

Biden has pledged to advance environmental justice - here's how the EPA can start

Climate and Environment

Biden to place environmental justice at center of sweeping climate plan

The president plans far-reaching actions to cut carbon emissions, aid polluted communities and shift the nation away from fossil fuels. The administration will treat climate change 'as the emergency that it is,' one top adviser says.

U.S. NEWS FEB. 3, 2021 / 8:55 PM

EPA nominee Michael Regan pledges to focus on environmental justice

By Daniel Uria

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Biden infrastructure plan tackles historic racial inequities

EPA Announces \$50 Million to Fund Environmental Justice Initiatives Under the American Rescue Plan

June 25, 2021

Contact Information
EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)

July 26, 2021

Biden Boosts EPA's Budget by Billions

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People of Color Breathe More Hazardous Air. The Sources Are Everywhere.

Researchers uncovered stark disparities between white people and minorities across thousands of categories of pollution, including trucks, industry, agriculture and even restaurants.

THE BIDEN PLAN FOR A
CLEAN ENERGY
REVOLUTION AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE

RAMBOLL

Bright ideas.
Sustainable change.

Implications of operating in an environmental justice community

Kelli Calhoon
Midwest AWMA Environmental Technical Conference
May 4, 2022



Overview of discussion



Environmental
justice policy



Environmental
justice screening
tools



Implications to
industrial sector



Next steps

USEPA's definition of environmental justice



Environmental justice:

“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, regulations and policies.”

Fair treatment requires that “no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.”

Meaningful involvement is:



People having an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health



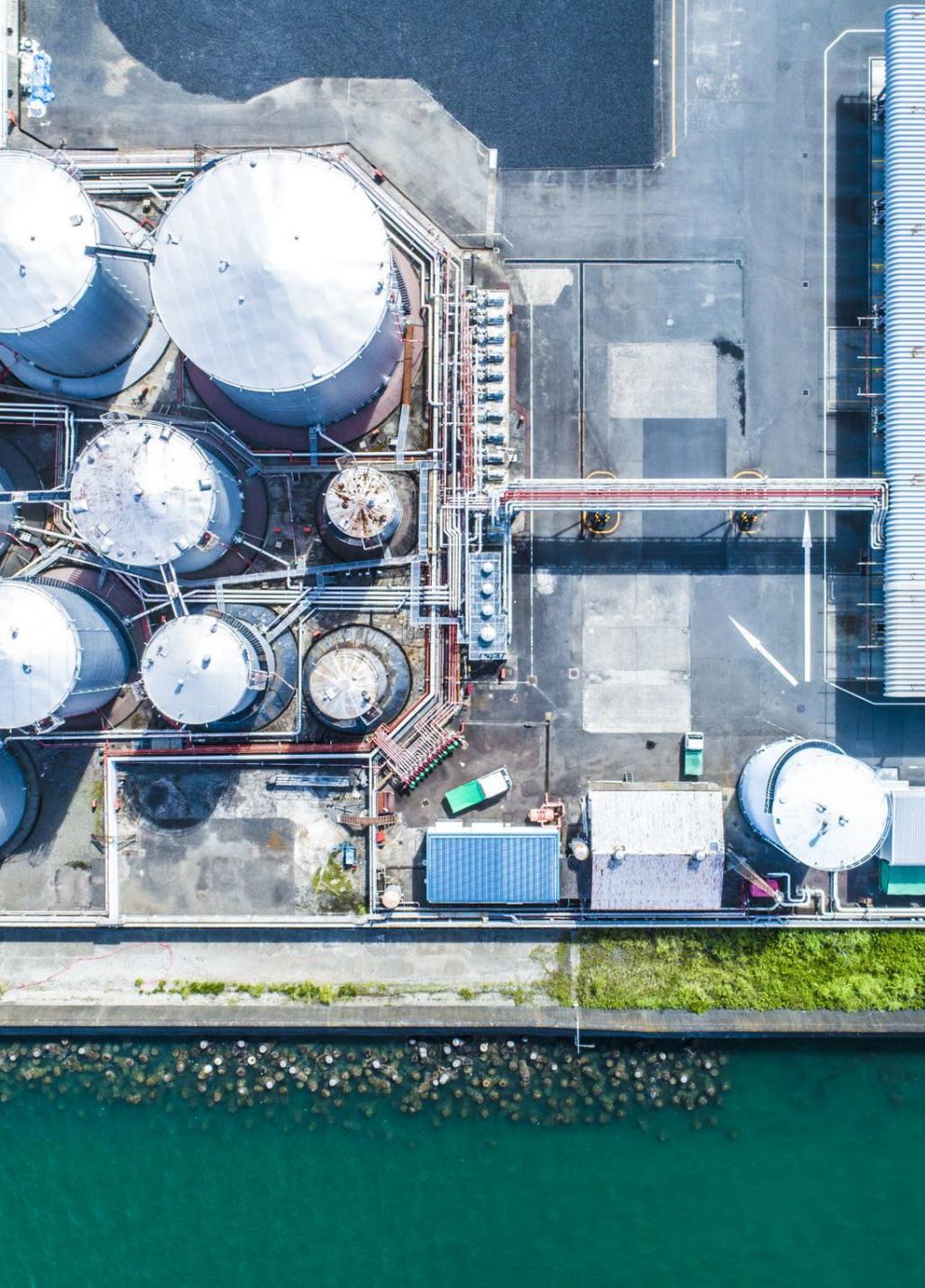
The public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision



