

APRIL
2024

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COUNCIL MEETING

Hosted by

Oregon Environmental Justice Council

This meeting will be recorded and available on the Environmental Justice Council website:
<https://www.oregon.gov/gov/policies/pages/environmental-justice-council.aspx>

Environmental Justice Council Members

- Chair Quinn Read
- Vice Chair Valentin Sanchez
- Youth Rep – Danny Cage
- OCBA Liaison– Ben Duncan
- OCHA Liaison – Gustavo Morales
- Joel Iboa
- Jim Kreider
- Tiffany Monroe
- Katie Murray
- Huy Ong
- Amanda Sullivan-Astor

Vacancies

OCAPIA Liaison

LCIS Liaison



Today's Agenda

- Agenda Item #2: EJC Leadership Updates
- Agenda Item #3: In Person Meetings & Listening Sessions Considerations
- Agenda Item #4: EJ Mapping Tool Decision Points
- Agenda Item #5: Lunch
- Agenda Item #6: LUBGWMA CBO Panel
- Agenda Item #7: Public Comment
- Agenda Item #8: Public Comment Council Discussion
- Agenda Item #9: Council Adjourn

April 11, 2024





AGENDA ITEM #2

EJC Leadership Updates

April 11, 2024

4



AGENDA ITEM #3

In Person EJC Meetings & Listening Session Considerations

April 11, 2024

5

Environmental Justice Council Completed Tasks



October 2023
Initial Data
Inventory
Identified by
State Agencies



October 2023
Project Plan
Delivered to
EJC



October 2023
EJC Voted on
Primary Users



October 2023
Listening
Session
Regions
Identified



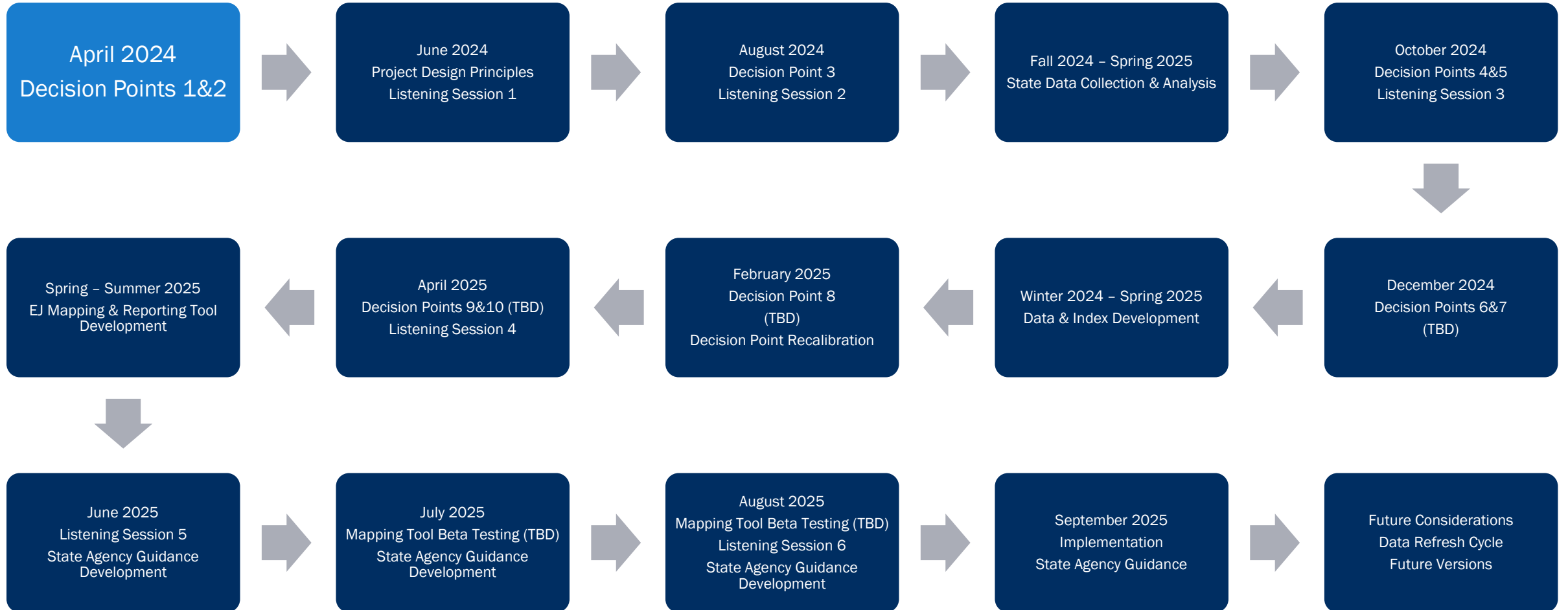
November
2023
EJC Clarified
Mapping Tool
Purpose



