

November 2024

# Oregon EJ Mapping Tool Information Session

Welcome Package

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## Welcome!

By Environmental Justice Mapping Information Session Team: Hoang-Van Nguyen, Janine Salwasser, Myrica McCune, Ethan Sharygin, and Eric Main

**Welcome Environmental Justice Council to your information sessions with the Environmental Justice Mapping Tool Leadership Team!**

**We look forward to orienting you to how mapping tools work and helping you understand key concepts to prepare you for upcoming Environmental Justice Mapping Tool decisions.**

**Let's learn together!**

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Where are we and how did we get here?

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Listening Session Updates, Indicator Selection Process, and Indicator Selection Criteria

# Objectives & Outcomes

**We organized these information sessions with the following objectives and outcomes in mind, and we look forward to helping you better prepare for future meetings.**

## **Objectives:**

1. Understand resource needs to execute community listening sessions.
2. Clarify indicator selection process.
3. Introduce indicator selection criteria.

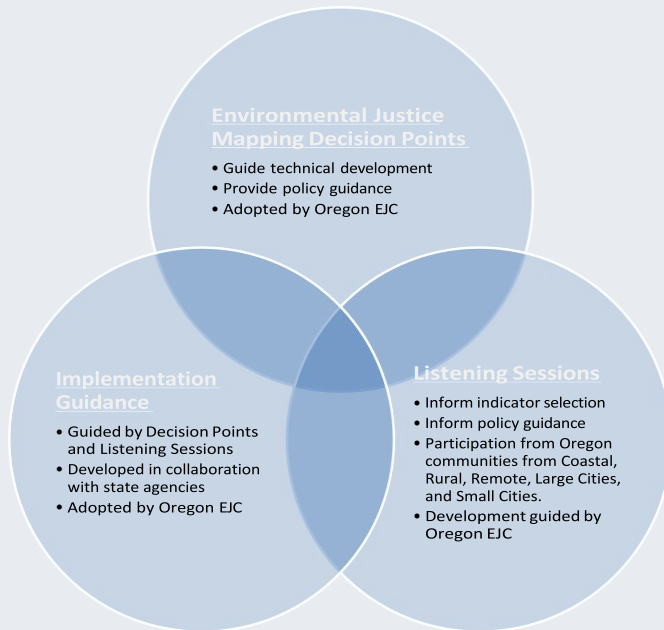
## **Outcomes:**

1. Introduce potential community listening sessions personnel.
2. Inform indicator selection decision making through a clear and defined process.
3. Determine indicator selection criteria at the beginning indicator selection for consistency in decision making.



# Environmental Justice Mapping Tool Project Processes

By Hoang-Van Nguyen



The Environmental Justice Mapping Tool project includes three complementary, but separate development processes.

The decision points framework guides development and informs the implementation guidance required by HB 4077.

HB 4077 also requires the mapping tool project to include listening sessions throughout Oregon and implementation guidance to be provided to assist state agencies with how to use the mapping tool.

## Decision Points

By Hoang-Van Nguyen, Eric Main, & Melissa Foltz

**Oregon's Environmental Justice Mapping Tool technical development is broken down to ten decision points for Environmental Justice Council consideration.**

### Foundational Decision Points:

1. Domain selection
2. Geographic units
3. Geographic comparisons and community designations
4. Domain/indicator weighting
5. Domain aggregation
6. Data standardization

### Community and Policy Driven Decision Points

7. Indicator selection
8. Sensitivity analysis
9. EJ community threshold

### User Interface Decision Point

10. Visualizations & Reporting

Decision point recommendations 1-6 have been adopted by the EJC as of 10/10/2024. The December 2024 meeting will introduce decision point 7, indicator selection.

## Background

By Hoang-Van Nguyen

DEQ, OHA, DAS, OSU Institute for Natural Resources, and PSU Population Research Center were designated as partners for developing the environmental justice mapping tool in HB 4077.

The EJC is also required to host six listening sessions throughout Oregon to learn about community concerns. The first listening sessions is expected to start in March 2025.

