

OREGON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

February 14, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Public Meeting Agenda

This public meeting will be conducted in person at the Lloyd 700 Building in Portland, OR in the 3rd Floor Conference Room. Written testimony can be submitted in advance to van.nguyen@deq.oregon.gov.

Register in Advance to Participate Virtually

https://deq-oregon-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BNXGCOQgSX-oJGq8R_Vgmg

The Council makes every attempt to hold strictly to the timing distributed agenda. Topics may move up or be delayed based on the cadence of the meeting.

This agenda is available on the Environmental Justice Council website:

<https://www.oregon.gov/gov/policies/pages/environmental-justice-council.aspx>.

10:00 a.m.	Item 1:	Call to Order
10:10 a.m.	Item 2:	EJC Leadership Updates
10:30 a.m.	Item 3:	Public Comment
10:45 a.m.	Item 4:	Listening Session Objectives and Methods (Vote)
11:30 p.m.	Item 5:	Proposed Roles: CBOs and LPHAs (Vote)
12:00 p.m.	Item 6:	Break for Working Lunch
12:15 p.m.	Item 7:	Listening Session Recruitment (Vote)
1:00 p.m.	Item 8:	Listening Session Dates (Vote)
1:30 p.m.	Item 9:	Council Adjourn

PLEASE NOTE

AGENDA

The public portion of the Council meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and proceed chronologically through the agenda. Times listed on the agenda are approximate. At the discretion of the chair, the time and order of agenda items—including addition of intermittent breaks—may change to maintain meeting flow. This meeting will be recorded by audio, and the recording will be posted on the Environmental Justice Council website.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. the evening prior to the meeting by emailing van.nguyen@deg.oregon.gov and indicate your comments as EJC Testimony with the meeting date on the subject line. Other testimony will be received during the public comment portions of the meeting which will be after Leadership Updates, prior to the EJC voting on any agenda items, and at the end of the meeting.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION OF DISABILITIES

Please contact us at least three business days prior to the meeting to let us know if you need reasonable accommodation. Contact the Environmental Justice Council Coordinator Hoang-Van Nguyen at van.nguyen@deg.oregon.gov to make your request.

To: Chair and Members of the Oregon Environmental Justice Council

From: Oregon Health Authority

Date: February 14, 2024

Regarding: Agenda Item 4 – Objectives and methods for the first stage of community engagement (Vote Requested)

Attachment: Please refer to the community engagement strategies working draft page 1-4

OHA's community engagement team, in support of the Oregon Environmental Justice Mapping Tool, requests approval of objectives and methods for the first stage of community engagement. The proposed methods will help us understand the environmental health concerns of communities across Oregon in fulfillment of requirements in House Bill 4077 (2022).

Thesis Statement: House Bill 4077 requires providing appropriate public opportunities to participate in decisions that will affect their environment or health and seek out and facilitate the involvement of members of vulnerable populations.¹

Recommendation: To achieve the objectives outlined in House Bill 4077, we propose the following methods for the first stage of community engagement process:

- 1) two community listening sessions to occur before June 30, 2025, with four additional listening sessions after July 1, 2025 contingent on funding appropriation by the Oregon legislature;
- 2) online community survey; and
- 3) compiling existing qualitative data from community and local public health authorities reports.

HB 4077 defines these overall objectives, which we propose aligning to engagement phases:

Phase 1 – Community listening sessions/survey/compilation of existing data

(Jan – June, 2025)

- Listen to community concerns and inputs related to environmental, health, socioeconomic, and other factors that should be considered in the development of the mapping tool;
- Assess how socioeconomic benefits and burdens could be mapped and considered in addition to environmental, health and other data;

¹ Note: throughout this document, we use the phrase "communities with increased risk of environmental exposures" as a strengths-based alternative to the term "vulnerable populations," within the spirit of HB 4077.

- Geospatial layers to further define environmental justice communities based on the prevalence of specific factors; and
- Community-generated data that may be included in the mapping tool.

Phase 2 & Phase 3 (2025 – 2027)

- How the mapping tool should be used to help distribute resources to communities that have experienced underinvestment; and
- Identify other uses for the mapping tool that can provide community benefits and diminish community burdens.