March 2024
EJC 1/1
meetings
hosted by EJ
Mapping
Leadership
Team



EJC Projected Timeline



In Person Meeting Objectives

- Discuss EJC Facilitator expectations.
- Listening Session Considerations.
- Identify three regions for in person meetings in 2024.



April 11, 2024

Listening Session Considerations

Facilitator Involvement:

- Meet with EJC to provide available scope based on available funding.
 - \$40,000 available
- Develop listening session process and questions in consultation with the EJC.

Potential Listening Session Options:

- Evening prior to in person EJC meetings (3:00-8:00 PM).
- Virtual options in between EJC meetings.

Supplemental Community Feedback:

- Create additional regionally based community feedback opportunities in collaboration with:
 - State agencies,
 - Local governments, and
 - Community-based organizations.

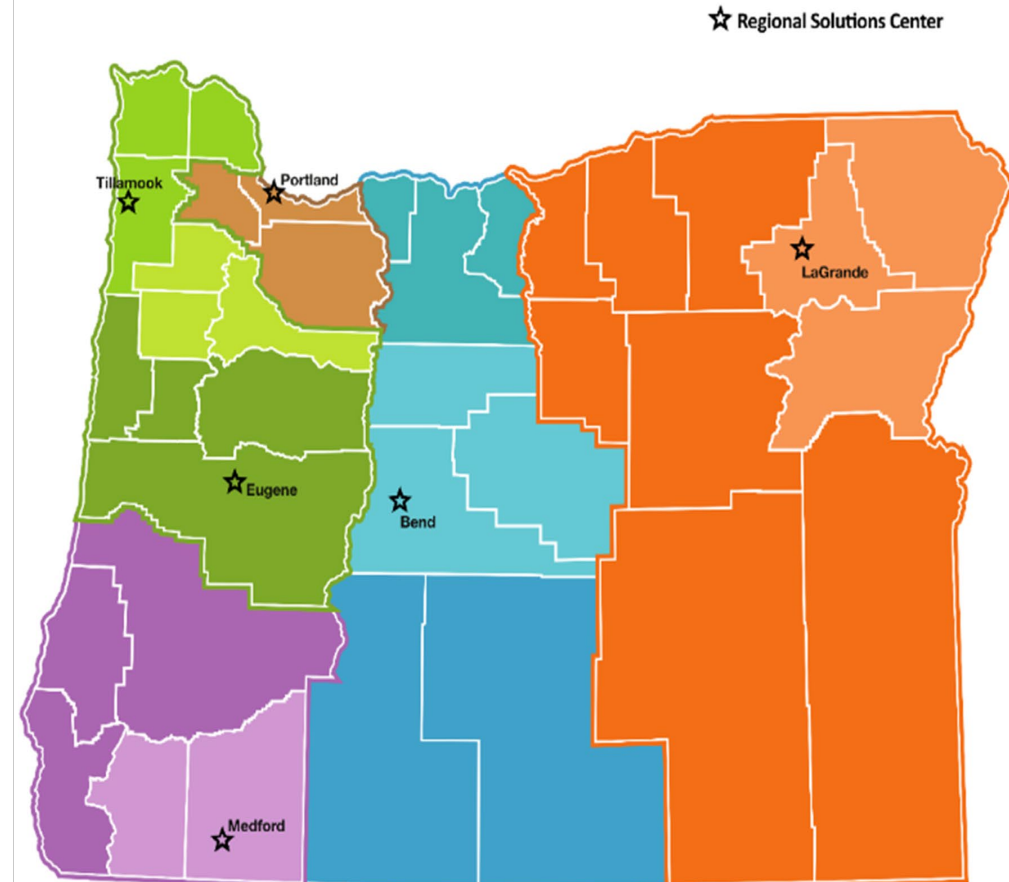
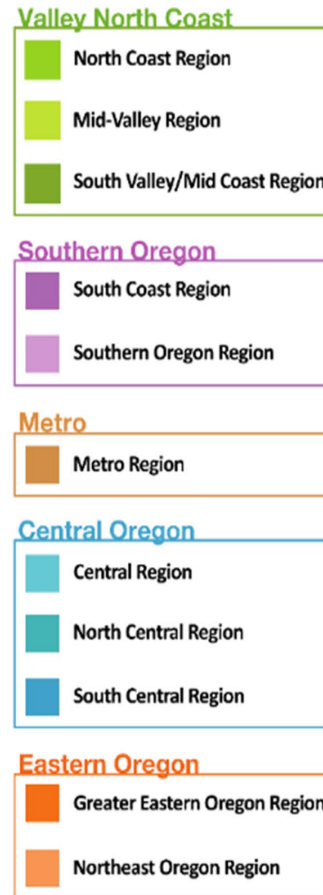
In Person Meeting Options