Community concerns will be considered in the decision-making process



Decision-makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected



Biden's "all of government" approach

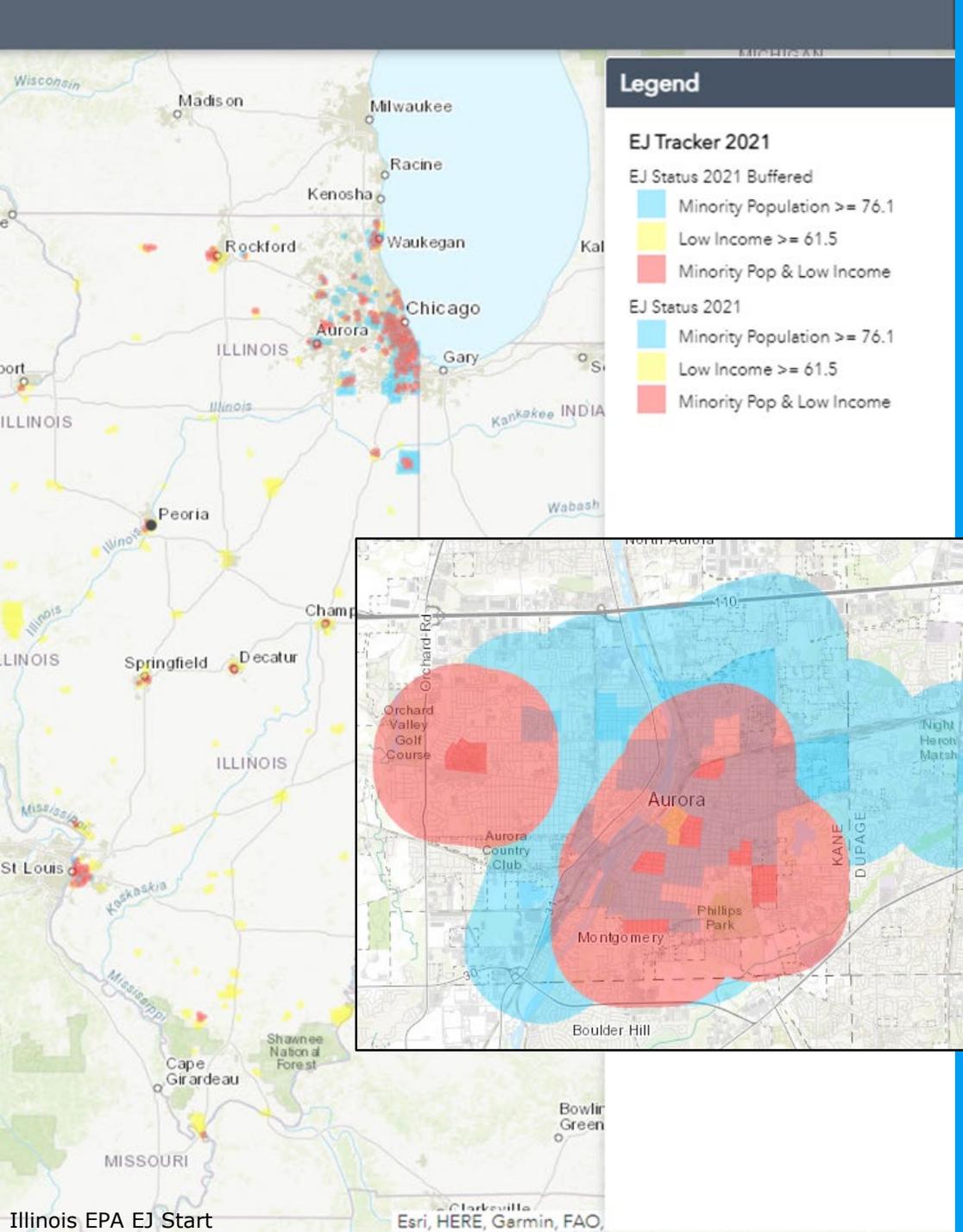
Elevating **environmental** and **climate** justice in all federal government operations and decision-making

- Reinvigorating Executive Order 12898 of 1994
- Justice40 Initiative
- Expanding EJ focus within all programs

Programs focus on:

- Addressing pollution in disadvantaged communities
- Climate resiliency
- Achieving clean, net-zero energy
- Establishing EJ offices within HHS, DOJ, DOI, other

