



OREGON  
**HEALTH**  
AUTHORITY

# **Community engagement strategies for the EJ mapping tool**

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# Environmental Justice Council Members

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# Roadmap

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- Discuss EJ community engagement objectives
- Methods
- Core principles and values
- Timeline
- Community listening sessions (CLS)
- Role of community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Recruiting participants for CLS
- Vote on recommendations

# Roles

Environmental Justice Council (EJC)	Oregon Health Authority (OHA)	Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hosting listening sessions</li><li>• Direct objectives and goals</li><li>• Assist with recruiting and participating in the listening sessions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Craft detailed strategy for approval by EJC</li><li>• Plan logistics and implement community listening sessions</li><li>• Assess participants incentives and support (translation, interpretation, childcare, etc.)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interagency agreement with OHA</li><li>• Funding activities defined in the interagency agreement to support listening sessions</li></ul>

# Overall objectives

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## Phase 1

- **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;
- 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 & 3

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



# Methods



Community listening sessions

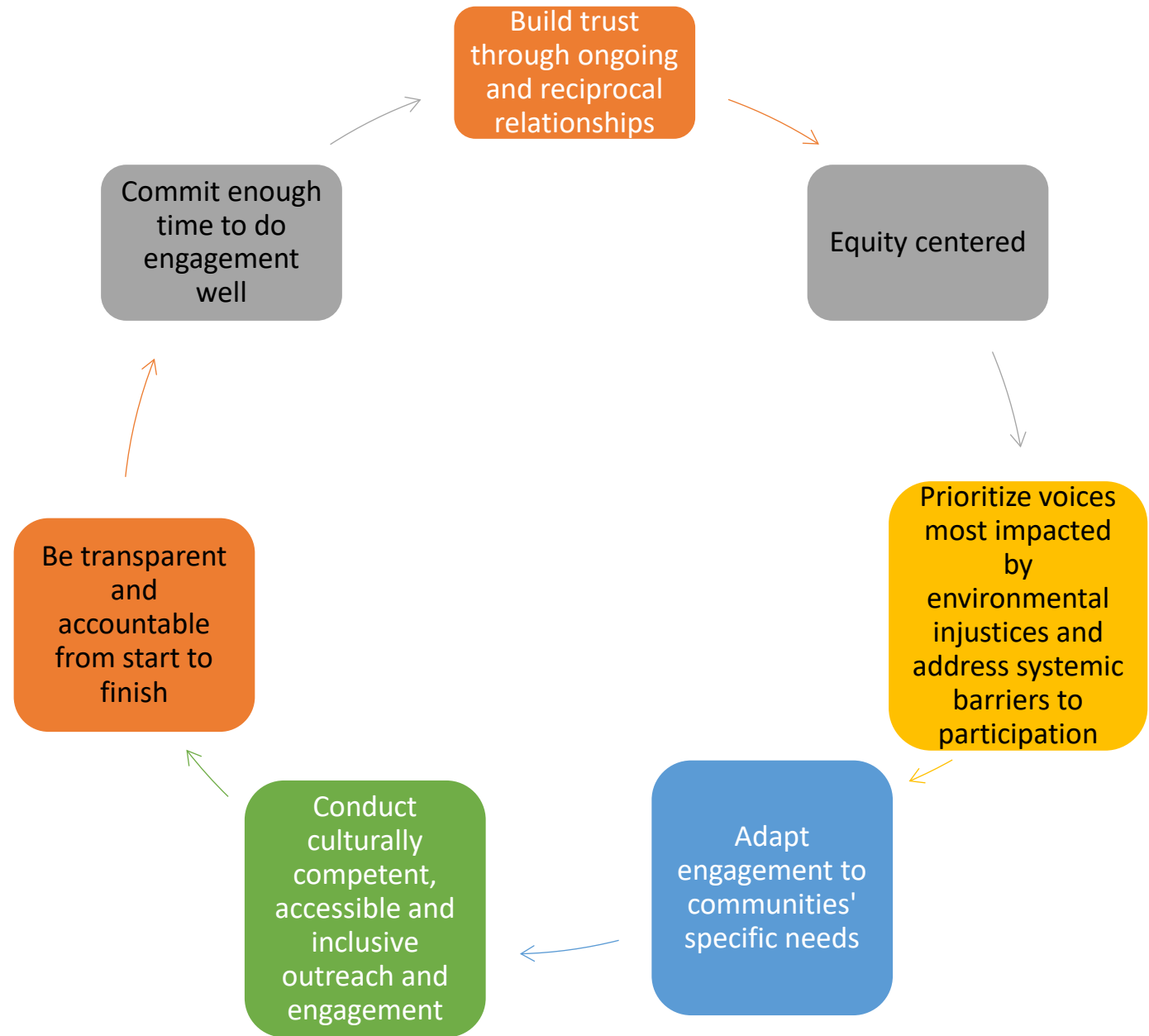


Community survey



Compiling already existing  
community-based data

# Core principles and values





# Timeline

## Phase 1

Planning Jan-March 2025

Community listening sessions in Astoria and Woodburn	April – May 2025
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Community survey	March – May 2025
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Compiling existing community data	January – May 2025
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Systematic organization and analysis of collected community data	April – July 2025
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Report back document	August – December 2025
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## Phase 2 (pending legislative appropriation)

