

March 2024

# Oregon EJ Mapping Tool 1/1

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!**

## INSIDE

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### OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

How will this help with future Environmental Justice Council decisions?

### BACKGROUND INFO

Where are we and how did we get here?

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

# Objectives & Outcomes

**We organized these appointments 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.

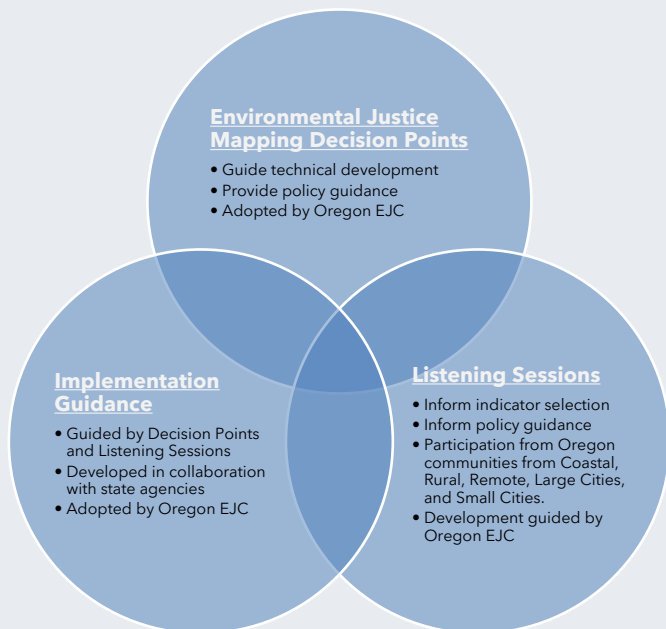
## **Outcomes:**

1. Determine community listening session personnel.
2. Inform indicator selection decision making through a clear and defined process.
3. Determine indicator selection criteria at the beginning of the process 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

As October 10, 2024, decision point recommendations 1-6 have been adopted by the Environmental Justice Council. The December 2024 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.

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

- Placeholder

**OHA Office of Equity**

Placeholder

By OHA Placeholder

# 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, 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 from listening sessions will give weight to core index indicators and decision support layers prioritized for the EJ Mapping Tool. In cases where core index indicator candidates do not rank highly in the sensitivity analysis, community feedback collected during the listening sessions can be used to override sensitivity analysis results and prioritize those indicators as moral imperatives.

Q3: How will state agencies contribute to indicator selection?

A3:

# Indicator Selection Criteria Development

By Eric Main

## How criteria were considered

The Methodology workgroup...

1. Analyzed language in HB4077 related to indicator selection.
2. Reviewed indicator selection criteria from other environmental justice tools from federal government and other states.
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.

## 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.

# Indicator Selection Process

By Melissa Foltz and Eric Main

The Inventory and Methodology Work Groups (WG) coordinate to document the expected process and key EJC votes to selected indicators for the Environmental Justice Mapping tool. 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

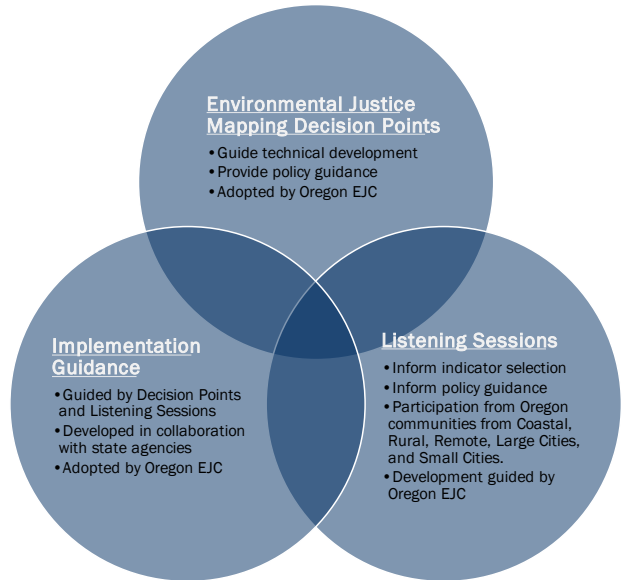
<u>Estimated Timeline</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Task</u>	<u>EJC Vote</u>
Dec 2024	Define Indicator Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Methodology WG to present recommended criteria for indicators to EJC.</li> <li>EJC Survey #1 Prioritize themes within subdomain.</li> </ul>	EJC to discuss and refine indicator criteria and themes requirements prior to voting on final criteria.
Jan 2025	Agency Focus Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three agency focus groups are expected to include discussions on environmental exposures, climate change, built environment, human health, and social factors.</li> </ul>	
Feb/Mar 2025	Data Inventory	<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 workflow for converting statewide data to census tract boundaries.</li> </ul>	
Mar/April 2025	Listening Sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listening Session 1 (March)</li> <li>Listening Session 2 (April)</li> </ul>	
May/June 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. (Max. 10-15 each domain)</li> </ul>	Narrow list to identify preliminary candidates for each domain.
June 2025	Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Methodology WG to review EJ Inventory to identify data that support preliminary indicators.</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	Narrow indicators based on community feedback and sensitivity analysis findings
Dec 2025	Final Indicator Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	Select final indicators.