Increasing use of geospatial demographic, environmental, climate data to inform decisions



Screening for environmental justice factors

- Utilize to identify or rank communities with environmental indicators and demographics
 - EJSCREEN v2.0 – EJ mapping and screening tool
 - RSEI – Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI)
 - Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool
 - CalEnviroScreen, other state tools (CO, IL, NY, NJ, PA, NC, MN, etc)

Use this information to:

- Gain insights on areas of potential increased agency enforcement and involvement
- Assess potential for community opposition
- Identify vulnerabilities with current assets and target acquisitions
- Manage risk and inform program planning

Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool

EJScreen

Environmental Indicators

- PM2.5
- Ozone
- Diesel particulate matter
- Air toxics cancer risk
- Air toxics respiratory hazard index
- Traffic proximity and volume
- Lead paint
- Superfund proximity
- RMP facility proximity
- Hazardous waste proximity
- UST and leaking UST (LUST)
- Wastewater discharge

Demographic Indicators

- People of color
- Low-income
- Unemployment rate
- Linguistic isolation
- Less than high school education
- Under age 5
- Over age 64

Output → Reports and Maps

- Each EJ index combines demographic indicators with an environmental indicator

Purpose

- Compare locations to rest of state, region or nation
- Identify areas with minority or low-income populations and environmental quality issues
- Support educational & grant programs
- Screening tool only

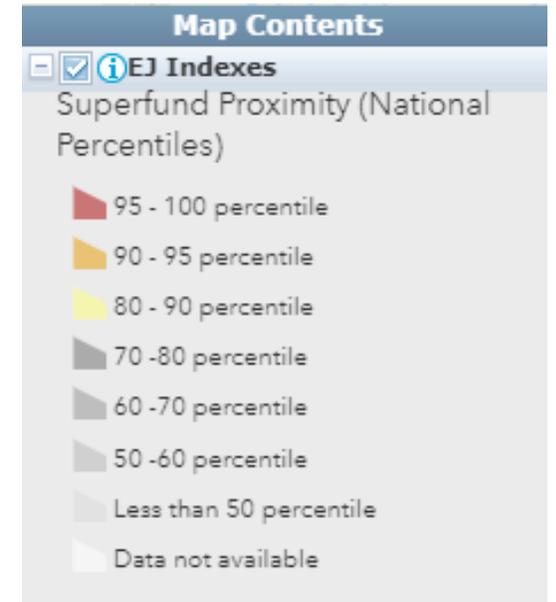
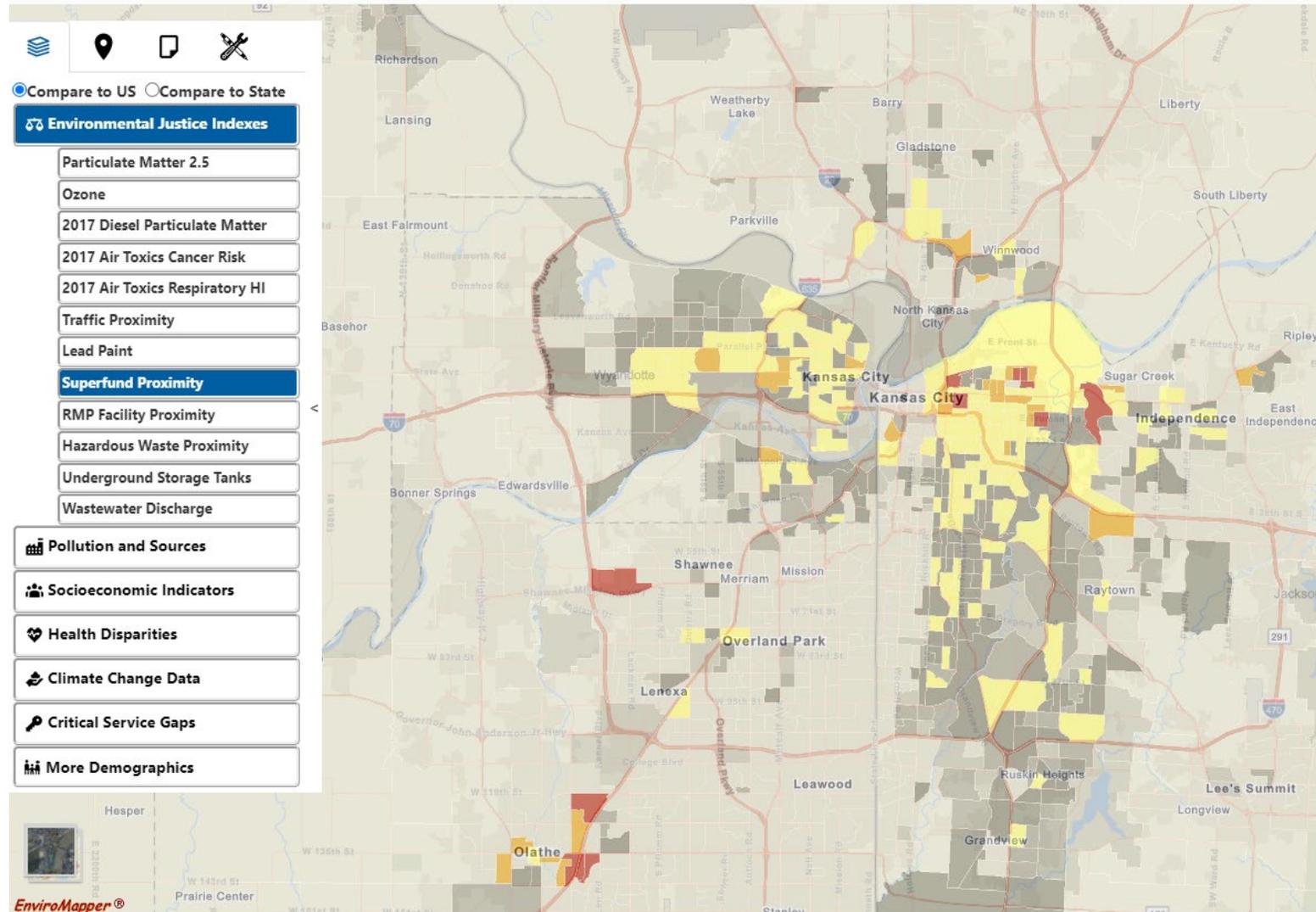
Limitations

