



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



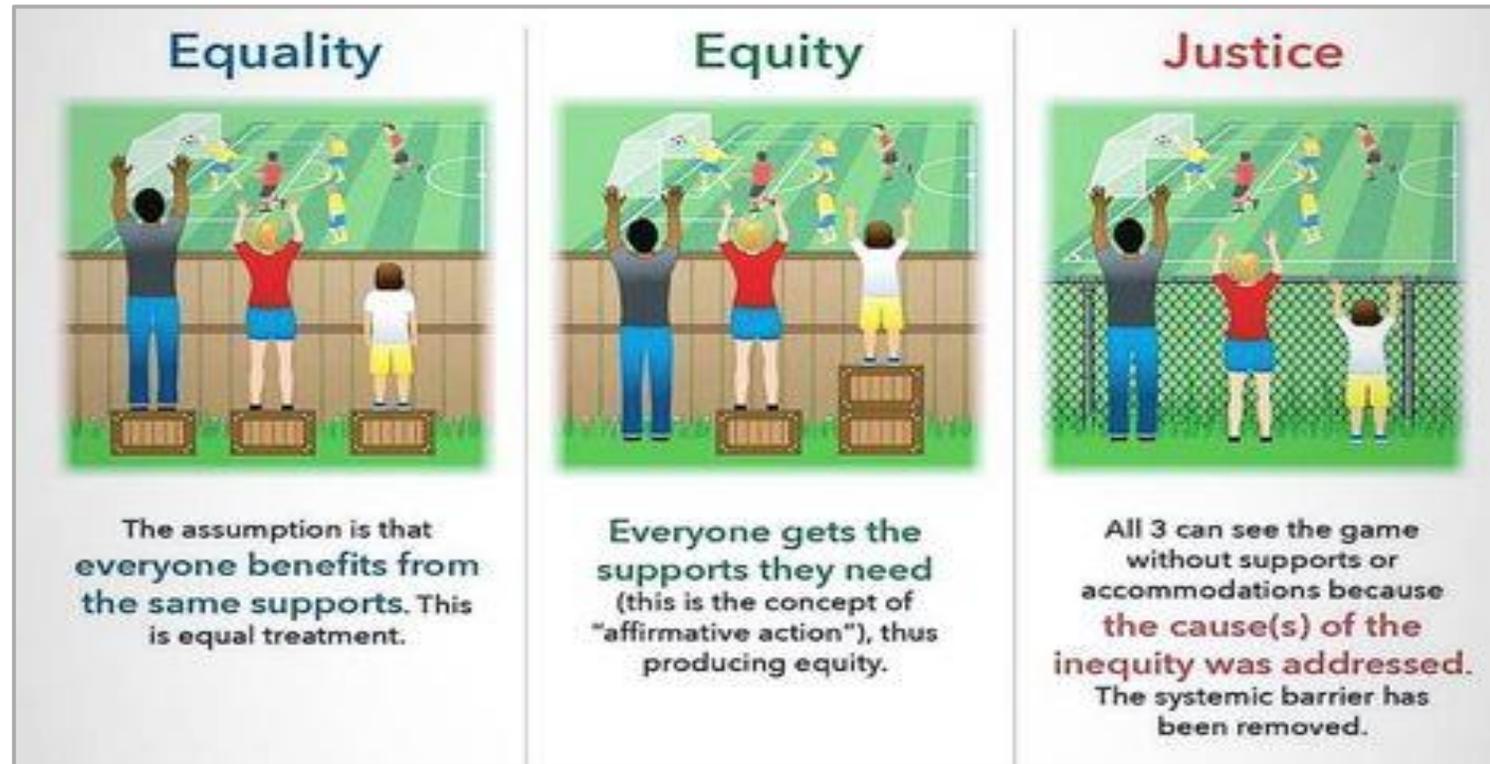
DEP Office of Environmental Justice Update

September 29, 2021

Tom Wolf, Governor

Patrick McDonnell, Secretary

Equality, Equity, and Justice



How has the environmental justice movement historically addressed the distinctions between equality, equity and justice?

What are these concepts' implications for how to define environmental justice?

Definition of Environmental Justice

Fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin or income, in the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

US EPA

Environmental justice embodies the principle that communities and populations should not be disproportionately exposed to adverse environmental impacts.

Pennsylvania DEP

Seventeen Principles of Environmental Justice.

