



Operationalizing Environmental Justice through TUR Planning

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Overview

Principles of Environmental Justice

What is an Environmental Justice Population?

Environmental Justice & Toxics Use Reduction

Community Engagement & Best Practices

Breakout Activity



EEA Office of Environmental Justice & Equity

The Massachusetts Office of Environmental Justice and Equity (OEJE) is committed to ensuring a fair and equitable distribution of all environmental and energy benefits and burdens. We work with all agencies under the Secretary to ensure every policy and program is designed with equity at the center, ensuring all voices are heard and all voices are shaping the solutions. We are working hard to ensure there is meaningful engagement in all processes, resulting in more equitable public policies.



EEA Environmental Justice Strategy

On February 15, 2024, the Healy-Driscoll Administration announced the release of the Environmental Justice (EJ) Strategy. The EJ Strategy is comprised of the environmental justice and equity strategies of EEA and its agencies.

The EJ Strategy is designed to inform and assist EEA staff in the planning and implementation of programs and policies under EEA's purview and is a tool for public engagement.

Common Strategies across EEA and its agencies include:

Meaningful Engagement

Outreach

Public Involvement

Language Access Plans

Analyzing Project Impacts



Principles of Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice (EJ) is based on the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental hazards and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment.

EJ is the equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies and the equitable distribution of environmental benefits.



What is an Environmental Justice Population?

In Massachusetts, an environmental justice population is a neighborhood where one or more of the following criteria are true:

1. The annual median household income is 65 percent or less of the statewide annual median household income

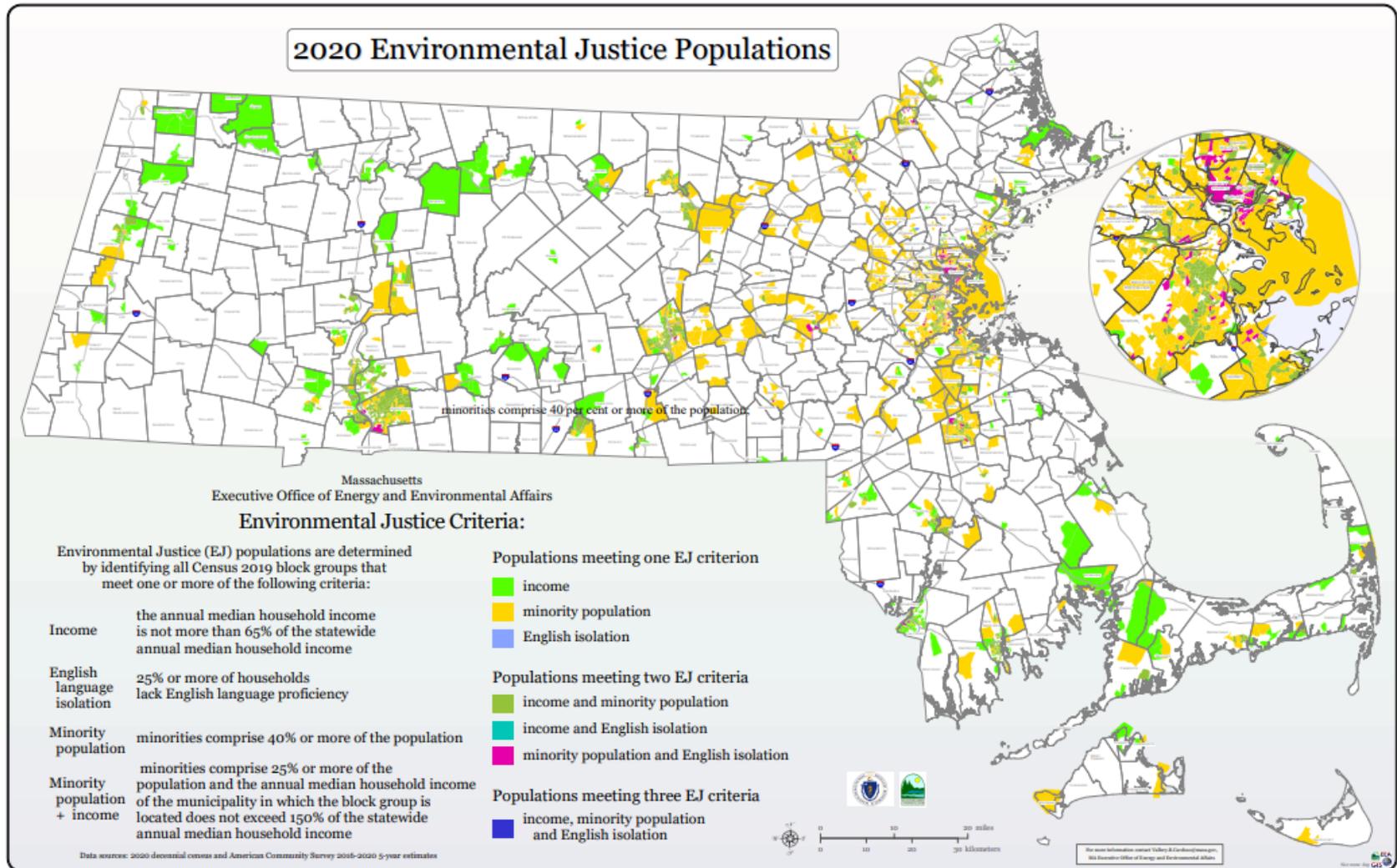
2. Minorities make up 40 percent or more of the population

