

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

August 7, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Public Meeting Agenda

This public meeting will be conducted in person at 2580 Hilyard St, Eugene, OR 97405. Attendees may also join virtually on Zoom Webinar by registering using the link below. Written testimony can be submitted in advance, to van.nguyen@deq.oregon.gov. Written comments received will be distributed to the Council.

Register in Advance to Participate Virtually

https://deq-oregon-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_906wFgRuSmKHJQqH9MWKGg

The Council makes every attempt to hold strictly to the sequence of the distributed agenda. Times and topics may change up to the last minute. This agenda is available on the Environmental Justice Council website: [Governor of Oregon : Environmental Justice Council : Policies : State of Oregon](#).

10:00 a.m.	Item 1:	Call to Order – Chair Quinn Read
10:10 a.m.	Item 2:	EJC Leadership Updates – Chair Quinn Read Briefing
11:00 a.m.	Item 3:	Public Comment
11:15 a.m.	Item 4:	EJ Mapping Decision Point 4 Orientation – Methodology WG Lead Eric Main Briefing
12:15 p.m.	Item 5:	Break before Working Lunch
12:30 p.m.	Item 6:	Project Timeline & Engagement – EJC Coordinator Hoang-Van Nguyen Briefing
1:30 p.m.	Item 7:	EJ Mapping Tool Extension Request – EJC Coordinator Hoang-Van Nguyen Council Discussion
2:30 p.m.	Item 8:	Public Comment
2:45 p.m.	Item 9:	Public Comment: EJC Discussion
3:00 p.m.	Item 10:	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 shortly after the meeting.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. the evening prior to the meeting by emailing van.nguyen@deq.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 portion 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 Coordinator Hoang-Van Nguyen at van.nguyen@deq.oregon.gov to make your request.

Staff Memorandum

To: Chair and Members of the Oregon Environmental Justice Council
From: Hoang-Van Nguyen, Environmental Justice Council & Policy Coordinator and Eric Main, Oregon Health Authority
Date: August 1, 2024
Regarding: Agenda Item 4 – EJC Mapping Decision Point 4 Orientation
EJ Mapping Leadership Team briefing on considerations for Decision Point 4, Weighting.

The Methodology Workgroup is evaluating five weighting methods for the Oregon Environmental Justice Mapping Tool:

- No weighting – CDC Environmental Justice Index/Environmental Justice Screening Method
- Subdomain weighting – CalEnviroScreen/Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map/Colorado EnviroScreen
- Regression domain weighting – California Healthy Places Index (association with life expectancy at birth)
- Principal component analysis – EPA Environmental Quality Index
- Participatory methods – budget allocation, analytical hierarchy process, and conjoint analysis

The evaluation will include the following steps:

- Build a working dataset for Oregon Census tracts
- Select Indicators from the U.S. Climate Vulnerability Index
- Categorize indicators by subdomain – environmental exposures, environmental hazards, climate change risks, built environment, human health, social factors
- Standardize raw indicator values as percentiles
- Analyze weighting methods
- Compare results of tracts in the 80th percentile by community designation

Weighting method recommendations will be presented to the Environmental Justice Council for consideration during the October meeting.

Council Memorandum

To: Chair and Members of the Oregon Environmental Justice Council
From: Quinn Read, Oregon Environmental Justice Council Chair
Date: August 1, 2024
Regarding: Agenda Item 6 – Project Timeline & Engagement

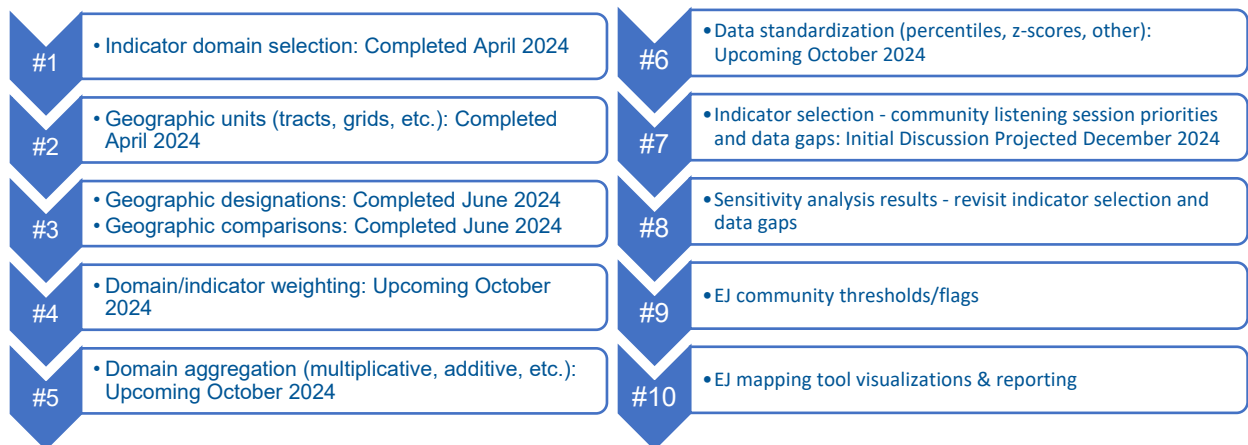
Council action is not requested on this agenda item.

