



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Energy, Justice and Equity – Why Engaging Matters

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The Executive Order


- Governor Whitmer created the Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate and the role of Environmental Justice Public Advocate in Executive Order 2019-06
- Office of the EJPA was created as a Type I agency housed within EGLE's Executive Office.
- As a Type I agency, the office has a direct line to governor's office
- Interagency Environmental Justice Response Team was established.

Michigan and EJ

- The Interagency Environmental Justice Response Team began meeting monthly in July 2019.
- Work Groups of the Response Team have been meeting since last fall.
- Michigan Advisory Council for Environmental Justice (MAC EJ) has been meeting since February 2020.
- Engagement with communities throughout the state to address equitable application of environmental laws and regulations is underway.

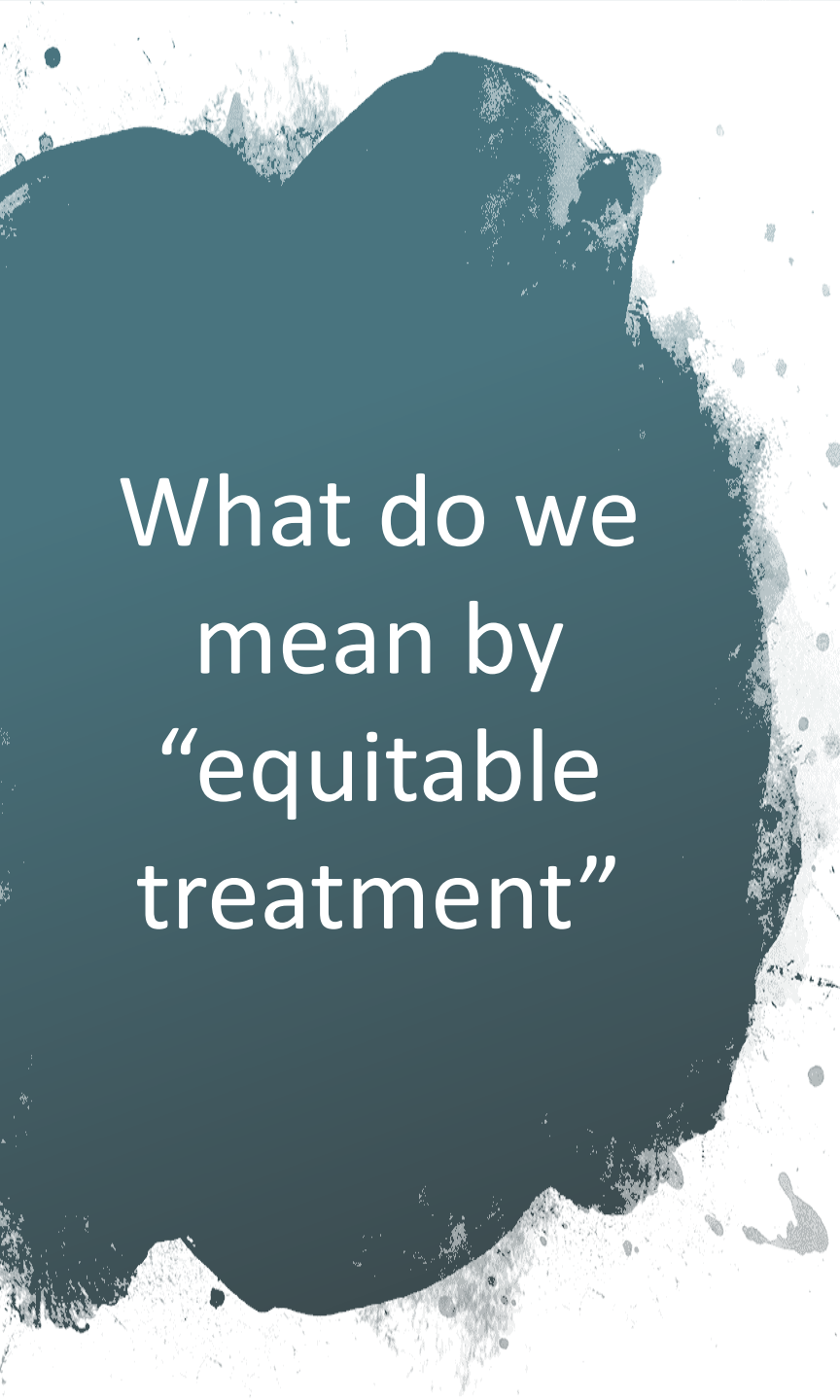
Michigan Advisory Council on Environmental Justice





What is Environmental Justice?

