



**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**  
**MARYLAND BROWNFIELD**  
**CONFERENCE**  
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**Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental**  
**Assessment (OCTEA)**

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# Presentation Summary

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- Overview of Environmental Justice (EJ)
  - What is Environmental Justice?
  - Why identifying environmentally impacted and vulnerable communities is important?
- Summary of Federal Executive Orders
  - Executive Orders 12898, 13985, 14008
- EPA'S EJSCREEN TOOL, mapping and screening tool

# What is Environmental Justice (EJ)?

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- EPA defines environmental justice as 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.



# Why EJ Matters?

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“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



Why should identifying environmentally impacted and vulnerable communities be important to you?

Educate yourself -

Understand and utilize data to quantify and analyze impacts

Educate others –

Research a local environmental justice issue and educate your community and school

Use what you learned –

Advocate for fairness and change

# Equality, Equity, Justice

## Equality



*The assumption is that everyone benefits from the same supports.*

*This is equal treatment.*

## Equity



*Everyone gets the support they need.*

*This is the concept of "affirmative action" – thus, producing equity.*

## Justice



*All 3 can see the game without supports or accommodations because the cause of the inequity was addressed.*

*The systemic barrier has been removed.*



# EJ Movement

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- The **EJ Movement...**
  - Seeks to meaningfully involve those who are politically disenfranchised and/or economically incapable of making significant changes in their neighborhood.
  - Strives to end the environmental racism arising from the abuse and neglect of the local environment.
  - Seeks to systemically address and redress the disproportionate burden placed on low-income and minority communities.

# The Road to Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sx93yKLxSyk>

Learn more about Environmental Justice

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/learn-about-environmental-justice>

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/community-voices-environmental-justice>

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-timeline>



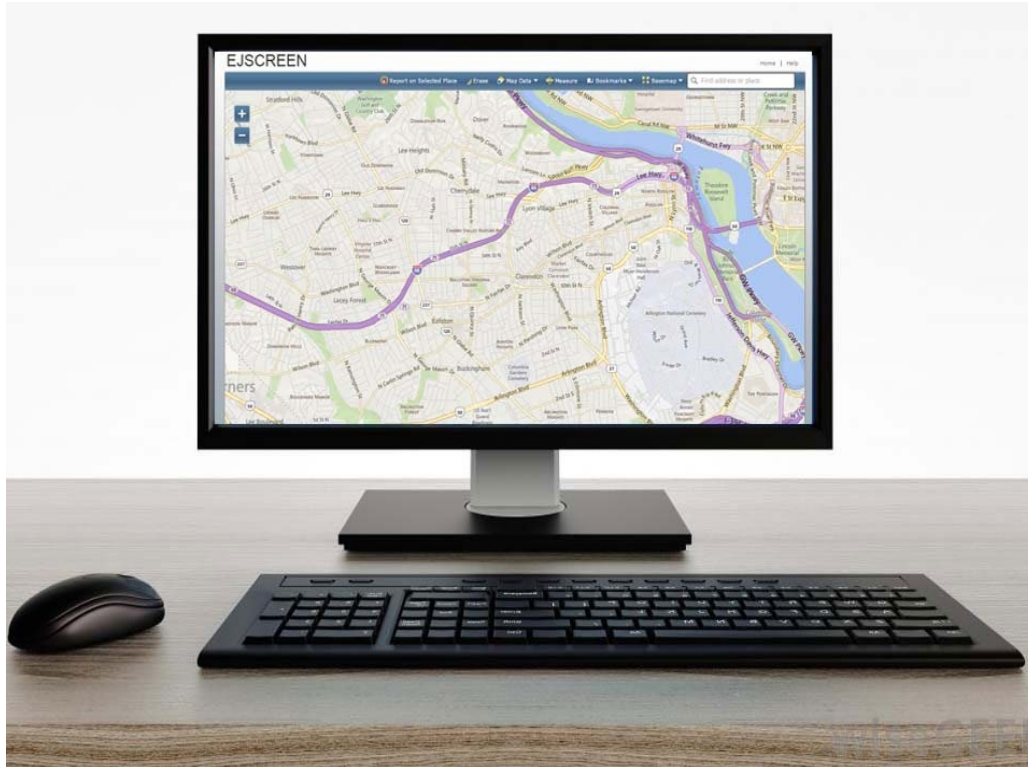


## Executive Order 13985:

- *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government (1/20/21)*

## Executive Order 14008:

- *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (1/27/21)*



EJSCREEN:

EPA's Environmental  
Justice Screening Tool

[www.epa.gov/ejscreen](https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen)

EJSCREEN Training Videos

<https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen/ejscreen-videos>

# EJ and Title VI Tools and Guidance

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## EJScreen

EJScreen is an environmental justice mapping and screening tool that provides EPA with a nationally consistent dataset and approach for combining environmental and demographic indicators.

<https://epa.gov/ejscreen>

## Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)

This tool identifies communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. These communities are located in census tracts that are at or above the thresholds in one or more of eight categories of criteria.

