



## WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

### The Environmental Justice NYC Initiative (EJNYC)

In 2017, the City of New York passed Local Laws 60 and 64 to assess environmental equity issues and develop a plan to incorporate environmental justice (EJ) considerations into the fabric of city decision-making.

**The EJNYC Initiative represents the city's implementation of this landmark EJ legislation and is led by the Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice (MOCEJ).**

This legislation focuses on three deliverables:

- 1 **The EJNYC Report**
- 2 **The EJNYC Mapping Tool**
- 3 **The EJNYC Plan**

## WHO WE'RE WORKING WITH

To carry out this work, the local law established two key stakeholder groups:

### The EJ Advisory Board (EJAB)

The EJAB is an appointed board comprised of external EJ advocates and local subject-matter experts who advise the city to ensure this work is grounded in the lived experiences of New Yorkers in EJ communities.

### The EJ Interagency Working Group (IWG)

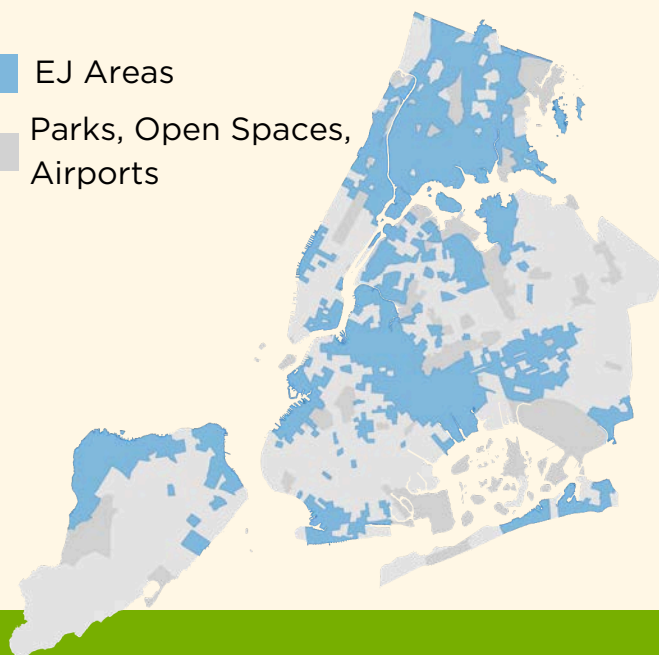
The IWG is the implementing body established to deliver on the requirements of the city's EJ legislation. The IWG is comprised of senior staff representing over 20 city agencies and offices.

## EJ AREAS IN NEW YORK CITY

EJNYC determines "EJ Areas" using the New York State's **Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) criteria.**

Developed by the New York State Climate Justice Working Group, the DAC criteria uses 45 sociodemographic and environmental indicators, ensuring frontline, underserved communities benefit from the implementation of New York State's Climate Act.

- EJ Areas
- Parks, Open Spaces, Airports



## EJ AREAS ACCOUNT FOR:

**44%** of NYC's census tracts

**49%** of NYC's population

**59%** of NY State's Disadvantaged Communities



## EJNYC DELIVERABLES

1



### The EJNYC Report

The report is an assessment of historical and current environmental justice issues in New York City. The purpose of the report was to study:

1. The environmental burdens affecting low-income communities and communities of color, as well as disparities in environmental benefits.
2. The extent to which city processes meaningfully involve and take direction from New Yorkers, particularly those in EJ communities.

### 2 The EJNYC Mapping Tool

The mapping tool provides all New Yorkers with a hub for New York City specific data related to environmental justice, supporting advocacy efforts and informing decision-makers.

