Accelerate climate solutions.
For everyone.
40% of benefits from certain federal investments in climate and clean energy will go to disadvantaged communities (DACs)

The Justice40 Initiative: Authorization

Created by Executive Order 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad and signed January 27, 2021
The Justice40 Initiative: What It Says


Sec. 223. Justice40 Initiative. (a) Within 120 days of the date of this order, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the National Climate Advisor, in consultation with the Advisory Council, shall jointly publish recommendations on how certain Federal investments might be made toward a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits flow to disadvantaged communities. The recommendations shall focus on investments in the areas of clean energy and energy efficiency; clean transit; affordable and sustainable housing; training and workforce development; the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution; and the development of critical clean water infrastructure. The recommendations shall reflect existing authorities the agencies may possess for achieving the 40-percent goal as well as recommendations on any legislation needed to achieve the 40-percent goal.

(b) In developing the recommendations, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the National Climate Advisor shall consult with affected disadvantaged communities.

(c) Within 60 days of the recommendations described in subsection (a) of this section, agency heads shall identify applicable program investment funds based on the recommendations and consider interim investment guidance to relevant program staff, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law.

(d) By February 2022, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, the Administrator of the United States Digital Service, and other relevant agency heads, shall, to the extent consistent with applicable law, publish on a public website an annual Environmental Justice Scorecard detailing agency environmental justice performance measures.
Interim Guidance was issued by OMB July 20, 2021

- Clarifies that Justice40 applies to federal agencies responsible for covered programs
- Includes
  - Interim definition of disadvantaged communities
  - Covered programs
  - Examples of benefits of covered programs
  - Calculating benefits
  - Reporting
  - Pilot to maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities (21 pilots)
The Justice40 Initiative: What is a Disadvantaged Community (DAC)?

Community

- A group of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another or
- A geographically dispersed set of individuals (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions
Disadvantaged – a combination of variables that may include but are not limited to:

- Low income, high and/or persistent poverty
- High unemployment and underemployment
- Racial and ethnic residential segregation, particularly where the segregation stems from discriminate by government entities
- Linguistic isolation
- High house cost burden and substandard housing
- Distressed neighborhoods
- High transportation cost burden and/or low transporation access
- Disproportionate environmental stressor burden and high cumulative impacts
- Limited water and sanitation access and affordability
- Disproportionate impacts from climate change
- High energy cost burden and low energy access
- Jobs lost through the energy transition
- Access to healthcare
- Geographic areas within Tribal jurisdictions
The order initiates the development of a screening tool, building off EPA’s EJSCREEN, to identify disadvantaged communities.

The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)
- Beta tool released February 18, 2022
- Public comment period was open until April 25, 2022
- 1.0 Version of the tool released November 22, 2022

Purpose is to help federal agencies identify disadvantaged communities that are “marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution.”

Tool has socioeconomic, economic, and climate information about communities.

Uses publicly-available, national datasets.

EO 14008 amended January 27, 2023 requires agencies use CEJST by October 2023.
The Justice40 Initiative: CEJST

The tool uses census tracts. Census tracts are a small unit of geography. They generally have populations of between 1,200 - 8,000 people.

The tool ranks most of the burdens using percentiles. Percentiles show how much burden each tract experiences when compared to other tracts.

Communities that are disadvantaged live in tracts that experience burdens. These tracts are highlighted on the map.

Thresholds, or cutoffs, are used to determine if communities in a tract are disadvantaged. Certain burdens use percentages or a simple yes/no.

Land within the boundaries of Federally Recognized Tribes and point locations for Alaska Native Villages are highlighted on the map. These communities are also considered disadvantaged.

Explore the map

Census tracts that are overburdened and underserved are highlighted as being disadvantaged on the map. Federally Recognized Tribes, including Alaska Native Villages, are also considered disadvantaged communities.

Zooming in and selecting shows information about each census tract.

Get the data

Download the data with documentation and shapefile from the downloads page.

How to use the map:

Zoom in +, search , or locate yourself and select to see information about any census tract.

Things to know:

The tool uses census tracts . Census tracts are a small unit of geography. They generally have populations of between 1,200 - 8,000 people.

