



Environmental Justice Policy and PennEnviroScreen

November 2023

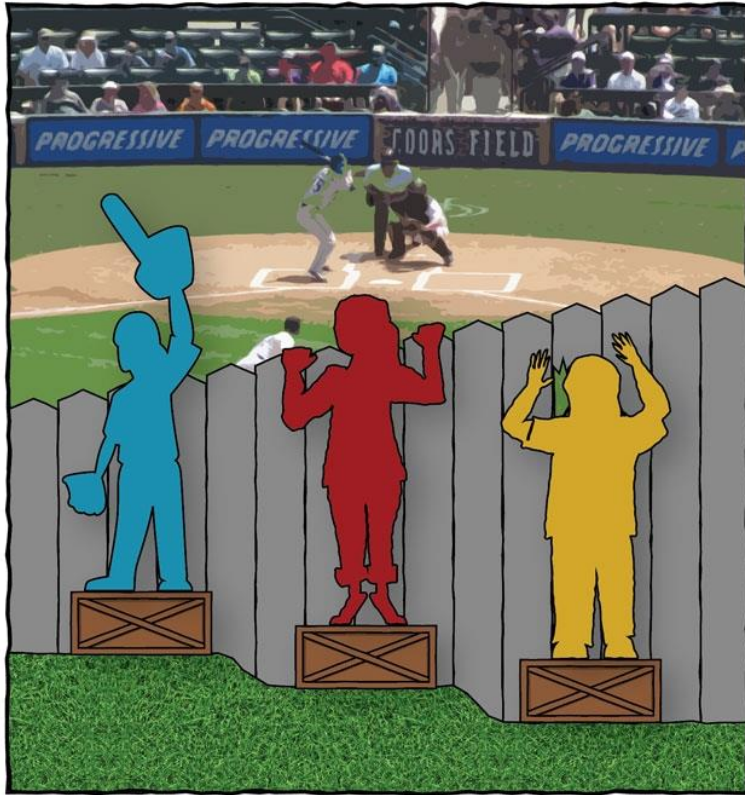
Josh Shapiro, Governor

Jessica Shirley, Interim Acting Secretary

DEP Mission

"To protect Pennsylvania's air, land, and water from pollution and to provide for the health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment. We will work as partners with individuals, organizations, governments and businesses to prevent pollution and restore our natural resources."

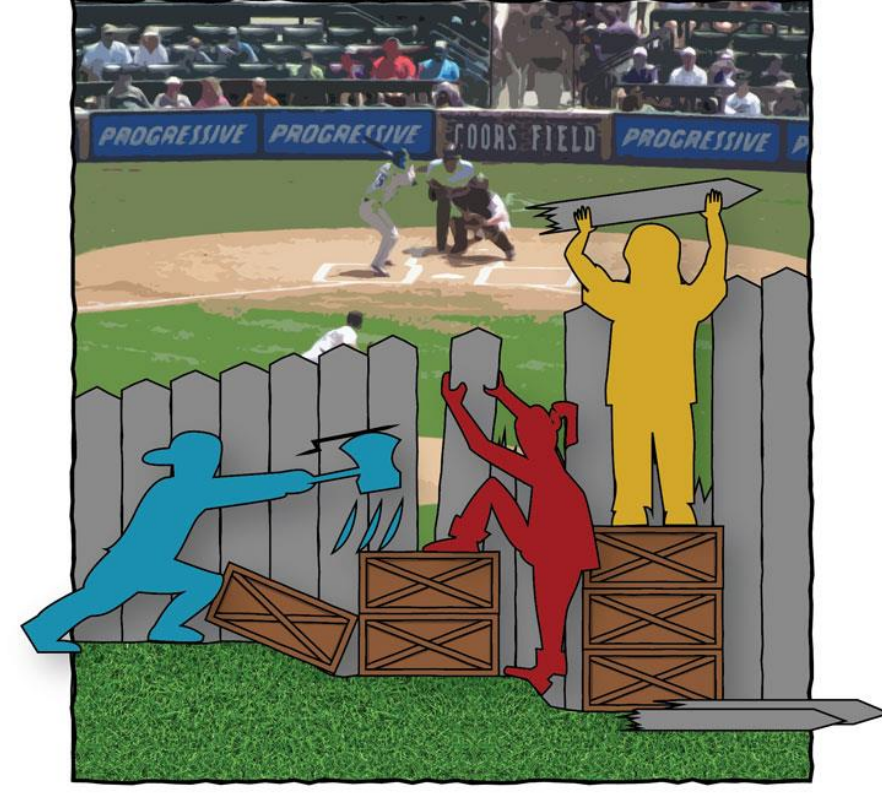
Equality, Equity, and Justice



EQUALITY



EQUITY



JUSTICE

Historical Legacy of EJ: Redlining & Structural Racism

Mapping Inequality Redlining in New Deal America

Introduction Downloads & Data About

map options

York, PA

Areas by Grade

Area	Grade
20%	A "Best"
17%	B "Still Desirable"
45%	C "Definitely Declining"
18%	D "Hazardous"

Demographics

56,712	Total Population (1940)
1.7%	Foreign-born white

Area Descriptions

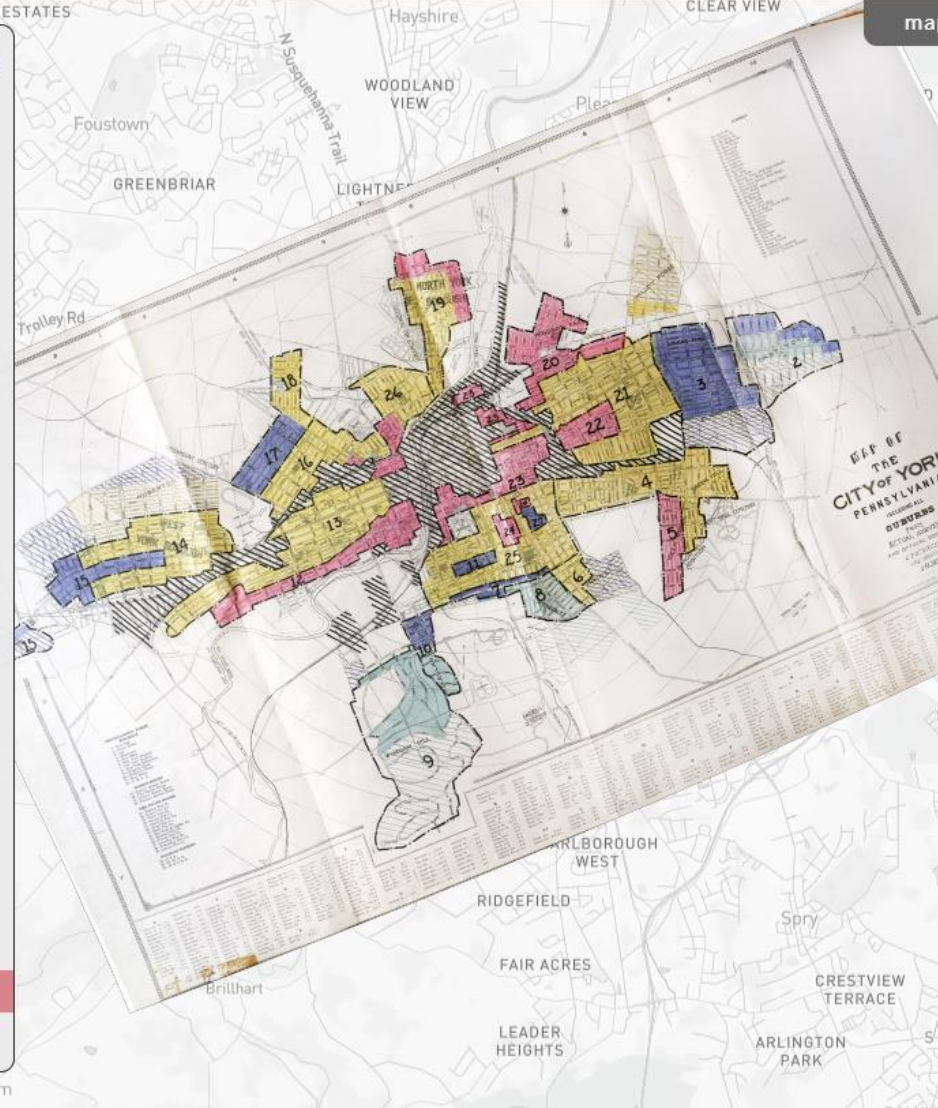
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Selections from the Area Descriptions

D12

Low class whites and negroes live in poor moral



Verbatim Surveyor Description of Redlined Areas on the York Map:

- "Low class whites and negroes live in poor moral conditions. The area is exceptionally bad."
- "Negroes, foreigners, low class whites. Very poor residential section."

