

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ASSESSMENTS.

- **Goals for an EJ assessment.**
- **Approach.**
- **Project examples.**
- **Key takeaways.**

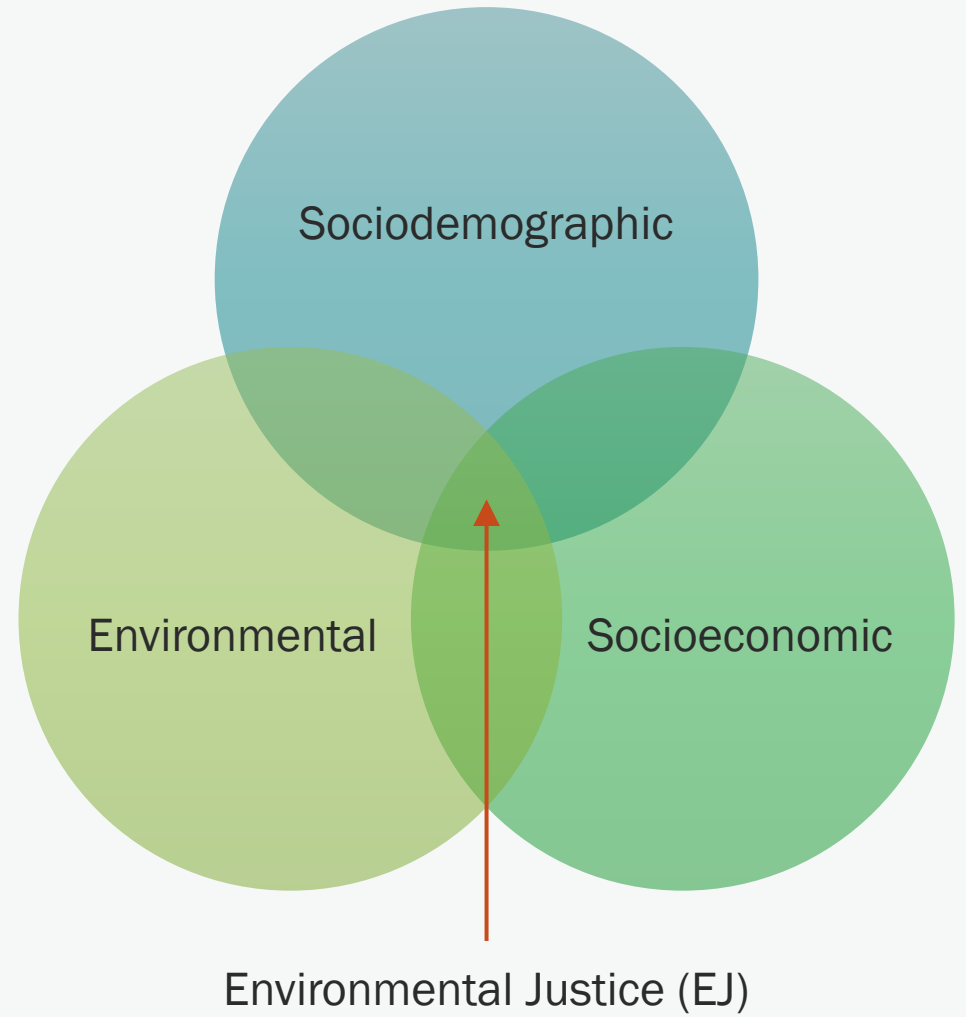
WPPA Environmental Seminar
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GOALS FOR AN EJ ASSESSMENT.

Why complete an EJ assessment?

- It's required! (maybe)
- Funding opportunities
- Development decisions for facility siting
- Permit applications



GOALS FOR AN EJ ASSESSMENT.

Defining EJ assessment objectives

- Inform project decisions related to siting, permitting, design, construction, and operations
- Inform communications and community engagement plans
- Identify specific actions and strategies that will benefit all interested parties

GOALS FOR AN EJ ASSESSMENT.