# Listening Session Updates

By Environmental Justice Mapping Tool Leadership Team

**The Environmental Justice Mapping Tool Leadership Team requests approval to hire Oregon Health Authority to provide project management support and facilitation services for listening sessions informing development of the Environmental Justice Mapping Tool.**

Thesis Statement: House Bill 4077 requires the Oregon Environmental Justice Council to host six listening sessions throughout the state to inform development of an environmental justice mapping tool. This workload requires additional support to plan, coordinate, and facilitate the listening sessions and document their findings.

Rationale: The Oregon Legislature appropriated \$50,000 to support execution of listening sessions required by House Bill 4077 which expires on June 30, 2025. Facilitators were solicited during a period of six months in 2024, and there were not any vendors were interested in contracting with the State of Oregon for this need. Hiring OHA through an interagency agreement provides additional professional support for at least two in person listening sessions with potential options to host virtual listening sessions prior to June 30, 2025. Successful use of the one-time appropriation and demonstrating progress are essential to securing additional funding.

Plan: Oregon Health Authority can lead development and execution of the listening sessions prior to June 30, 2025 and document findings for Environmental Justice Council review and consideration. Environmental Justice Council will provide input during scoping meetings and information sessions that will be hosted monthly. Full listening sessions decision adoption will occur during regularly scheduled Environmental Justice Council meetings.

## Interagency Agreement with DEQ and OHA

By Matthew Davis and Jen Seamans

**The following information provides context about the potential interagency agreement.**

- DEQ and OHA are preparing a draft IAA, committing to key activities to support EJC listening session strategy development and execution.
- The agreement will allow the \$50,000 to fund OHA staff time and cover other expenses associated with hosting two listening sessions in the first half of calendar year 2025.
- There are several key elements, including:
  - OHA staff who can facilitate council conversations to design a community engagement and listening session strategy.
  - OHA staff to execute two listening sessions according to decisions and planning by the Council.

### Listening Session Support Staff

By Oregon Health Authority

Pradnya Garud: Community Engagement Project Manager

Chelsea Zabski: Listening Session Facilitator

# Indicator Selection Process

By Melissa Foltz and Eric Main

The Inventory and Methodology WGs coordinated to document the expected Indicator Selection Process and identify key EJC votes as the selection progresses. The indicator selection process outlined in Table 1 is expected to take a full calendar year to complete and includes soliciting feedback from agency focus groups, community listening sessions, and EJC discussions.

Table 1. Expected Indicator Selection Process

Estimated Timeline	Category	Task	EJC Vote
Dec 2024	Define Indicator Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Methodology WG to present recommended criteria for indicators to EJC.</li> <li>EJC Survey #1 - Prioritize themes within subdomain.</li> </ul>	EJC to discuss and refine indicator criteria requirements and themes.
Jan 2025	Agency Focus Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agency focus groups discussions on environmental exposures, climate change, built environment, human health, and social factors.</li> </ul>	
Feb - Mar 2025	Data Inventory and Prepare for Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inventory WG to deliver inventory of existing state data to EJC.</li> <li>Methodology WG and Inventory WG to define and document workflow for converting statewide data to census tract boundaries.</li> </ul>	
Mar - Apr 2025	Listening Sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Listening Session 1 (March 2025)</li> <li>Community Listening Session 2 (April 2025)</li> </ul>	
May- Jun 2025	Preliminary Indicator Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Methodology WG to provide comprehensive list of indicators to EJC based on examples from other state and federal tools.</li> <li>EJC Survey #2 - Select preliminary indicators. (Suggested Maximum 10-15 each domain)</li> </ul>	EJC to identify preliminary candidates for each domain.
Jul 2025	Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Methodology WG to review EJ Inventory to identify data that support preliminary indicators.</li> <li>Inventory WG to work with agencies to collect data (and documentation) for all datasets selected.</li> </ul>	
Aug - Nov 2025	Sensitivity Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Methodology WG to perform sensitivity analysis and report findings to EJC.</li> <li>EJC Survey #3 - Determine Community Designations</li> </ul>	EJC to narrow indicators based on community feedback and sensitivity analysis findings.
Dec 2025	Final Indicator Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Methodology WG to report findings on final draft of indicators for discussion.</li> </ul>	EJC to vote on final indicators.