Verbatim Surveyor Descriptions of Redlined Areas during 1930s:

- "Odors and noises from local industries. Infiltration of colored and Orientals. Predominance of older, cheap cottages. Zoned for industry."
- "Odors from factories; infiltration of Orientals and colored."
- "Adjoining industrial area with attendant odors, smoke, etc."
- "Nearest to the industries, thereby being mainly occupied by wage earning families"

Transportation and EJ History

- [How Interstate Highways Gutted Communities—and Reinforced Segregation](#) (Farrell Evans).
- The highway expansion, implemented largely between the late 1950s and the early 1970s, came at a huge cost to America's urban communities of color.
- The communities decimated by highway projects were largely Black and impoverished
- Highway engineers came to think of “killing two birds with one stone” to “improve traffic conditions and remove undesirable populations.



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Relationship of EJ to Civil Rights

State programs receiving EPA financial assistance must comply with federal non-discrimination laws*:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964: recipients of federal financial assistance cannot discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin (including limited-English proficiency)

“[C]ompliance with environmental laws does not ensure compliance with Title VI. ... [Recipients] are required to operate their programs in compliance with the non-discrimination requirements of Title VI and EPA’s implementing regulations.” EPA Title VI Public Involvement Guidance, 71 F.R. 14207, 14210



Other Non-discrimination Laws*

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Age Discrimination Act of 1975
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
- Section 13 of Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972
- EPA’s nondiscrimination regulation, 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7

Historical Roots of Environmental Justice



Historical Roots of Environmental Justice



Warren County,
North Carolina (1982)



United Church of
Christ Study (1987)



First People of Color
Environmental
Leadership Summit
(1991)

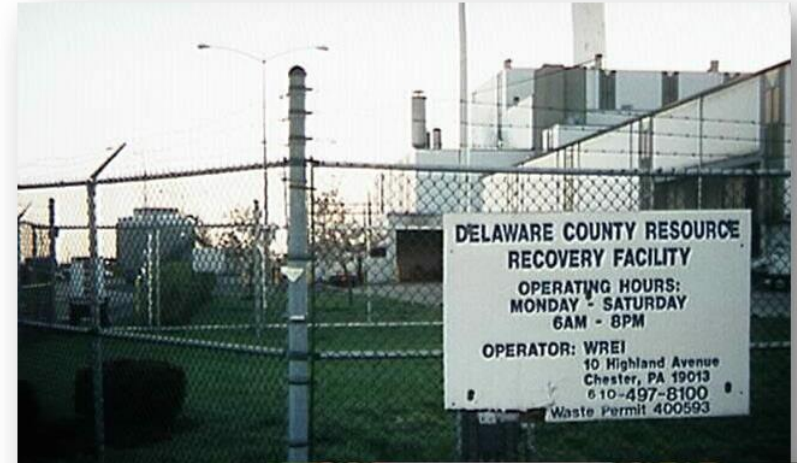


Executive Order
12898 (1994)

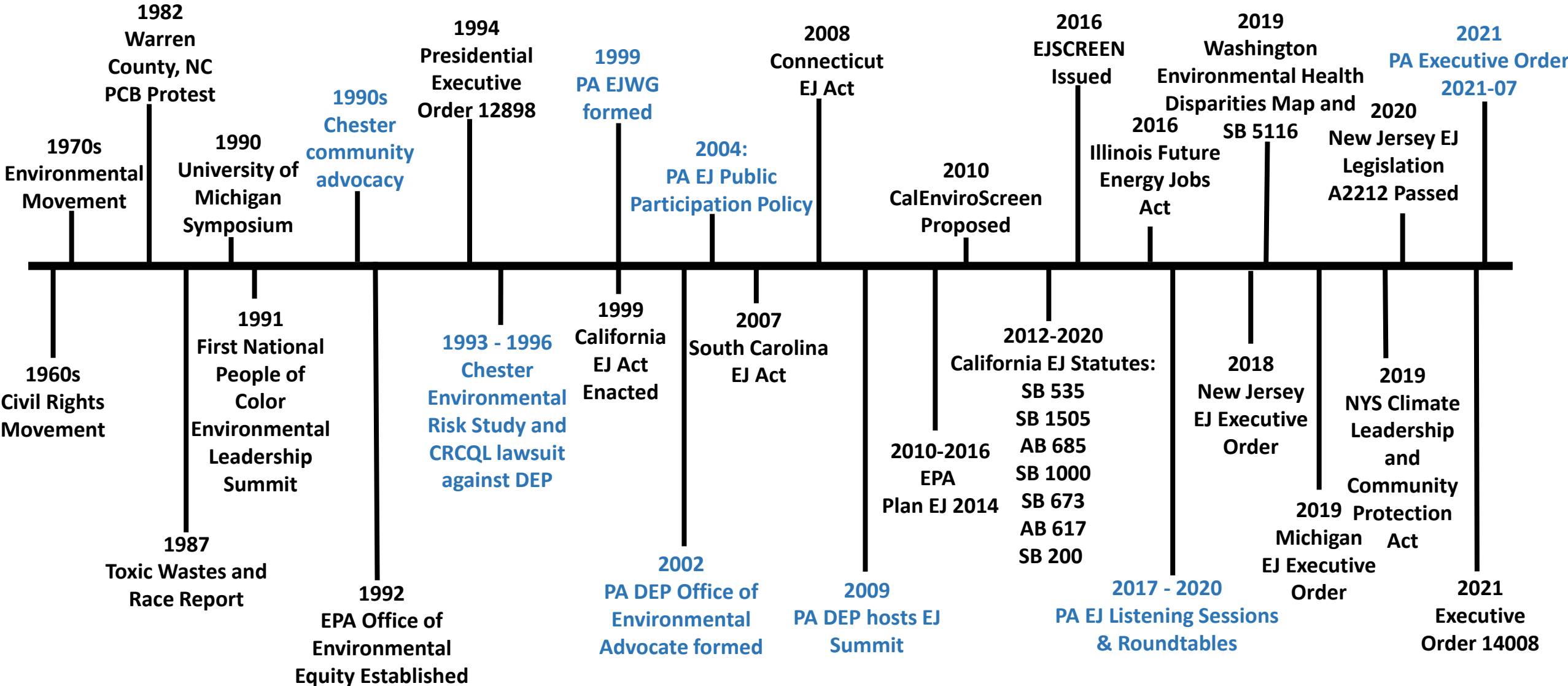
The EJ movement, started by people (primarily people of color) to address inequitable environmental protection and environmental services in their communities was grounded in civil rights and the environmental movement. The movement builds on the lived experience of disproportionately impacted communities. The work of these early advocates paved the way for program development starting in the early 1990's, over the past 30 years, have resulted in significant progress at all levels of government.

Roots of EJ in Pennsylvania

- Organizing in the City of Chester in early 1990s
- Environmental Risk Study by EPA in conjunction with DER in 1993
- Chester residents (CRCQL) lawsuit against DEP in 1996
- DEP Environmental Justice Work Group (EJWG) created in 1999 Report and Recommendations released in 2001



Timeline of Federal and State Government Response



2021 EJ Executive Order

- An [Executive Order](#) on environmental justice was issued on October 28, 2021.
- Permanently establishes the Office of Environmental Justice.
- Formally establishes the Environmental Justice Advisory Board
- Creates an Environmental Justice Interagency Council
- Outlines activities that executive branch agencies should take to further environmental justice goals.