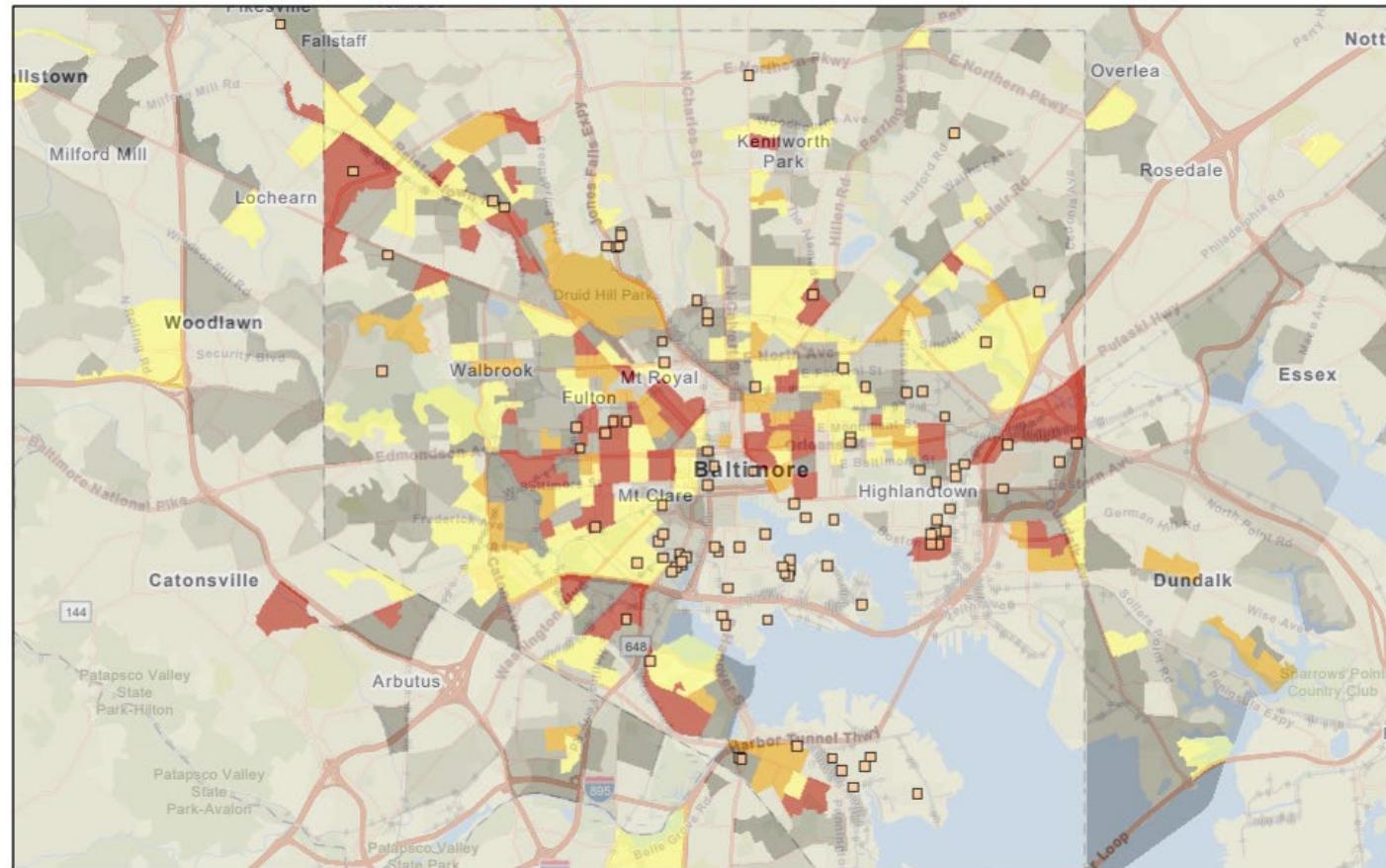
**This is the only tool to be used to determine compliance with j40, that provides that 40 % of federal funding must be used for the benefit of EJ communities of concern.**

<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/>

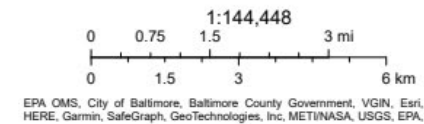
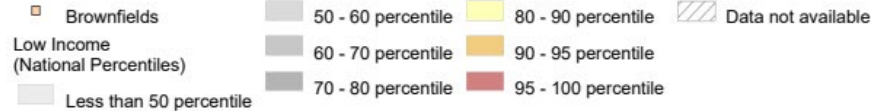
## Environmental Atlas

EnviroAtlas is an interactive web-based tool that decision-makers can use to inform policy and planning in the places where people live, learn, work and play.

# EJScreen Example: EPA Brownfield Sites



11/10/2022





The results from the EJ Screening can be included in your Brownfields Grant applications.

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

• EJScreen Video Demonstration



# THANK YOU !

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