Understanding the *community's perspective* of the project – noisy, trucks on the road, odor, air pollutants, etc.

Is community *already disproportionately burdened* by environmental harm and risk? Is adding this project going to be a noticeably bad experience for the community?

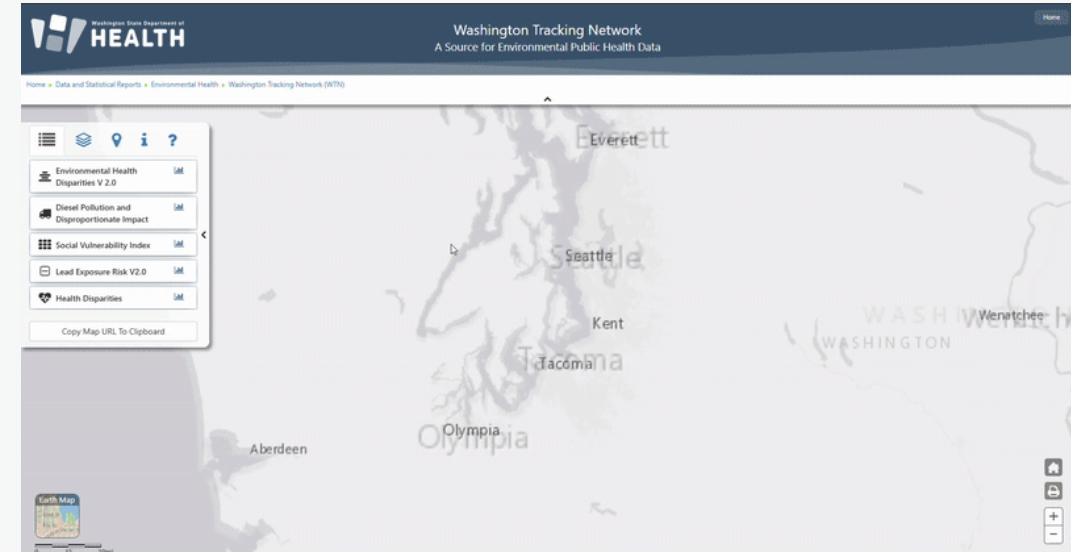
APPROACH.

Identify the study area

- Block group(s) or Census tract(s)
- 1-mile buffer

Compile and review environmental, socioeconomic, and sociodemographic data

- U.S. Census and American Community Survey
- [Washington Tracking Network Environmental Health Disparities Map](#)
- EJScreen → [replicated version](#)
- Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) → [replicated version](#)
- EJ Index (EJI) → [restored per a court order](#)



Source: Washington Tracking Network Environmental Health Disparities Map Version 2.0

APPROACH.

Compile and review environmental, socioeconomic, and sociodemographic data

- Other neighborhood, city, county, state sources
 - Ecology Cleanup Site and Underground Storage Tank Databases
 - Historical aerial photographs

This is an unofficial copy of the CEJST Tool. We are working on an overhaul, but in the meantime some links and text may incorrectly suggest that this site is affiliated with the US Government.

