

# **EQUITY AND JUSTICE AT EPA**

Philip Fine

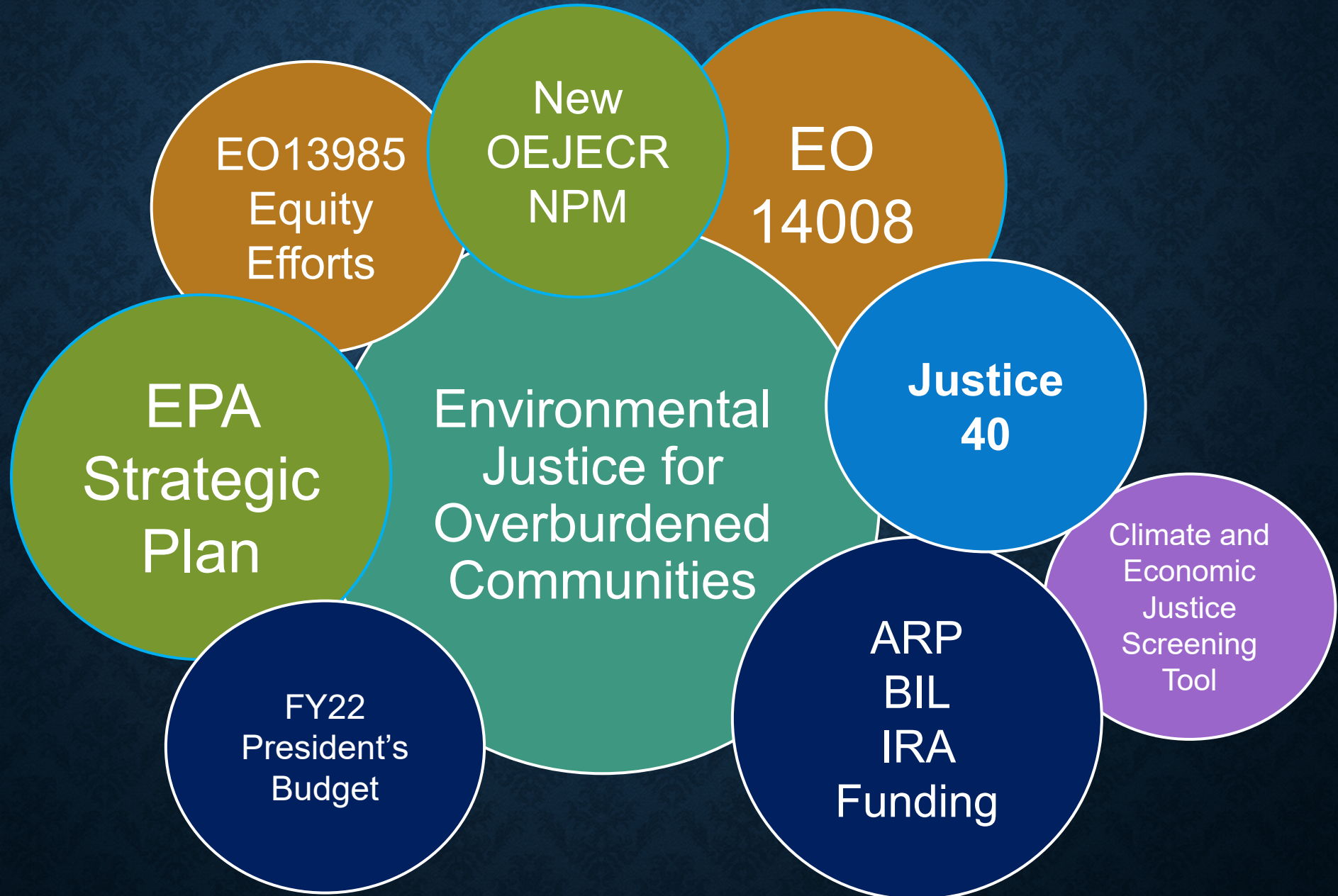
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# THE EJ LANDSCAPE AT EPA



# Draft FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan Framework

**Mission:** To Protect Human Health and the Environment

**Principles:** Follow the Science, Follow the Law, Be Transparent, Advance Justice and Equity



**Strategy 1:**

Ensure Scientific Integrity and Science-Based Decision Making



**Strategy 2:**

Consider the Health of Children at All Life Stages and Other Vulnerable Populations



