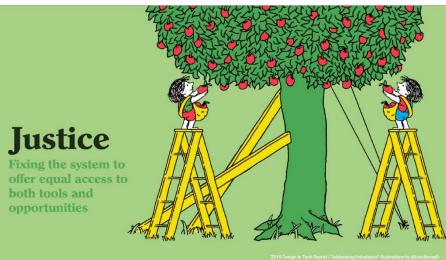


Equality,
Equity &
Justice









Source: https://designintech.report/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/dit2019\_v00.pdf

## **Understanding EJ Environmental Justice**

"Environmental justice" means the just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of income, race, color, national origin, Tribal affiliation, or disability, in agency decision-making and other Federal activities that affect human health and the environment so that people:

- (i) are fully protected from disproportionate and adverse human health and environmental effects (including risks) and hazards, including those related to climate change, the cumulative impacts of environmental and other burdens, and the legacy of racism or other structural or systemic barriers; and
- have equitable access to a healthy, sustainable, and resilient environment in which to live, play, work, learn, grow, worship, and engage in cultural and subsistence practices.

Executive Order 14096, April 21, 2023

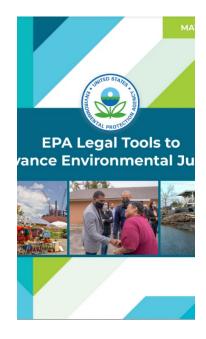


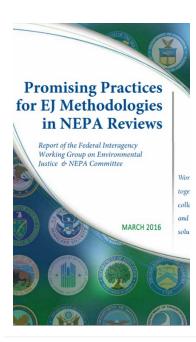
"Every person in the United States has the right to clean air, clean water, and a healthier life no matter how much money they have in their pockets, the color of their skin, or their zip code."

> Michael S. Regan EPA Administrator

## **EPA EJ Priorities for 2023**

- 1. Standing up a new program
- 2. Fulfilling commitments on
  - Cumulative Impacts
  - Outcome Measures
  - Civil Rights Compliance Guidance
- 3. Spending \$3+ BILLION Dollars to support communities and address disproportionate environmental and public health harms related to pollution and climate change





#### ATTACHMENT

EJ in Air Permitting
Principles for Addressing Environmental Justice Concerns in Air
December 2022

ring environmental justice and equity for all environmentally overburder he priority for EPA. Executive Orders 14008, 12898, and 13985 direct ag ving environmental justice and equity a part of their mission. To advance and equity through permitting actions under the Clean Air Act (CAA) dadiation (OAR) is providing resources and recommendations to the EP, waches for addressing environmental justice and advancing environmental

tionally, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other federal civil vecipients of EpA financial assistance ("EPA recipients"), including state itting programs, do not discriminate—either intentionally or in effect—t assis of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency dity, sex, and age. Compliance with the federal civil rights laws by EPA latory and represents an important enforcement tool for achieving environmental fusition and Civil Rights in Eventuing Programs and Civil Rights in Eventual Experimental Control of the Civil Rights in Eventual Civil Rights

goal of this document is to provide a framework of principles and practic region to promote environmental justice and equity through air permitti ing CAA authorities and discretion, federal civil rights laws, as well as o laws that may help to mitigate potential adverse and disproportionate eff in. This document will be updated as needed to incorporate the experience of the comparation of the comparation of the comparation of the more. The document does not prescribe a single specific approach or met ion should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

regional air permitting staff are encouraged to immediately apply theseiated practices in issuing federal CAA permit decisions. Regions are eqcollaboratively and proactively with state, tribal, and local partners to fideration and application of these same principles in their air permitting in spriate to protect human health and the environment for all affected indivisors. The properties of the properties of the properties of their communities with environmental lustice and equity concern.

document does not change or substitute for any requirement under the C ementing regulations, any EPA-approved CAA permitting program, or T its Act, nor are they a regulation themselves. Nothing in this document is tablish legally binding requirements and no part of this document has leg



#### vironmental Protection Age:

## Interim ronmental Justice and Civil Rig Permitting Frequently Asked Questions

August 2022

Office of General Counsel Office of Policy

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Washington, D.C. 20460

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EPA Legal Tools to Advance Environmental Justice: Cumulative Impacts Addendum

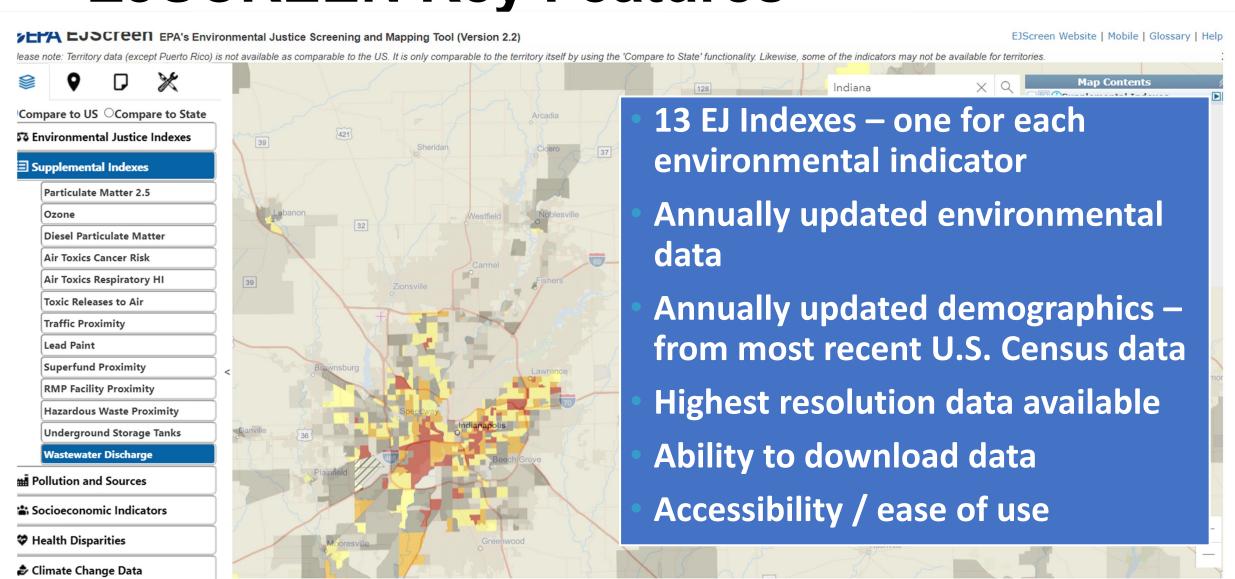
January 2023

Office of General Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460

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## **EJSCREEN Key Features**



## **EJ Guidance for UIC Class VI**

- Identify communities use tools, talk to communities, look far and wide (i.e., the impacted community might not be where you think it is)
- Enhance public involvement go beyond a meeting, provide support so communities can fully engage in the process
- Perform an EJ assessment look hard at impacts and the impacted, vulnerable populations, unique pathways, cumulative and historical burdens
- Transparency with everything legally allowable
- Limit impacts minimize, mitigate, plan for and be ready for all emergencies including thinking of the changing climate



## Thanks!

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