- Does not measure cumulative impacts
- Does not quantify risk values
- Does not determine absence or existence of EJ concerns

EJScreen

<https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper>

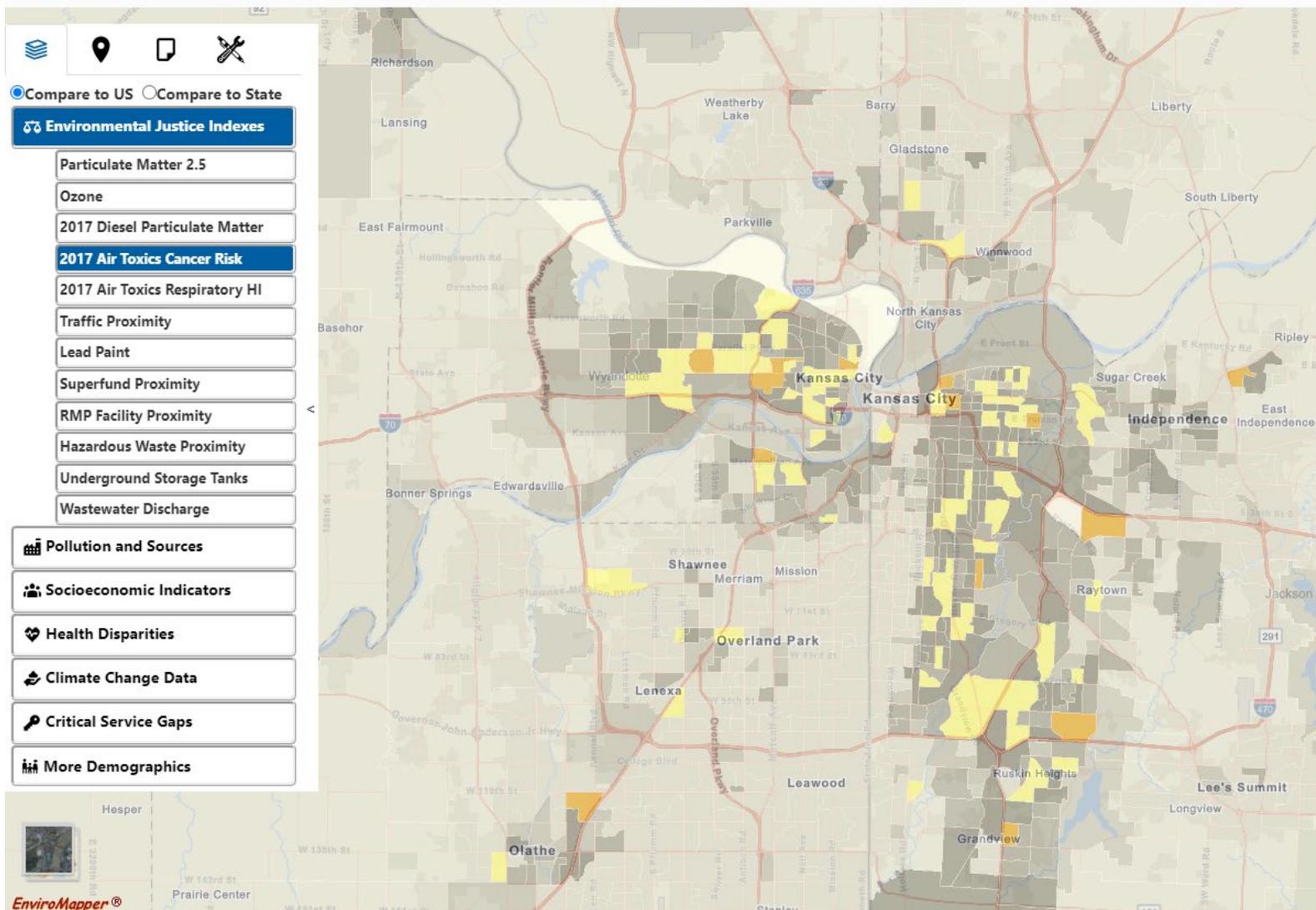
EPA EJScreen EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (Version 2.0)