Please select three regions based on the Oregon Regional Solutions Framework.

In Person Meeting Dates in Question:

- June 13, 2024
- August 8, 2024
- October 10, 2024

Oregon Regional Solutions Map





Agenda Item #4

EJ Mapping Tool Decision Points

April 11, 2024

EJC Mapping 1/1 Meetings



To improve understanding of roles of mapping team working groups.

To improve understanding of domains, indicators, and indexes.

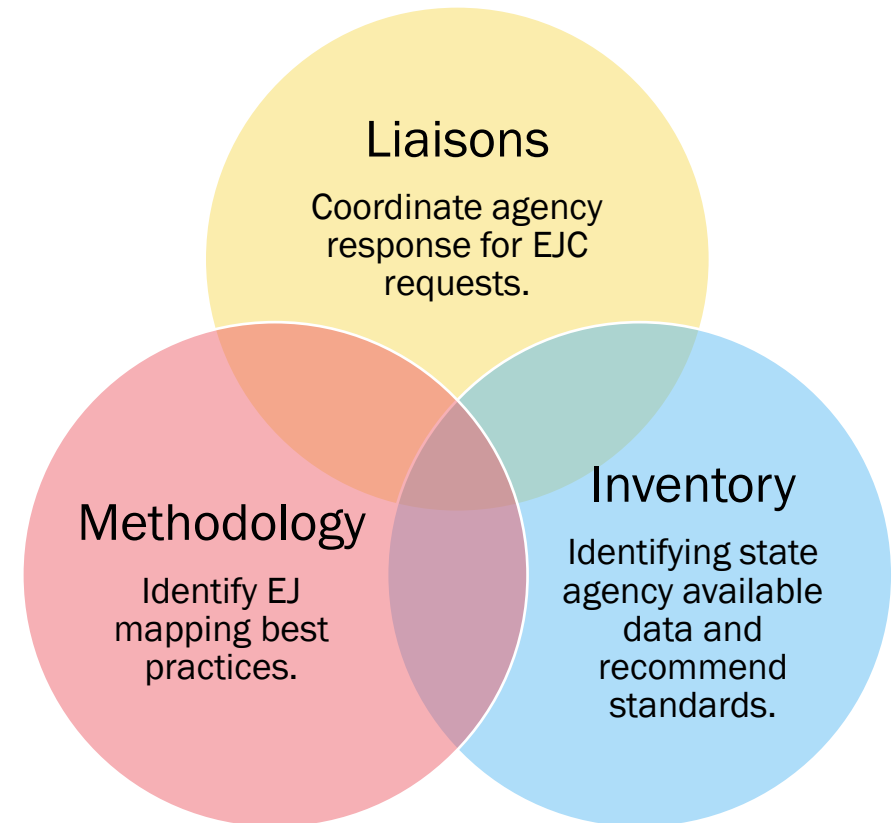
To introduce the decision points for the Oregon Environmental Justice Mapping Tool

To increase understanding of mapping tools and development process.

Working Teams

DEQ, OHA, DAS, OSU Institute for Natural Resources, and PSU Population Research Center form the Environmental Justice Mapping Tool Leadership team.