# Indicator Selection Criteria

By Eric Main

## FAQ's

Q1: Why is indicator selection important?

A1: The Oregon Environmental Justice Mapping Tool will be used to identify traditionally underrepresented communities adversely harmed by environmental and health hazards also experiencing health, demographic, social, and economic disparities.

Decision points 1-6 established the general structure of the Oregon EJ Mapping Tool. The core environmental justice index indicators will determine which communities in Oregon are designated as environmental justice communities.

Q2: How will listening sessions inform indicator selection?

A2: Community concerns expressed during listening sessions will give weight to core index indicators and decision support layers available for use in the EJ Mapping Tool. In cases where core index indicators do not rank highly in the sensitivity analysis, community input can be used to override sensitivity analysis results per HB4077, Subsection 12(2).

Q3: How will state agencies contribute to indicator selection?

A3: The EJ Mapping Tool leadership team will collect input on indicator priorities from state agencies from surveys and focus groups. Indicators prioritized by state agencies will be shared with the Environmental Justice Council and the Council will decide whether to include the indicators as candidates in the EJ Mapping Tool sensitivity analysis.

# Indicator Selection Criteria Development

By Eric Main

## How did staff develop indicator selection criteria for EJC consideration?

The Methodology workgroup is a group of subject matter experts from state and local agencies led by Eri Main at OHA, providing support regarding decision points.

1. Analyzed language in HB4077 related to indicator selection.
2. Reviewed indicator selection criteria from other federal and state environmental justice tools.
3. Matrixed language in HB4077 with criteria from other tools.
4. Included some criteria from other tools not listed in HB4077 beneficial to tool and data completeness.
5. Considered feedback from state agencies.

The Indicator Selection criteria for EJC consideration is available in the reference section of this document.

## Environmental Justice Council Role

By Eric Main & Hoang-Van Nguyen

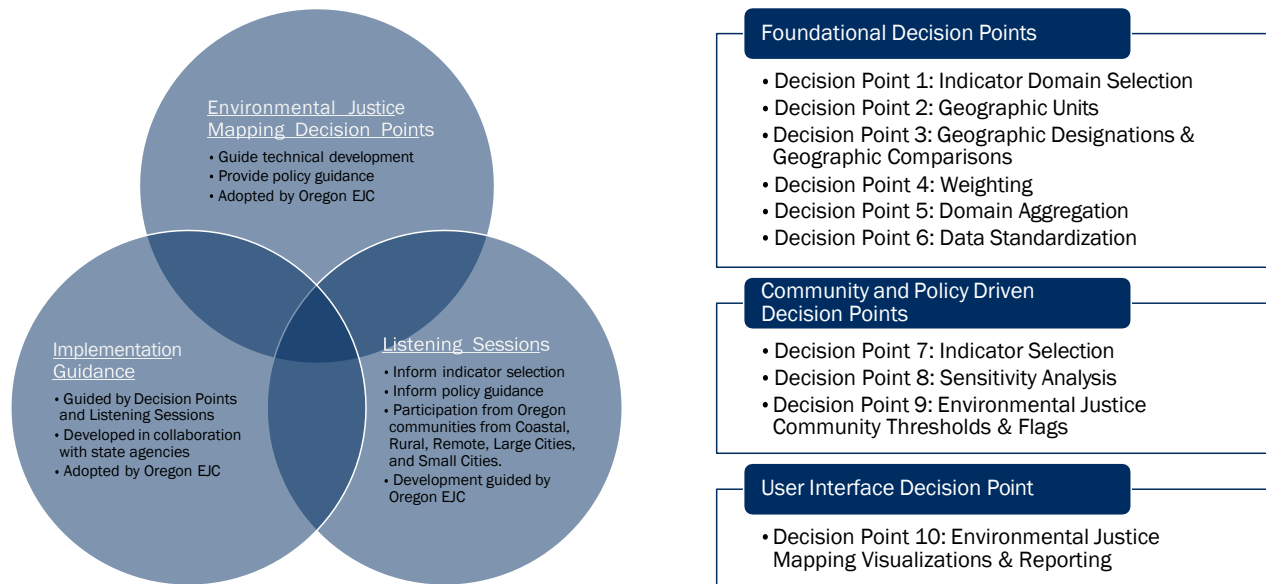
The Environmental Justice Council will lead indicator selection as the sole decision maker of the candidates that will be used for the Environmental Justice Mapping Tool.