First People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit

**Distributive
Justice**

**Procedural
Justice**

**Corrective
Justice**

**Social
Justice**

**Structural
Justice**

Historical Legacy of EJ: Redlining & Structural Racism

Mapping Inequality Redlining in New Deal America

Introduction Downloads & Data About Contact Us Am

map options

Search for city

Demographics

671,659 Total Population (1940)
78.1% Native-born white
12.6% Foreign-born white

Area Descriptions

click to select

search

Selections from the Area Descriptions

B22

Jewish threatening

(Inhabitants)

C16

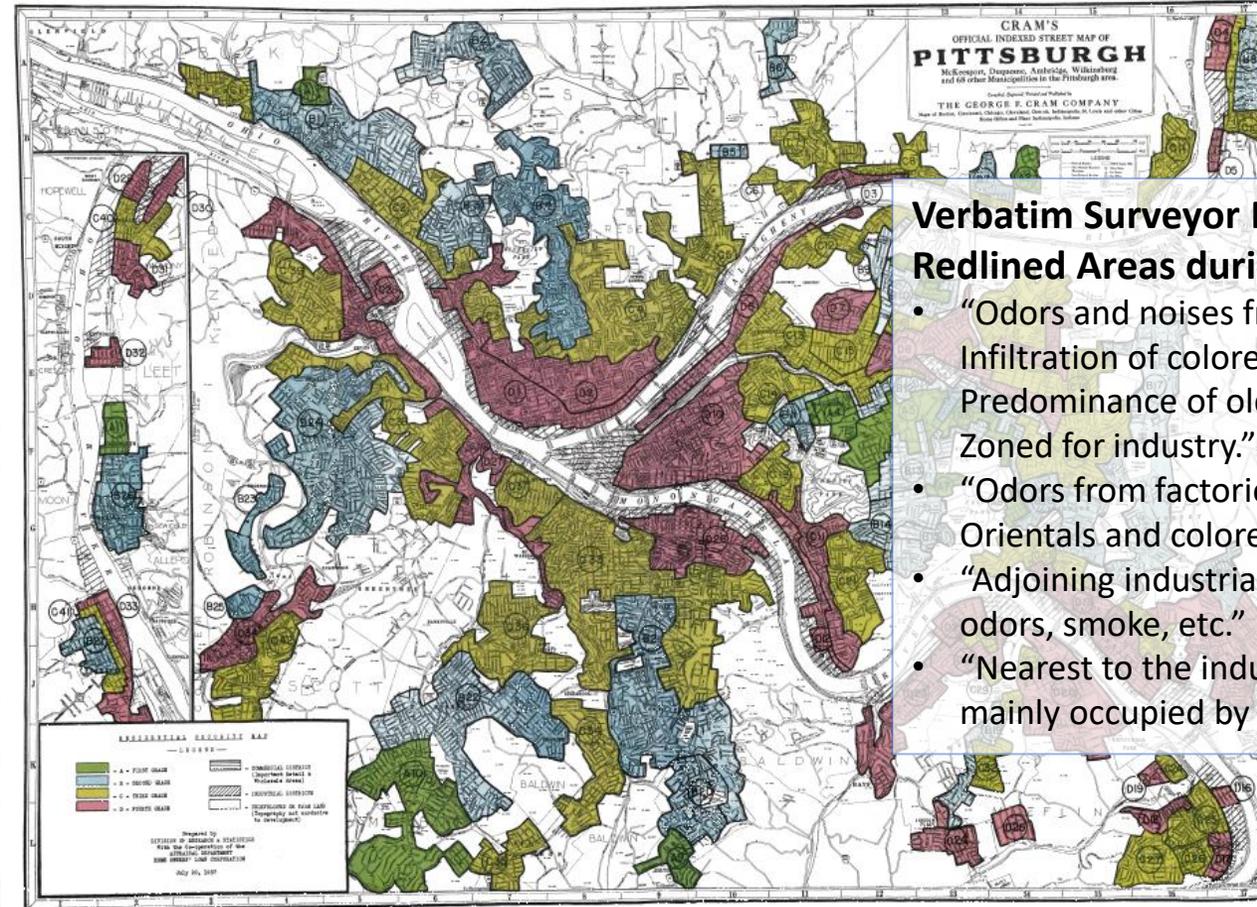
Negro encroachment threatening.