- Liaison Team: These are liaisons to the EJC with representatives from 16 state agencies. They are led by Environmental Justice Council & Policy Coordinator, Hoang-Van Nguyen.
- Methodology Team: This is a workgroup of technical experts from state and local agencies and academic partners led by OHA, Eric Main providing support regarding decision points.
- Inventory Team: This is a workgroup of data experts from state agencies who will collect and analyze state agency data led by DAS, Melissa Foltz.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MAPPING TOOL METHODOLOGY WORKGROUP

The Methodology Workgroup is made up of community of practice participants from state agencies, regional government, local public health and academic institutions including:

State Agencies

-  Department of Administrative Services
-  Department of Agriculture
-  Oregon Department of Energy
-  Department of Environmental Quality
-  Oregon Department of Forestry
-  Oregon Health Authority
-  Oregon Department of Human Services
-  Department of Land Conservation and Development
-  Oregon Public Utilities Commission
-  Oregon Department of Transportation

Local Governments


-  Oregon Metro
-  Multnomah County Health Department

Academic Partners


-  Portland State University
-  Oregon State University

Decision Points: Why are they important?

Composite indices are complex and there are many options for the EJ Council to choose from that will determine how the Oregon EJ Mapping Tool is structured and how the information is displayed.

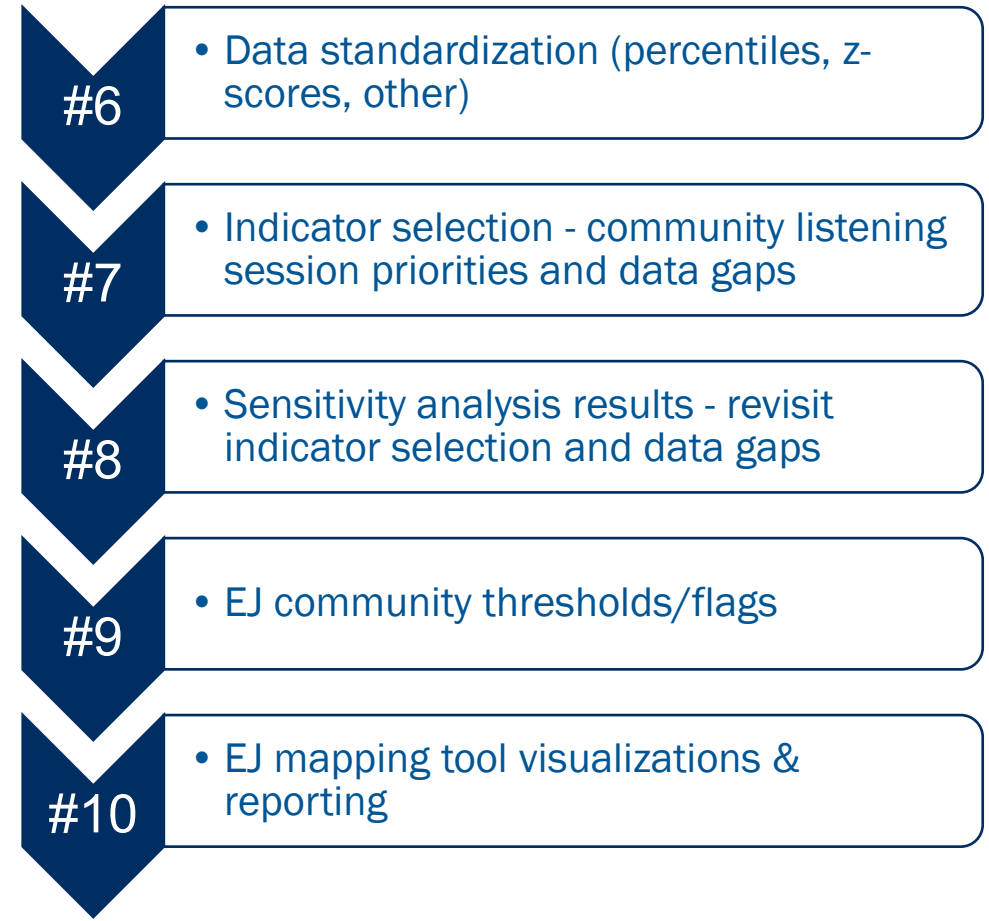
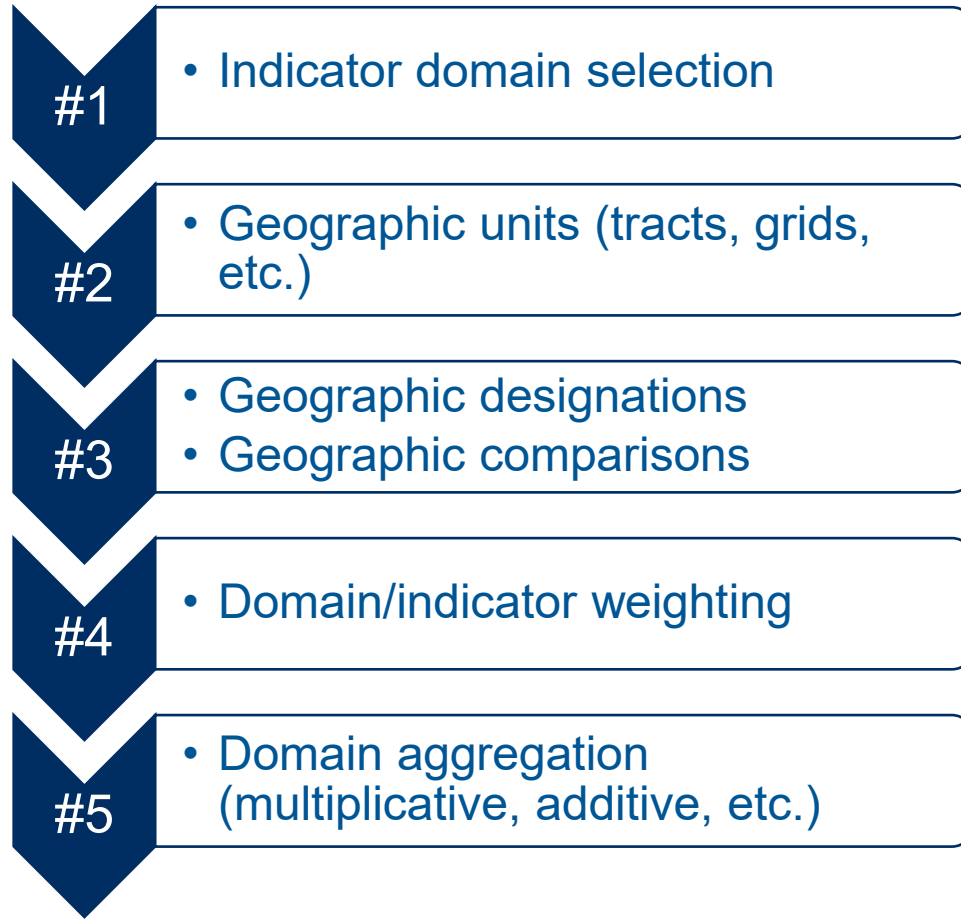