Climate and Economic Justice
Screening Tool

Explore the map Methodology & data About

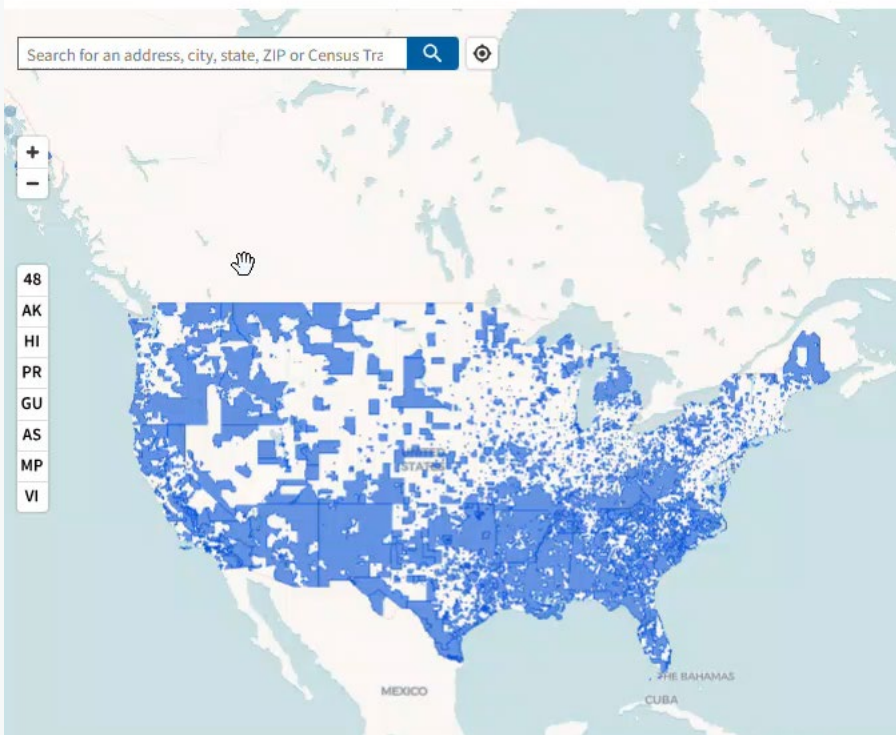
Explore the map

Census tracts that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution are highlighted as being disadvantaged on the map. Federally Recognized Tribes, including Alaska Native Villages, are considered disadvantaged communities, whether or not they have land.

Zooming in and selecting shows information about each census tract.

Get the data ↓
Download the data with documentation and shapefile from the [downloads](#) page.

Search for an address, city, state, ZIP or Census Tract