Science of Disproportionate Environmental Impacts



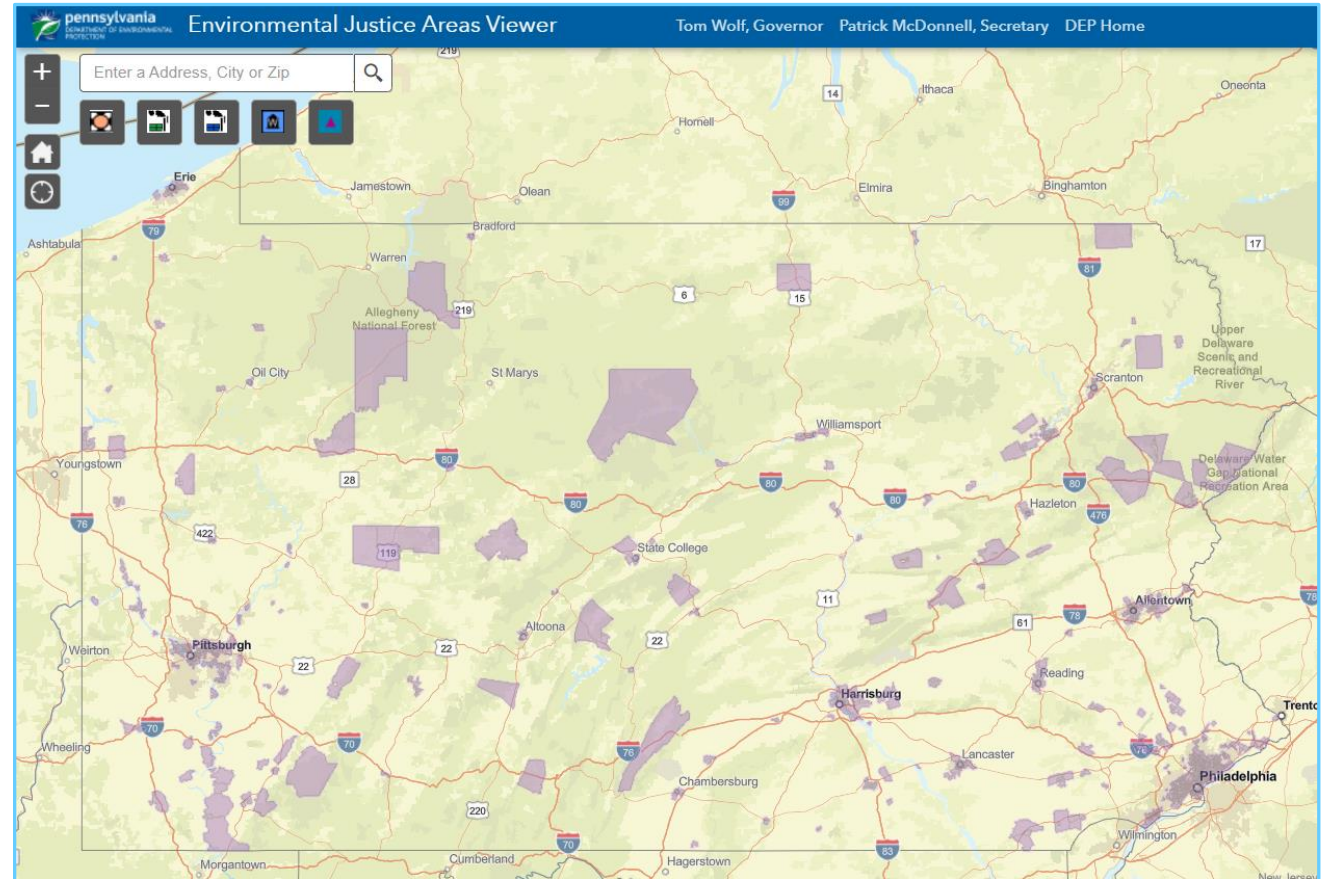
DRIVERS

- Built Environment: Proximity to pollution sources (e.g., stationary and mobile air emissions)
- Natural Environment: Disasters (e.g., wildfires, heat waves, pandemics)
- Social Environment: Health disparities (e.g., asthma, heart disease, hypertension, diabetes)

**Environmental injustice
is a force multiplier**

EJ Public Participation Policy

- Applies to Trigger Permits (and Opt-in Permits).
- In Environmental Justice Areas and Area of Concern.
 - EJ Areas – 30% People of Color and/or 20% Low-income
 - Area of Concern is 0.5-mile buffer.



2018 EJ Policy Updates

- 2018 public comment period around policy revisions.
 - Enhancing public participation during permit reviews for specific trigger permits.
 - Update EJ Areas to block groups from census tracts.
- Withdrew a draft Policy revision.
- How can DEP address EJ in addition to public participation in the permit review process?
- Meaningful community engagement process to ensure inclusive community voice.
- Center this discussion on the voices of those who live in communities facing environmental burdens.



2022 Outreach Efforts

Tools to share:

- [Press Release](#)
- [Webpage](#) (dep.pa.gov/EJPolicyRevision)
- [Share kit](#) (evolving)
- [Recorded EJ Policy webinar](#) (3/28)

Outreach efforts:

- Four (4) virtual public hearings (April 5, 12, 28, & May 4)
- Press Events
- Twenty (20) presentations
- [Video](#)
- Flier
- Social media

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



The PA Department of Environmental Protection's draft Environmental Justice Public Participation Policy (EJ Policy) strengthens language on how DEP oversees and participates in environmental justice priorities and reform with community partners.

Public comment period on the policy is open through Wednesday, May 11, 2022.

Learn more and participate:

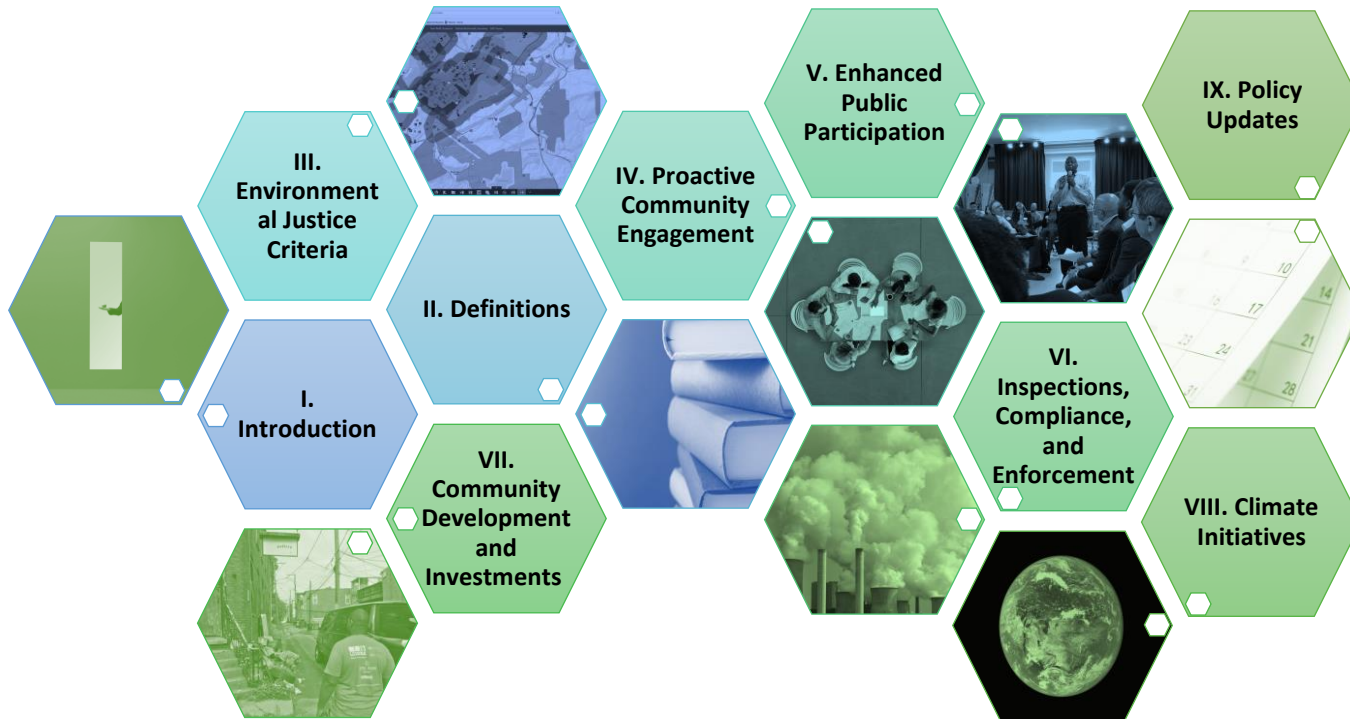
 dep.pa.gov/EJPolicyRevision



Public Hearing & Comments on Policy Revision

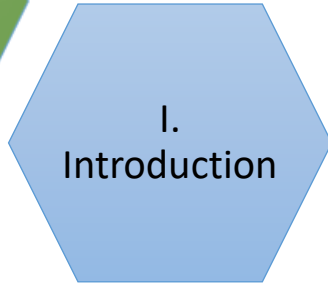
- Virtual Hearings (please register 24 hrs in advance at dep.pa.gov/EJPolicyRevision)
 - Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 5 p.m. Virtual
 - Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 5 p.m. Virtual
 - Thursday, November 16, 2023, at noon Virtual
- In-Person Hearings (please register 24 hrs in advance at dep.pa.gov/EJPolicyRevision)
 - Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 6 p.m. Shamokin Area/Ranshaw PA
 - Monday, October 16, 2023, at 6 p.m. Scranton PA
 - Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 6 p.m. Erie PA
 - Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 6 p.m. Pittsburgh
 - Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 6 p.m. Harrisburg
 - Saturday, October 21, 2023, at 10 a.m. Chester PA
 - Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 6 p.m. Philadelphia
 - Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 6 p.m. Washington PA
 - Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 6 p.m. Allentown PA

EJ Policy Components



- I. Introduction
- II. Definitions
- III. Environmental Justice Area Criteria
- IV. Proactive Community Engagement
- V. Enhanced Public Participation
- VI. Inspections, Compliance, and Enforcement
- VII. Community Development and Investment
- VIII. Climate Initiatives
- IX. Policy Updates

Introduction



- Background on the Policy.
- Some history of the policy
- Streamline the enhanced public participation process to work within existing timeframes.

Definitions



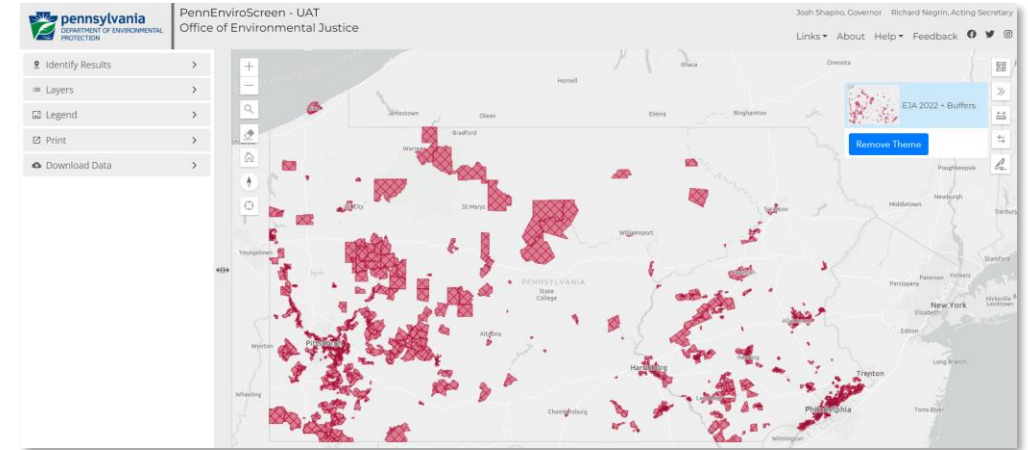
II. Definitions

- Robust definitions section defines terms ranging from applicant to public meeting.
- Assist in clarifying the document and ensuring that it is similarly interpreted by the public, DEP staff, and permit applicants.
- Enhances the overall readability and accessibility of the document.

Environmental Justice Areas

III. Environmental Justice Criteria

- Describes **where** the policy applies
- Refers to Appendix for detailed mapping of where the policy will apply to allow for easy updating.
- Introduces PennEnviroScreen as the tool for researching these areas.



Proactive Community Engagement

IV. Proactive Community Engagement



- Reaching communities before an environmental project or crisis.
- Centering on community voices

Enhanced Public Participation Process

V. Enhanced Public Participation

- Details the Enhanced Public Participation Process
 - A. Projects Covered (**To which projects** it can be applied in the permitting context)
 1. Trigger Projects
 2. Opt-in Projects
 - B. Enhanced Process (**How** it is applied in the permitting process)
 1. Pre-Project Community Outreach
 2. Language Access
 3. Permit Application

Enhanced Public Participation Process (Cont)

V. Enhanced Public Participation

- Details the Enhanced Public Participation Process
 - B. Enhanced Process (**How** it is applied in the permitting process)
 - 3. Permit Application
 - i. Public Participation Strategy
 - ii. Pre-Application Meeting
 - iii. Notice
 - iv. Public Meetings
 - v. Public Comment
 - vi. Technical Support
 - 4. Communication After the DEP Authorization or Permit Issuance

Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement



VI. Inspections, Compliance, and Enforcement

- Moving beyond public participation within DEP's existing regulatory authority
- Prioritizing of Competing Demands
- Civil Penalty Enhancements
- Use of Civil Penalties
- Community Environmental Projects
- Filing Complaints

Community Development and Investment

VII. Community Development and Investments

- Targeting grants
- Promoting brownfield redevelopment



Climate Initiatives



- Climate Action Plan involvement
- Climate adaptation
- Integrates EJ considerations into climate investments
- Directs DEP to engage in public involvement that integrates the stated needs and concerns of EJ communities

