



Achieving Environmental Justice Through Toxics Use Reduction



June 4th, 2025
(1:30 – 2:30)



Colin Hannahan
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Environmental Protection Network

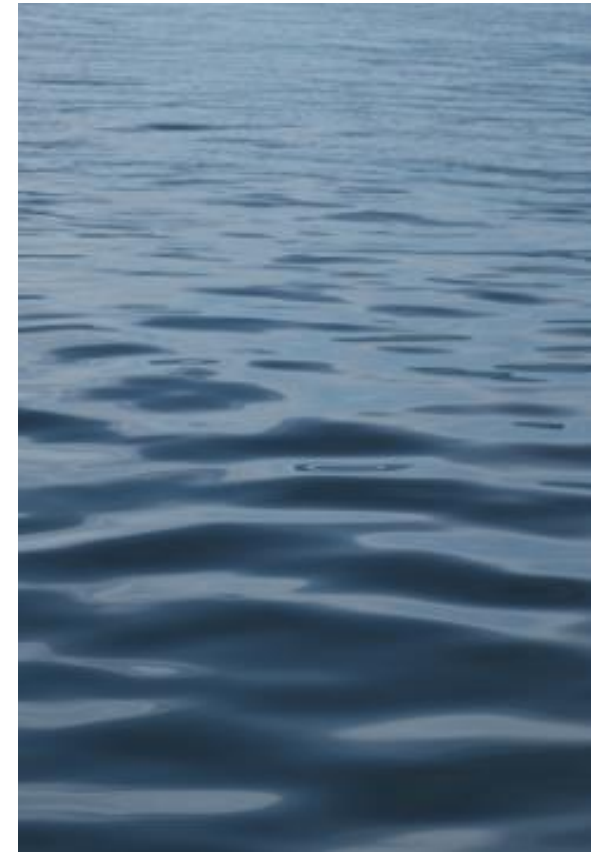
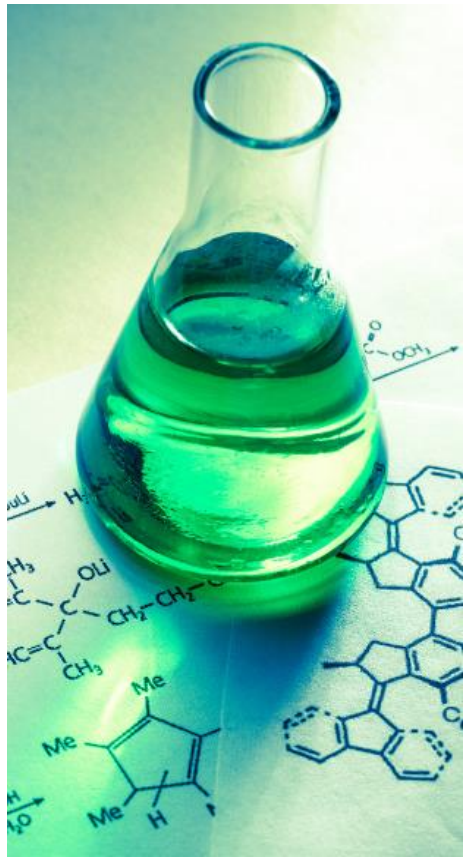


Kayla Powers
Environmental Justice Manager,
Clean Production Action

Environmental Justice and Toxics Use Reduction

Colin Hannahan –
Policy Analyst at Toxics Use
Reduction Institute (TURI)

TURI Webinar – Achieving
Environmental Justice through
Toxics Use Reduction
June 4th, 2025



Overview

- The Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA) and Environmental Justice
- Toxics Use in Environmental Justice Communities
- The Potential of Toxics Use Reduction to Achieve Environmental Justice
- Toxics Use Reduction Planning and Environmental Justice
- Updates on Federal Actions impacting Environmental Justice

The Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA) of Massachusetts

Enacted in 1989, TURA requires companies to:

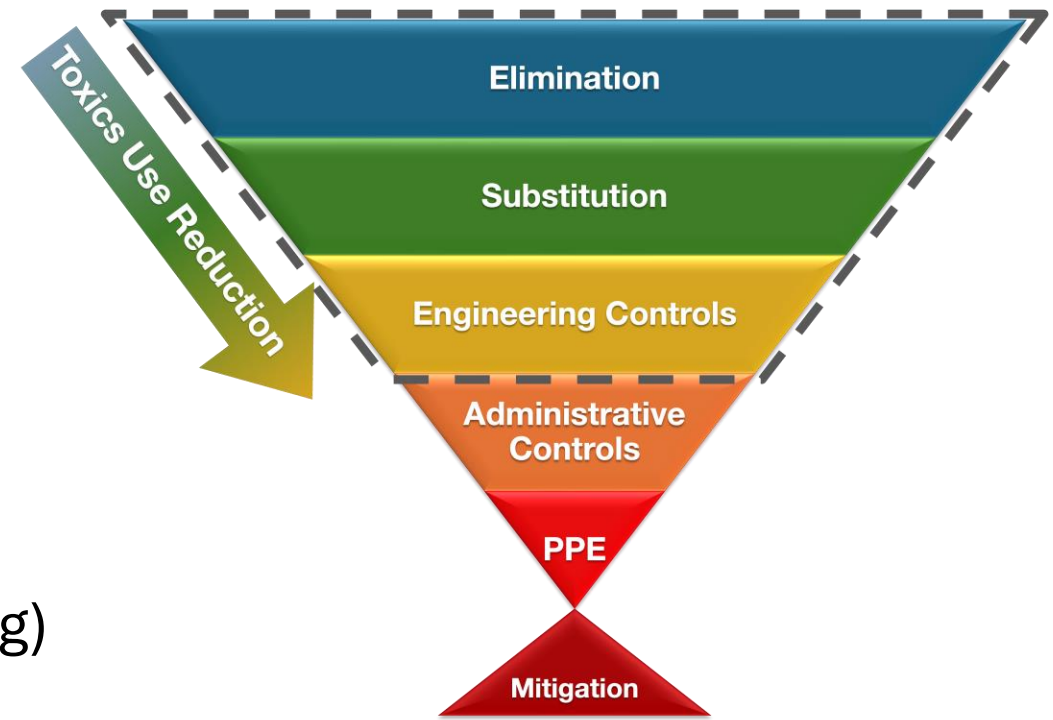


Report on their use of chemicals on the TURA list of toxic substances (TURADData.org)