(Detrimental Influences)

B27

The section is very spotty with negro scattered throughh the best parts.

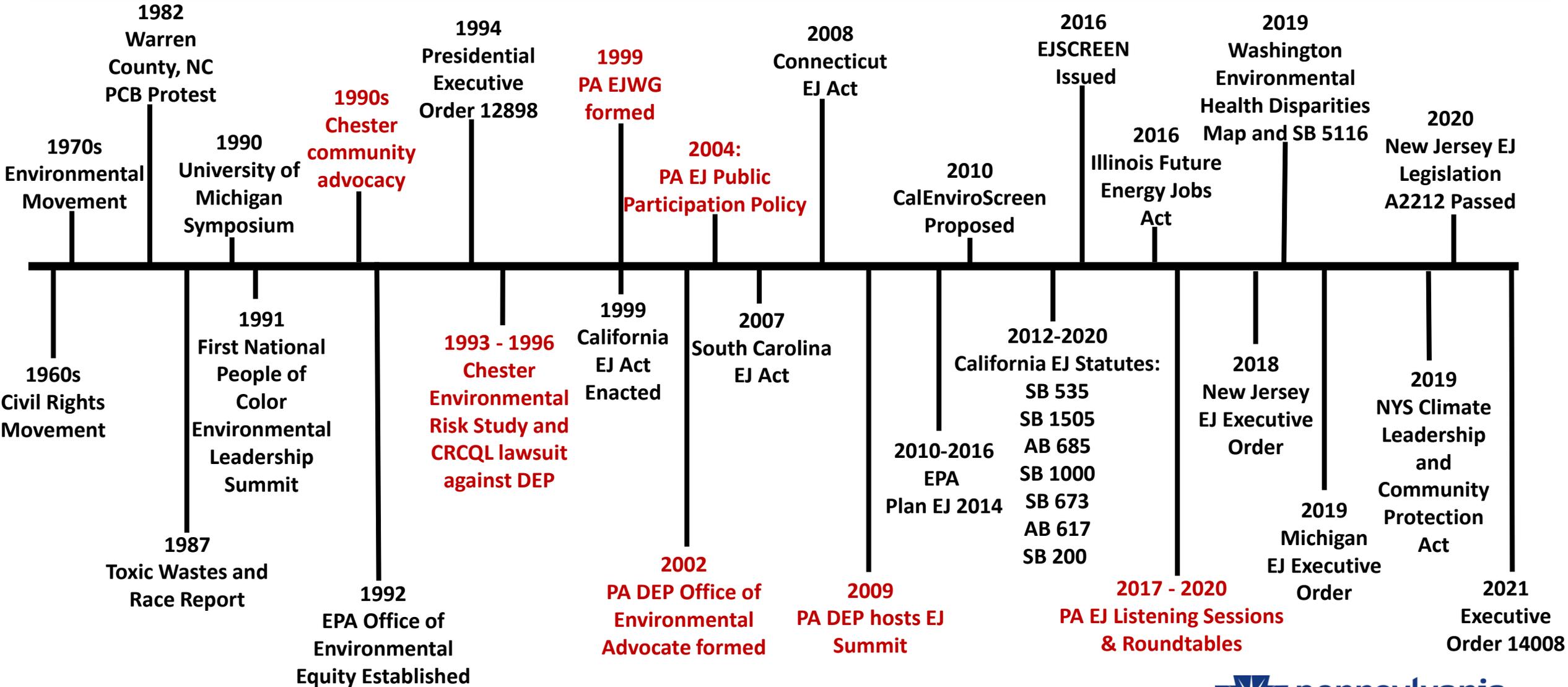
(Clarifying Remarks)



Verbatim Surveyor Descriptions of Redlined Areas during 1930s:

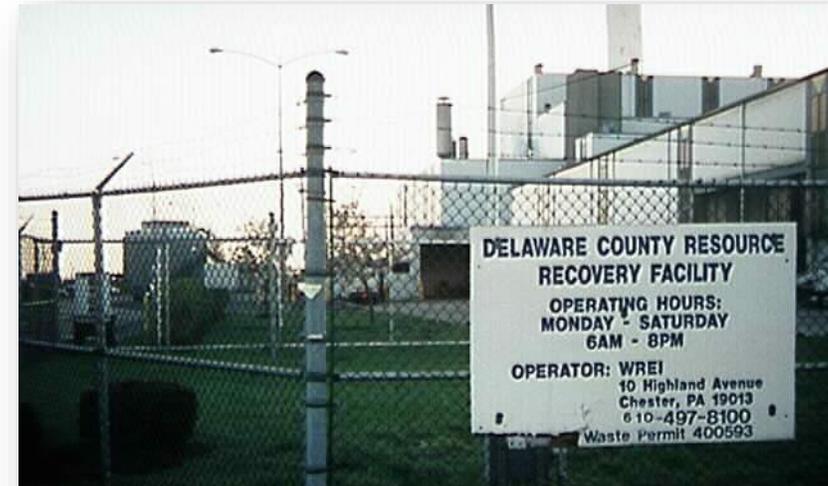
- “Odors and noises from local industries. Infiltration of colored and Orientals. Predominance of older, cheap cottages. Zoned for industry.”
- “Odors from factories; infiltration of Orientals and colored.”
- “Adjoining industrial area with attendant odors, smoke, etc.”
- “Nearest to the industries, thereby being mainly occupied by wage earning families”

Timeline of Federal and State Government Response



Roots of EJ in Pennsylvania

- Organizing of Chester in early 1990s
- Environmental Risk Study by EPA in conjunction with DER in 1993
- Chester residents (CRCQL) lawsuit against DEP in 1996
- DEP Environmental Justice Work Group (EJWG) created in 1999 Report and Recommendations released in 2001
- Office of Environmental Advocate formed in 2002



DEP Mission

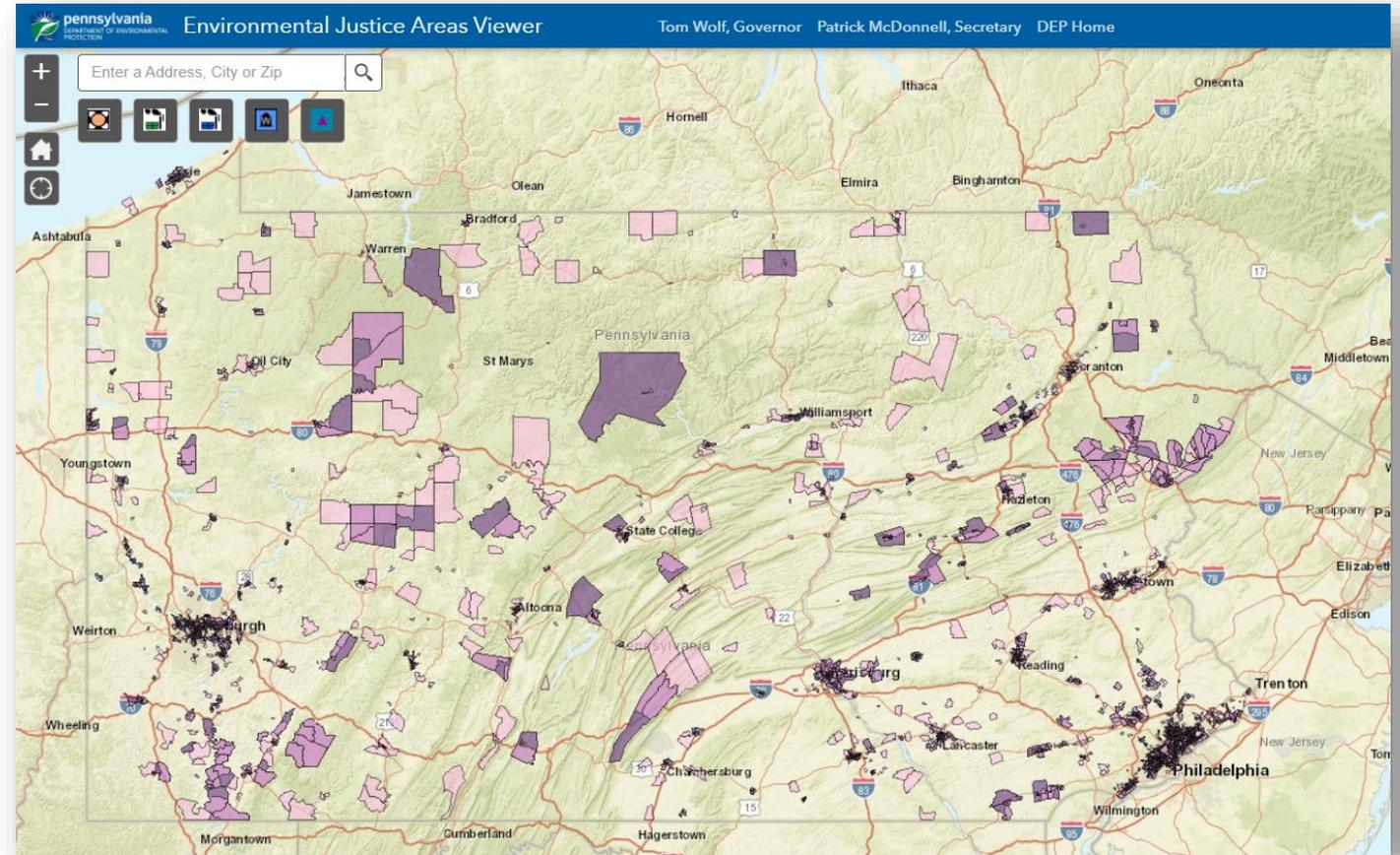
To protect Pennsylvania's air, land, and water from pollution and to provide for the health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment. We will work as partners with individuals, organizations, governments and businesses to prevent pollution and restore our natural resources.