Policy Updates

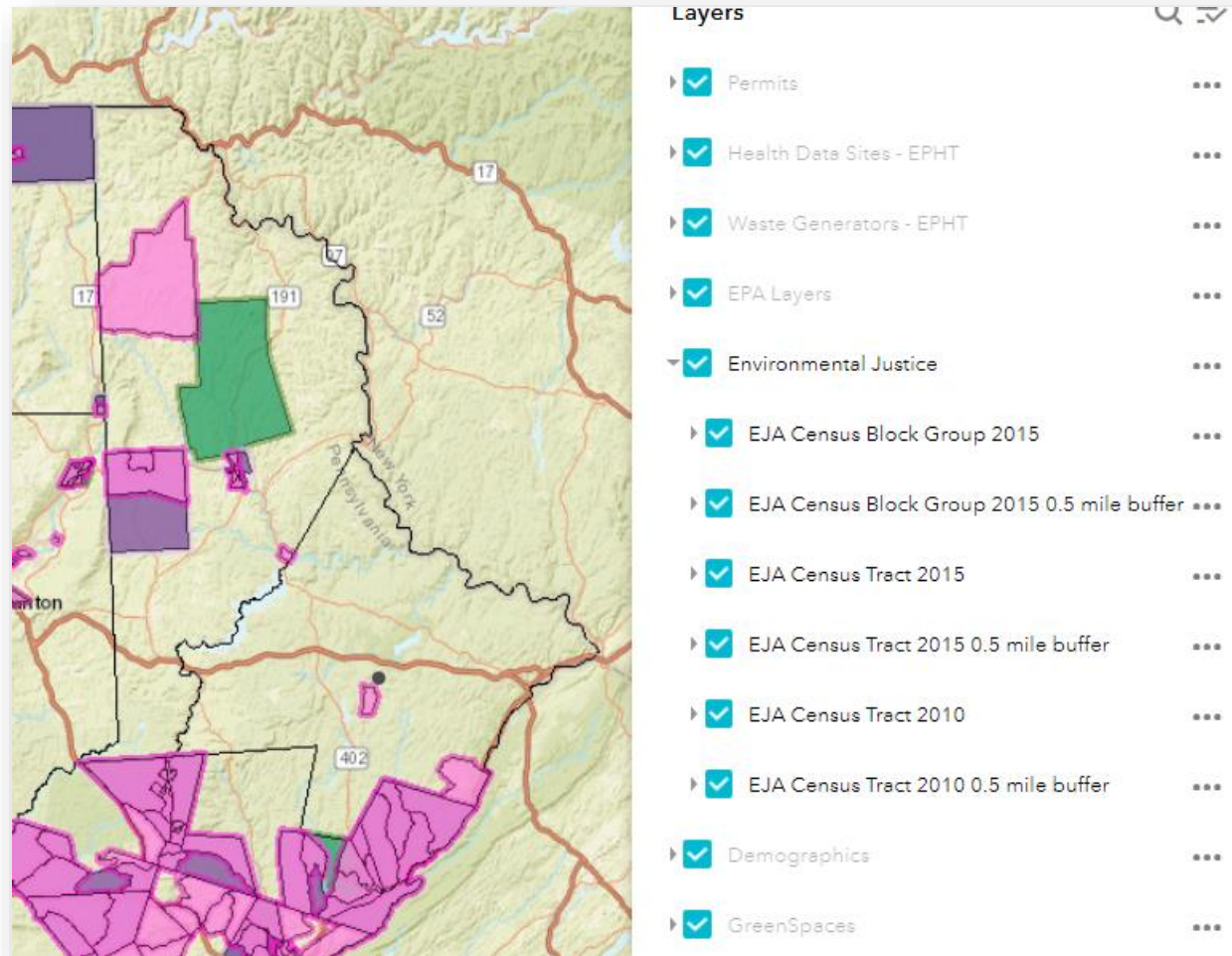


IX. Policy Updates

- Requires review of the EJ policy for updates every 5 years
- Update EJ area identification and mapping every 2 years, based on latest data

Tools: EJ Areas Viewer

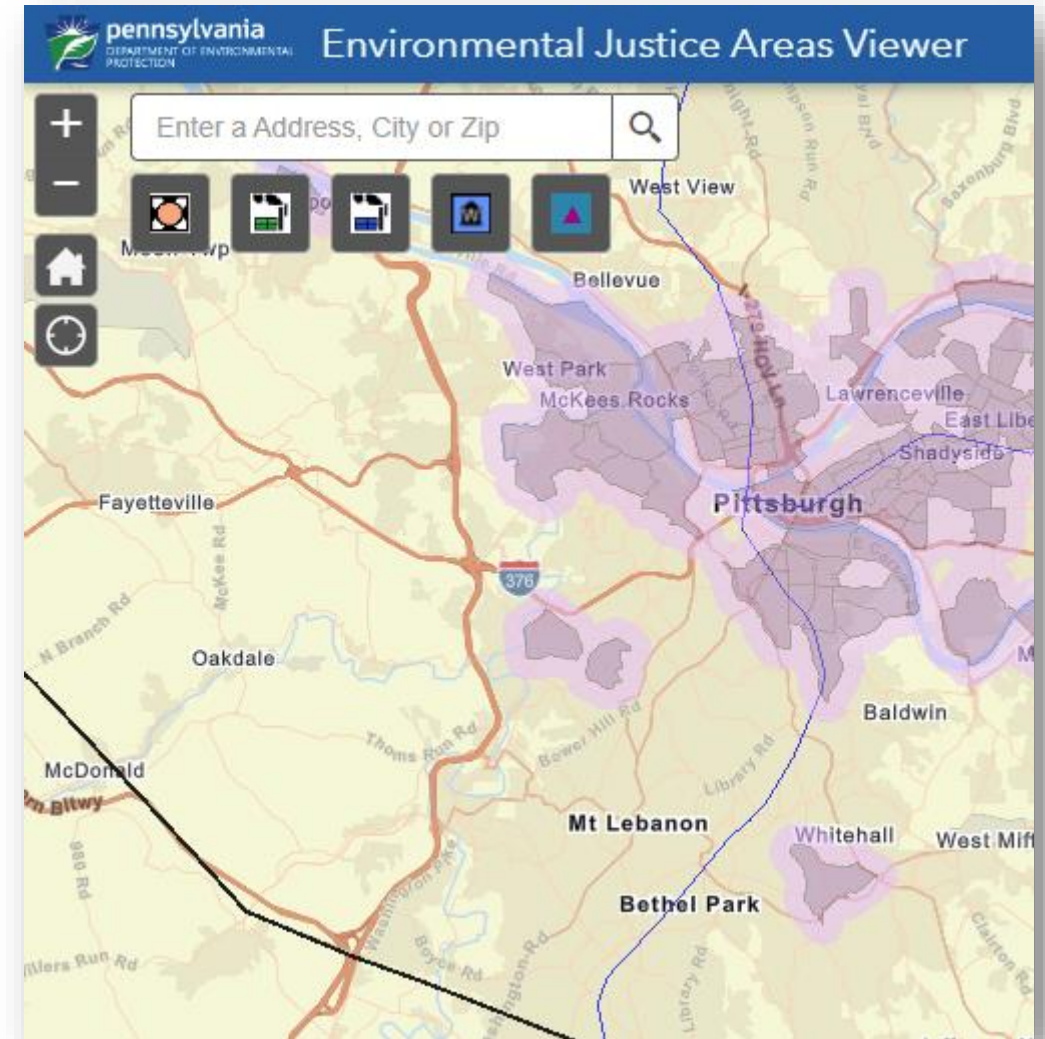
- Mapping tool
- Allows user to search by address
- Use for DEP and community partners
- Determines whether DEP engages in enhanced public outreach
- Used by other PA agencies