3. 25 percent or more of households identify as speaking English less than "very well"

4. Minorities make up 25 percent or more of the population and the annual median household income of the municipality in which the neighborhood is located does not exceed 150 percent of the statewide annual median household income.



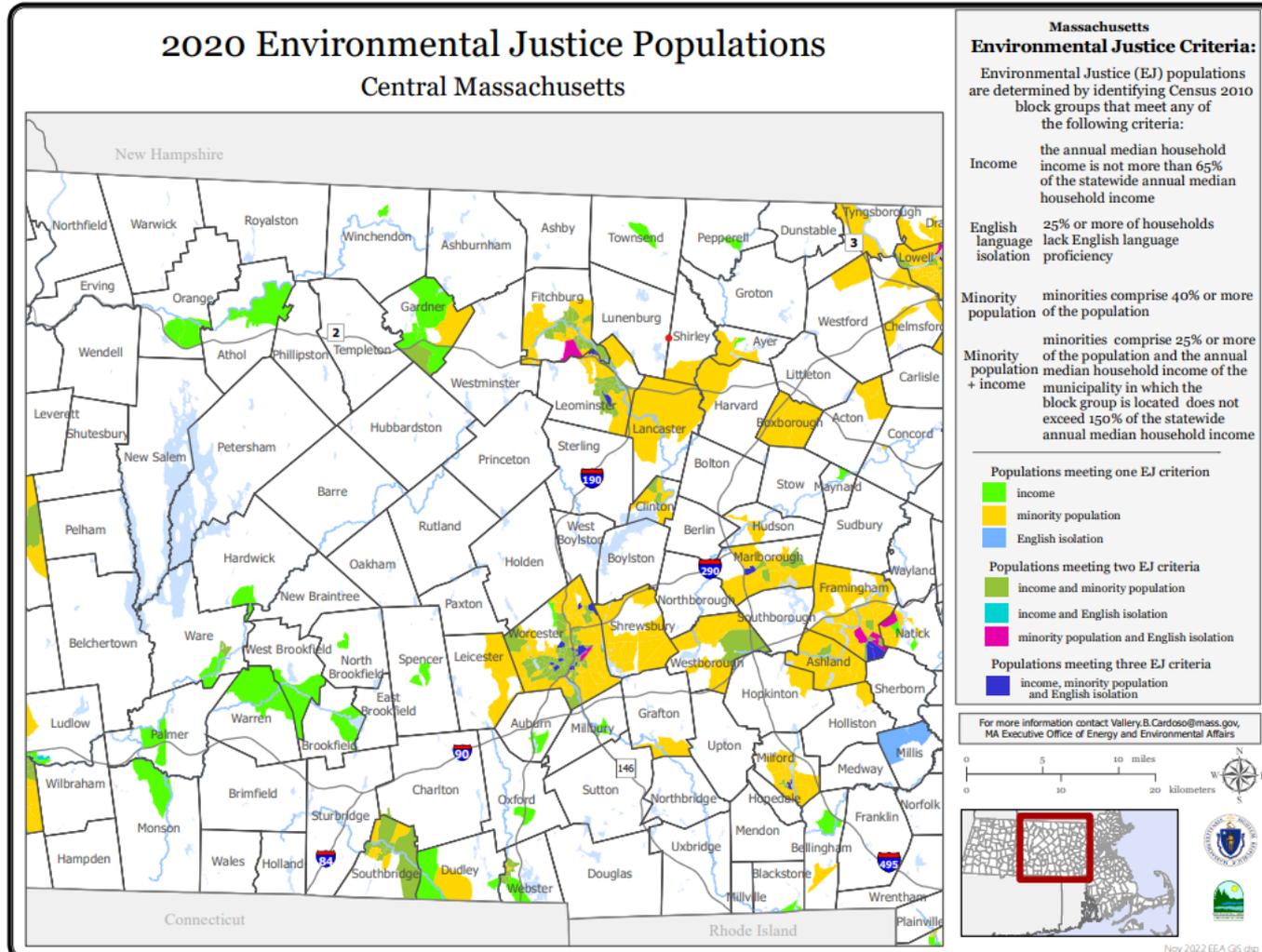
Environmental Justice Populations – Statewide