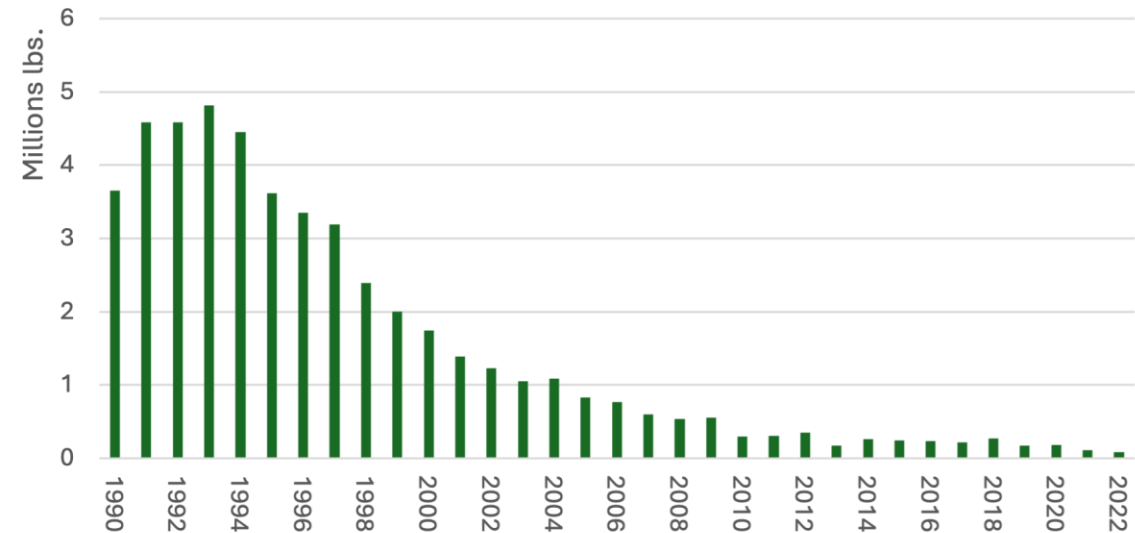


Prepare evaluations to identify opportunities for toxics use reduction

- The TURA list of toxic substances is updated regularly
- TURA does not ban or restrict any toxic substances



Reduced Use of Carcinogenic TCE



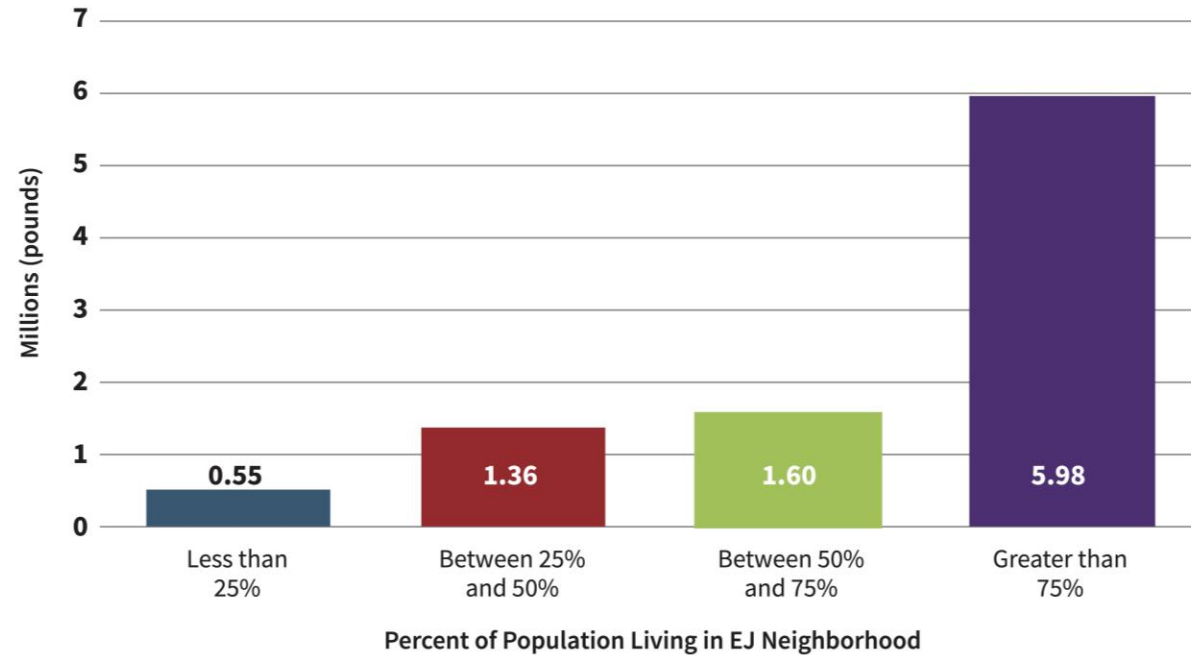
TURI Environmental Justice Analysis

“Analyzes the use and release of Toxics in Massachusetts through an environmental justice lens”



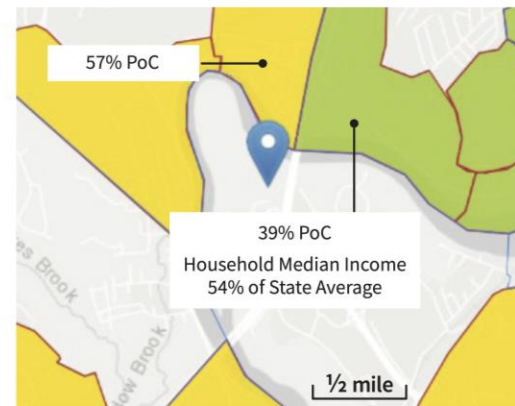
[Full Report Link](#)