HB 4077, sections 10-12 include language that will help guide the EJ Council through the decision-making process, but the content leaves a lot of room for flexibility.



All environmental justice mapping tools get evaluated, critiqued, and scrutinized. Therefore, it is important to have a rationale that supports each decision made in the development of the Oregon EJ Mapping Tool.

DECISION POINTS 1-10



DECISION POINT #1: INDICATOR DOMAIN SELECTION

Why use indicator domains?

- Establish criteria for selecting indicators
- Control indicator weighting
- Flag content areas driving the index score



DECISION POINT #1: INDICATOR DOMAIN SELECTION

CalEnviroScreen/ Washington EHD Map/ MiEJScreen
Pollution Burden <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental Exposures• Environmental Effects
Population Characteristics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sensitive Populations• Socioeconomic Factors

Colorado EnviroScreen
Pollution Burden <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental Exposures• Environmental Effects• Climate Vulnerability
Population Characteristics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sensitive Populations• Socioeconomic Factors

DECISION POINT #1: INDICATOR DOMAIN SELECTION

HB 4077, Section 10:

2. “Environmental burden” means the **environmental** and **health risks** to communities caused by the combined historic, current and projected future effects of
 - a. Exposure to **conventional pollution** and **toxic hazards** in the air or in or on water or land;
 - b. Adverse environmental conditions caused or made worse by other **contamination or pollution**; and
 - c. Changes in the environment resulting from **climate change**, such as **water insecurity, drought, flooding, wildfire, smoke and other air pollution, extreme heat, loss of traditional cultural resources or foods, ocean acidification and increases in infectious disease**.
3. “Environmental justice” means the equal protection from **environmental and health risks**, fair treatment and meaningful involvement in decision making of all people regardless of **race, color, national origin, immigration status, income or other identities** with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies that affect the environment in which people live, work, learn and practice spirituality and culture.
4. **“Environmental justice community” includes communities of color, communities experiencing lower incomes, communities experiencing health inequities, tribal communities, rural communities, coastal communities, communities with limited infrastructure and other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes and adversely harmed by environmental and health hazards, including seniors, youth and persons with disabilities.**