https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/download.massgis.digital.mass.gov/shapefiles/census2020/EJ_2020_state_with_inset.pdf



Environmental Justice Populations – Central MA



https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/download.massgis.digital.mass.gov/shapefiles/census2020/Central_EJ_2020_map.pdf



Community Engagement – Best Practices

Engagement is different based the community you're in:

Identify your community

- Are there underrepresented populations that may be affected by company activities?
- Does the community have a high population of individuals with limited English proficiency?

What does “engagement” look like?

- In-person?
- Hybrid?
- Virtual?

Be thoughtful about location and time of meetings

- Host meetings at locations that are accessible by the community
- Choose a time where most residents and community members can attend

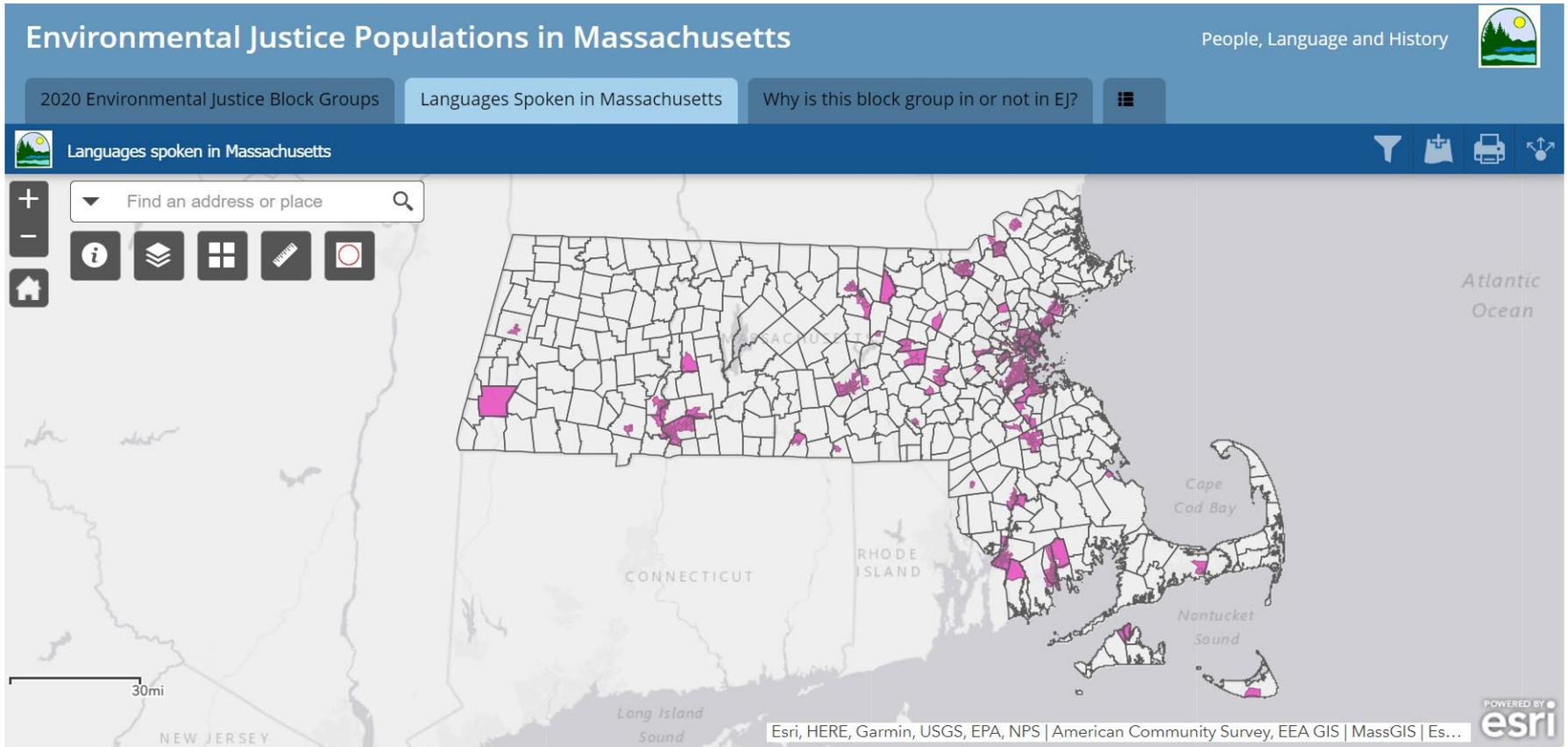
Provide food and childcare

Promote Language Access

- Translate outreach flyers and informational materials
- Provide interpretation services during meetings



EEA Environmental Justice Map - Language



<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-2020-environmental-justice-populations>



Breakout Activity

Host a Community Meeting!

Each table will represent one of three companies with varying resources to:

1. Organize a community meeting utilizing best practices for meaningful engagement
2. Communicate with the community in an open, honest, and transparent manner
3. Gather input and feedback to incorporate in the TUR Planning Process



Breakout Activity

Your company wants to start hosting community meetings. Your team is tasked with setting up a meeting to engage community members and residents with your company.

1. Company A is highly committed to include community input in their TUR planning process and has given you a \$50,000 budget to host the first meeting.