Rationale: After assessing OHA staff expertise and capacity, as well as the tight timeline for conducting community listening sessions and gathering other community input, we feel confident in carrying out the above outlined community engagement methods. Having multiple engagement methods offers opportunities for community feedback through in-person listening sessions, an online survey to reach community members unable to attend in person, and the compilation of existing reports, which will provide insights into current environmental justice issues in the communities.

Plan: We have drafted community engagement strategies and are simultaneously working on creating a community survey and compiling existing qualitative information related to environmental justice. OHA's equity office is currently working on community listening session logistics.

To: Chair and Members of the Oregon Environmental Justice Council

From: Oregon Health Authority

Date: February 14, 2024

Regarding: Agenda Item 5 – Proposed role of CBOs and LPHAs in community listening sessions (Vote Requested)

Attachment: Please refer to the community engagement strategies working draft page 4-6

OHA's community engagement team for the EJ mapping tool requests approval on the involvement of CBOs and LPHAs in the listening session logistical process.

Thesis Statement: House Bill 4077 (2022) states that in order to fulfill meaningful engagement requirements, EJC and agencies should ensure that members of communities with increased risk of environmental exposures¹ have appropriate opportunities to participate in decisions that will affect their environment or health, and that the concerns of all participants involved are considered in the decision-making process.

Recommendation: It is recommended that CBOs and/or LPHAs

- Help customize the listening session discussion format that suits the communities mentioned in HB 4077
- Develop community messaging and outreach materials for the community listening session
- Help promote online community survey
- Identify a location and/or place that will be convenient and accessible
- Provide incentives, transportation vouchers, refreshments, and childcare
- Recommend trusted translation services in the community

Rationale: CBOs and LPHAs have trusted relationships with the communities named in HB 4077. They are closely connected with community resources, connections, and will be crucial in planning the logistical side of the listening sessions. CBOs and LPHAs are critical to reaching members of communities with increased risk of environmental exposures¹ as required in House Bill 4077 (2022).

To: Chair and Members of the Oregon Environmental Justice Council

From: Oregon Health Authority

Date: February 14, 2024

Regarding: Agenda Item 7 – Recruiting participants for the community listening sessions (Vote Requested)

Attachment: Please refer to the community engagement strategies working draft page 4-6

The OHA's community engagement team for the EJ mapping tool request approval to employ a four-pronged approach to recruit participants for the community listening sessions.

Thesis Statement: House Bill 4077 (2022) states that in order to fulfill meaningful engagement requirements, EJC and agencies should ensure that members of communities with increased risk of environmental exposures¹ have appropriate opportunities to participate in decisions that will affect their environment or health, and that the concerns of all participants involved are considered in the decision-making process.

Recommendation: We recommend a four-pronged recruitment approach to engage participants from different communities.

- EJC Members
- Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
- State agencies
- Local Public Health Authorities (LPHAs)

Rationale: Environmental Justice Council members have a wide network that reaches across many communities, industries, and organizations. EJC members are encouraged to help recruit from and promote listening sessions within their networks, broadening the reach of other event promotion methods. Community-based organizations (CBOs) have trusted relationships and serve the communities specified in HB 4077. CBOs will be asked to provide insights into translation services, childcare, food recommendations, location recommendations, event messaging that relates to community priorities, and general input on how to best interact with the communities they serve. State agencies have valuable knowledge from histories of partnership, project planning and implementation with communities across the state that will also be important to EJ mapping tool community engagement.

Local Public Health Authorities serving Astoria, Woodburn and nearby areas have relationships in the community and can help make connections. Additionally, LPHAs are required to conduct Community Health Assessments (CHAs) and create Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs) that include information relating to environmental justice topics. Many LPHAs work with CBOs to create CHAs and CHIPs.

To: Chair and Members of the Oregon Environmental Justice Council

From: Oregon Health Authority

Date: February 14, 2024

Regarding: Agenda Item 8 – Community listening session dates (Vote Requested)

The OHA's community engagement team for the EJ mapping tool requests to approve community listening session dates for Astoria and Woodburn.

Thesis Statement: The Oregon Legislature appropriated \$50,000 to support execution of listening sessions required by House Bill 4077, which expires on June 30, 2025. Conducting both listening sessions by early May will allow staff enough time for proposed organization and analysis of the collected qualitative data and for timely incorporation of findings into methodological decisions.