The process of indicator selection and sensitivity analysis will start in December 2024 with the goal of adopting final candidates December 2025.

# REFERENCE

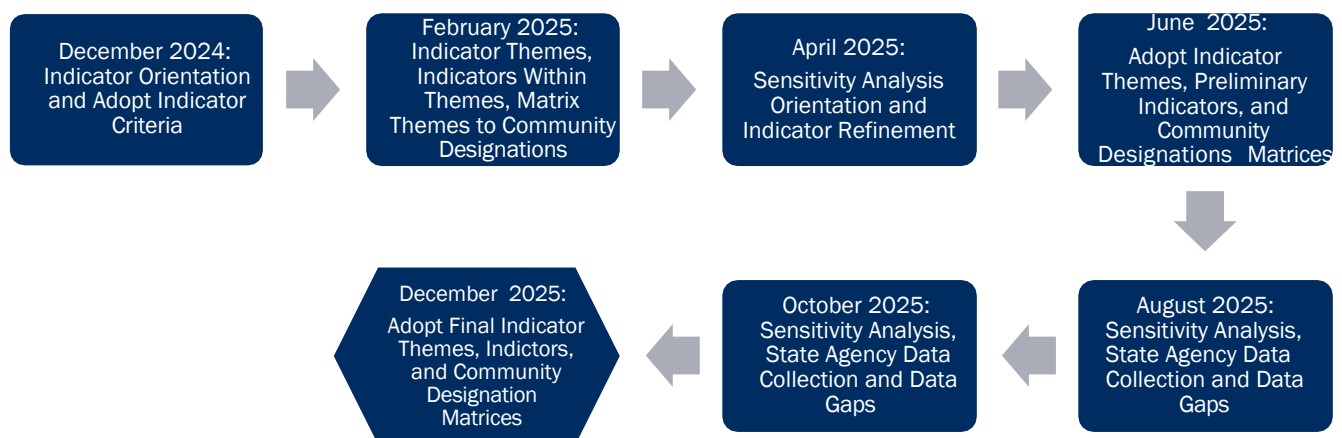
## Background

### Oregon EJ Mapping Tool Project Processes



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### 2025 Environmental Justice Council Mapping Goals



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## Decision Point #7 - Indicator Selection Criteria – EJC DRAFT

10/29/2024

Criteria for Indicator Selection	HB4077 Subsection Interpretation
Indicators should provide a measure that is relevant to the subdomain it represents, in the context of “Environmental Burden”, “Environmental Justice”, and “Environmental Justice Community” definitions in HB4077.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 11(2)</li><li>• 11(3)</li><li>• 11(4)</li></ul>
Indicators should represent community concerns related to pollution burden, climate change risks, environmental conditions, human health, or social factors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12(A)</li></ul>
Community input and feedback should be considered. Indicators proposed and accepted during the community engagement process should be prioritized.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12(2)</li></ul>
Indicators should be linkable to policy and other actions with measurable goals for reducing environmental disparities across Oregon.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 13(1)(d)</li></ul>
The mapping tool should include data from Oregon natural resources agencies or data compatible with environmental justice mapping tools developed by other state agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12(3)(d)</li></ul>
If a health-related measure, the health outcome should be associated with environmental exposures or known to be exacerbated by environmental conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High priority</li></ul>
The presence or absence of the environmental characteristics represented by the indicator should have a quantifiable negative effect on human health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High priority</li></ul>
Data for each indicator should be available for the entire state or community designation at the census tract level or be translatable to the census tract level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High priority</li></ul>
Data should be of sufficient quality and be: 1) Complete 2) Current 3) Accurate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12(3)(b)</li><li>• 12(4)</li></ul>
Data should be accessible to the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12(3)(e)</li></ul>
The office of Enterprise Information Services shall recommend data quality standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12(4)</li></ul>