

Environmental Justice at DEQ

Oregon Environmental Quality Commission meeting
Oct. 1, 2021

Item J: Informational



Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice at the Federal Level

Biden Administration

- Climate Crisis Exec Order (incorporate EJ into decision-making)
- Justice 40 Initiative (21 priority programs, 40% of climate, energy, infrastructure spending for overburdened and marginalized communities.)
- WHEJAC

Environmental Justice In Oregon

- Environmental Justice Task Force (Existing, SB 420, 2007)
- SCR 17 (New)
- HB 2021 (New)
- HB 2165 (New)
- SB 286 (Did not pass)



Environmental Justice at DEQ



On behalf of:

The Environmental Justice Working Group

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Planning Team

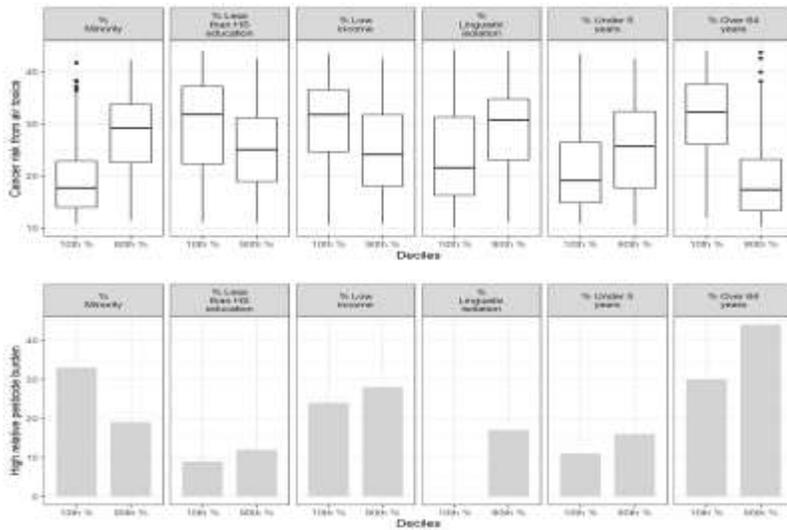
Ximena Cruz Cuevas, Colin Donald, Chamille Hartman, Franziska Landes, Meenakshi Rao, Morgan Schafer, Dan Sobota



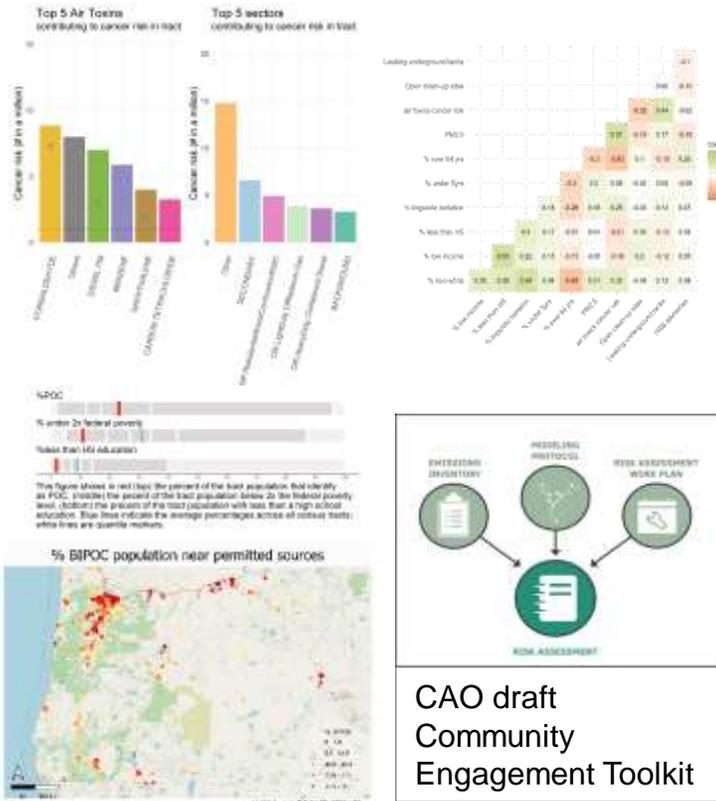
The EJWG

2020 : The beginnings

Sep : Regional Haze Four Factor Analysis
 Dec : *Assessing differential environmental pollution burdens in Oregon USA: Towards an environmental justice analysis*



2021 : Laying the foundation



2021 : Building for the future



Obstacles and Opportunities to Operationalize Environmental Equity and Justice in Local Communities