Average Use of Toxics per Municipality, 2020



Top Three Facilities for Toxics Release, 2020

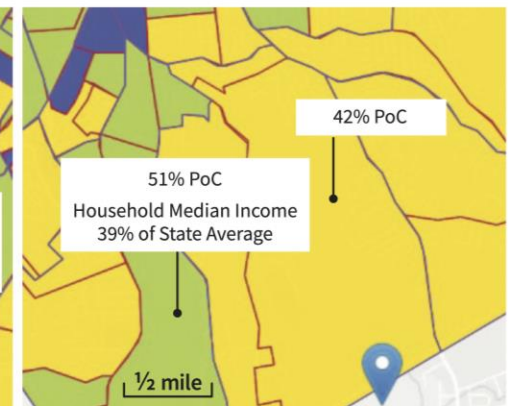
Haverhill, Mass.
#1 Highest Releasing Facility in 2020



Lowell, Mass.
#2 Highest Releasing Facility in 2020



Millbury, Mass.
#3 Highest Releasing Facility in 2020

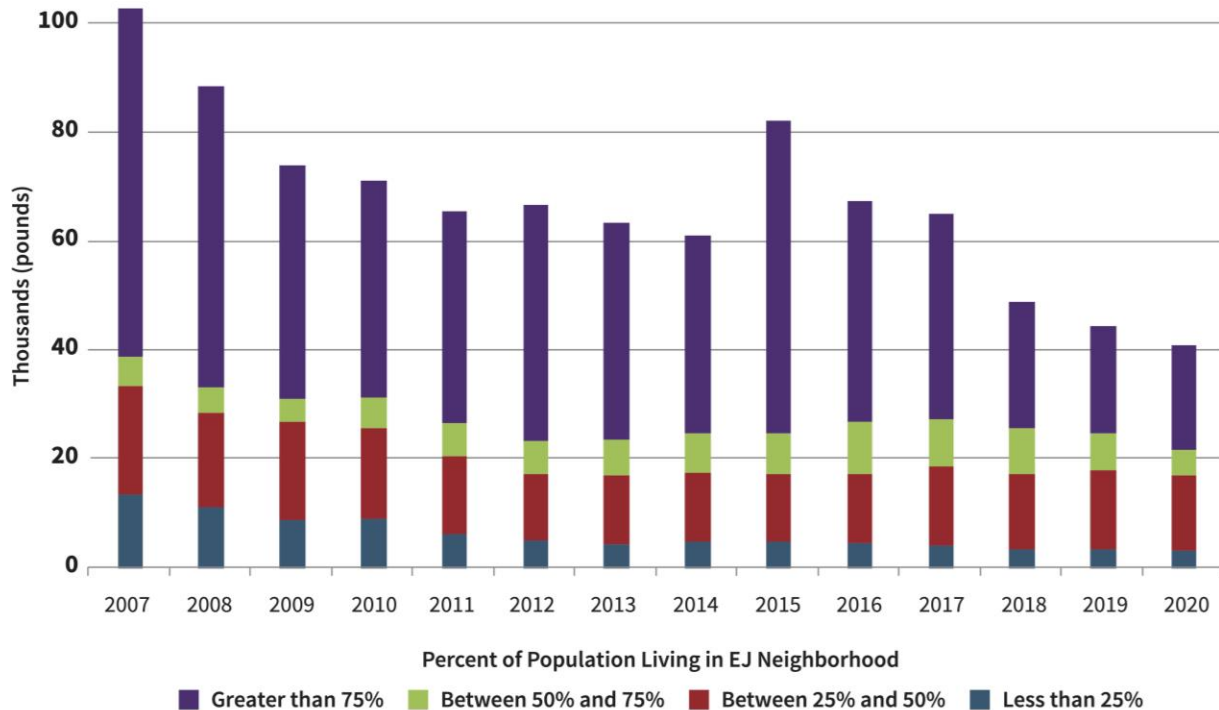


■ Minority ■ Minority & Income ■ Minority, Income, and English Isolation

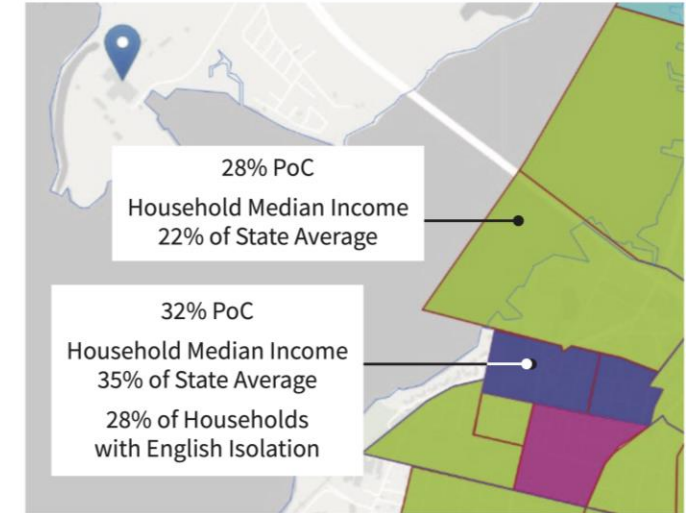
TURI Environmental Justice Analysis – Historical Perspective

“Toxics Use Reduction efforts have had a significant impact on reducing the releases of Toxics in Massachusetts, including in high EJ communities”

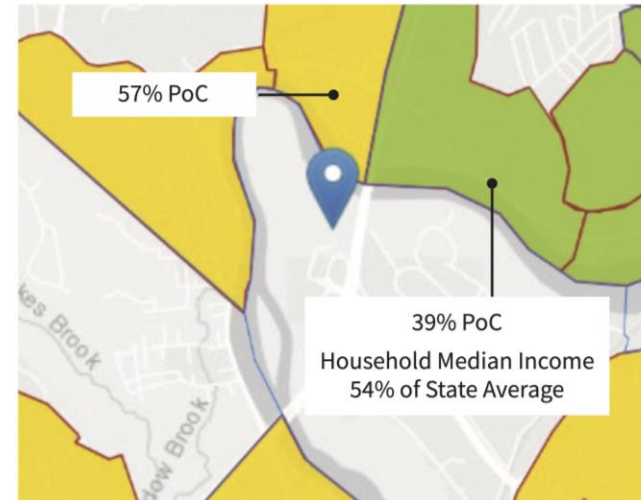
Average Release of Toxics per Municipality, 2007–2020