EJScreen

<https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper>

EPA EJScreen EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (Version 2.0)



Map Contents

- EJ Indexes
- 2017 Air Toxics Cancer Risk (National Percentiles)
- 95 - 100 percentile
- 90 - 95 percentile
- 80 - 90 percentile
- 70 - 80 percentile
- 60 - 70 percentile
- 50 - 60 percentile
- Less than 50 percentile
- Data not available

EJScreen Report (Version 2.0)



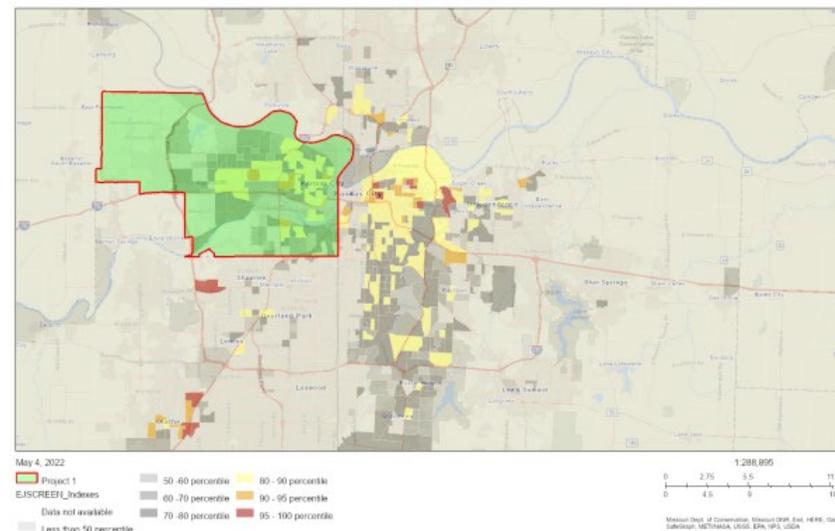
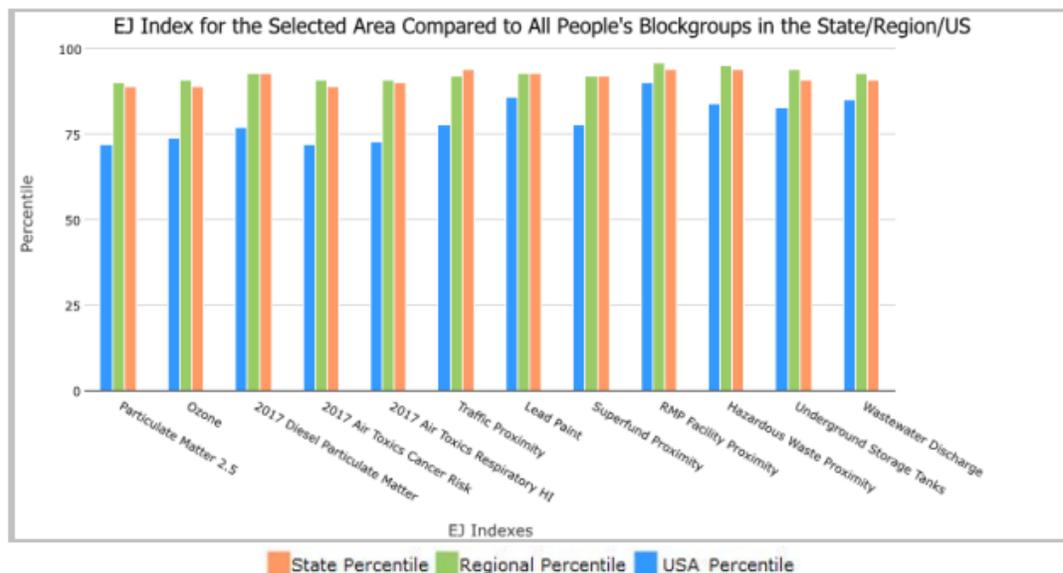
City: Kansas, KANSAS, EPA Region 7

Approximate Population: 152,504

Input Area (sq. miles): 128.38

(The study area contains 7 blockgroup(s) with zero population.)