Methodological Challenges in Assessing Environmental Burdens and Benefits

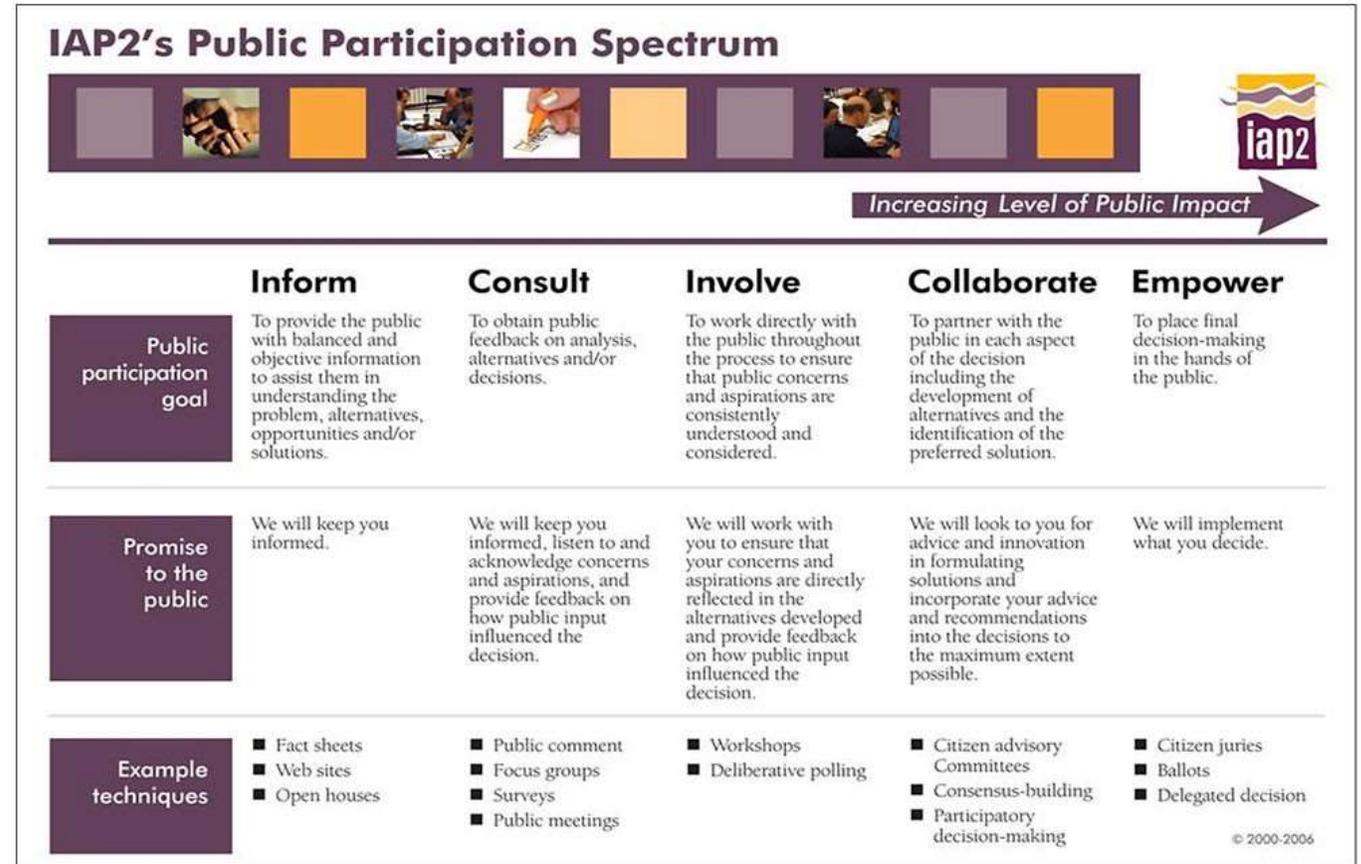
The Impact of Wildfire on Air Quality in Oregon, USA: Smoke Composition and Long-term PM_{2.5} Trends

What does EJ look like at DEQ?



Environmental Justice at DEQ

- Air toxics emissions from facilities
- Air toxics and cancer risk
- CAO community engagement toolkit
- Clean fuels program
- Diesel emissions mitigation grants
- Materials Management grants
- Small systems drinking water outreach
- Solid waste orphan site account (SWOSA)
- Statewide groundwater monitoring program
- Underground storage tanks
- Upper Yaquina River TMDL Project
- Climate Protection Program
- Cully Neighborhood Clean up



EJWG Charter

Technical Group content includes a map of Oregon, a box plot titled "Cancer risk from air toxics" comparing 10th and 90th percentiles, and a computer monitor displaying data. A legend for "Harmful Algal Bloom Advisories (2004 - 2018)" is also visible.

TECHNICAL GROUP

Education Group content features a poster titled "Lessons Learned from 'Institutional Equity: Leading Change, Shifting Systems' Training". The poster includes a circular diagram with segments for Housing, Research, Environment, Capacity Building, Transportation, Federal Agency Contacts, Health, and Training. The central text reads "Advancing Environmental Justice: Healthy, Sustainable, and Equitable Communities".

EDUCATION GROUP

Communications Group content features a map of Oregon with a legend for "Language Screen All Home" and a screenshot of a website interface. The website content includes the text "Assessing differential environmental pollution burdens in Oregon, USA: Towards an environmental justice analysis" and "Environmental Justice".

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

Obstacles and Opportunities



Figure 3. Evaluating EPA's Definition of "Environmental Justice"



Charles Lee, 2016 *Confronting Disproportionate Impacts and Systemic Racism in Environmental Policy*

Embedding Environmental Justice in DEQ's Everyday Work

- **Inclusion in DEQ's Forthcoming Strategic Plan**
- **Inclusion in DEQ's 23-25 Agency Request Budget**
- **Interim Staffing Support for Coordination of EJ Workgroup and Work Already Happening in DEQ Programs**
- **EPA and Other Federal Support**
- **Work with OHA, DAS, ODOE, ODOT, DLCD, OHCS**
- **Continued Work with the Oregon Legislature to Resource the EJTF**



Connecting EJ with DEI at DEQ

Ten Strategies

1	Develop Agency-specific Racial Equity Plans	1
2	Build State Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Infrastructure	2
3	Foster Inclusive Communications	3
4	Strengthen Community Engagement	4
5	Utilize Disaggregated Data as a Lever for Change	5
6	Create Equitable Budget & Inclusive Budget Process; Invest in Target Communities	6
7	Advance Contract Equity and Improve State Procurement Processes	7
8	Build a More Diverse Workforce and Create an Inclusive Workplace	8
9	No Tolerance for Racism, Hate, and Discrimination	9
10	Operate with Urgency, Transparency, and Accountability	10



Thank you