OEJ Goals

- **Minimize Adverse Environmental Impacts**
- **Empower Communities**
- **Foster Economic Opportunities**

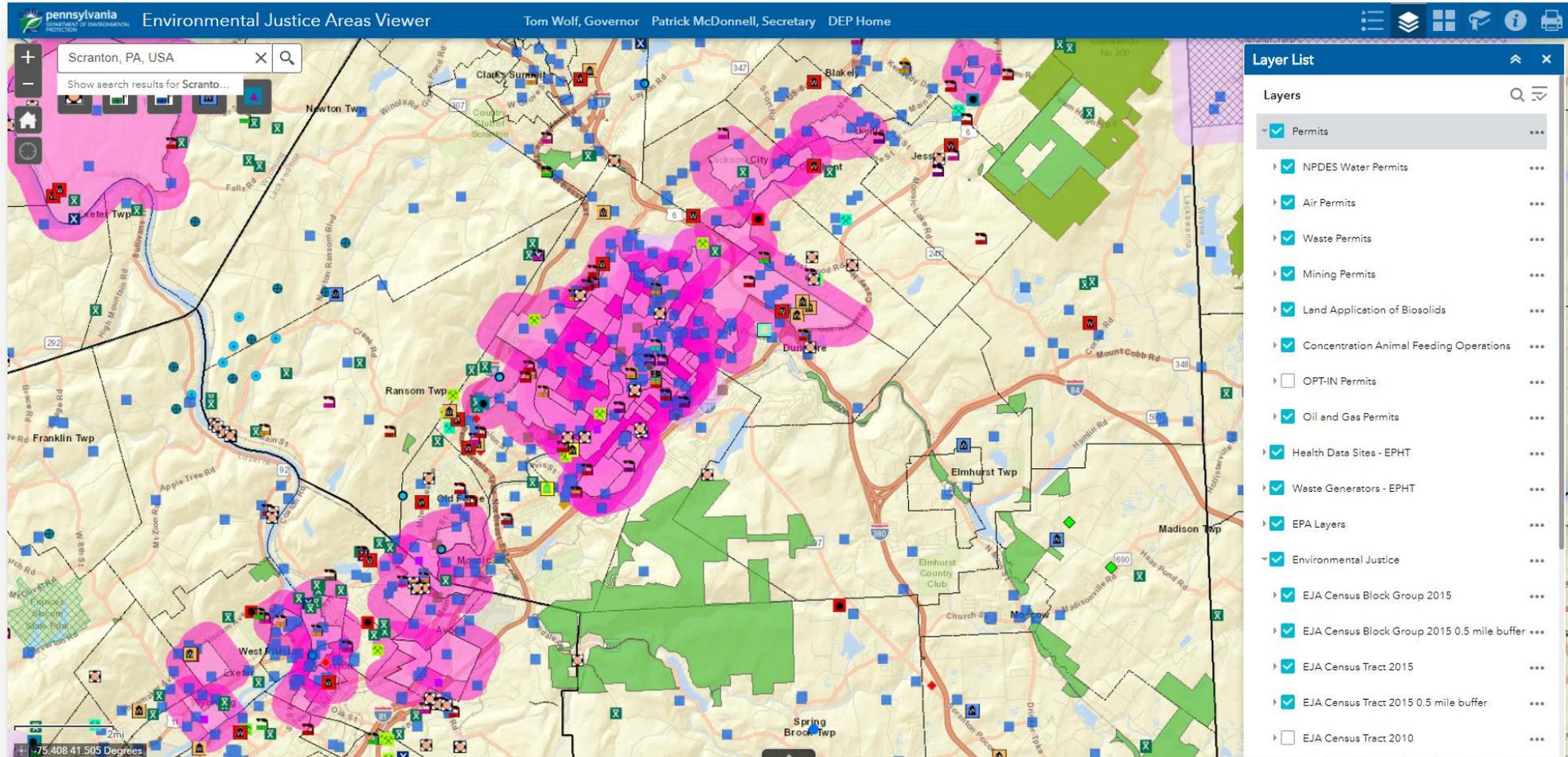
EJ Public Participation Policy

- Established in 2004
- Applies to Trigger Permits (and Opt-in Permits).
- In Environmental Justice Areas and Area of Concern.
 - EJ Areas – 30% People of Color and/or 20% Low-income
 - Area of Concern is 0.5-mile buffer.



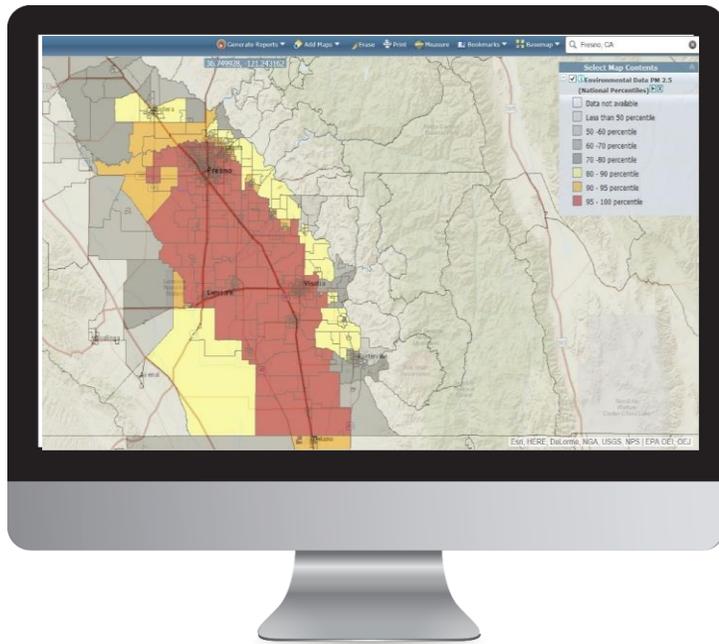
Tools: EJ Areas Viewer

- Mapping tool
- Search by address
- Use for DEP and community partners



dep.pa.gov/ejviewer

EJSCREEN



EJSCREEN Training Videos

<https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen/ejscreen-videos>

Environmental Indicators

- PM 2.5
- Ozone
- NATA Diesel PM
- NATA Air Toxics Cancer Risk
- NATA Respiratory Hazard Index
- Lead Paint (pre-1960s Housing)
- Traffic Proximity
- Proximity-NPL Sites
- Proximity-RMP Facilities
- Proximity-TSD Facilities
- Proximity-Waste Water Dischargers

Demographic Indicators

- Low-Income
 - Minority
 - Less than High School Education
 - Linguistic Isolation
 - Individuals under Age 5
 - Individuals over Age 64
- Index:** Calculated as (Low income + minority) / 2

EJ Policy Update

- Public participation and access
- Accountability
- Embed environmental justice and equity
- Timely revisions
- Vulnerable communities

EJ Policy Update

Planning

Fall – Winter 2020

Inform internal and external partners about withdrawal of policy and planning for EJ Policy Development and Implementation.