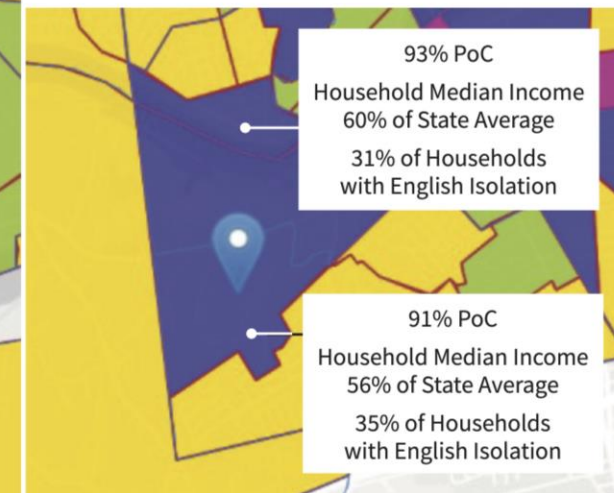
Somerset, Mass.
#1 Facility Cumulative Toxics Release
from 2007–2020



Haverhill, Mass.
#2 Facility Cumulative Toxics Release
from 2007–2020



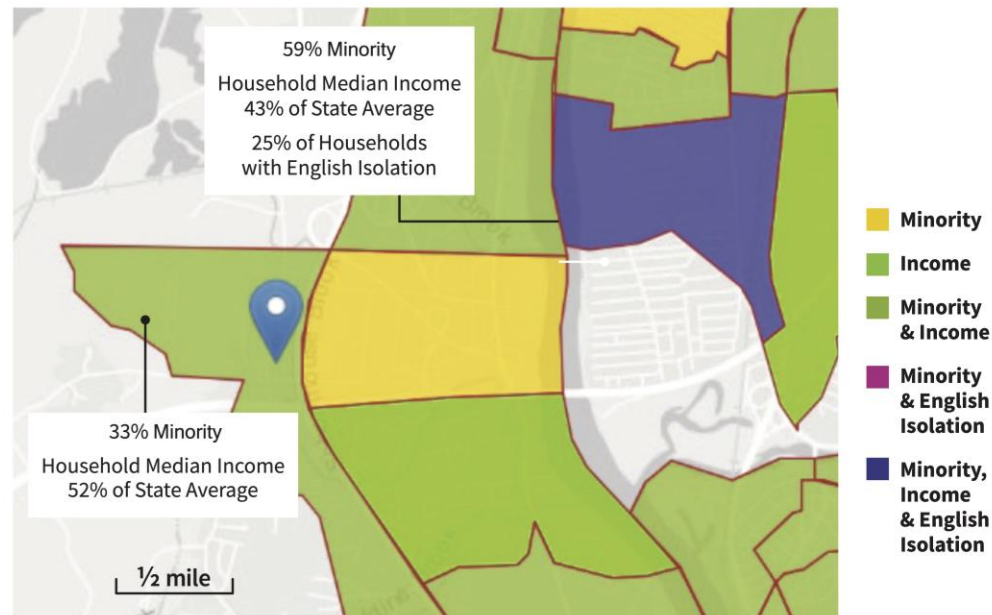
Haverhill, Mass.
#3 Facility Cumulative Toxics Release
from 2007–2020



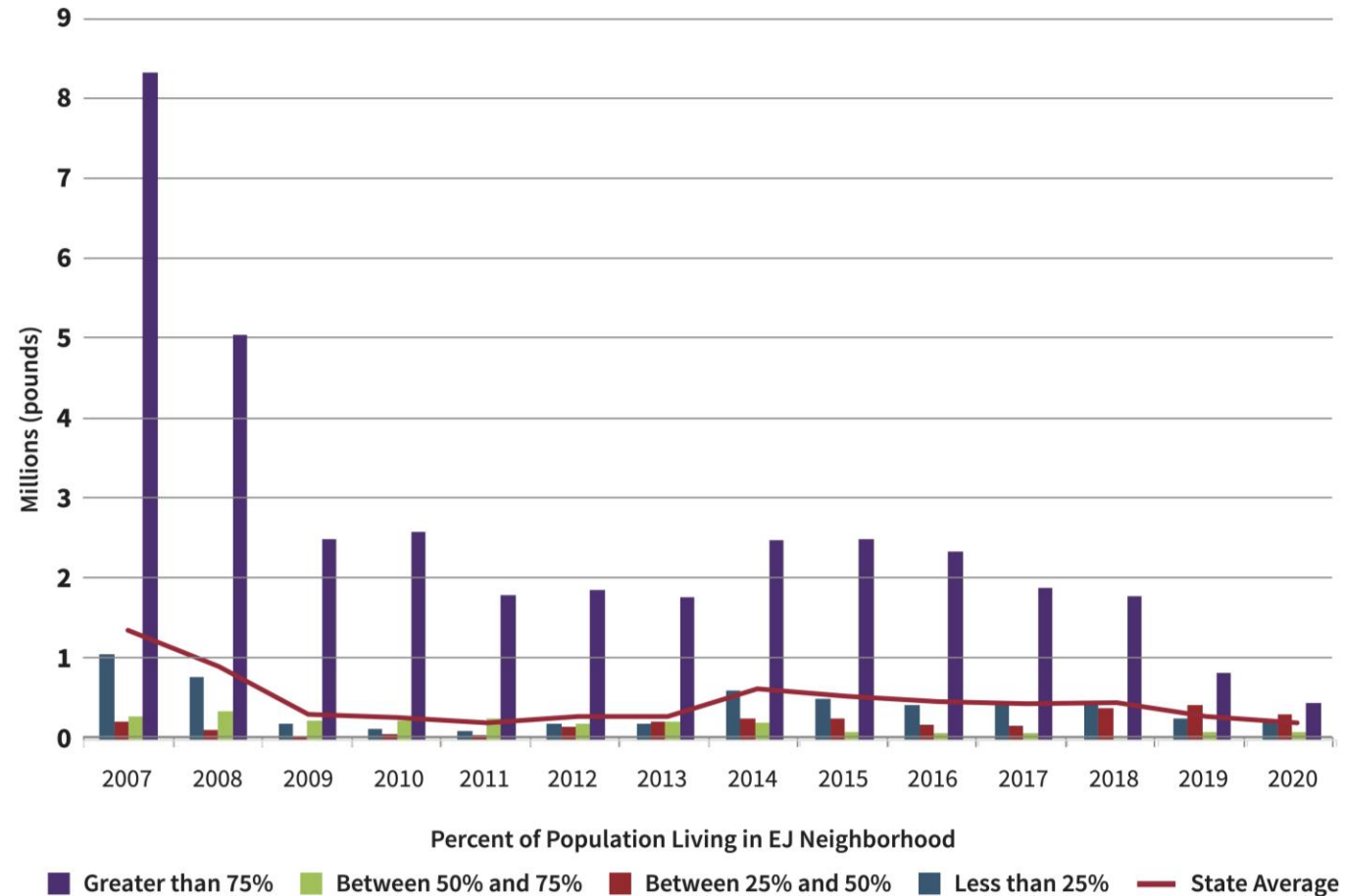
TURI Environmental Justice Analysis – Chemicals of Interest