# REFERENCE

## Placeholder

### Oregon EJ Mapping Tool Project Processes



- Foundational Decision Points**
- Decision Point 1: Indicator Domain Selection
  - Decision Point 2: Geographic Units
  - Decision Point 3: Geographic Designations & Geographic Comparisons
  - Decision Point 4: Weighting
  - Decision Point 5: Domain Aggregation
  - Decision Point 6: Data Standardization

- Community and Policy Driven Decision Points**
- Decision Point 7: Indicator Selection
  - Decision Point 8: Sensitivity Analysis
  - Decision Point 9: Environmental Justice Community Thresholds & Flags

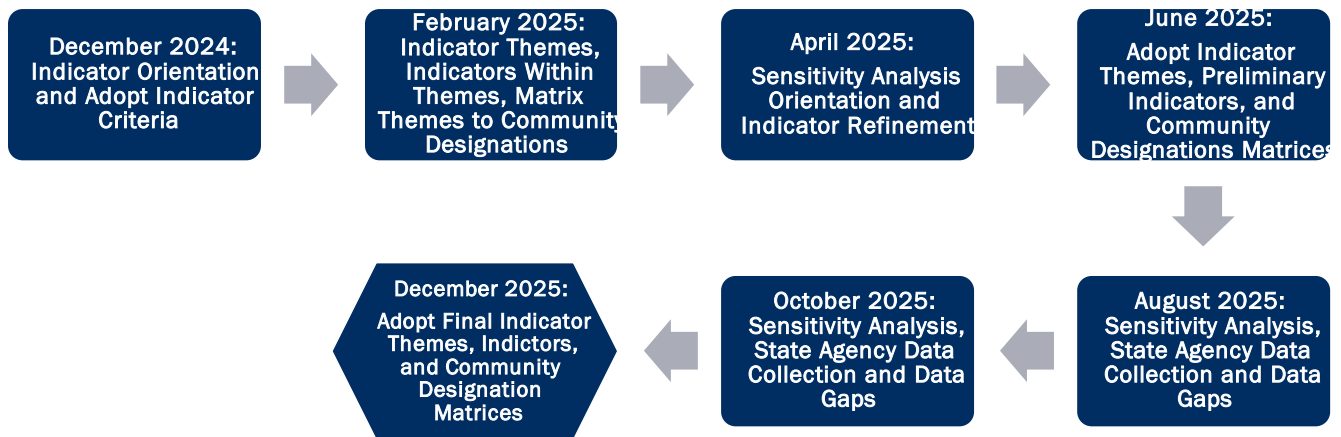
- User Interface Decision Point**
- Decision Point 10: Environmental Justice Mapping Visualizations & Reporting

### EJC Meetings Projected Schedule (Now – 2025)

December 2024	Decision Point 7 Orientation
February 2025	Decision Point 7 Deeper Dive Listening Session 1
March 2025	Listening Session 2
April 2025	Decision Point 8 Sensitivity Analysis Part 1
June 2025	Decision Point 7 Indicator Selection Determinations <b>Short Session Funding Expiration</b>
August 2025	Decision Point 8 Sensitivity Analysis Part 2 Listening Session 3
September 2025	HB4077 Statutory Deadline
October 2025	Decision Point 8 Sensitivity Analysis Part 3 Listening Session 4
December 2025	Community Listening Session Analysis



## 2025 Environmental Justice Council Mapping Goals



## Decision Point #7 - Indicator Selection Criteria – FINAL

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.	<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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Complete</li> <li>2) Current</li> <li>3) Accurate</li> </ol>	<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>