How to use the map:
Zoom in +, search 🔍, or locate yourself 📍 and select to see information about any census tract.

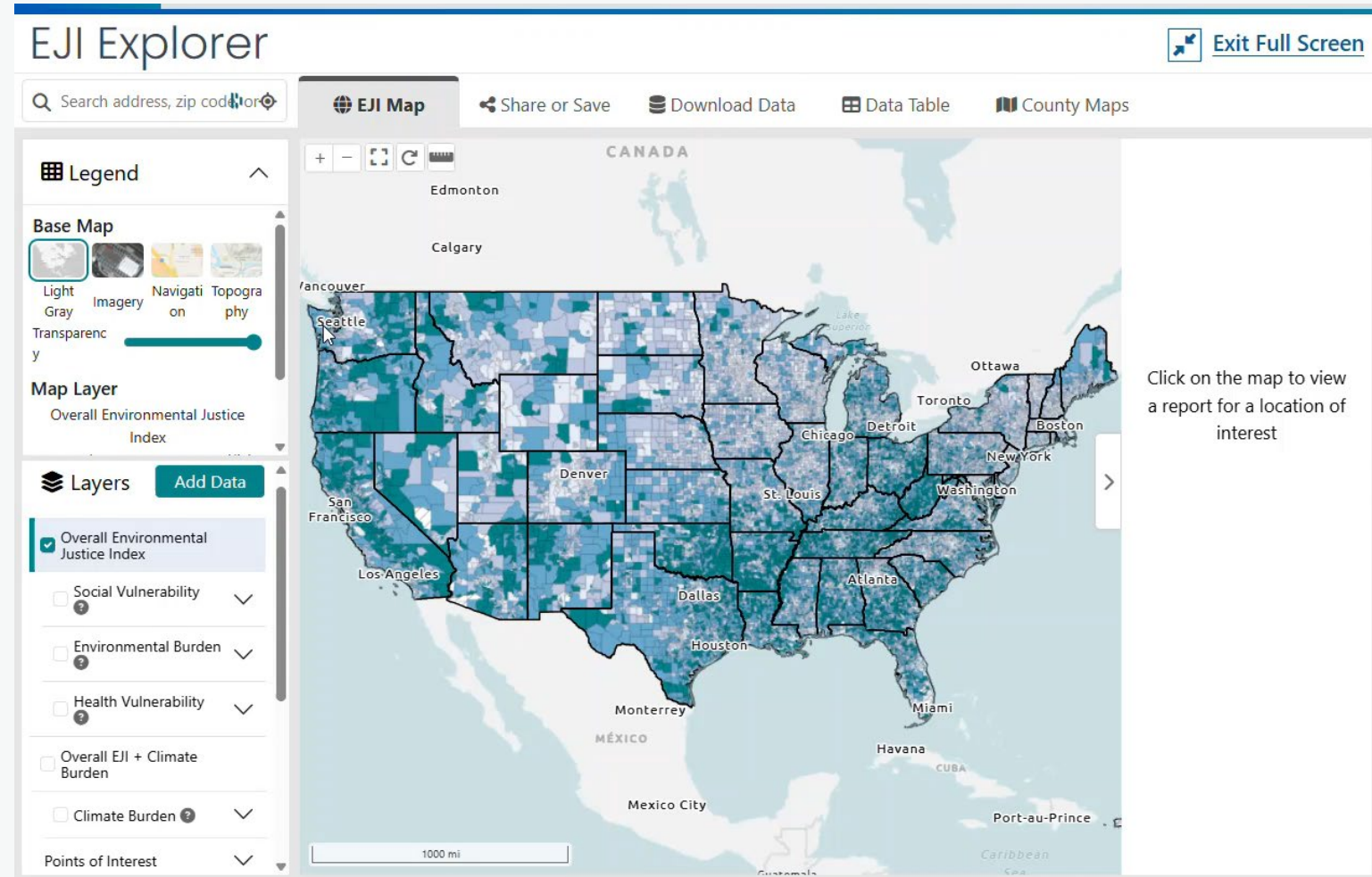
Things to know:
The tool uses census tracts 🗺️. Census tracts are a small unit of geography. They generally have populations 🧑 of between 1,200 - 8,000 people.
Communities that are disadvantaged live in tracts that experience burdens. These tracts are highlighted 🟦 on the map.
The tool ranks most of the burdens using percentiles 📊. Percentiles show how much burden each tract experiences when compared to other tracts.