House Bill 4077 was enrolled by the Oregon Legislature in March of 2022 and it created the Environmental Justice Council and the requirement to develop an Oregon Environmental Justice Mapping Tool. The Council began meeting in October 2022, but not regularly until June 2023. Key personnel hires authorized under the bill were completed in March 2023, which is a timeline consistent with similar new or expanded state board and commission initiatives.

The Environmental Justice Mapping Tool Leadership Team started convening around May 2023. This is the functional team responsible for executing the development of the mapping tool based on requirements determined by the Council. The effort is supported by key personnel within the Oregon health Authority, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Administrative Services, Portland State University Population Research Center, and Oregon State University Institute on Natural Resources. Hoang-Van Nguyen, Environmental Justice Council & Policy Coordinator has provided project management support to the inter-agency team.

Development of the Environmental Justice Mapping Tool project is broken down into ten decision points, six listening sessions, and the development of agency guidance. The latter two elements are required by statute.

Decision Points 1-10



The Environmental Justice Mapping Leadership Team projects that the project will not be completed by the statutory deadline of September 25, 2025. Agenda Item #7 proposes two new potential completion date pathways for Council consideration.

The Oregon Legislature appropriated \$50,000 in 2024 for the Environmental Justice Council to host six listening sessions throughout Oregon to support development of the Environmental Justice Mapping Tool. This fiscal allocation was based on Council staff's cost projections. To date, none of these funds have been used.

The Council has expressed strong interest in hiring a facilitator to host the listening sessions which can be in person or virtual. The Environmental Justice Council & Policy Coordinator has actively recruited potential facilitators since March 2024 with limited interest. She reported out status on facilitator recruitment during the June 13, 2024 Council meeting.

Coordinator Nguyen met virtually with two potential facilitators since the June meeting. One facilitator declined to enter contract with the Environmental Justice Council listing the following concerns:

1. Participant compensation is a key component for successful recruitment to attend listening sessions and not having these funds available limits potential participation.
2. The funding available is not sufficient to execute six listening sessions throughout the state even with three listening sessions being hosted virtually.
3. The timeline to execute the listening sessions is too short to accomplish the goal of six listening sessions.

The other potentially interested vendor submitted a questionnaire that has been routed to Council leadership for consideration.

The \$50,000 appropriation from the short session expires on June 30, 2025. Department of Environmental Quality is currently preparing budget requests for the Council for the next biennium.

Potential opportunities to use the short session appropriation include:

1. Creating and deploying online surveys to collect feedback from Oregon communities about their environmental and health concerns, how they engage with natural resources agencies, and how they would like the Environmental Justice Mapping Tool to be used to benefit their communities.
2. Participating in conferences as exhibitors to engage with local governments and tribal governments and communities outside of government-to-government consultations.
3. Participating in community events as exhibitors to engage with communities where they are already convening

Creating a plan to spend the existing short session appropriation demonstrates the intention and commitment to executing effective listening sessions for the Environmental Justice Mapping Tool. This also provides the Council the opportunity to engage with more communities than six listening sessions could accomplish alone.

Staff Memorandum

To: Chair and Members of the Oregon Environmental Justice Council
From: Hoang-Van Nguyen, Oregon Environmental Justice Council & Policy Coordinator
Date: August 1, 2024

Regarding: Agenda Item 7 – EJ Mapping Tool Extension Request
Council action is requested on this agenda item.

The Environmental Justice Mapping Tool Leadership Team formally requests Environmental Justice Council concurrence on requesting an extension to the project due date.