With this tool, you can access 115 interactive data layers related to a number of topics, including:

- Air quality and sources of pollution
- Solid waste
- Housing quality
- Parks and open space
- Demographics and health indicators



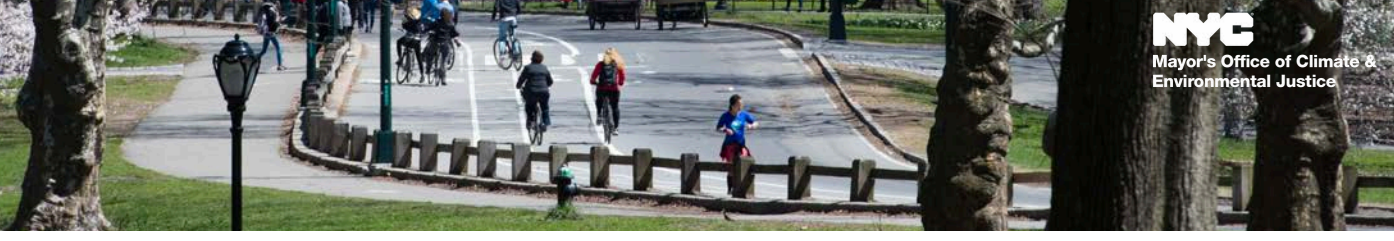
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### The EJNYC Plan

The next step is the development of a comprehensive citywide EJ plan that will:

- Identify citywide and local initiatives to promote EJ
- Provide guidance for incorporating EJ considerations into decision-making
- Provide specific recommendations for city agencies



## KEY FINDINGS

Historically, New York City's low-income communities and communities of color have faced:

- A disproportionate burden of polluting infrastructure
- Disinvestment in environmental benefits such as parks and natural resources, and solid waste pickup

### ACCESS TO RESOURCES



Residents in the Bronx have the highest rate of food insecurity and diet-related disease, such as diabetes and high-blood pressure.

The highest rates of transit hardship are reported by:



- Low-income Hispanic of Latino and Black residents
- Low-income Bronx residents

### ACCESS TO SAFE & HEALTHY HOUSING

9  
out of  
10

neighborhoods with the highest incidence of three or more reported maintenance deficiencies in renter households are EJ neighborhoods.



Neighborhoods with the lowest rates of air conditioning at home are EJ neighborhoods with high heat vulnerability.

### EXPOSURE TO POLLUTED AIR



In 2021, 13 of 19 "peaker" power plants were located in an EJ area/less than a block from one.



Communities of color are disproportionately exposed to emissions from heavy-duty diesel vehicles.

### EXPOSURE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

2x

Black New Yorkers are two times as likely to die from heat-related causes as white New Yorkers.



The population living in the city's EJ Areas is disproportionately exposed to flooding due to coastal storm surge, chronic tidal flooding, and extreme rainfall.

### EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



Hazardous waste generators and storage facilities are predominantly located in EJ Areas.



Clean-ups are typically driven by the real estate market and area-wide rezonings and do not reflect the distribution of land contamination across the city.



## HOW WILL THIS REPORT LEAD TO MEANINGFUL CHANGES?

The city has identified several opportunities to advance environmental justice for historically marginalized communities that will be explored in the forthcoming EJNYC Plan.



### IMPROVE ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH INCREASED DATA TRANSPARENCY

Transparency in government decision-making is essential to maintaining public trust.

Advancing environmental justice requires:

- Promoting access to information
- Clear communication channels
- Inclusive mechanisms for participation



### INVEST IN EJ COMMUNITIES

Addressing environmental injustice legacies requires targeted investments in overburdened and under-resourced areas.

Incorporating equity measures into planning and investment decision-making will ensure EJ communities get the resources they need to thrive in the face of climate change.



### COORDINATE WITH PERMITTING AUTHORITIES TO ENSURE EQUITY AND EJ ARE CONSIDERED IN THE SITING OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Embedding equity and environmental justice in infrastructure siting decisions will mitigate the cumulative impacts of environmental burdens.

Streamlining zoning regulations will accelerate the deployment of environmental benefits.



### EXPLORE NEW WAYS OF PARTNERING WITH EJ COMMUNITIES

Stakeholders continue to advocate for:

- Greater transparency
- Meaningful involvement that occurs earlier in the decision-making process

The city will expand existing engagement efforts and explore new models for collaboration.



### INTEGRATE EJ IN AGENCY DECISIONMAKING THROUGH CLIMATE BUDGETING

Climate budgeting embeds climate considerations to ensure city resources support for long-term climate goals.

Integrating EJ in climate budgeting will help the city:

- Maximize the impact of its investments
- Identify gaps and opportunities
- Champion investments for communities with the greatest needs