2. Company B is strongly interested in seeking community input in their TUR planning process and has given you a budget of \$20,000 to host the first meeting.
3. Company C is interested in seeking community input but has limited resources to do so. They have given you a budget of \$5,000 to host the first meeting.



Breakout Activity

Hosting the Community Meeting

- How does your team go about setting up and publicizing the community meeting?
- What are some strategies to encourage community participation in the meeting?

Questions Community Members May Ask?

- How do you prepare to answer challenging questions (see examples below) that the public may ask?
 - Why are you using chemicals that are toxic to public health?
 - What safer alternative options exist that pose less harm people?
 - Why haven't you engaged with us before?
 - What are emergency contingency plans that you have in place for protecting the public in if an accident occurs, like a spill, or a weather event, like flooding?
 - How are you going to incorporate our concerns and feedback?



Full Group Debrief

As we reconvene, share:

- **How your company organized a community meeting given the resources you had.**
 - How did your team go about setting up and publicizing the community meeting?
 - What are some strategies to encourage community participation in the meeting?
 - How did you approach answering challenging questions that the public may ask?
 - How can you continue to build relationships with the community?
 - How do you incorporate community input?
- **How you see this fitting into your TUR Planning work.**
 - What resources do you need to host a successful and meaningful meeting?
 - How can you continue to build open and honest relationships with the community?
 - How do you incorporate community input?



Thank You!

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