Environmental Justice is the **equitable treatment** and **meaningful involvement** of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, ability or income and is critical to the development and application of laws, regulations, and policies that affect the environment, as well as the places people live, work, play, worship and learn.



What do we mean by “equitable treatment”

No group of people bears a disproportionate share of the negative consequences resulting from governmental, industrial or commercial operations and policies

All people benefit from the application of laws and regulations

Eliminating barriers such as poverty and lack of access, as well as repairing systemic injustices

What do we mean by “meaningful involvement”

People have an opportunity to participate in decisions that affect their environment and/or health

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

People’s concerns are considered in decision-making processes

People can influence state agency decisions

Equity and Environmental Justice

- Diversity vs. **Inclusion**
 - Diversity simply points to difference
 - **Inclusion** describes the need to incorporate these differences on a shared platform where they are accepted and valued
- Equality vs. **Equity**
 - Equality reflects treating everything the same
 - **Equity** takes into consideration how the past has shaped the present and assesses social advantage/disadvantage. It reflects providing what is needed versus equal amounts.

Disparate Impact Factors



Proximity and Exposure



Unique Exposure Pathways



Physical Infrastructure



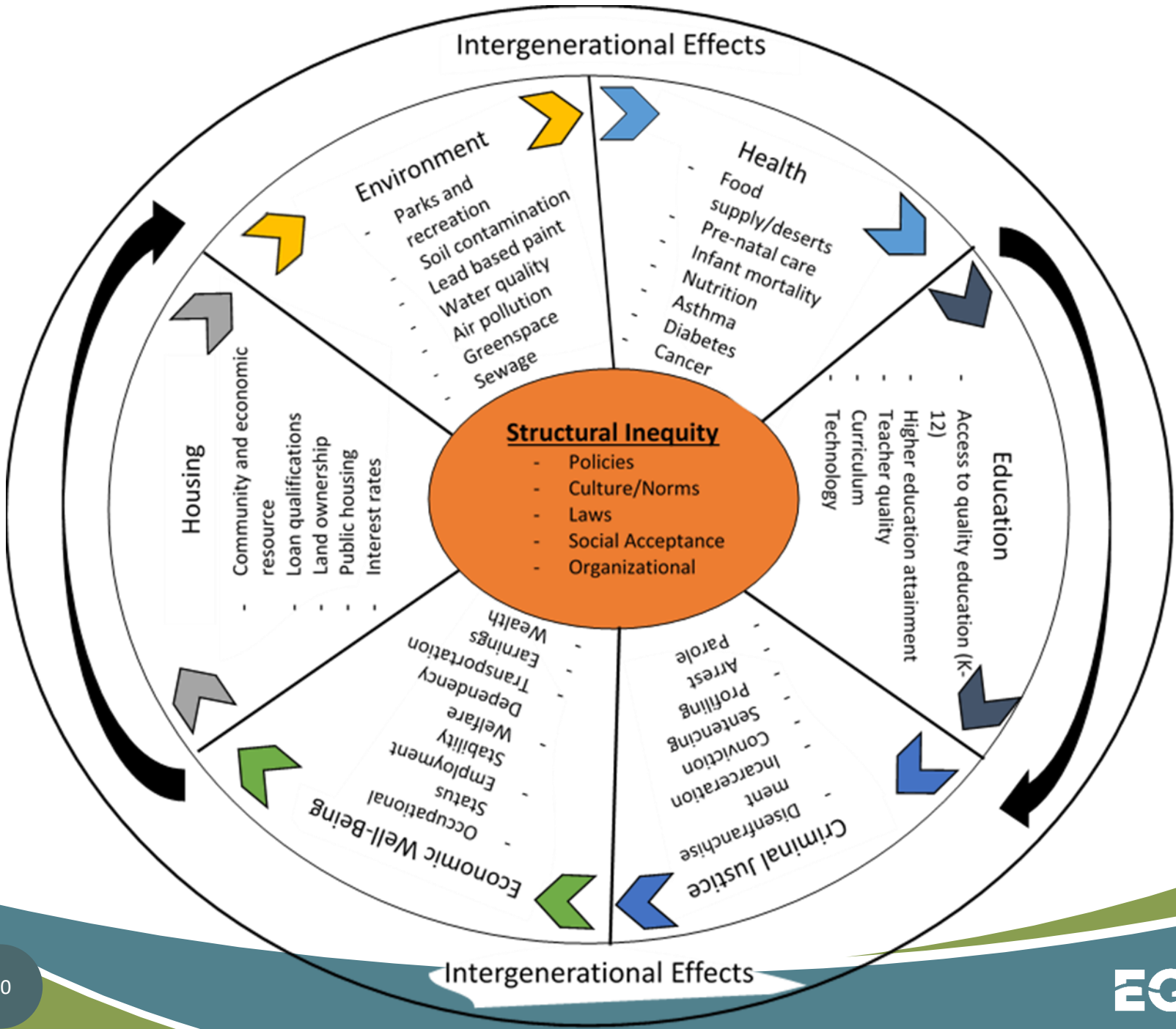
Cumulative Impacts



Public Participation



Vulnerable Populations



Importance and Context

- Justice and Equity in energy are important priorities for planning, because:
 - Energy issues and the detrimental effects associated with energy generation have been studied historically and broadly as environmental injustices.
 - Low-income communities and neighborhoods bear economic and environmental impact disparities in energy consumption.
 - Research on energy usage and community advocacy have been instrumental in planning.

MiEJScreen – Purpose

Develop a Michigan specific mapping tool

Assess cumulative factors (environmental, socioeconomic, health) that communities in Michigan may face

Help inform decisions, allocate resources, and address community specific issues/concerns