Communities that are

The Justice40 Initiative: CEJST

Downloads

Version 1.0 file formats

View release notes

The dataset used in the 1.0 version of the tool, along with a codebook, and information about how to use the list of communities (.pdf) are available for download:

Communities list data (.xlsx 35.6MB)
Communities list data (.csv 42MB)
Shapefile (Codebook included with shapefile 356.8MB unzipped)
Technical support document (.pdf 4.4MB)
Instructions to Federal agencies on using the CEJST (.pdf 228.4KB)
How to use the list of communities (.pdf 687.9KB)

The Justice40 Initiative: CEJST

| Census tract 2010 ID | County Name | State/Territory | Percent Black or African American alone | Percent American Indian or Alaska Native | Total categories scored | Identified as disadvantaged without considering neighbors | Identified as disadvantaged based on neighbors and below income threshold only | Identified as disadvantaged due to tribal overlap | Identified as disadvantaged | Identified as disadvantaged by area | Share of neighbors that are identified as disadvantaged | Percentage of tract that is disadvantaged by area |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
The Justice40 Initiative: Identifying DACs in CEJST

CEJST uses datasets as indicators of burdens. The burdens are organized into categories.

A census tract is identified as disadvantaged in one or more categories if the census tract is at or above the threshold for one or more of the environmental or climate indicators and the census tract is above the threshold for socioeconomic indicators.

Federally Recognized Tribes, including Alaska Native Villages, are also considered disadvantaged communities.

A census tract that is completely surrounded by DACs and is at or above the 50% percentile for low income is also considered disadvantaged.

Categories of Burden

1. Climate change
2. Clean energy and energy efficiency
3. Clean transit
4. Affordable and sustainable housing
5. Reduction and remediation of legacy pollution
6. Critical clean water and waste infrastructure
7. Health burdens
8. Training and workforce development

Source: https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/methodology#3/36.24/-86.8
The Justice40 Initiative: Methodologies by Category of Burden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Climate change</strong></td>
<td>Communities are identified as disadvantaged if they are in census tracts that:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ARE at or above the 90th percentile for expected agriculture loss rate OR expected building loss rate OR expected population loss rate OR projected flood risk OR projected wildfire risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AND are at or above the 65th percentile for low income</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Energy**          | Communities are identified as disadvantaged if they are in census tracts that: |
|                     | ARE at or above the 90th percentile for energy cost OR PM2.5 in the air      |
|                     | AND are at or above the 65th percentile for low income                      |

| **Legacy pollution**| Communities are identified as disadvantaged if they are in census tracts that: |
|                    | Have at least one abandoned mine land OR Formerly Used Defense Site OR are at or above the 90th percentile for proximity to hazardous waste facilities OR proximity to Superfund sites (National Priorities List) OR proximity to Risk Management Plan (RMP) facilities |
|                    | AND are at or above the 65th percentile for low income                      |

| **Transportation**  | Communities are identified as disadvantaged if they are in census tracts that: |
|                     | ARE at or above the 90th percentile for diesel particulate matter exposure OR transportation barriers OR traffic congestion and volume |
|                     | AND are at or above the 65th percentile for low income                      |

| **Health**          | Communities are identified as disadvantaged if they are in census tracts that: |
|                     | ARE at or above the 90th percentile for asthma OR diabetes OR heart disease OR low life expectancy |
|                     | AND are at or above the 65th percentile for low income                      |

| **Housing**         | Communities are identified as disadvantaged if they are in census tracts that: |
|                     | Experienced historic underinvestment OR are at or above the 90th percentile for housing cost OR lack of green space OR lack of indoor plumbing OR lead paint |
|                     | AND are at or above the 65th percentile for low income                      |

| **Water and wastewater** | Communities are identified as disadvantaged if they are in census tracts that: |
|                          | ARE at or above the 90th percentile for underground storage tanks and septic systems OR wastewater discharge |
|                          | AND are at or above the 65th percentile for low income                      |

| **Workforce development** | Communities are identified as disadvantaged if they are in census tracts that: |
|                           | ARE at or above the 90th percentile for linguistic isolation OR low median income OR poverty OR unemployment |
|                           | AND more than 10% of people ages 25 or older have a high school education (i.e., graduated with a high school diploma) |

Source: https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/methodology#3/36.24/-86.8
The Justice40 Initiative: CEJST Socioeconomic Indicators