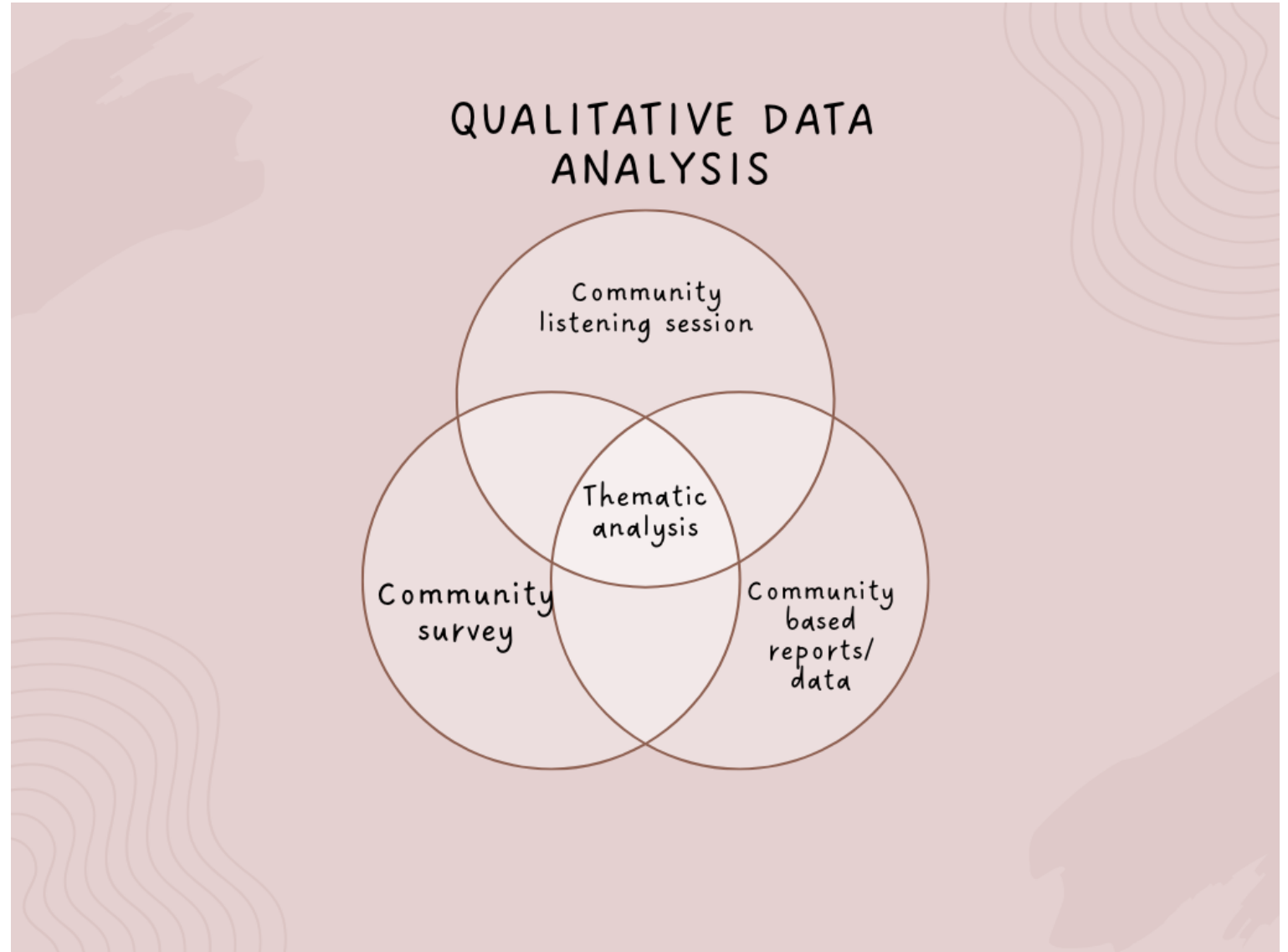
Community listening sessions	2026 – 2027
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# Analysis

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Systematic gathering and analysis of community data



# Community listening sessions



The primary objective for first round of listening sessions:



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

# Role of CBOs in the listening sessions

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Collaborate to conduct two listening sessions between March and May 2025

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Help customize the listening session discussion format

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Identify a location that will be convenient and accessible

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Community outreach – help craft messages and assist with event promotion

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Identify additional assistance for interpretation services, childcare, food, transportation, and other needs

# CBO Selection Approach

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Identify community-based organizations working on environmental/climate justice in Woodburn and Astoria

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Inclusion of residents who are from historically underrepresented communities

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Experience with community engagement; ability to gather community members for a listening session