Facility with highest cumulative release of carcinogenic TCE from 2007 to 2020

West Springfield, Mass.

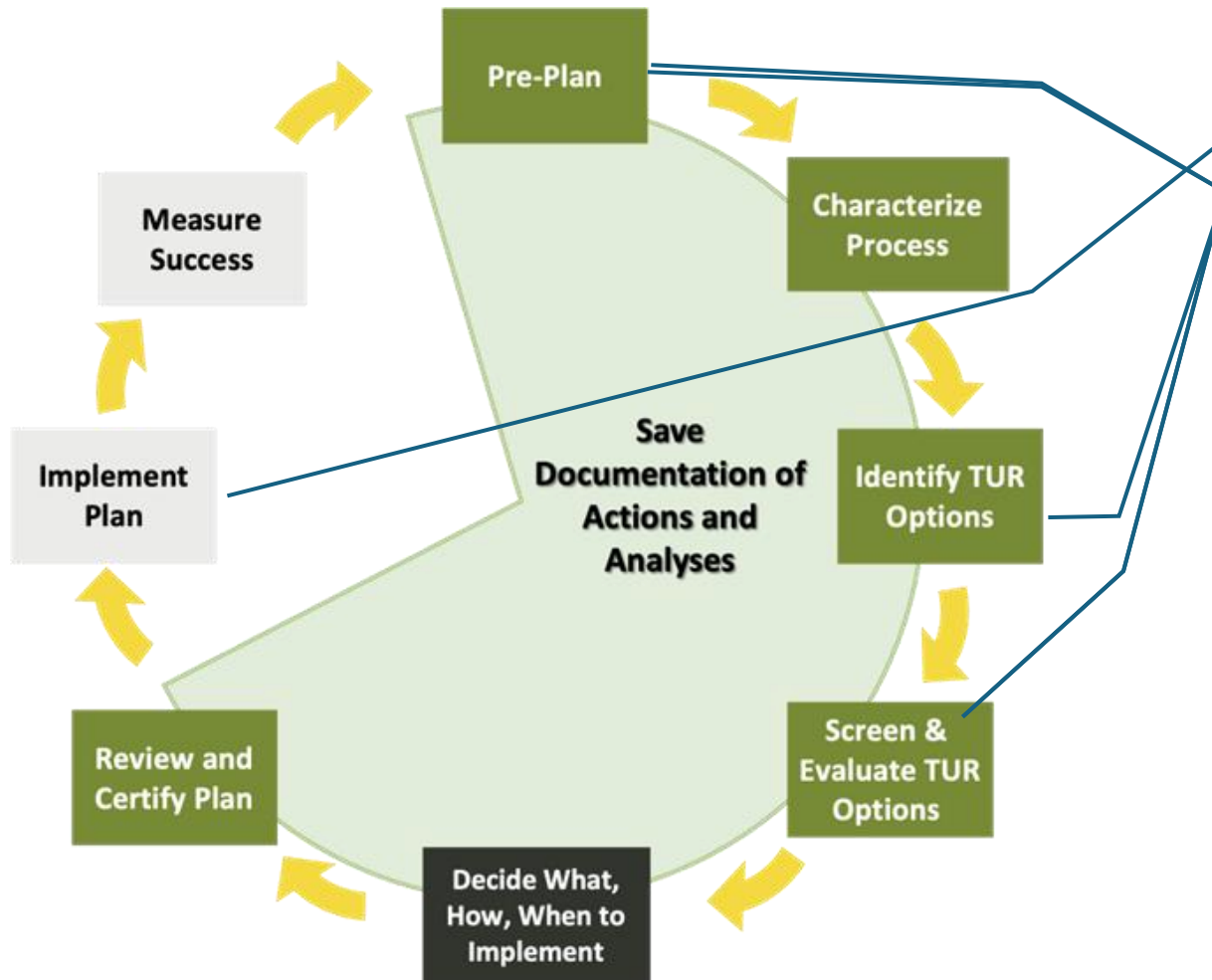


Average Release per Municipality, Asthmagens, 2007–2020



Eliminated use in 2023

Advancing Environmental Justice during Toxics Use Reduction Planning



Implementation Plan

- Include community outreach element of implementation plan
- Measure impact on environmental justice