**Strategy 3:**

Advance EPA's Organizational Excellence and Workforce Equity



**Strategy 4:**

Strengthen Tribal, State, and Local Partnerships and Enhance Engagement



**Goal 1:**

Tackle the Climate Crisis



**Goal 2:**

Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights



**Goal 3:**

Enforce Environmental Laws and Ensure Compliance



**Goal 4:**

Ensure Clean and Healthy Air for All Communities



**Goal 5:**

Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities



**Goal 6:**

Safeguard and Revitalize Communities



**Goal 7:**

Ensure Safety of Chemicals for People and the Environment



# Multiyear Strategic Plan EJ and External Civil Rights Commitments

FY 2022-2026 Long-Term Performance Goals – Strategic Goals 1-3

Goal 1: Climate	Obj 1.1	Promulgate final rules to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from light duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty vehicles; electric utility generating units; and the oil and gas industry. EPA's climate partnership programs will reduce expected annual GHG emissions by 545 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.
	Obj 1.2	Implement all priority actions in EPA's Climate Adaptation Action Plan and the 20 National Program and Regional Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans to account for the impacts of the changing climate on human health and the environment. Assist at least 400 federally recognized Tribes to take action to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change. Assist at least 450 states, territories, local governments, and communities, especially communities that are underserved and disproportionately at risk from climate change, to take action to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change.
	Obj 1.3	Implement at least 100 international climate engagements that result in an individual partner commitment or agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate change, or improve resilience in a manner that promotes equity.
Goal 2: Environmental Justice	Obj 2.1	All EPA programs that seek feedback and comment from the public will provide capacity-building resources to communities with environmental justice concerns to support their ability to meaningfully engage and provide useful feedback to those programs. Include commitments to address disproportionate impacts in all written agreements between EPA and Tribes and states (e.g., grant work plans implementing delegated authorities). EPA programs with direct implementation authority will take at least 100 significant actions that will result in measurable improvements in Indian country. All state recipients of EPA financial assistance will have foundational civil rights programs in place. Increase by 40% the number of Office of Research and Development activities related to environmental justice that involve or are applicable to Tribes, states, territories, local governments, and communities. Reduce disparities in environmental and public health conditions represented by the indicators identified through the FY 2022-2023 Agency Priority Goal. 90% of significant EPA actions with environmental justice implications will clearly demonstrate how the action is responsive to environmental justice concerns and reduces or otherwise addresses disproportionate impacts. All EPA programs that work in and with communities will do so in ways that are community-driven, coordinated and collaborative, support equitable and resilient community development, and provide for meaningful involvement and fair treatment of communities with environmental justice concerns. All EPA programs and regions will identify and implement areas and opportunities to integrate environmental justice considerations and achieve civil rights compliance in their planning, guidance, policy directives, monitoring, and review activities. All EPA programs and regions will implement program and region-specific language assistance plans. All EPA programs and regions will implement program and region-specific disability access plans. Initiate 45 proactive post-award civil rights compliance reviews to address discrimination issues in environmentally overburdened and underserved communities. Conduct 35 audits to ensure EPA financial assistance recipients are complying with nondiscrimination program procedural requirements. Complete 100 information sharing sessions and outreach and technical assistance events with overburdened and underserved communities and environmental justice groups on civil rights and environmental justice issues.
	Obj 2.2	
	Obj 2.3	
	Obj 2.4	
	Obj 2.5	
Goal 3: Enforcement/ Compliance	Obj 3.1	Reduce to not more than 93 the number of violations of the Clean Air Act without a complaint filed.
	Obj 3.2	Send 75% of EPA inspection reports to facilities within 70 days of inspection.
	Obj 3.3	Conduct 55% of annual EPA inspections at facilities that affect communities with potential environmental justice concerns.

