

Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021

Summary: An interagency environmental justice mapping committee, led by the Environmental Protection Agency, will be formed to identify criteria, find data gaps, create a data repository, and work with communities to create an interactive mapping tool of based on cumulative impacts to locate environmental justice communities. This tool will be essential in the effort to direct at least 40% of funding for a clean and climate-safe future into communities facing environmental injustices.

Mapping: The committee will formalize and develop a comprehensive cumulative impacts mapping tool to identify environmental justice communities through the rulemaking process. In this process the committee will:

- Identify and implement a methodology to determine the cumulative impacts of factors that fall into categories including demographics such as race and income related to socioeconomic hardship and social stressors, public health, and pollution burdens, resulting in environmental justice scores
- Investigate how indicators of vulnerability to impacts of climate change may be used
- Consider implementing regional factors or creating regional maps
- Create an interactive tool capable of providing maps of cumulative environmental justice scores based on selected indicators in a region of size no larger than a census tract
- Establish a method to self-identify as an environmental justice community via qualitative data
- Update the indicators and methodology at least once every three years, and upload any new data sets at least yearly

Data Audit: The committee will direct relevant agencies to perform an audit of data, identifying any data sets that are relevant to environmental justice concerns, and including recommendations to agencies on what other data should be gathered that is relevant to environmental justice.

- Data should include, but is not limited to, public health metrics, toxic chemicals, economic demographics, air quality, and water quality
- Data audit shall examine the granularity and accessibility of the data and include recommendations to other Federal entities to improve the quality, granularity, and transparency of, and public involvement in data collection and dissemination
- Data will be placed in a publicly accessible environmental justice data repository
- Data should be updated as frequently as practicable, and no less than once every 3 years

Interagency Committee Structure: The Interagency Committee will consist of representatives from relevant agencies, such as EPA, Commerce, HHS, DOI, USDA, HUD, DOE, and DOT, and shall consult with an advisory council of relevant stakeholders, at least half of which will be representatives and members of communities harmed by environmental injustices, chaired by an environmental justice advocate.

- The committee, with consultation from the advisory council, will develop a plan for comprehensive public engagement with and incorporation of feedback from environmental justice communities including public meetings held by the committee, which may be supplemented with outreach by the advisory council
- The committee will be authorized to be appropriated at \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 and 2022; and \$18,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2025