dep.pa.gov/ejviewer

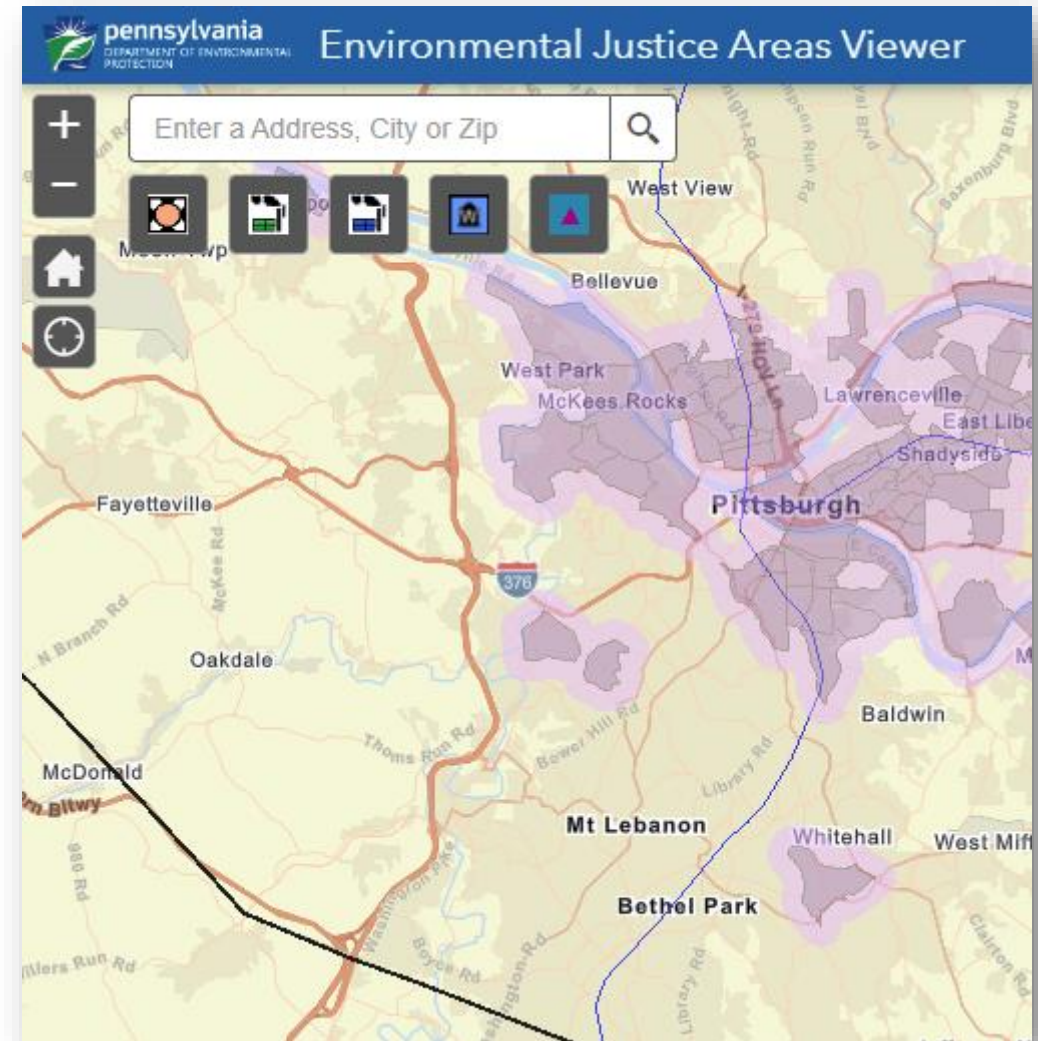
Updating State Mapping Tools

- Heard from community members, DEP Staff, and other agencies on the limitations of using only two demographic indicators
- More publicly available and regularly updated data available
- Being used more broadly than just our EJ Policy implementation
- Nationally tools are looking at pollution burden
- Look to have more regular updates to keep the data up to date



What Isn't Changing

- Use by DEP to implement the EJ Policy.
 - Which projects are automatically triggered for inclusion, and which are potential for Opt-In?
- Search by address functionality
 - Favored by DEP staff and the general public alike



Mapping Update Background

Review of other states:

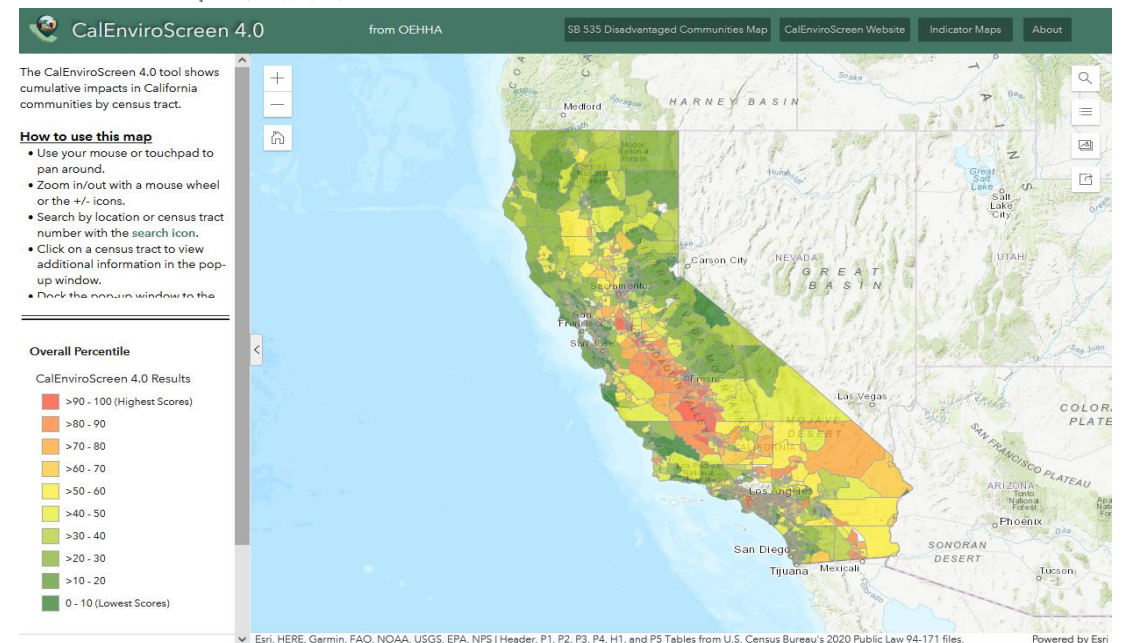
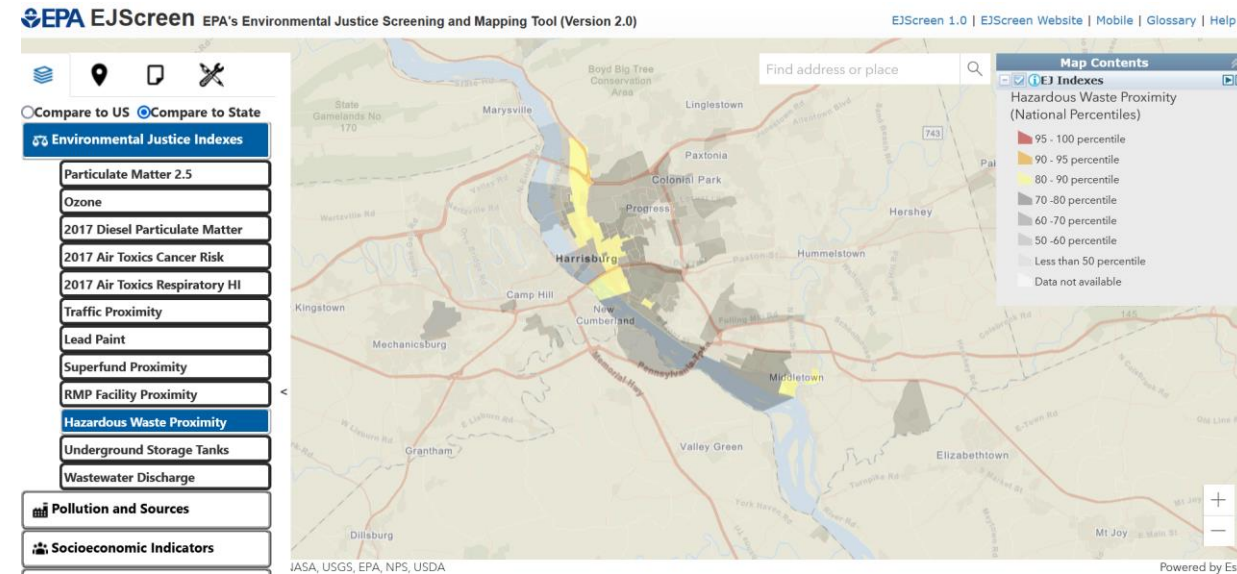
- How EJ Areas defined
- Data sets used
- Calculations performed

Types of indicators used by other states:

- Environmental: land, water, air quality
- Population: socioeconomic, community health

Our framework:

Risk = pollution burden (threat) × population characteristics (vulnerability)



Indicator Categories

Pollution Burden

Environmental
Exposures

Environmental
Effects

Population Characteristics

Sensitive
Populations

Socioeconomic
Populations

Final Score

=

Pollution Burden

×

Population Characteristics

Indicator Categories

Pollution Burden: Environmental Exposures	Pollution Burden: Environmental Effects	Population Characteristics: Sensitive Populations	Population Characteristics: Socioeconomic Population
Ozone	Oil Gas Locations (Conventional wells)	Asthma	Low Educational Attainment
PM2.5	Oil Gas Locations (Hydraulic Fracturing / unconventional wells)	No Health Insurance	Linguistic Isolation
Diesel Particulate Matter	Proximity to Railroads	Cancer	Housing-Burdened Low- Income Households
Toxic Air Emissions	Land Remediation	Disability	Poverty
Toxic Water Emissions	Hazardous Waste and Storage Sites	Heart Disease	Unemployment
Pesticides	Municipal Waste Sites		Race
Traffic Density	Coal Mining		Age over 64
Compressor Stations	Impaired lakes and streams		Age under 5
Children's Lead Risk	Abandoned Mining Concerns		
	Flood Risk		