FY 2022-2026 Long-Term Performance Goals – Strategic Goals 4-7

Goal 4: Air	Obj 4.1	Reduce ozone season emissions of nitrogen oxides from electric power generation sources by 21% from the 2019 baseline of 390,354 tons. Improve measured air quality in counties not meeting the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards from the 2016 baseline by 10%. Strive to ensure all people with low socio-economic status live in areas where the air quality meets the current fine particle pollution National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Ensure U.S. consumption of hydrochlorofluorocarbons is less than 76.2 tons per year of ozone depletion potential.
	Obj 4.2	Prevent 2,250 lung cancer deaths annually through lower radon exposure as compared to the FY 2020 baseline of 1,684 prevented lung cancer deaths.
	Obj 4.3	Reduce the number of community water systems still in noncompliance with health-based standards since March 31, 2021 from 752 to 500. Reduce the number of community water systems in Indian country still in noncompliance with health-based standards since March 31, 2021 from 130 to 70. Leverage an additional \$45 billion in non-federal dollars through EPA's water infrastructure finance programs (CWSPF, DWSPF and WIFIA). In coordination with other federal agencies, provide access to basic sanitation for an additional 36,500 American Indian and Alaska Native homes. Provide 2,203 Tribal, small, rural, or underserved communities with technical, managerial, or financial assistance to improve operations of their drinking water or wastewater systems.
Goal 5: Water	Obj 5.1	
	Obj 5.2	
	Obj 5.3	
Goal 6: Land	Obj 6.1	Bring human exposures under control at an additional 80 Superfund sites. Complete 225 Superfund cleanup projects that address lead as a contaminant. Clean up an additional 650 brownfields properties. Make an additional 425 RCRA corrective action cleanups ready for Anticipated Use. Conduct an additional 35,000 cleanups at Leaking Underground Storage Tank facilities.
	Obj 6.2	
	Obj 6.3	
Goal 7: Chemicals	Obj 7.1	Increase the percentage of updated permits at RCRA facilities to 80% from the FY 2021 baseline of 72.7%. Ensure that 40% of annual emergency response and removal exercises that EPA conducts or participates in incorporate environmental justice.
	Obj 7.2	
	Obj 7.3	



# Multiyear Strategic EJ/ECRC Priority Goals

**Phase down the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).** By September 30, 2023, annual U.S. consumption of HFCs will be 10% below the baseline of 303.9 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e) consistent with the HFC phasedown schedule in the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act and codified in the implementing regulations. A 10% reduction would decrease the U.S. consumption limit to less than 273.5 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2023.

**Deliver tools and metrics for EPA and its Tribal, state, local, and community partners to advance environmental justice and external civil rights compliance.** By September 30, 2023, EPA will develop and implement a cumulative impacts framework, issue guidance on external civil rights compliance, establish at least 10 indicators to assess EPA's performance in reducing disparities in environmental and public health conditions, and train staff and partners on how to use these resources.

**Clean up contaminated sites and invest in water infrastructure to enhance the livability and economic vitality of overburdened and underserved communities.** By September 30, 2023, EPA will provide technical assistance to at least 10 communities to help achieve clean and safe water and reduced exposures to hazardous substances.



# Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews

Report of the Federal Interagency  
Working Group on Environmental  
Justice & NEPA Committee

MARCH 2016

Working  
together towards  
collaborative  
and innovative  
solutions



## EPA Legal Tools to Advance Environmental Justice

MAY 2022



## Environmental Protection Agency *Interim* Environmental Justice and Civil Rights in Permitting Frequently Asked Questions