Environmental Justice Concerns at the Federal Level

- Termination of EJ grants, closure of EPA EJ office, and removal of federal government obligations
- Removal of tools and data such as EPA EJ screen
- EPA modifying the risk evaluation process
 - Evaluate including "overburdened communities" in the definition of "susceptible subpopulations"
 - Reconsider using a single risk determination vs. a condition-by-condition approach.
- EPA intends to “rework” rule analyzing safer technologies and chemicals.
 - Could increase risk of chemical accidents in fenceline communities
 - Prevent access to information on chemical use

TURI Supports Safer Alternatives



Academic research
leads to new
solutions



Industry research
develops reliable
options



Grants support
implementation that
demonstrates viability



Training
professionals
("Planners") builds
capacity for change



Alternatives
assessment reports
spread knowledge



Tools facilitate
discovery and
evaluation of options

Chemical Safety & Climate Change Table-top Exercises

- June 24, 9:30 am – 2:30 PM in Lawrence, MA
- June 25, 9:30 am – 2:30 PM in Holyoke, MA
- Participants should only choose to attend one event or the other, depending on location preference
- Lunch will be provided
- [Registration link](#)

Questions? Contact [Kari Sasportas](#) at OTA



Discussion-based Exercise

Chemical Safety & Climate Resilience

6/24/25 at Lawrence Heritage State Park

6/25/25 at Holyoke Community College

Register Now!



WE'RE INVITING:

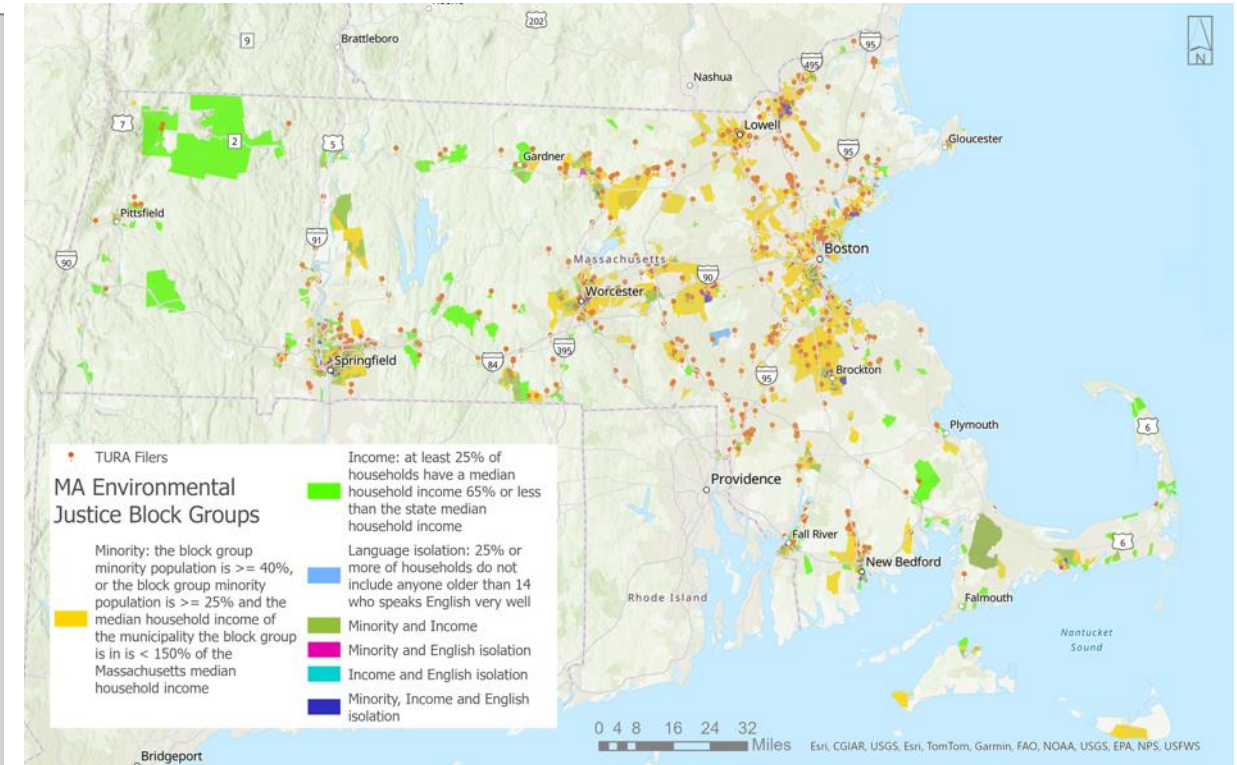
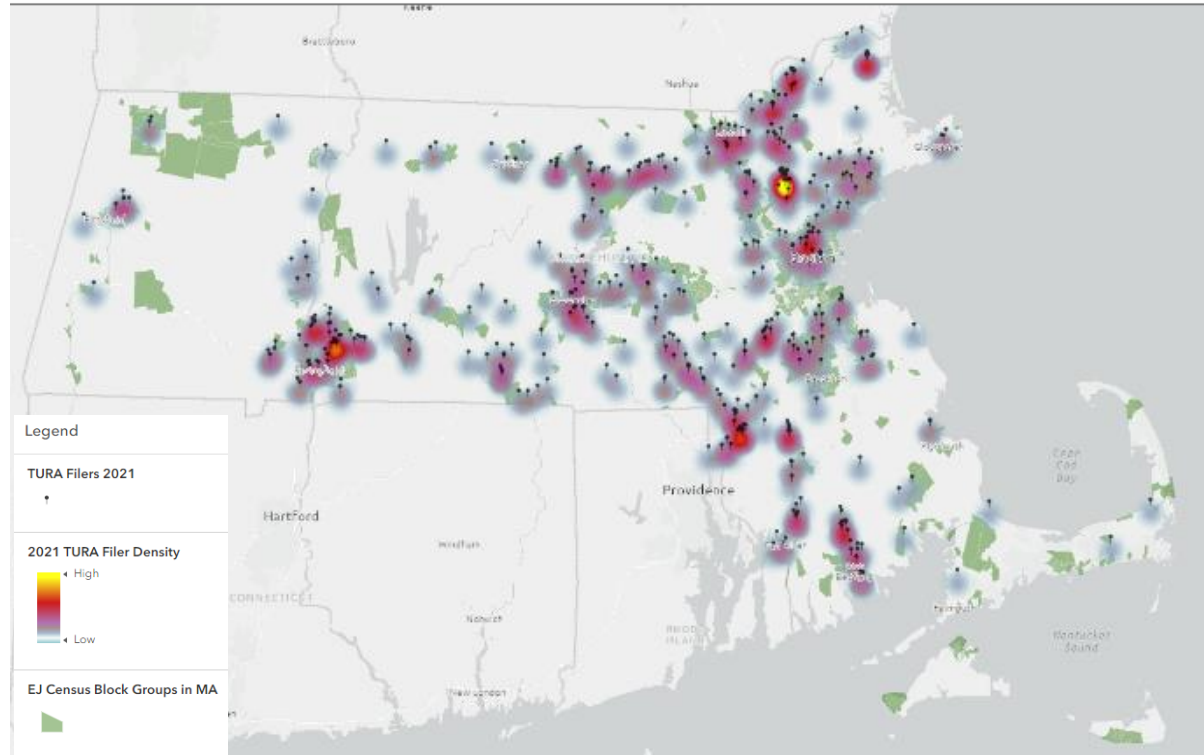
- Businesses using or storing chemicals
- Local public health officials
- Local emergency management directors
- Community-based organizations