DECISION POINT #1: INDICATOR DOMAIN SELECTION

The Environmental Justice Mapping Tool Methodology Workgroup recommends the following indicator domains and subdomains:

Oregon Environmental Justice Mapping Tool	
Place (Community Burdens & Benefits) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental Exposures• Environmental Effects• Climate Change Risks• Built Environment	People (Vulnerable Populations & Opportunities) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human Health Disparities• Demographic and Social Factors

Methodology
Rationale:

The domains are intentionally broad, and the structure is easy for users to follow.

Environmental exposures, toxic hazards, climate change risks, human health, demographics and social factors, and community benefits are directly mentioned HB 4077.

The built environment is indirectly mentioned in HB 4077 in the definition of EJ communities as “communities with limited infrastructure.”

Oregon natural resources agencies whose primary focus is the built environment will be better equipped to contribute to and use the EJ Mapping Tool with the inclusion of a built environment subdomain.

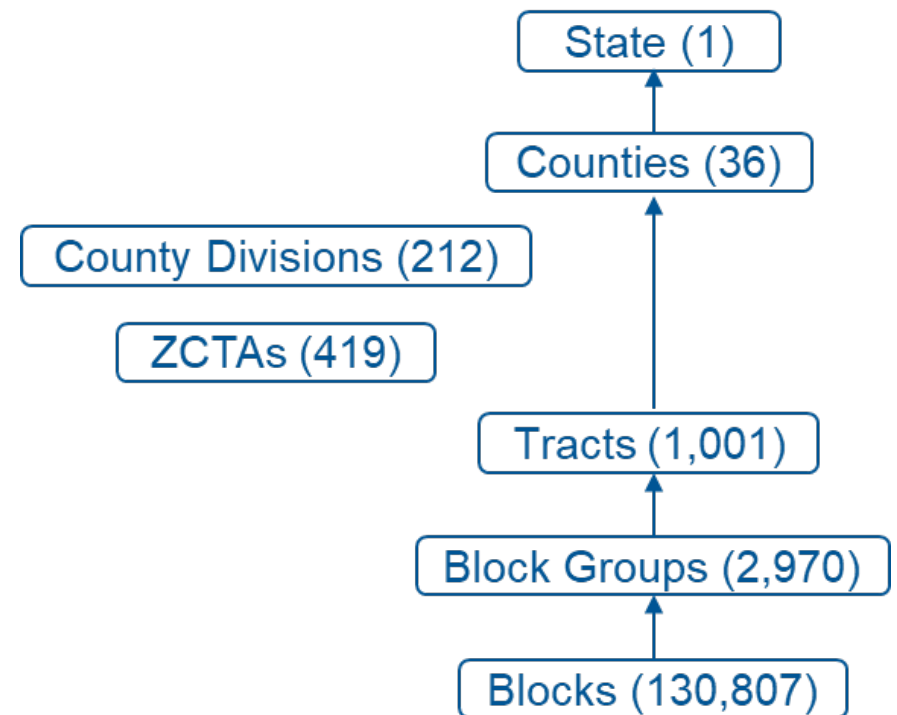
Federal grants from the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law prioritize built environment investments that advance environmental justice in communities, improve health and equity, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

DECISION POINT
#1:
INDICATOR
DOMAIN
SELECTION

DECISION POINT #2: GEOGRAPHIC UNITS

What are geographic units?

- Geographic units are the spatial boundaries that will be used to define Oregon communities.
- Examples of geographic units include:
 - Census block groups
 - Census tracts
 - Census county divisions
 - Census zip code tabulation areas
 - Neighborhood boundaries
 - Uniform grids
 - Hybrid of geographic units



Why are geographic units important?

DECISION POINT #2: GEOGRAPHIC UNITS

Data reliability, privacy, and security concerns

- The size of geographic units affect the reliability of data and whether data can be displayed due to privacy and security rules.

Data aggregation concerns

- Some data will need to be aggregated by natural resources agencies to fit the geographic units that are selected.

Availability concerns

- Some data are not available for smaller geographic units, like block groups, and may not be adaptable to fit within those units.