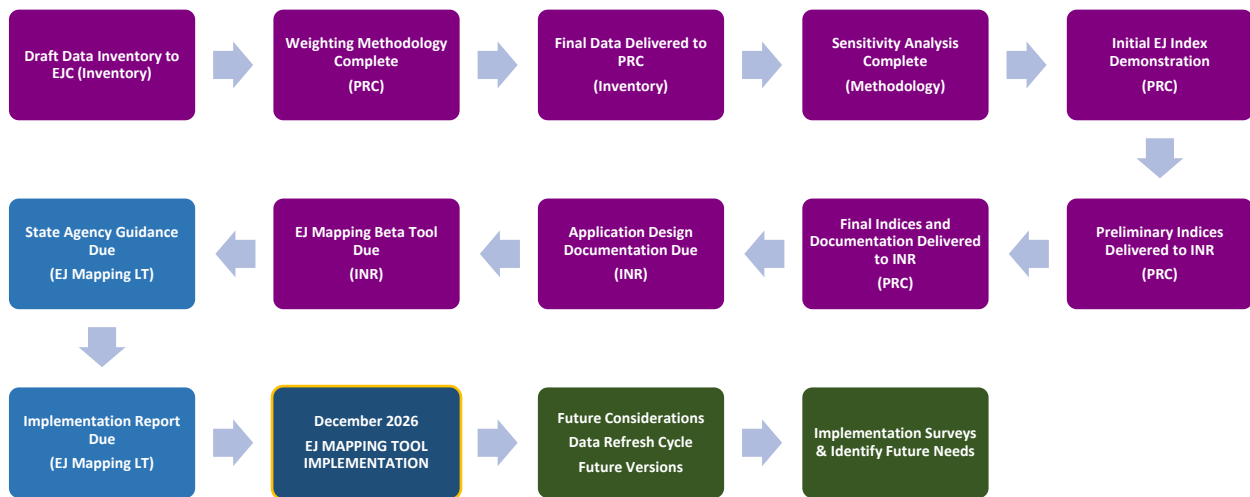
The September 25, 2025 project deadline is identified in Oregon House Bill 4077.

The rationale for this request includes:

- The Environmental Justice Mapping Tool project initiation was unable to commence until staff hires were completed
 - The Environmental Justice Council was established at the same time the project was to be initiated
 - Key staff were hired a year after HB 4077 enrollment in March 2022
 - There are still a project manager vacancy that is in the process being filled
 - The Environmental Justice Council began meeting regularly in June 2023
 - New members were appointed to the Environmental Justice Council requiring onboarding and establishing new Council norms
- Community input has been delayed
 - Statutory listening sessions have not yet commenced
 - Additional opportunities for stakeholder and public input are being considered
 - The Environmental Justice Council desires community input to contribute to decision making
- Difficulties that Coordinator Nguyen has experienced in hiring a facilitator
 - Facilitators recommend participation compensation for listening sessions
 - The budget is limited to \$40,000
 - \$10,000 is being held for administrative costs such as facility rental and interpretation services
- Environmental Justice Mapping Tool Complexity
 - HB 4077 requires a mapping tool that considers environmental and health impacts throughout Oregon which requires participation from multiple state agencies
 - Environmental Justice Council deliberations at the request of staff have introduced additional complexity

- Environmental Justice Council adoption of Decision Point 1 introduced a new subdomain: Built Environment
- Environmental Justice Council adoption of Decision Point 3 introduced six indices as opposed to a statewide index
- Tribal communities are also considered environmental justice communities and they require separate engagement as tribal governments are sovereign.
- The listening session requirements also create additional complexities in the project structure.

Key milestones are listed below:



A project extension will allow robust engagement with agencies to inform development of the mapping tool and provide them ample opportunities to identify and transform the data necessary to create the indices for the mapping tool, based on decisions made by the Council.

Staff have identified two potential alternative timelines and associated considerations.

Option 1

Due Date: On or before December 31, 2026

- September 2025 Deliverable: Initial EJ Index Demonstration
- This option is closest to the existing statutory deadline.
- This option will likely require the Council to meet very frequently over the 2025 calendar year. The number of full meetings could be condensed and/or reduced if the council identified alternative approaches to decision-making (such as through subcommittees)

- Additional funding may be requested in the 2025 legislative session and potentially available to the agency after June 2025.

Additional funding and time could potentially increase chances to hire a facilitator and offer participant compensation

- Ability to use [\\$50,000](#) from short session towards additional feedback
 - Surveys
 - Conferences
 - Community Events

Option 2

Due Date: On or before June 30, 2027

- September 2025 Deliverable: Weighting Methodology Complete
- This option will likely require the council to meet bi-monthly over the 2025 calendar year. The number of full meetings could be condensed and/or reduced if the council identified alternative approaches to decision-making (such as subcommittees)
- Additional funding may be requested in the 2025 legislative session and potentially available to the agency after June 2025.
 - Additional funding and time could potentially increase chances to hire a facilitator and offer participant compensation
- Ability to use [\\$50,000](#) from short session towards additional feedback
 - Surveys
 - Conferences
 - Community Events

The Council is required by statute to provide a project update to the Governor by September 15, 2024. This update provides an opportunity to transmit to the Governor information about the project, the challenges described above, and the Council's thoughts on requesting a revised deadline.