TO LEARN ABOUT:

- Chemical hazards and preventing chemical exposure during a disaster
- Improvements to your emergency response plan that can mitigate chemical emergency impacts
- Available technical assistance resources to reduce risk from chemical hazards

OTA Updates: TURA Filers and EJ Populations in Massachusetts

TURA Filer Density and EJ Census Block Groups



In FY24, **85%** of OTA site visits were in or near neighborhoods with environmental justice populations

OTA Updates: Environmental Justice Metrics Report

OTA Cross-cutting Strategies

1. Outreach & Engagement



- # of OTA trainings delivered to public and industry groups on EJ and OTA mapping tools
- # of OTA LinkedIn posts on EJ, outreach letters & campaigns and newsletter items
- # of referrals to OTA's services to businesses near EJ populations

2. Metrics, Tracking & Analyzing Project Impacts



- Maintenance & development of EJ contact database and outreach campaign tracking capabilities
- Review EJ strategy & metrics annually to identify need for modifications and prepare for annual progress reporting

3. Language Access



- # of vital documents translated and # requests for translation of other non-vital documents
- Maintain tracking of Language Access Plan (LAP) implementation

4. Workforce Development & Staff Training



- # of trainings delivered to OTA staff incorporating EJ principles into their work
- Track expanded recruitment and marketing of vacancy announcements and internship opportunities

Metrics

OTA Updates: Environmental Justice Metrics Report

OTA Agency-Specific Strategies

Metrics

5. Technical Assistance

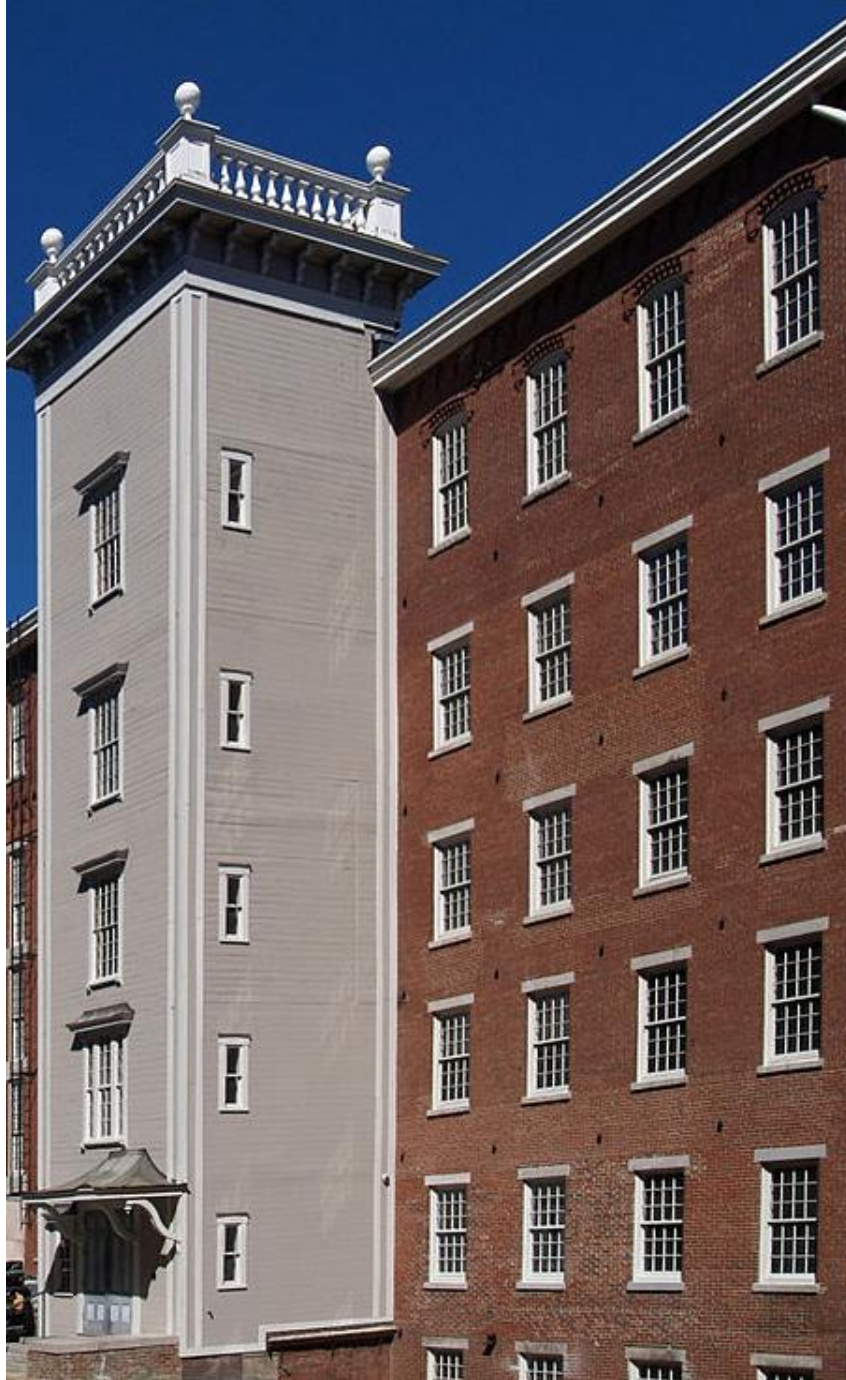
- # of facilities and % of site visits to manufacturers and companies located near EJ populations
- Track staff outreach to facilities located near EJ populations
- # of Case Studies generated pertaining to TUR in facilities located near EJ populations