1. Census tract information and demographics (new, information only – not part of methodology)
2. Low income
3. Expected agriculture loss rate
4. Expected building loss rate
5. Expected population loss rate
6. Project flood risk (new)
7. Project wildfire risk (new)
8. Energy cost
9. PM2.5 in the air
10. Asthma
11. Diabetes
12. Heart disease
13. Low life expectancy
14. Historic underinvestment (new)
15. Housing cost
16. Lack of green space (new)
17. Lack of indoor plumbing (new)
18. Lead pain
19. Abandoned mine land (new)
20. Formerly used defense sites (new)
21. Proximity to hazardous waste facilities
22. Proximity to Risk Management Plan (RMP) facilities
23. Diesel particulate matter exposure
24. Transportation barriers (new)
25. Traffic proximity and volume
26. Proximity to Superfund sites
27. Underground storage tanks and releases (new)
28. Wastewater discharge
29. Linguistic isolation
30. Low median income
31. Poverty
32. Unemployment
33. High school education
34. Tribes

Source: https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/methodology#3/36.24/-86.8
The Justice40 Initiative: What are Covered Programs?

• Covered programs are federal programs that are in the Justice40 scope because investments fall in 1 or more of 7 areas where investments benefit disadvantaged communities

• The 7 covered areas are:
  • Climate change
  • Clean energy and energy efficiency
  • Clean transit
  • Affordable and sustainable housing
  • Training and workforce development
  • Remediation and reduction of legacy pollution
  • Development of critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure

• Full list of covered programs updated April 21, 2023

• Justice40 covered programs are required to engage stakeholders & ensure community stakeholders are meaningfully engaged are meaningfully involved in determining benefits
Environmental Justice Scorecard

• Section 223 (d) of Executive Order 14008 requires that covered programs report on how benefits are directed to DACs with an Environmental Justice Scorecard

• RFI released in August 2022 and comments were due November 3, 2022 (there were 44)
Justice40 Initiative: Environmental Justice Scorecard

Environmental Justice Scorecard Status

• Information about what federal agencies are doing to advance environmental justice

• **Phase One Scorecard is published:**
  • Baseline assessment of 24 federal agencies in 2021 and 2022
  • Advancing Justice40
  • Implementing and enforcing environmental and civil rights laws
  • Embedding environmental justice throughout the federal government
Justice40 Initiative: Phase 1
Environmental Justice Scorecard

https://ejscorecard.geoplatform.gov/scorecard/
Justice40 Initiative: Phase 1 Environmental Justice Scorecard for DOE

Institutionalizing Environmental Justice

Since the start of the Biden-Harris Administration, Federal agencies have been working... Executive Order (EO) 13988, the following initiatives have been undertaken:

1. **Environmental and Civil Rights Protection:**
   - **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Environmental Justice:**
     - **EURO EJ** and **EJ-CORPS** initiatives focus on addressing environmental injustices and promoting environmental justice.
     - **Environmental Justice Capacity Building:**...

DOE’s highlights

DOE’s Office of Economic Impact and Diversity established the Office of Energy Justice Policy & Analysis to conduct policy analysis, research and evaluation, and to support the development of federal energy policy and programs to advance equity and environmental justice. The Office’s mission is to advance ENERGY independence and security, protect the environment, and provide overall benefits through the development and deployment of clean, efficient energy technologies.

DOE’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy created the Equity Program (ECP), an initiative focused on advancing the development and delivery of clean energy solutions that benefit communities of color and low-income communities.
Justice40 Initiative: DOE Investment in Practice

Community Benefits Plans

- In proposals, awarded projects
- Address 4 main and connected areas
  1. Community and Labor Engagement
  2. Investing in American Workforce
  3. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Access (DEIA)
  4. Justice40

Justice40 Metrics (minimum)

1. Decrease energy burden in disadvantaged communities (DACs)
2. Decrease environmental exposure and burdens for DACs
3. Increase parity in clean energy technology (e.g., solar, storage) access and adoption in DACs.
4. Increase access to low-cost capital in DACs.
5. Increase clean energy enterprise creation and contracting (MBE/DBE) in DACs.
6. Increase clean energy jobs, job pipeline, and job training for individuals from DACs.
7. Increase energy resiliency in DACs.
8. Increase energy democracy in DACs.

Example FOA: https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#Foald1ebf6711-062f-4ff1-a25f-e72bb3b1532f
Q&A

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Resources List

1. https://www.whitehouse.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40/
   restore-scientific-integrity-across-federal-government
   home-and-abroad
5. https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen
   20-2023.pdf
11. https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#FoaId1ebf6711-062f-4ff1-a25f-e72bb3b1532f