Source: Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (Version 2.0; accessed 8/20/2025)

APPROACH.

Evaluate data in the context of project or facility

- How will community members experience the project or facility?
- Are community members already experiencing a disproportional burden of environmental harm and risk?
- Are there any other community concerns?



Source: Center for Disease Control – Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease: Environmental Justice Index (September 10, 2025)

PROJECT EXAMPLE.

Selected Pollution and Sources Indicators	Index	Site Block Group		Project Area Block Groups		City	
		%ile in State	%ile in U.S.	%ile in State	%ile in U.S.	%ile in State	%ile in U.S.
Particulate Matter 2.5	EJ	96	85	87	73	81	69
Diesel Particulate Matter	EJ	98	90	83	76	75	71
Air Toxics Cancer Risk	EJ	96	93	86	87	57	63
Air Toxics Respiratory HI	EJ	97	92	86	84	78	80
Toxic Releases to Air	EJ	95	86	84	73	74	65
Traffic Proximity	EJ	88	77	71	62	73	63

Selected Pollution and Sources Indicators

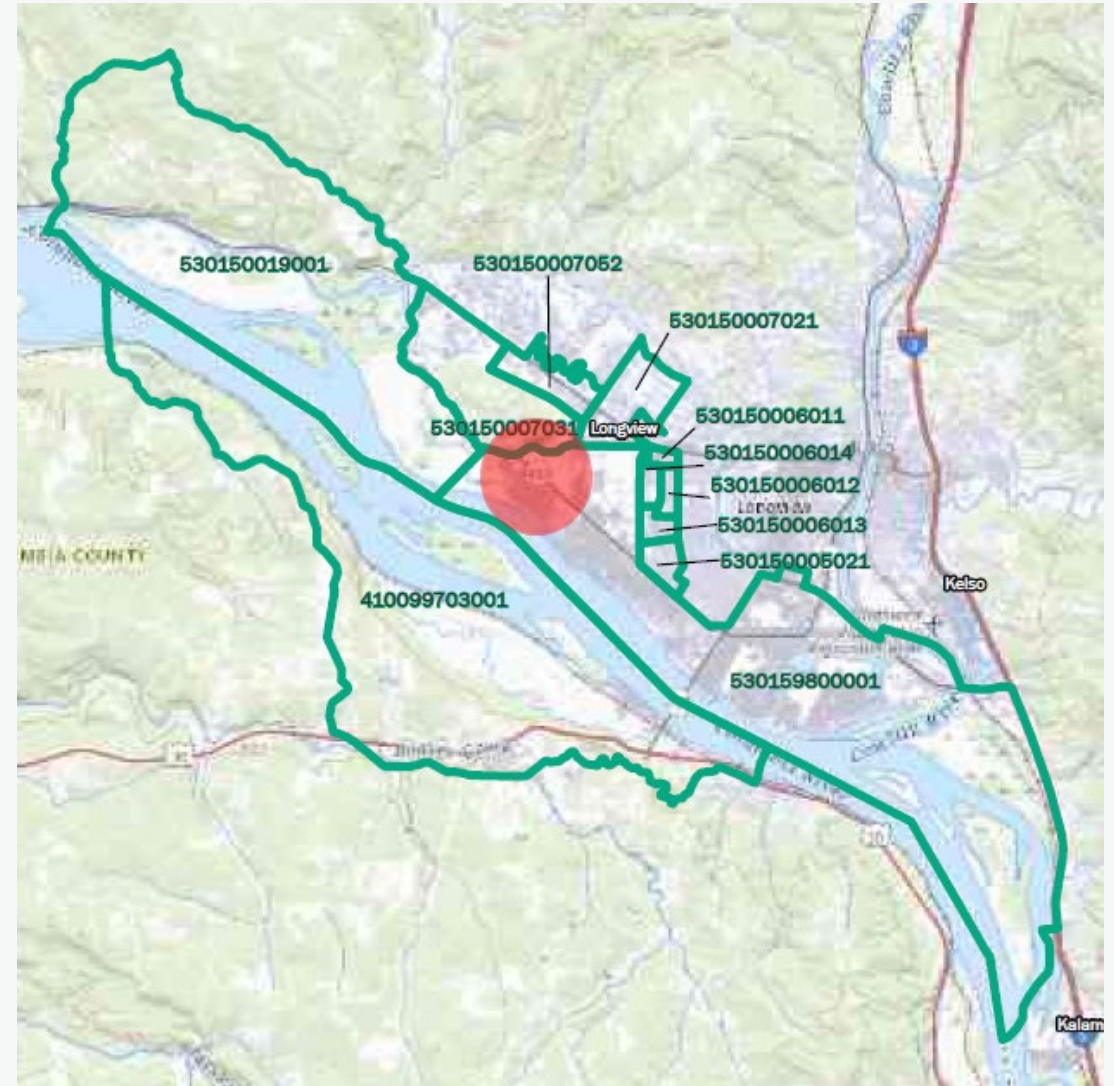
Notes:

Values greater than or equal to the 80th percentile are highlighted.

Data Source: EJScreen – EPA Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (Version 2.2)

PROJECT EXAMPLE.

The importance of defining the study area



KEY TAKEAWAYS.

Consider local sources of information, not just screening tools

- Many national screening tools exist but only as replicated versions
- State specific tools: WA Health Disparities Map
- Other sources of information: Ecology's Site Cleanup Search, historical aerial photos

The data is complex!

- Using multiple tools will help paint the full picture
- Evaluating the data outside the tools (e.g., tabulating data, creating maps) is critical

Take the time to fully evaluate and identify the study area

Performing an EJ Assessment can benefit all parties

- Identify potential project hurdles and mitigation strategies
- Inform community engagement strategies and communications plans

QUESTIONS?



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