Calculating Final Score

$$C = \frac{\sum c}{n}$$

C = Component score

$\sum C$ = Sum of all indicator percentiles within component

n = Number of indicators within component

$$PB = \frac{EXP_{avg} + (EE_{avg} \times 0.5)}{1.5}$$

PB = Pollution Burden score

EXP = Environmental Exposures component score (average of all Environmental Exposures indicators)

EE = Environmental Effects component score (average of all Environmental Effects indicators)

$$PC = \frac{SOC_{avg} + SP_{avg}}{2}$$

PC = Population Characteristics score

SOC = Socioeconomic Populations component score (average of all Socioeconomic Populations indicators)

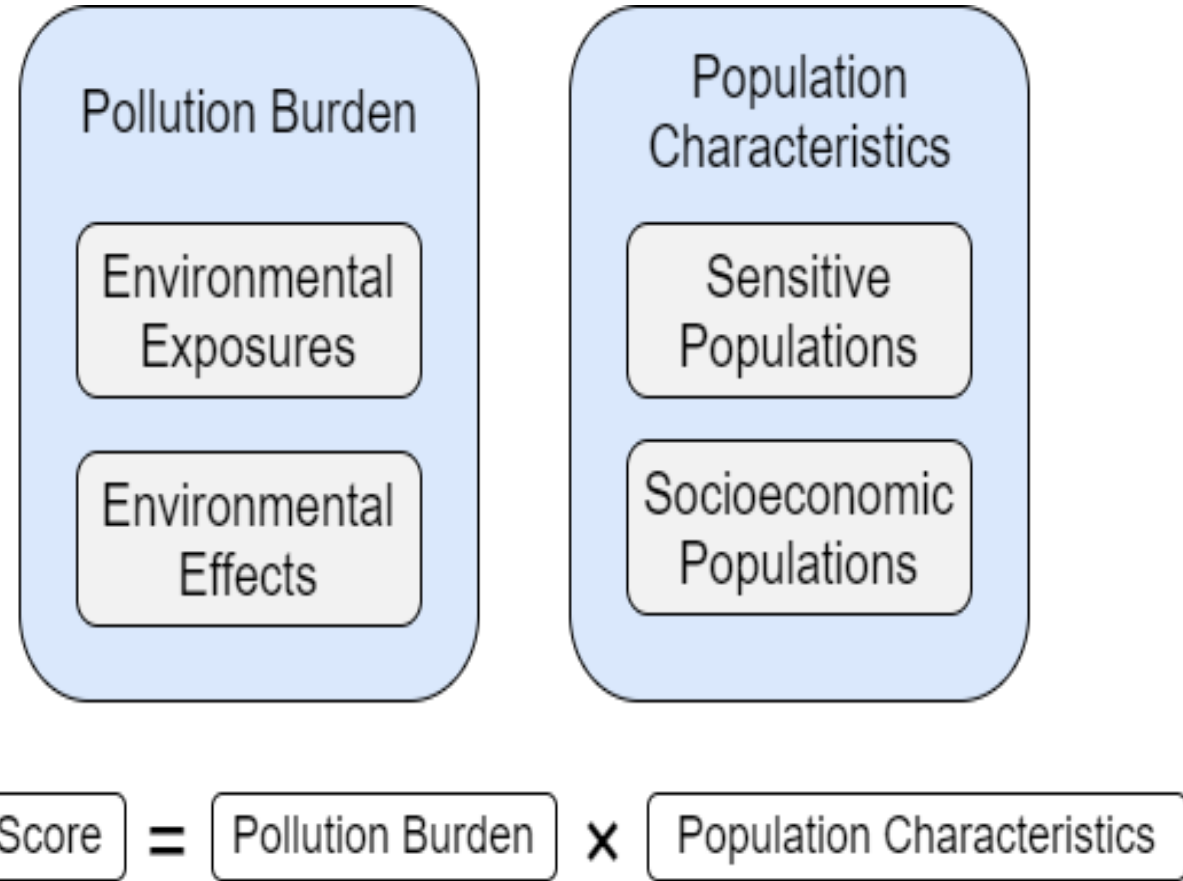
SP = Sensitive Populations component score (average of all Sensitive Populations indicators)

$$F = \left(\frac{PB}{PB_{max}} \times 10 \right) \times \left(\frac{PC}{PC_{max}} \times 10 \right)$$