Draft plan and timetable for outreach and get initial feedback on outreach from internal and external partners

Consider development of EJ Policy Advisory Group

Outreach and Engagement

Fall 2020 – Spring 2021

Identify internal (DEP and state agency) partners for feedback on EJ Policy and outreach process

Develop outreach questions, survey and strategy

EJAB, EJ Stakeholders and other external engagement

Drafting and Finalization

Summer 2021 – Summer 2022

Present draft of EJ Policy for internal review and input

EJAB Comments on Policy

Public Comment – Fall 2021

Comment and response document preparation

Internal review

Finalize policy

Implementation

Summer 2022 – Fall 2022

Staff and state agency training on policy

EJAB overview of Policy

Community Engagement about Policy

International Association for Public Participation

Spectrum of Public Participation



Inform

Provide Information

- Fact Sheets
- Websites
- Open Houses

Consult

Obtain Feedback

- Public Comment
- Public Meetings
- Focus Groups

Involve

Two-Way
Conversations

- Advisory Groups
- Workshops
- Deliberative
Polling

Collaborate

Partner with Public
to Develop Preferred
Solution

- Consensus
Building
- Participatory
Decision-making

Empower

Public Makes
Decisions

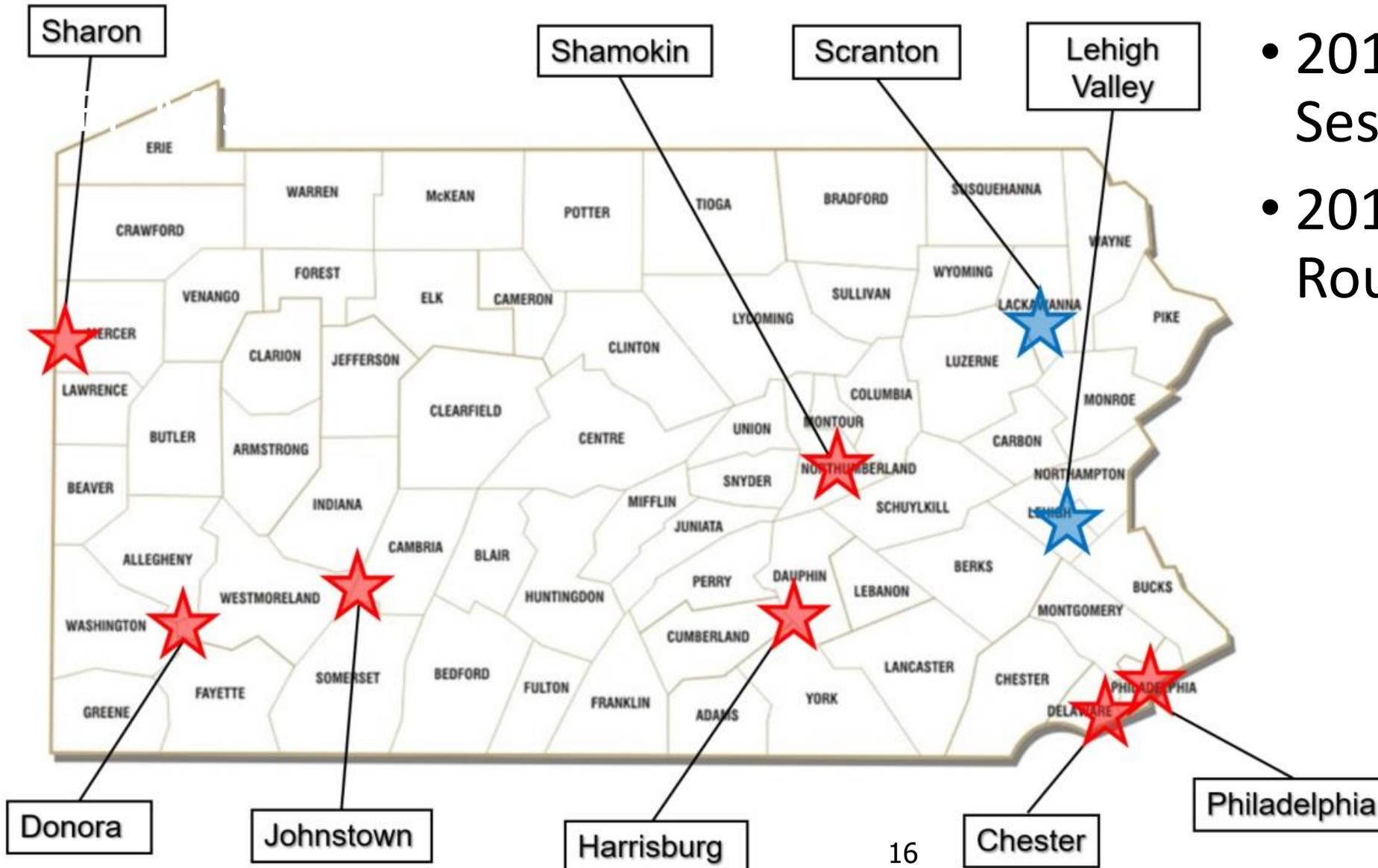
- Voting
- Citizen Juries
- Delegated
Decision-making