August 2022

Office of General Counsel  
Office of Policy

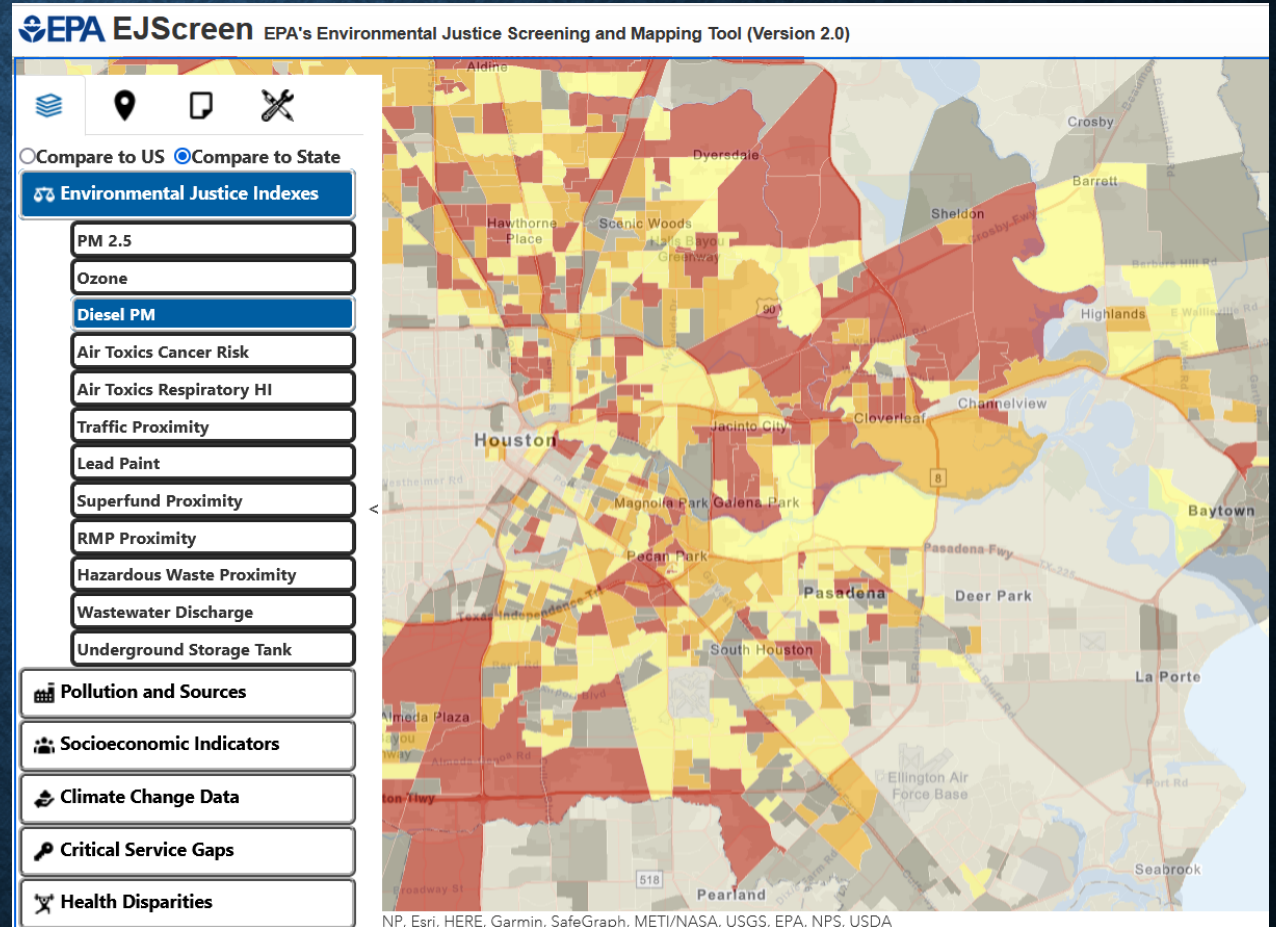
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20460

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# EJSCREEN KEY FEATURES

- 12 EJ Indexes – one for each environmental indicator
- Annually updated environmental data
- Annually updated demographics – from most recent U.S. Census data
- Highest resolution data available
- Ability to download data
- Accessibility / ease of use





# JUSTICE40 AT EPA

- **Commitment to not just meet but exceed 40% of investments and benefits for all J40 covered programs.**
- **EPA [list of J40 programs](#) released in June 2022.**
- **Website with all J40 information  
[www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40-epa](http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40-epa)**
- **Expansion of initial pilot programs to include all EPA BIL programs as “phase one”**
- **Currently assessing IRA programs for Justice40 inclusion**
- **Development of dashboard and mapping tool to provide transparency and accountability of J40 investments and benefits.**



# **INFLATION REDUCTION ACT AND EJ AT EPA**

- **\$41 Billion overall for EPA programs**
- **Many opportunities for states**
  - **Clean HD Vehicles, Ports, GHG Reduction Fund, GHG Reduction Planning and Implementation, Air Monitoring, Schools, and more**
- **Many provisions include set-asides or considerations for low income and disadvantaged communities**
- **\$3 Billion for Environmental and Climate Justice Grant Program**
  - **\$200M for technical assistance**
  - **1000x more than the EJ grant program in 2019**
  - **Community-based organizations in collaboration with local gov't, academia, and tribes**
  - **States are not eligible entities for funding**
  - **Encourage coordination and collaboration between recipients and states**



Thanks!

## Contact Info

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