Selected Variables	State Percentile	EPA Region Percentile	USA Percentile
Environmental Justice Indexes			
EJ Index for Particulate Matter 2.5	89	90	72
EJ Index for Ozone	89	91	74
EJ Index for 2017 Diesel Particulate Matter*	93	93	77
EJ Index for 2017 Air Toxics Cancer Risk*	89	91	72
EJ Index for 2017 Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	90	91	73
EJ Index for Traffic Proximity	94	92	78
EJ Index for Lead Paint	93	93	86
EJ Index for Superfund Proximity	92	92	78
EJ Index for RMP Facility Proximity	94	96	90
EJ Index for Hazardous Waste Proximity	94	95	84
EJ Index for Underground Storage Tanks	91	94	83
EJ Index for Wastewater Discharge	91	93	85



Sites reporting to EPA	
Superfund NPL	0
Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (TSDF)	26

Selected Variables	Value	State Avg.	% in State	EPA Region Avg.	% in EPA Region	USA Avg.	% in USA
Pollution and Sources							
Particulate Matter 2.5 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	8.42	8.02	82	8.26	59	8.74	44
Ozone (ppb)	46.5	45.1	91	44.1	81	42.6	83
2017 Diesel Particulate Matter* ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	0.354	0.21	89	0.221	80-90th	0.295	70-80th
2017 Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	30	25	99	26	95-100th	29	80-90th
2017 Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.38	0.33	91	0.33	80-90th	0.36	70-80th
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	400	250	83	410	73	710	63
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.49	0.35	69	0.33	71	0.28	77
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.1	0.079	77	0.1	72	0.13	67
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	2	0.99	85	0.95	86	0.75	90
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	2.8	1.2	86	1	89	2.2	77
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km ²)	4.5	3.3	74	2.5	82	3.9	75
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	0.017	1.5	72	2.9	76	12	73
Socioeconomic Indicators							
Demographic Index	54%	27%	90	25%	91	36%	77
People of Color	62%	24%	91	20%	93	40%	73
Low Income	46%	30%	79	30%	79	31%	76
Unemployment Rate	7%	4%	81	4%	80	5%	70
Linguistically Isolated	9%	3%	91	2%	94	5%	82
Less Than High School Education	22%	9%	89	9%	91	12%	82
Under Age 5	8%	7%	71	6%	73	6%	74
Over Age 64	12%	15%	36	16%	31	16%	38

*Diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, and air toxics respiratory hazard index are from the EPA's 2017 Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. Cancer risks and hazard indices from the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update>.

Risk Screening Environmental Indicators Model (RSEI)

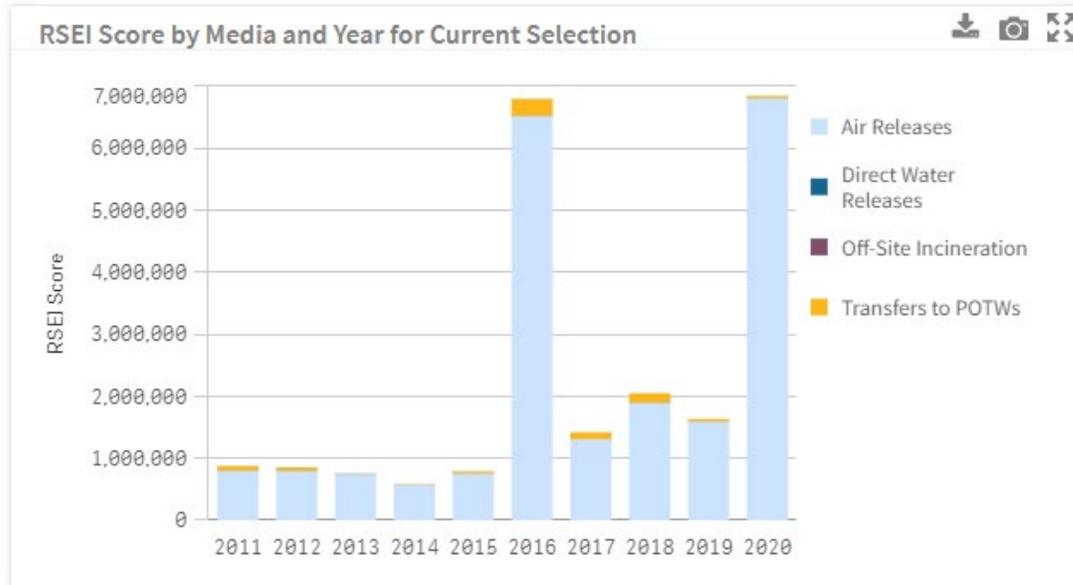
- Information on toxic releases
- Scores by:
 - Chemical
 - Industry sector
 - Geographic area

<https://www.epa.gov/rsei/>

- **Data from Toxics Release Inventory (TRI)**
- **Combined with:**
 - Chemical's fate and transport
 - Relative toxicity
 - Potential human exposure
- **Purpose**
 - Establish priorities for further investigation (high scores)
 - Look at changes in potential human health impacts over time
 - Prioritize issues related to toxics management
 - Combine with demographic and income data for environmental justice
- **Limitations**
 - Worst-case scenario
 - Additional investigation may indicate less potential for concern
 - Uses simplifying assumptions