Able to be used by multiple stakeholders

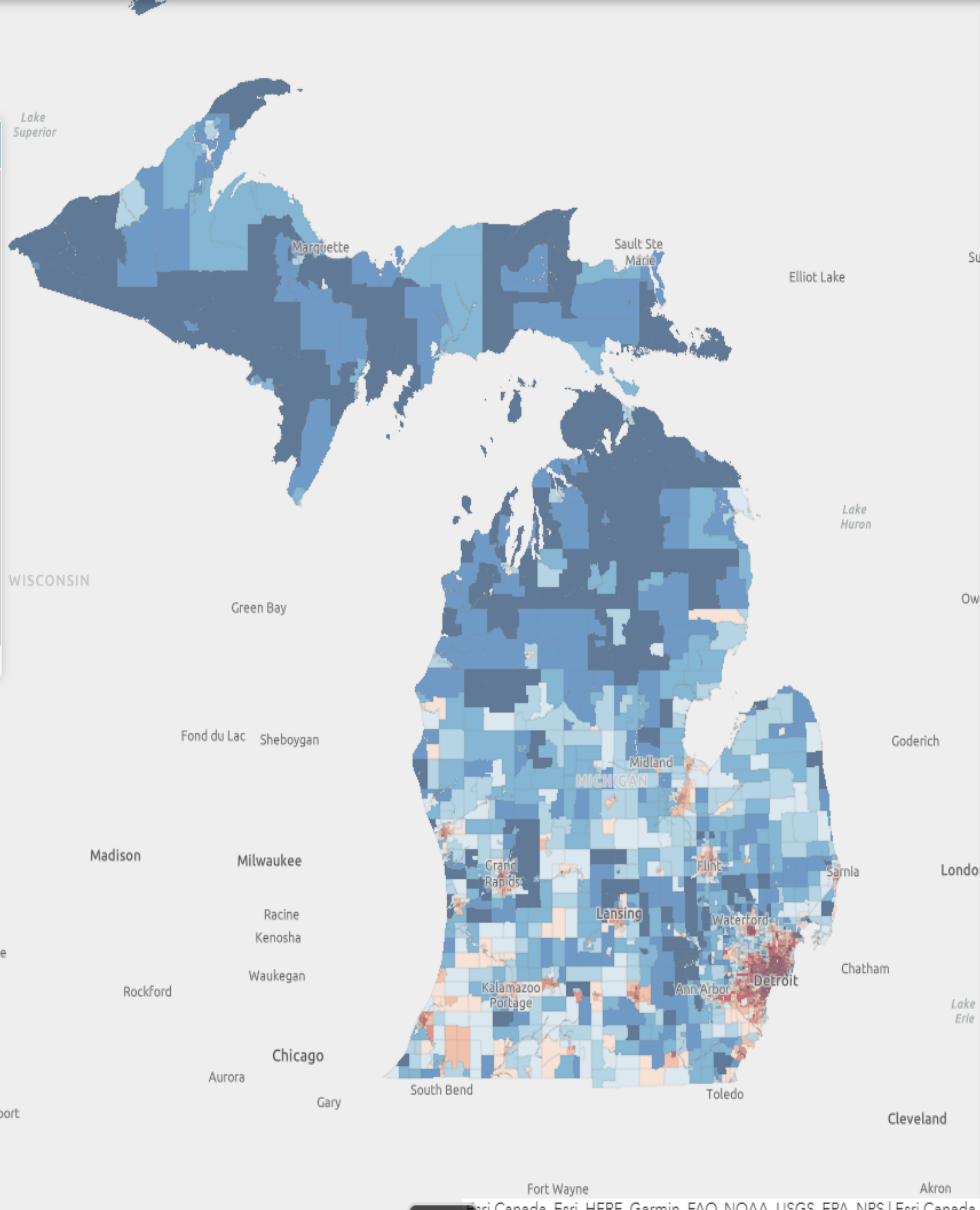
Esri World Geocoder

Legend

MiEJscreen Score Percentile

MiEJScorePL

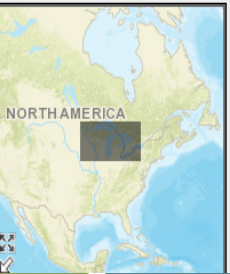
- 91 - 100
- 81 - 90
- 71 - 80
- 61 - 70
- 51 - 60
- 41 - 50
- 31 - 40
- 21 - 30
- 11 - 20
- 0 - 10



Layer List

Layers

- MiEJscreen Score Percentile
- Environmental Conditions Percentile
- Population Characteristics Score Percentile
- 1) Environmental Conditions: Exposure
- a) NATA Air Toxics Cancer Risks
- b) NATA Respiratory Hazard Index
- c) NATA Diesel Particulate Matter
- d) Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5)
- e) Ozone
- f) Traffic Proximity and Volume
- 2) Environmental Conditions: Environmental Effects
- a) Cleanup Sites Proximity
- b) Treatment and Disposal Facilities Proximity
- c) Impaired Waters
- d) Solid Waste Proximity
- e) Lead Paint Indicator
- f) RMP Proximity
- 3) Population Characteristics: Sensitive Populations
- a) Asthma Emergency Room Discharges



Mi EJ Screen – Existing Tools

EPA EJ Screen developed originally in 2015. Update released last week to add additional functions and to incorporate some of the information in state-specific tools.

White House CEQ Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, an online map to identify and define disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. (Justice40) Released 2/22

CalEnviroScreen the longstanding model for state EJ tools, as well as EPA EJScreen updates.

Methodology

Based on California's CalEnviroScreen

Spatial analysis of relative burdens in Michigan communities at the census tract level

Uses both national and statewide indicators