DECISION POINT #2: GEOGRAPHIC UNITS

Methodology Workgroup Recommendation:

The Environmental Justice Mapping Tool Methodology Workgroup recommends **Census tracts** for the primary geographic unit defining community boundaries in the first version of the Oregon EJ Mapping Tool.

The Methodology Workgroup also recommends the inclusion of additional geographic units in the EJ Mapping Tool including Census county divisions, zip codes, and county boundaries in the second version of the mapping tool.

DECISION POINT #2: GEOGRAPHIC UNITS

Methodology

Rationale

Census tracts are the smallest geographic unit that many American Community Survey data are available at with a reasonable degree of reliability.

Census tracts are used as the primary layer in most state and federal EJ mapping tools and are the standard for many community-based mapping tools.

DECISION POINT #2: GEOGRAPHIC UNITS

Methodology Workgroup note to the EJ Council:

“The Methodology Workgroup acknowledges that Census tracts do not represent how most Oregonians identify their community.

However, we are constrained by the data available to us.”



Agenda Item #5

Lunch Break

April 11, 2024

27



Agenda Item #6

LUBGWMA CBO Panel

April 11, 2024

28

Participating Organizations

Oregon Rural Action

Douglas Latinas International

EUVALCREE

Eastern Oregon Center for Environmental Living

Northwest Center for Alternatives for Pesticides

EUVALCREE



501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization

Our Vision

**A unified community
advocating for itself and
equity for all.**

Our Mission

**Euvalcree mobilizes and engages
underserved and
underrepresented populations to
improve the lives of all children,
families and communities in
RURAL Oregon, Washington, and
Idaho.**

Established in 2014

Focus Areas

Housing and
Built
Environment

Immigration

Healthcare

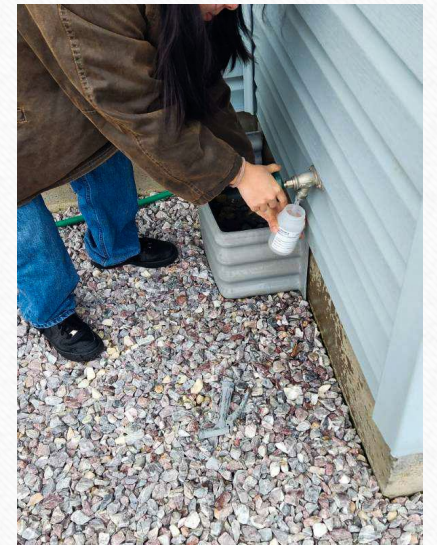
Community
and Economic
Development

Education



Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area Committee

- Our Role



Challenges

- Process time
- More transparency
- Long-Term Solution
- Funding

Please Support

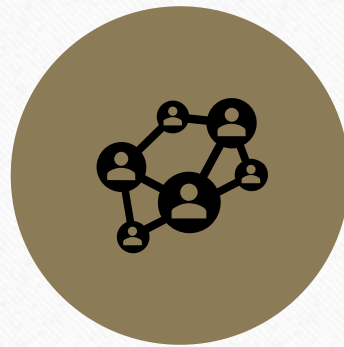
We Need Your Help



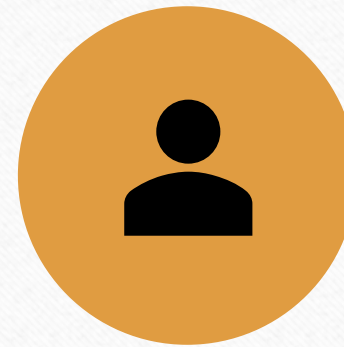
THANK YOU!



OUR TEAM



OUR
COMMUNITY



YOU!



NORTHWEST CENTER FOR
ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES

The leading Northwest voice for non-toxic
pests and weed solutions

Presenters:

Ana Elisa Wilson

Tomás Díaz



At the **Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (or NCAP)** we work to protect community and the environment, as well as to inspire ecological solutions to reduce the use of chemical pesticides. We're a diverse, women-led non-profit organization and our work is focused in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.



Our mission

NCAP works to protect community and environmental health and inspire the use of ecologically sound solutions to reduce the use of pesticides.



Bilingual Programs

We work with rural and urban Latinx communities in the Pacific Northwest to strengthen people's and environmental health.

These programs are tailored to respond to the needs of hispanic populations that are vulnerable to pesticide exposure, climate crisis and lack federal protections.