Recommendation: We are recommending April 16th for Astoria and May 6th for Woodburn.

Rationale: The EJC has requested the Astoria date be centered around their meeting on April 17th. The following date is the 18th and a Friday. Based on previous experience working with community, it is not recommended to host a listening session event on a Friday evening. Therefore, April 16th is the option available for the Astoria session.

For Woodburn, we suggest May 6th. This timeline gives us enough time to analyze the data before the June deadline. Staff capacity and timeline with other projects has also been considered for this date selection. May 7th is available as an alternative if the 6th does not work.

Community Engagement Strategies for Environmental Justice Mapping Tool**Prepared by Oregon Health Authority**

The purpose of this community engagement strategy document is to establish a comprehensive roadmap for fostering meaningful participation and collaboration with communities across Oregon in the development of the Environmental Justice Mapping Tool. These strategies aim to ensure the tool reflects the lived experiences, priorities, and insights of diverse populations, particularly those most affected by environmental injustices, while building trust and long-term partnerships.

Goal: To create a health equity and community centered environmental justice mapping tool.

Objectives (as defined in House Bill 4077):**Phase 1 – Community listening sessions, survey and compilation of existing data****(Jan – June 2025)**

- Present a work plan and proposals for the environmental justice mapping tool;
- Listen to community concerns and input related to environmental, health, socioeconomic, and other factors that should be considered in the development of the mapping tool;
- Assess how socioeconomic benefits and burdens could be mapped and considered in addition to environmental, health and other data;
- Seek feedback on geospatial layers to further define environmental justice communities based on the prevalence of specific factors; and
- Request community-generated data that may be included in the mapping tool.

Phase 2 & Phase 3 (2025 – 2027)

- Ask how the mapping tool should be used to help distribute resources to communities that have experienced underinvestment; and
- Identify other uses for the mapping tool that can provide community benefits and diminish community burdens.

What is environmental justice?

House Bill 4077 defines environmental justice as 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.

Who are environmental justice communities?

House Bill 4077 defines “environmental justice community” to include 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.

Core principles of community engagement

Meaningful community engagement is at the heart of environmental justice. It is a two-way communication process between government and the public. Community participation drives impactful action, empowering both communities and decision-makers to take steps toward eliminating existing health inequities. We believe community feedback is vital in creating an effective environmental justice (EJ) mapping tool and ensuring its relevance and accuracy. By actively engaging community-based organizations and community members, we can better understand and represent the lived experiences of those facing environmental injustice and its effects on their health and the health of their communities.

Federally recognized Tribes have sovereignty that requires different consideration from the community engagement strategies proposed in this document. A formal government-to-government process will be undertaken separately from the strategies below to request and clarify methods for Tribal involvement in EJ mapping tool development.

The following principles are foundational to OHA's community engagement process:

- Build trust through ongoing and reciprocal relationships
- Equity centered
- Prioritize voices most impacted by environmental injustices and address systemic barriers to participation
- Adapt engagement to communities' specific needs
- Conduct culturally competent, accessible and inclusive outreach and engagement
- Be transparent and accountable from start to finish
- Commit enough time to do engagement well

Source: [National Academy of Medicine's Organizing Committee for Assessing Meaningful Community Engagement in Health & Health Care Programs & Policies](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/EI/Documents/Community%20Engagement%20Strategies%20Checklist_vOHA_FINAL.pdf)

https://www.oregon.gov/oha/EI/Documents/Community%20Engagement%20Strategies%20Checklist_vOHA_FINAL.pdf

Additionally, we plan to review and incorporate data and feedback that has already been provided by communities through previous community engagement processes and community reports. Utilizing these existing data sources will decrease burden on community and avoid repeating patterns of community data collection that is not acted upon or underutilized.