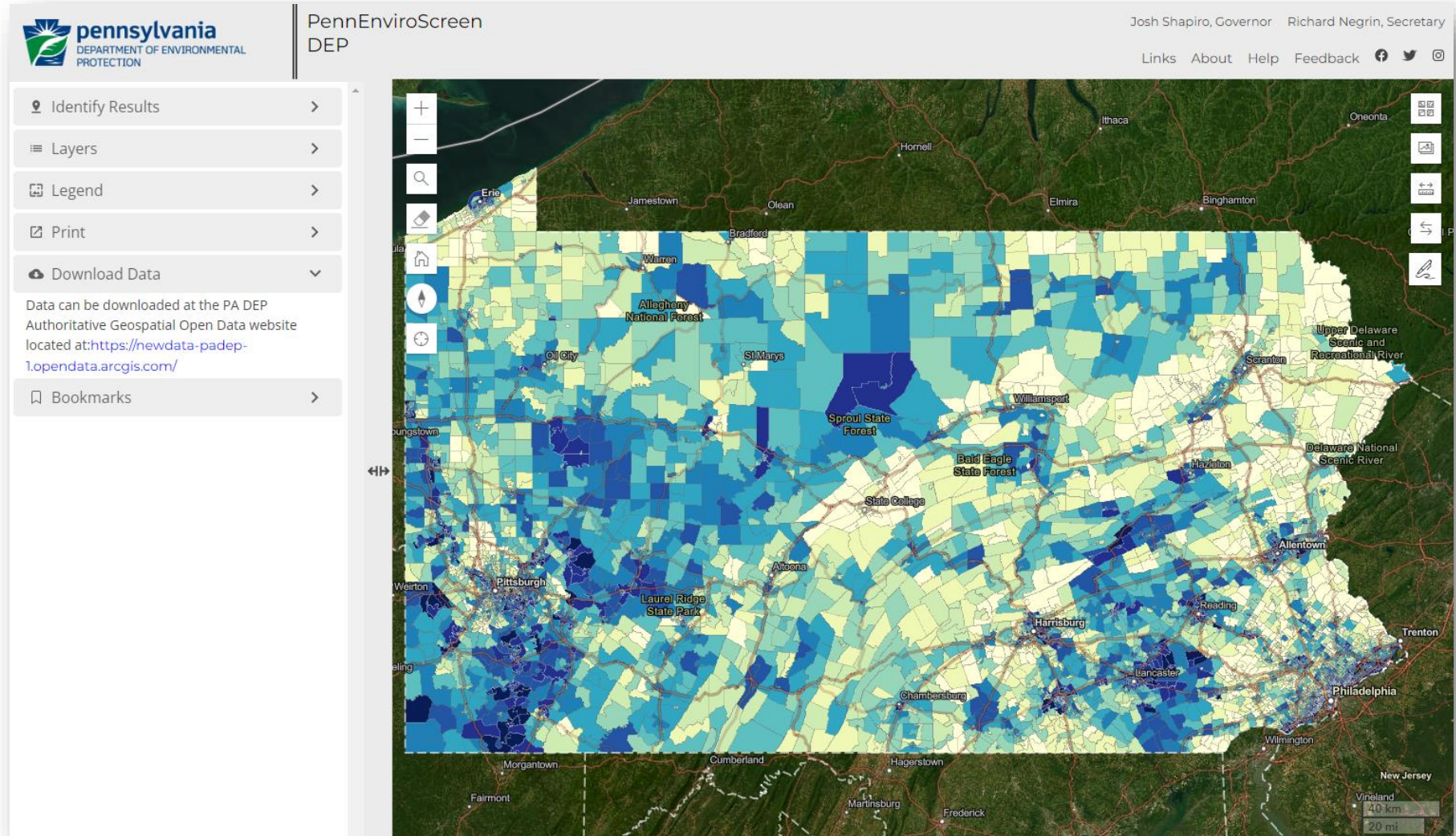
F = Final Score

PB_{max} = Highest block group Pollution Burden score in state

PC_{max} = Highest block group Population Characteristics score in state

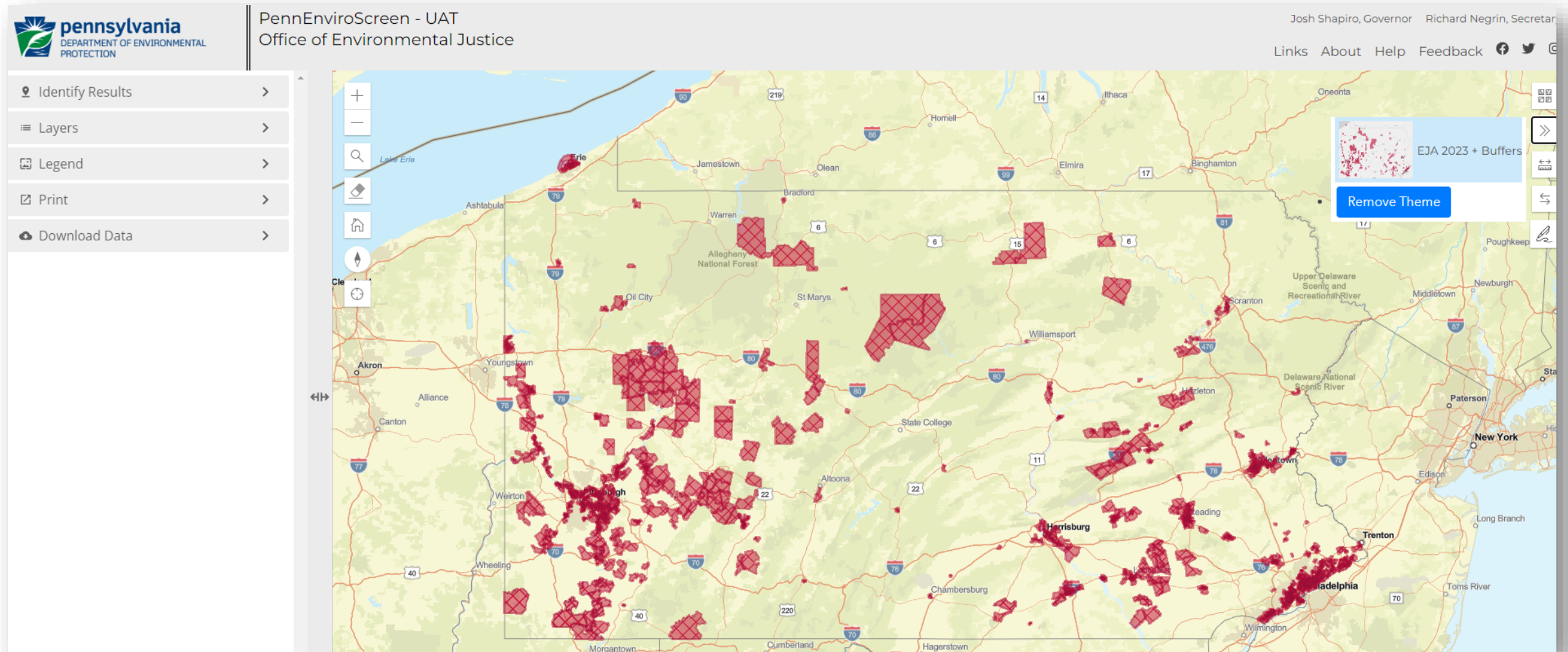


PennEnviroScreen



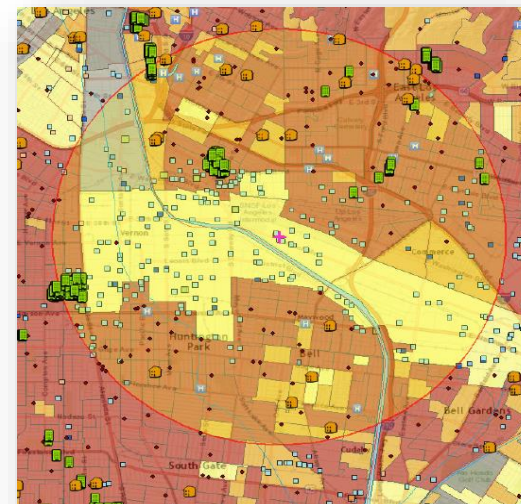
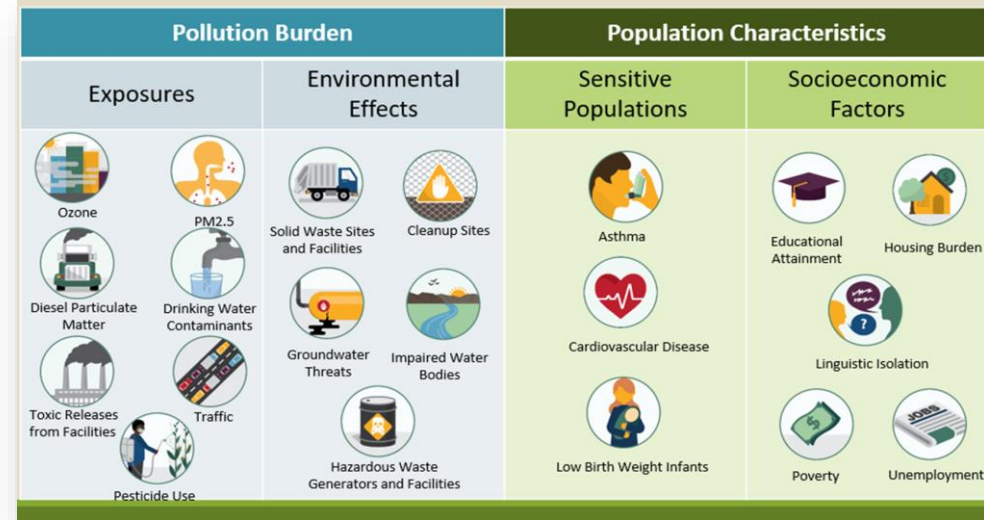
<https://gis.dep.pa.gov/PennEnviroScreen/>

PennEnviroScreen – EJ Areas



<https://gis.dep.uat.pa.gov/PennEnviroScreen/>

Describing-Quantifying-Mapping Disproportionate Impacts



Disproportionate impacts is the consistent pattern of a combination of greater **pollution burden** and **population vulnerability** affecting the same communities, primarily minority, low-income, indigenous populations, as demonstrated by ample evidence.

Sources: CalEPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and EPA EJSCREEN



Office of Environmental Justice

Fernando Treviño

Special Deputy

ftrevinoma@pa.gov

(717) 783-7753

Winnie Okello

Strategic Coordinator

wokello@pa.gov

(717) 265-3928

Dong Yoon Kim

Special Projects Coordinator

dokim@pa.gov

(484) 250-5852

Justin Dula

Director

jdula@pa.gov

(484) 250-5820

Andrea Fields

Deputy Director

afields@pa.gov

(717) 787-9375

Jennifer McLuckie

Administrative Assistant

jmcluckie@pa.gov

(717) 772-5633

Sign up for



General Comments & Questions

RA-EPOEJ@pa.gov



Jordi Comas

North Central Region

jcomas@pa.gov

(570) 327-3656



Amani Reid

Eastern Region

amreid@pa.gov

(717) 783-1086

Juan Serrat

Eastern Region

jserratgon@pa.gov

(484) 250-5818

Elsbeth Koehle
Northwest Region

ekoehle@pa.gov

(814) 332-6101

Amelia Benson
Southwest Region

acbenson@pa.gov

(412) 442-4190

Ariana Genna
South Central Region

agenna@pa.gov

(717) 783-8731