RSEI

<https://edap.epa.gov/public/extensions/EasyRSEI/EasyRSEI.html>

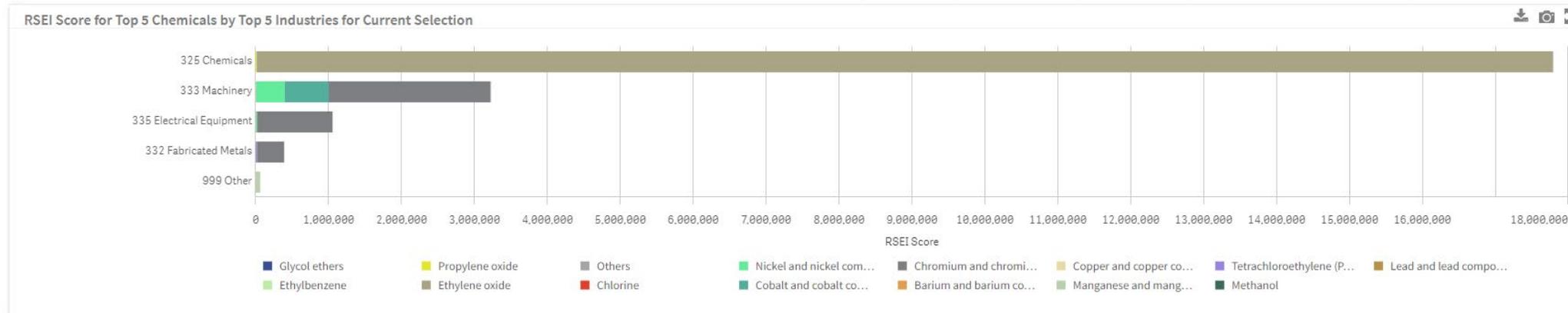


Facility List

These are the facilities that are in your selected set. Values in the table represent only those releases in your set - the total RSEI value for any facility may be higher when all releases are included.

List of Facilities in Current Selection

RSEI Score	TRIFID	Name	Street	City	State/Territory	RSEI Facility Report
22,595,361						
17,792,643	66106HRCRSS200S	HARCROS CHEMICALS INC	5200 SPEAKER RD	KANSAS CITY	KS	Link
2,767,169	66106FRBNK3601F	PENTAIR - KANSAS CITY OPERATION	3601 FAIRBANKS AVE	KANSAS CITY	KS	Link
1,506,303	66061MRLYCMARLE	SPX COOLING TECHNOLOGIES	W MARLEY RD & S LONE ELM RD	OLATHE	KS	Link
390,297	66203VTCRF11100	VITA CRAFT CORP	11100 W 58TH ST	SHAWNEE	KS	Link
60,011	66219RRWMT16W18	ARROW MATERIAL HANDLING	16000 W 108TH ST	LENEXA	KS	Link
52,720	66106KNSSC3401F	SINCLAIR KANSAS CITY PRODUCTS TERMINAL	3401 FAIRBANKS AVE	KANSAS CITY	KS	Link
14,817	66111GRFFN7111G	AMSTED RAIL CO GRIFFIN WHEEL KANSAS CITY FACILITY	7111 GRIFFIN RD	KANSAS CITY	KS	Link
5,274	6621WKCHR1585W	KOCHER + BECK USA	15850 W 99TH ST	LENEXA	KS	Link



Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (Beta)

CEJST

Identifies disadvantaged communities in 8 categories:

- Climate change
- Clean energy and energy efficiency
- Clean transit
- Affordable and sustainable housing
- Reduction and remediation of legacy pollution
- Critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure
- Health burdens
- Training and workforce development

Data sources

- Environmental data from EJScreen:
 - PM2.5 in air
 - Diesel PM exposure
 - Proximity to haz waste facilities
 - Proximity to NPL sites
 - Proximity to RMP facilities
 - Proximity to wastewater discharge of toxics
- Climate losses from FEMA National Risk Index
 - Agriculture
 - Buildings
 - Population

Identified as disadvantaged if:

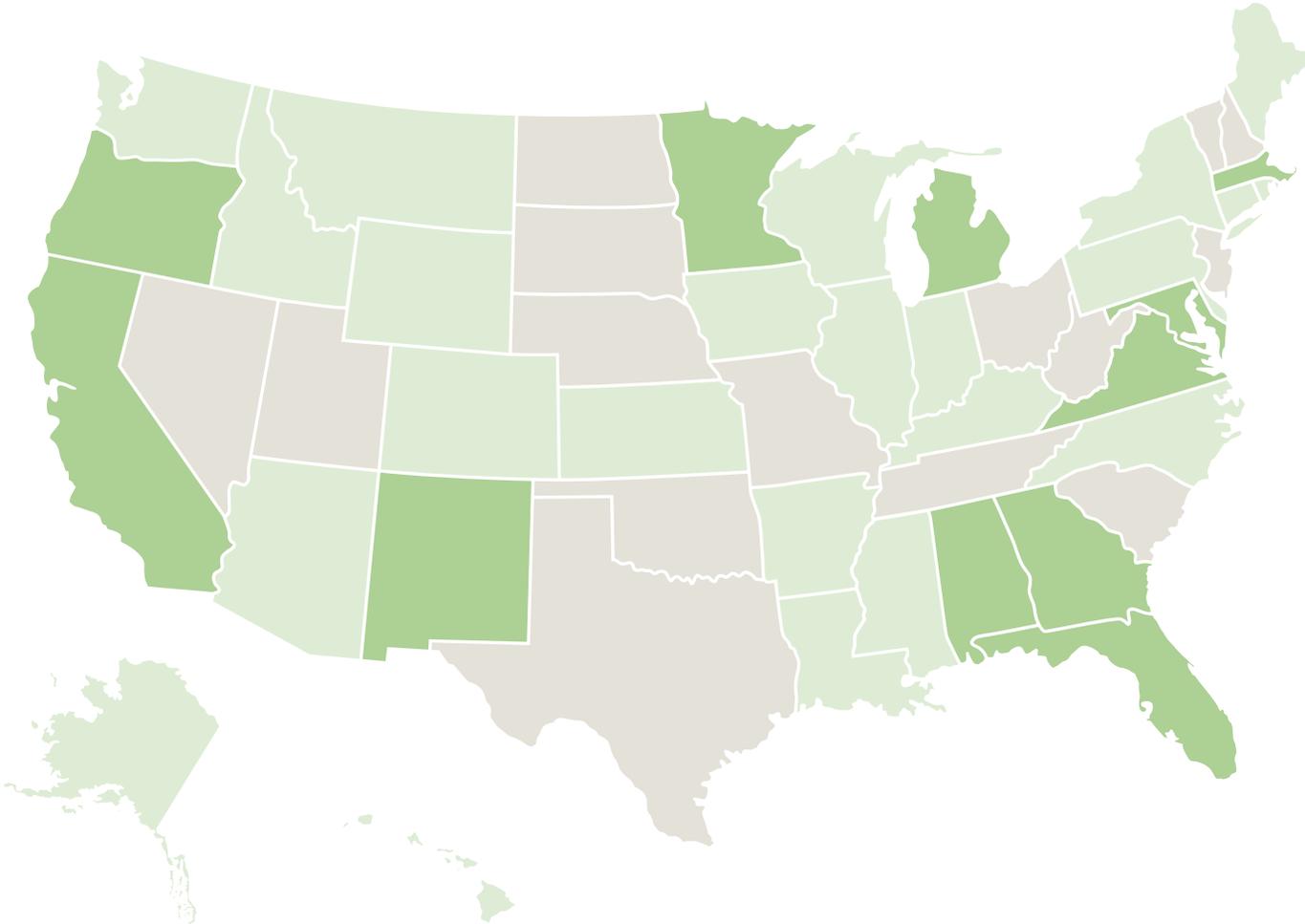
- Above threshold for one or more env or climate indicators AND
- Census tract is above threshold for socioeconomic indicators

Purpose

- Help Federal agencies identify these communities to inform decisions that may affect them
- Provide info for Justice40 initiative

**Public comment period
extended to May 25, 2022**

State-level regulatory environment



- Patchwork of EJ related programs and policy at the state level
- State Executive Orders in place in multiple states
- Other states have instituted EJ statutes and policies
- Many states have no EJ measures
- Differing identification criteria

Implications to industrial sector

→ Increased regulatory oversight and enforcement activity

→ More transparency built into permits

→ Analysis of potential cumulative health impacts

→ Community participation in planning, permitting, mitigation processes

→ Request for increased or community-specific communications, emergency planning

→ Increased funding and technical training for community advocacy groups

Engagement throughout project lifecycle



Planning and permitting

- NEPA
- Permitting process (air, water, waste)

Production

- ESG
- Shareholders/SEC

Closure and reclamation

- Land access
- Stewardship



Next steps

Stay informed



- Set alerts to be aware of changes in federal and local legal landscape, regulatory updates, community concerns
- Educate staff on emerging EJ vocabulary and concepts, integrate into corporate policy
- Network with industry colleagues and community leaders

Strengthen programs, identify potential risks



- Ensure accuracy of data reported
- Identify EJ requirements in areas where operating, especially early in planning
- Review and assess effectiveness of internal engagement programs and processes
- Consider what vulnerabilities or opportunities might be presented by community, regulators

Engage early and often



- Invest in outreach and engagement programs
- Engage proactively with communities and regulators
- Document engagement activities and outcomes
- Anticipate changes in policies, permitting, compliance

Bright
ideas.
Sustainable
change.



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