Benefits of Community Engagement

- Learn local knowledge, experience, history
- Minimize delays in the permitting and regulatory processes
- Address concerns that may be outside scope of environmental regulations
- Develop relationships with future partners



Community Engagement: Roundtables



- 2017 Listening Sessions
- 2018-2020 Roundtables

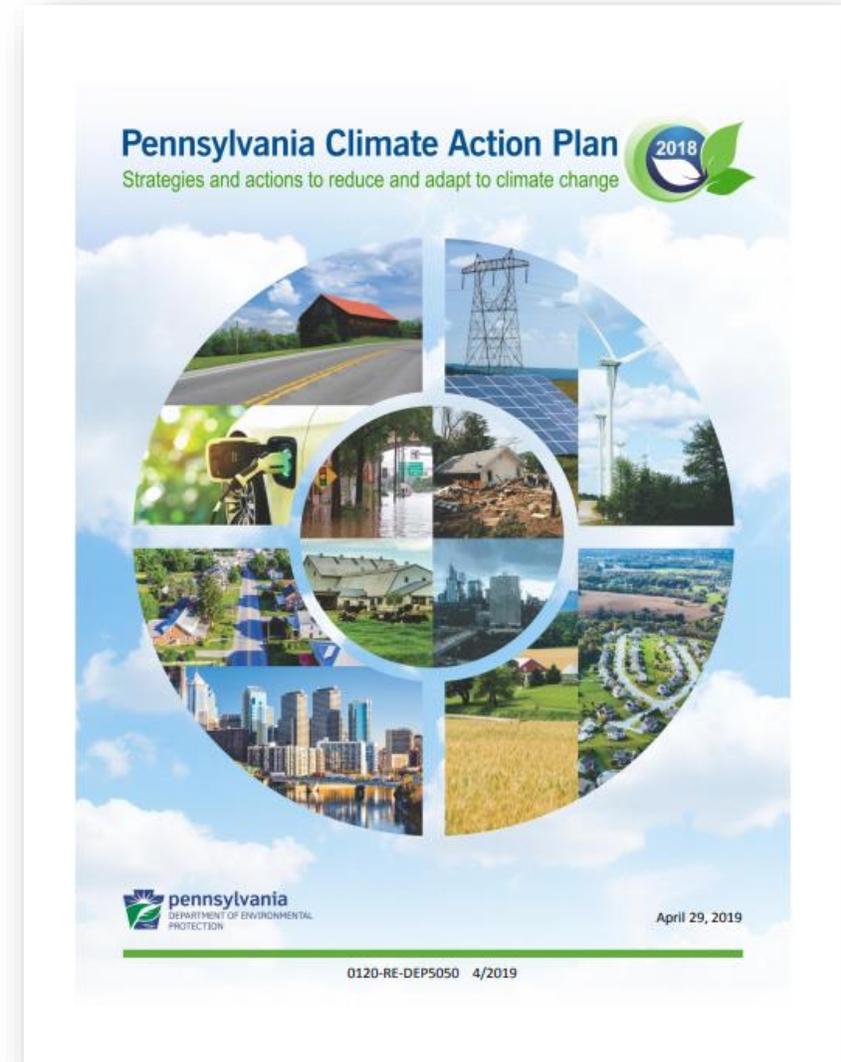
Community Engagement: Erie Stakeholder Group

- Pennsylvania DEP collaborated with Erie community partners to establish a local stakeholder group.
- Installation of passive sampling system.



Community Engagement: Climate Action Planning

- Working with DEP's Energy Office to improve outreach on Pennsylvania's Climate Action Plan.
- Conducting presentations to EJ partners to help shape the next Climate Action Plan



Community Engagement Strategy Development

- Meaningful engagement
- Education and access
- Resources and benefits





Office of Environmental Justice

General Comments & Questions

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