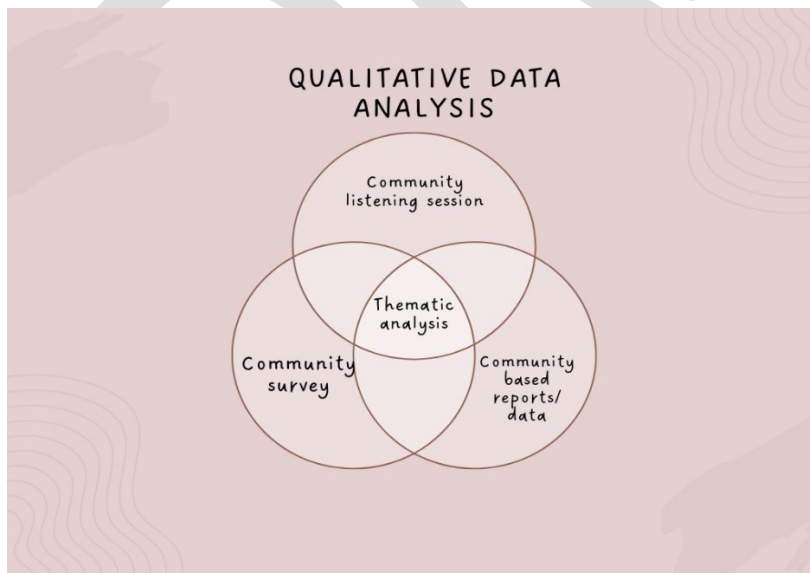
High-level proposed timeline

Year	Purpose	
2025	Community inputs and concerns related to the subdomain of EJ mapping tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community listening sessions in Woodburn and Astoria Community survey Compiling existing qualitative data
2026	Community feedback on how to use the tool	Two community listening sessions
2027	Beta version demo	Two community listening sessions

Overall community engagement strategies for data collection:

- Community listening sessions
- Community survey
- Compile existing community-based reports
- LPHA climate and health adaptation plans, community health assessments, and community health improvement plans

Compilation and analysis of collected community data



- Systematic compilation of collected community data
- Coding the data
- Analysis of collected data to identify emerging themes
- Identify quotes/stories to include in the tool
- Create community listening report back document

Community listening session, Phase 1

Locations: Woodburn and Astoria

Overview: The first phase of community engagement for the EJ mapping tool will be focused on listening and information gathering about community priorities and concerns around the various environmental related issues across different communities to inform and prioritize environmental justice themes and indicators for the mapping tool. OHA will host two listening sessions between March and May 2025 to hear from a range of community-based organizations and EJ communities.

Here we document the listening session objectives, community-based organization partners, when and where the listening sessions occur, format, and guiding questions/themes.

Objectives: The specific objectives for the EJ mapping tool's first round of listening sessions co-hosted by community-based organizations are as follows

- Listen to community environmental justice concerns and local knowledge regarding environmental and climate issues in their area and neighborhoods.

Assets-based approaches: An assets-based approach during the community listening sessions emphasizes identifying and leveraging the strengths, resources, and unique characteristics of these communities. This approach focuses on building upon existing community capacities rather than solely addressing deficits or challenges. For example:

- Understand the Woodburn and Astoria's demographics, cultural context, and local organizations.
- Acknowledge existing community efforts towards environmental and social justice.
- Collaborate with trusted leaders who can provide insights and help ensure inclusive participation.
- During the sessions, create a space where participants feel welcome, respected and valued.
- Employ multimodal activities such as community mapping, interaction with visual aids like white board and sticky notes, and small group table discussions.

The CBO selection process will assist with recruiting participants as well as providing insights on how to best interact with the community they serve. This process will allow us to select trusted agencies to assist with the listening session process.

CBO Selection Approach: The approach for identifying community-based organizations to partner with on the listening sessions will consider a range of factors such as:

- Identify environmental/climate justice community-based organizations working in Woodburn and Astoria area.
- Representation of residents who live in historically underrepresented communities.
- Experience with community engagement and have ongoing relationships in the communities they serve ability to gather community members for a listening session.
- Relationships and established trust with community members in the area.
- Organizations focus on environmental justice, climate change, racial, economic, and labor justice.

