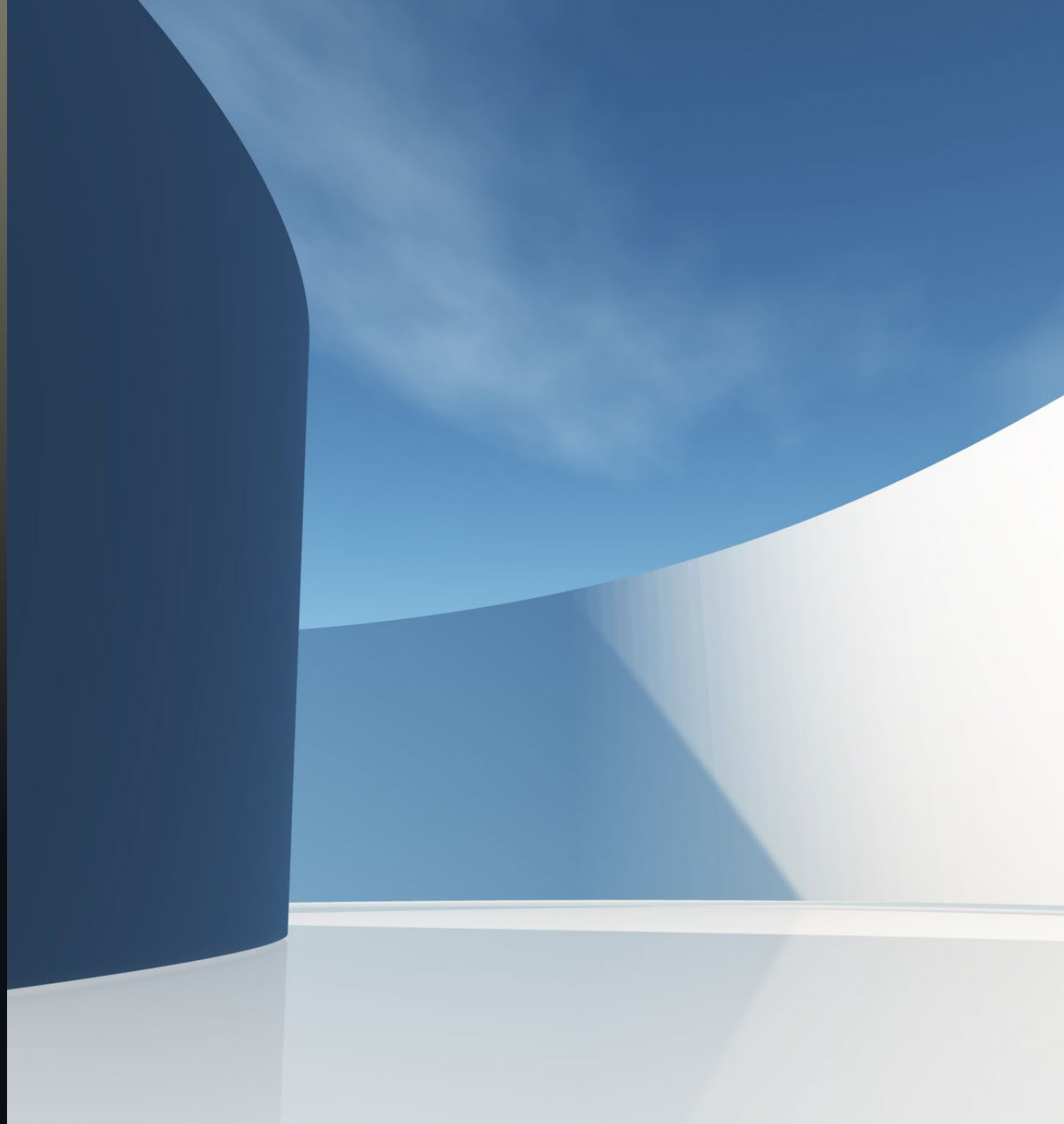



Oregon EJ Mapping Tool Decision Points

BACKGROUND INFORMATION




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

#1

- Indicator domain selection

#2

- Geographic units (tracts, grids, etc.)

#3

- Geographic designations
- Geographic comparisons

#4

- Domain/indicator weighting

#5

- Domain aggregation (multiplicative, additive, etc.)

#6

- Data standardization (percentiles, z-scores, other)

#7

- Indicator selection - community listening session priorities and data gaps

#8

- Sensitivity analysis results - revisit indicator selection and data gaps

#9

- EJ community thresholds/flags

#10

- EJ mapping tool visualizations & reporting

Community Comparisons

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MAPPING
DECISION POINT 3B

[JUNE 13, 2024 RECORDING LINK](#)

DECISION POINT #3b: COMMUNITY COMPARISONS

Why are community comparisons important?


- HB4077 provides examples of environmental burdens and climate change risks specific to community designations (e.g., sea level rise, ocean acidification, water insecurity, etc.).
- Most state environmental justice mapping tools compare communities statewide because their intent is to identify communities with the highest levels of cumulative impacts relative to all other communities.
- A major concern expressed by communities in states where policies and state investments are influenced by an index score is environmental burdens, climate change risks, and economic disparities can be very different depending on where you live in the state.

DECISION POINT #3b: COMMUNITY COMPARISONS

The Methodology Workgroup recommends the EJ Mapping Tool include the following two options:

1. The ability to compare communities by designation.
 - a. Large City to Large City
 - b. Rural to Rural
 - c. Coastal to Coastal
 - d. Remote to Remote
 - e. Small City to Small City (optional)
- The designation indices can vary either by using different indicators for the designations OR by adjusting the weights of indicators or indicator subdomains.

DECISION POINT #3b: COMMUNITY COMPARISONS

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2. Optional ability to compare communities across the state with a standard statewide index score using the same indicators if needed by state agencies.
- The Methodology Workgroup is concerned that providing a statewide index score along with a designation index score may be confusing for users.
 - The EJ Mapping Tool Leadership Team, Methodology Workgroup, and Liaison Workgroup will work with the EJ Council to provide guidance on when the different options should be used and how they should be applied.

DECISION POINT #3b: COMMUNITY COMPARISONS

Methodology Workgroup Rationale:

1. Statewide community comparisons are unable to account for regional, environmental and social differences which can result in diverting state funds away from EJ communities potentially contributing to environmental injustices,
2. Community designations were selected instead of regions because none of the state regions we evaluated group environmentally similar communities as well as the designations recommended in decision point 3a.
3. The Methodology Workgroup anticipates there may be the need for some state agencies to compare Oregon communities using a statewide index score in their rule making and infrastructure investment processes.

DECISION POINT #3a & b: Council Decision

EJ Council decisions needed for Decision Point 3:

1. Community designation definitions (3a)?
2. How to determine Micropolitan Core Area designation (large city, rural or small city) (3a)?
3. How communities will be compared – by designation, across the state, both (3b)?



ADOPTED DECISION POINT 3b

- COASTAL TO COASTAL
- REMOTE TO REMOTE
- LARGE CITY TO LARGE CITY
- SMALL CITY TO SMALL CITY
- RURAL TO RURAL
- STATEWIDE

- Statewide community comparisons are unable to account for regional, environmental and social differences which can result in diverting state funds away from EJ communities potentially contributing to environmental injustices,
- Community designations were selected instead of regions because none of the state regions we evaluated group environmentally similar communities as well as the designations recommended in decision point 3a.
- The Methodology Workgroup anticipates there may be the need for some state agencies to compare Oregon communities using a statewide index score in their rule making and infrastructure investment processes.