With help from our Latinx staff and strategic partnerships with Latinx-serving organizations we craft workshops and outreach events to address Spanish speaking communities' most urgent needs.



Bilingual Programs

Two main programs:

- **Latinx Landscaper Network**
- **Farm Worker Education Project**



LUBGWMA

Through our *Farm Worker Education Project* NCAP has direct contact with farm worker families and rural latinx communities in counties where some people are severely underserved and in need of assistance to cope with pesticide exposure and climate crisis effects.

Part of this program has been devoted to the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) project.



LUBGWMA outreach



NORTHWEST CENTER FOR
ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES

LUBGWMA insights

Nitrate levels in well water above 10 mg/L is unsafe for drinking or even cooking.

These counties are inhabited by Latinx farm worker families that work in industries like dairy, food processing, manufacturing and field work.

We have identified the need for reducing the contamination levels of the well water in Umatilla and Morrow counties.



Testimonies

Some people waited for drinking water deliveries for up to 3 or 4 days.

After listening to the radio show people contacted the proper agencies to get assistance.

Some families stopped drinking the water and have been buying their own drinking water.



NCAP's suggestions

- Test for toxic pesticides in addition to nitrates in the water.
- Increase distribution and availability of drinking water. This could include a coupon or stipend for rural families to buy drinking water.
- Install proper drainage systems and include filters.
- Financial assistance for people with cattle or pets, to support them getting tested for toxicity levels.
- More funding and establishing long term programs that expand this work to other counties.



Contact us

- **Tomas Diaz:** Healthy People & Communities Program Manager
541-803-8918 / tdiaz@pesticide.org
- **Ana Elisa Wilson:** Healthy Communities & Environment
Program Co-Manager
509-272-9361 / anaewilson@pesticide.org



Shared Concerns

Lack of progress with pollution reduction

Overall health impacts to Lower Umatilla Basin communities

Water delivery criteria: Some households are not allocated enough water

Lack of transparency with data reporting

- How are households being notified?
- How will communities know what neighborhoods are being impacted?
- Is there a way to create a website for households to look up their testing status?
 - Can aggregated community data be included there as well?

Agricultural and industrial employee and volunteer safety and well being

- Concerns about retaliation from agricultural and industrial employers regarding employee concerns

Asks: Doulas Latinas International and EOCIL

Doulas Latinas International

“More effective means for communities to keep track of water testing status.”

“More flexible water delivery criteria to account for changing household circumstances short term and long term.”

“Community education documents to help them understand the impacts of contamination and health and safety concerns.

Ensure documents are culturally and language appropriate for the audience.”

“Oregon state level studies to address health impacts of nitrate contamination to pregnancy, infants, young children, and breastfeeding mothers.”

Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living (EOCIL)

“More effective means for communities to keep track of water testing status.”

“More flexible water delivery criteria to account for changing household circumstances short term and long term.”

“Community education documents to help them understand the impacts of contamination and health and safety concerns.

Ensure documents are culturally and language appropriate for the audience.”

Asks: EUVALCREE and NCAP

EUVALCREE

“More effective means for communities to keep track of water testing status.”

“More flexible water delivery criteria to account for changing household circumstances short term and long term.”

“Community education documents to help them understand the impacts of contamination and health and safety concerns.

Ensure documents are culturally and language appropriate for the audience.”

Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP)

“More effective means for communities to keep track of water testing status.”

“More flexible water delivery criteria to account for changing household circumstances short term and long term.”

“Community education documents to help them understand the impacts of contamination and health and safety concerns.

Ensure documents are culturally and language appropriate for the audience.”

Ask: Oregon Rural Action

Oregon Rural Action

“Environmental Justice Council work to ensure that that state agencies center the voice of this environmental justice community in key decisions that affect their lives and the environment in the Lower Umatilla Basin;”



Agenda Item #7

Public Comment

April 11, 2024

53

PUBLIC COMMENT

3 minutes each

- Identify your name, organization, and provide testimony.
- In person testimony will be taken first.
- Virtual testimony will be via Zoom webinar.

April 11, 2024



3 MINUTES

2

1

0

:45

:30

:15

:00

2 MINUTES

1

0

:45

:30

:15

:00



Agenda Item #8

Public Comment: EJC Discussion

April 11, 2024

57



Agenda Item #9

Council Adjourn

April 11, 2024

58

THANK YOU!

Oregon Environmental Justice Council

For more information, please contact:

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Email

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