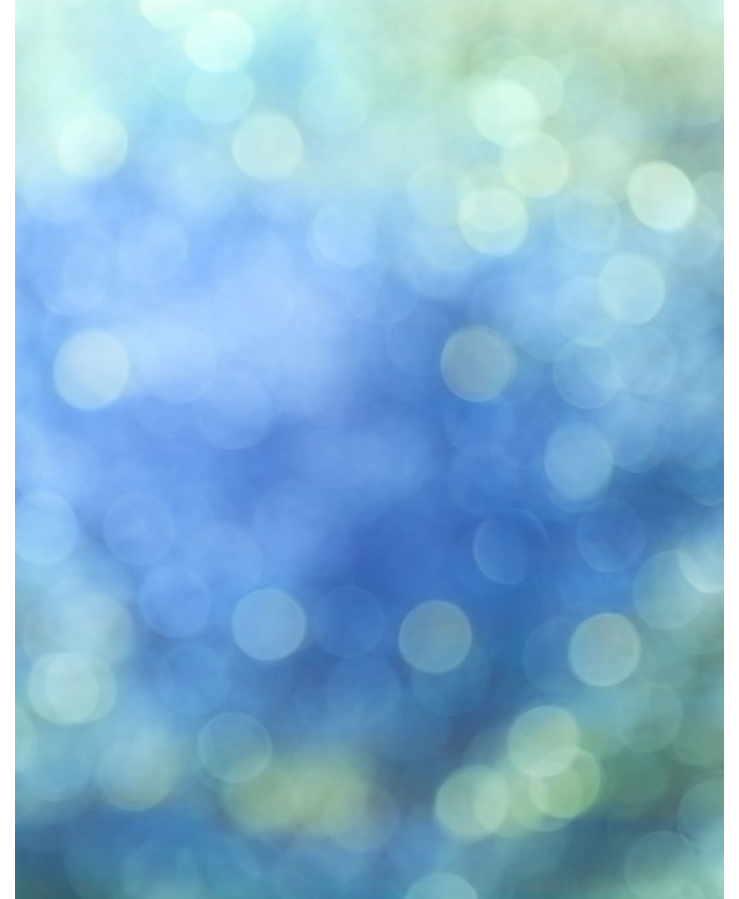
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Relationships and established trust with community members in the area

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Organizations focused on environmental justice, climate change, and racial, economic, and labor justice

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# Listening session recruitment

EJC member's network

Community based organization

LPHA

State agencies

## Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) open house event, 2023

- Educate on the potential health impacts of nitrate contamination
- Provide information and sign up for free well testing and treatment options (if indicated by test results)
- Participating organizations included state agencies (OHA, ODHS, DEQ, ODA, OWRD and more) and CBOs contracted to support LUBGWMA outreach efforts
- Fair-style event with food, children's activities, information tables, Spanish-language support throughout



washing dishes.

Your well is **not** used for commercial purposes or part of a public water system.

### Apply for a Testing Voucher

Use your testing voucher to get a **free** well water test.

[Online Well Testing Voucher Application](#)

[Printable Application](#)

[Request the application in another language](#)

Nitrate levels above 10 milligrams per liter are




### Why should I test my well water?

- High levels of nitrate in the water you use for drinking and cooking can cause long- and short-term health effects. Infants fed baby formula mixed





# Discussion questions

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- What outcomes are we hoping to achieve from the community listening sessions?
  - How do we plan to use the community engagement data?



# Asset-based approaches

An asset-based approach emphasizes identifying and leveraging the strengths, resources, and unique characteristics of the communities.

- Understanding Woodburn and Astoria's demographics, cultural context, and local organizations
- Acknowledge community's existing efforts towards environmental and social justice
- Collaborating with trust leaders who can provide insights and help ensure inclusive participation
- During the sessions create a welcoming space where participants feel respected and valued







# Listening session format



Welcome & Explain the EJ mapping tool



Community concerns brainstorm - open ended questions



Activity 1: Community mapping exercise



Breakout group discussion



Activity 2: Prioritization exercise



Final discussion and concluding remarks

## **Agenda Item 4**

### **Objectives and methods for the first stage of community engagement (Vote Requested)**

#### **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.

#### **Recommendation**

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

- 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;
- online community survey; and
- compiling existing qualitative data from community and local public health authorities reports.

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

**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 exposures<sup>1</sup> as required in House Bill 4077 (2022).

**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

# **Agenda Item 7**

## **Recruiting participants for the community listening sessions (Vote Requested)**

### **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.

### **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)

## **Agenda Item 8**

### **Community listening session dates**

#### **(Vote Requested)**

#### **Rationale**

- The EJC has requested the Astoria date be centered around their meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The following date is the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> is the option available for the Astoria session.
- For Woodburn, we suggest May 6<sup>th</sup>. 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.

#### **Recommendation**

- We are recommending April 16<sup>th</sup> for Astoria and May 6<sup>th</sup> for Woodburn.
- May 7<sup>th</sup> is available as an alternative if the 6<sup>th</sup> does not work.