Uses percentiles to assign scores for each indicator

Uses a scoring system in which the percentiles are averaged for the set of indicators in each of the four components

Combines the component scores to produce cumulative score for a given place relative to other places in the state

Categories	Environmental Exposure	Environmental Effects	Sensitive Populations	Socioeconomic Factor
Indicators	<p>Environmental Conditions</p> <p>(Average percentile of Environmental Exposure indicators + 0.5 x average percentile of Environmental Effects indicators)</p> $\frac{\quad}{2}$	<p>Population Characteristics</p> <p>(Average percentile of Sensitive Population indicators x average percentile of Socioeconomic Factor indicators)</p> $\frac{\quad}{2}$		
Score	<p>Final Composite Score = Environmental Conditions score x Population Characteristics score</p> <p>MiEJScreen Score</p>			

Context Layers

Michigan PFAS Sites

Ozone/SO2 Non-Attainment Areas

Schools, hospitals, places of worship

Roads and railroads

Boundaries (zip code, cities, counties, tribal areas, etc.)

Redlining maps

Sites reporting to EPA

Impaired water boundaries

Population density

Public housing

Prisons

EJ Grants

An Equitable Lens for Our Work

- How will being more intentionally inclusive enhance our work?
- How can we think of equity as an element of how we move forward and not an add on or something extra?
- How can we learn to value diverse perspectives, diversify our workforce and use a broader lens to view what we do and why
- How do we let communities speak for themselves?



Questions?

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