List of community-based organizations from OHA Climate and Health program database

CBO partners in the Woodburn area	
Accion Politica PCUNista	Mercy Connections
Apano Communities United Fund	Northwest Family Services
Bridging Cultures	Mercy Connections
Doulas Latinas International	Opal
Familias En Accion	Salem for Refugees Association
Growing Gardens	United Way of the Columbia-Willamette
Imagine Black Futures	African Refugee Immigrant Organization
Latino Network	Black Joy Oregon
Red Lodge Transition Services	Casa Latinos Unidos
Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center	Housing, Employment & Learning Programs for Self-Sufficiency
Corvallis Environmental Center	Willamette Cascades Community Land Trust
Yamhill Community Action Partnership	

CBO partners in the Astoria area	
Medical Wheel Recovery Service	Ollala Center
Necanicum Watershed Council	Consejo Hispano

Community-based organization roles

Community-based organization (CBO) partners are integral to the engagement of community members during the development of the EJ mapping tool. OHA Public Health Equity Grant

funding supports CBO involvement in EJ/CJ work. CBOs can recommend or solicit additional feedback regarding community needs and services to facilitate engagement, such as interpretation services, childcare, food and drinks, incentive gift cards to compensate participants for their time and feedback, transportation and other needs as suggested by the organizations. Examples of CBO listening session planning involvement could include:

- Help identify an accessible location and/or venue
- Recommend incentives, transportation vouchers, and childcare
- Recommend trusted translation services in the community
- Suggest community listening session messaging that resonates with their members' priorities
- Help promote the event through their channels and recruit community members to participate

When and Where template

CBOs/Geography	Date/Time	Location	Estimated Attendees	Language Interpretation

Logistical needs

- Accessible venue
- Language translation
- Venue logistics
- Childcare or youth activities, transportation voucher, food
- Number of facilitators, notetakers and other support staff
- Outreach materials (flyers, community radio message, etc)

Community outreach plan

- outreach to community members via CBOs, EJC, State agencies, etc.
- multi-lingual flyer to advertise the CLS
- update EJ council website with EJ community listening session information
- community radio announcement
- social media posts

General template for community listening session

Agenda	Time	Lead facilitator
Welcome and overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground rules of engagement 	10 Minutes	
Explain the project, establish the purpose and intend	5 Minutes	
Breakout room Develop guiding/discussion questions based on the EJ sub-domains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental exposures • Environmental hazards • Climate change risks • Built environment • Human health disparities 	45 Minutes	
Activity 1:	20 Minutes	
Activity 2:	30 Minutes	
Close and conclude	10 Minutes	

In order to help participants feel comfortable participating, we will have multiple ways for participants to share feedback (data collection). For example, during breakouts, people will be able to share verbally if they feel comfortable doing so and a note taker will record feedback anonymously. There will also be tablets available for people to participate in the online survey at the listening session, as well as notecards for people to write their thoughts, allowing participants to share information in writing if they are uncomfortable speaking in a group. The following activity examples are additional ways participants can share feedback in an interactive way.

List of community listening session activity ideas:

Community Map Marking – Provide large, printed maps or digital maps where participants can use stickers, markers, or pins to identify:

- Areas of environmental concern (e.g., pollution sources, unsafe water, air quality issues).
- Community assets (e.g., parks, green spaces, clean water sources).
- Areas needing improvement (e.g., lack of sidewalks, high traffic pollution).

Environmental Impact Map

- Provide a large map of the regional area and have participants mark areas where they experience pesticide exposure, poor air quality, unsafe working conditions or other impacts.
- Include key questions: *Where do you feel safe outside, and what places support your health? Where do you notice strong chemical smells? Where do you notice feeling unwell?*

Coastal Change Mapping

- Use maps for residents to mark areas where they've seen coastline changes, increased flooding, or fishery-related pollution.
- Ask: *Where have you seen flooding get worse? Have you noticed a change in fish availability or water quality?*

Storyboard Activity – Participants draw or write short descriptions of how environmental challenges affect their daily lives. These can be displayed on a board for collective learning.

Dot Voting Exercise – Display a list of community concerns and have participants vote with colored stickers on the issues they find most pressing.

Future Vision Board – Ask participants to talk about what a "healthy and environmentally just community" looks like to them.

Photo Voice: Invite participants to bring photos of local environmental issues. Display the photos and ask people to share what the images represent.

Oregon Sanctuary Promise Resources

Oregon Department of Justice Sanctuary Promise Guidance - Oregon Department of Justice

<https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/civil-rights/sanctuary-promise/>

Promesa de Santuario - Oregon Department of Justice

<https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/civil-rights/promesa-de-santuario/>

Sanctuary Promise Video, Audio and Print Material - Oregon Department of Justice

Sanctuary Promise <https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/civil-rights/sanctuary-promise/video-audio-and-print-material/>