6. TUR Training & TURA Program Administration

- Track incorporation of EJ-focused trainings for TUR planner CE credit
- # of new EJ stakeholders subscribing to OTA newsletter
- # of requests for oral interpretation for public meetings

7. Chemical Safety & Climate Resilience

- # of EJ, TUR, and Climate Justice collaborations with municipal agencies
- # of referrals received for OTA technical assistance related to EJ, Chemical Safety & Climate Resilience
- # of Chemical Safety & Climate Resilience trainings delivered relevant to EJ populations



Thank you!

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www.turi.org

Toxics Use Reduction Institute
University of Massachusetts Lowell



THE BUSINESS CASE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



Clean
Production
Action

Kayla Powers

WHO I AM

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) practitioner committed to working toward a cleaner, greener, and safer environment for people of all walks of life.

Advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives and pushing for strategic and meaningful implementation of these values by CPA.

Kayla Williams
DEI Lead



CLEAN PRODUCTION ACTION

Designs and delivers strategic solutions for green chemicals, sustainable materials and environmentally preferable products.





GREENSCREEN
FOR SAFER CHEMICALS



CHEMICAL
FOOTPRINT
PROJECT



INVESTOR
ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH NETWORK



BIZNGO FOR
SAFER CHEMICALS &
SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

OUR
PROGRAMS &
NETWORKS

BIZNGO DEI & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORK GROUP

BizNGO recognizes the importance of environmental justice in advancing safer chemicals and sustainable materials. From the entire life cycle of a product, from extraction to disposal, chemicals management must consider and address the adverse impacts on people and the planet.



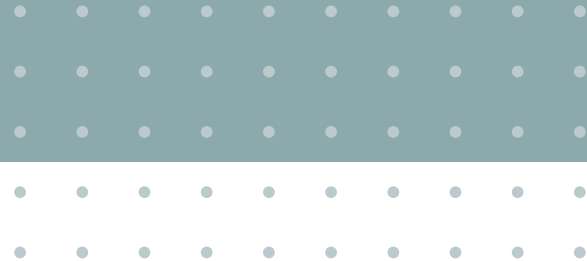
Naila Karamally
Net Zero Transition Planning Fellow
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions

01.

CREATE AND ADOPT AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STRATEGY

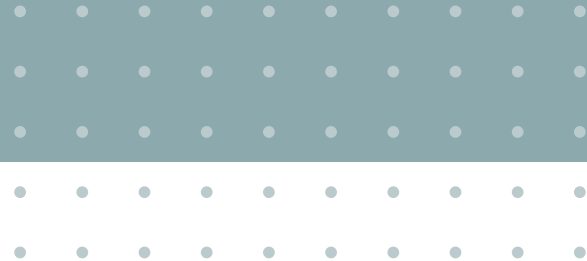
02.

COMMIT TO AND CONDUCT AN EJ AUDIT



03.

INVEST RESOURCES IN BUILDING
ORGANIZATIONAL AWARENESS AND
UNDERSTANDING OF ENVIRONMENTAL
INJUSTICE AND THE ROOT CAUSES





04.

COMMIT TO **MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT
OF COMMUNITIES** IN DEVELOPMENT OF
POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT AFFECT
THE COMMUNITY'S NATURAL
SURROUNDINGS, AND THE PLACES
WHERE PEOPLE LIVE, WORK, PLAY AND
LEARN

05.

REDESIGN PRODUCTS AND
PROCESSES TO **AVOID THE USE OF
CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN**
THAT DISPROPORTIONATELY
IMPACT DISADVANTAGED
COMMUNITIES



INTEGRATE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INTO STRATEGIC APPROACH FOR CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

*Request to download the BizNGO EJ Guide at
www.bizngo/deij*

Environmental Protection Network

OVERVIEW



EPN OVERVIEW

The [Environmental Protection Network](#) (EPN) is a national network of over 700 EPA alumni volunteers across the country who volunteer their time to protect the integrity of EPA, human health, and the environment. EPN supports disadvantaged communities, community-serving NGOs, and under-resourced state/local/Tribal agencies navigate and understand government programs, data, and processes; gain access to partners, allies, and decision makers; and successfully apply for funding.

Environmental Protection Network (EPN)



Advances policies to address climate change and advance environmental justice



Provides pro bono capacity-building technical assistance



Works to diversify EPA's workforce by recruiting and mentoring



Network of 650+ EPA alumni volunteers and [Technical Assistance staff](#) across the country



Responded to over 900 technical assistance requests in 3 years



Assisted over 400 entities apply for federal funding opportunities



Helped communities access over \$540 million in federal funds

EPN provides increasingly individualized support for disadvantaged communities to acquire funding and justice

Mass Emails, Funding Guides, & Updates

sign up to receive our [bimonthly\(ish\) funding updates](#) with [step-by-step application guides](#)

Webinars and Convenings

[schedule or join sessions](#) about current grant opportunities and/or pressing environmental issues

Office Hours

join our [SAM.gov office hours](#) for help with your specific questions and struggles

1:1 Support

[request personalized support](#) from an EPA alumni expert on funding or an environmental injustice



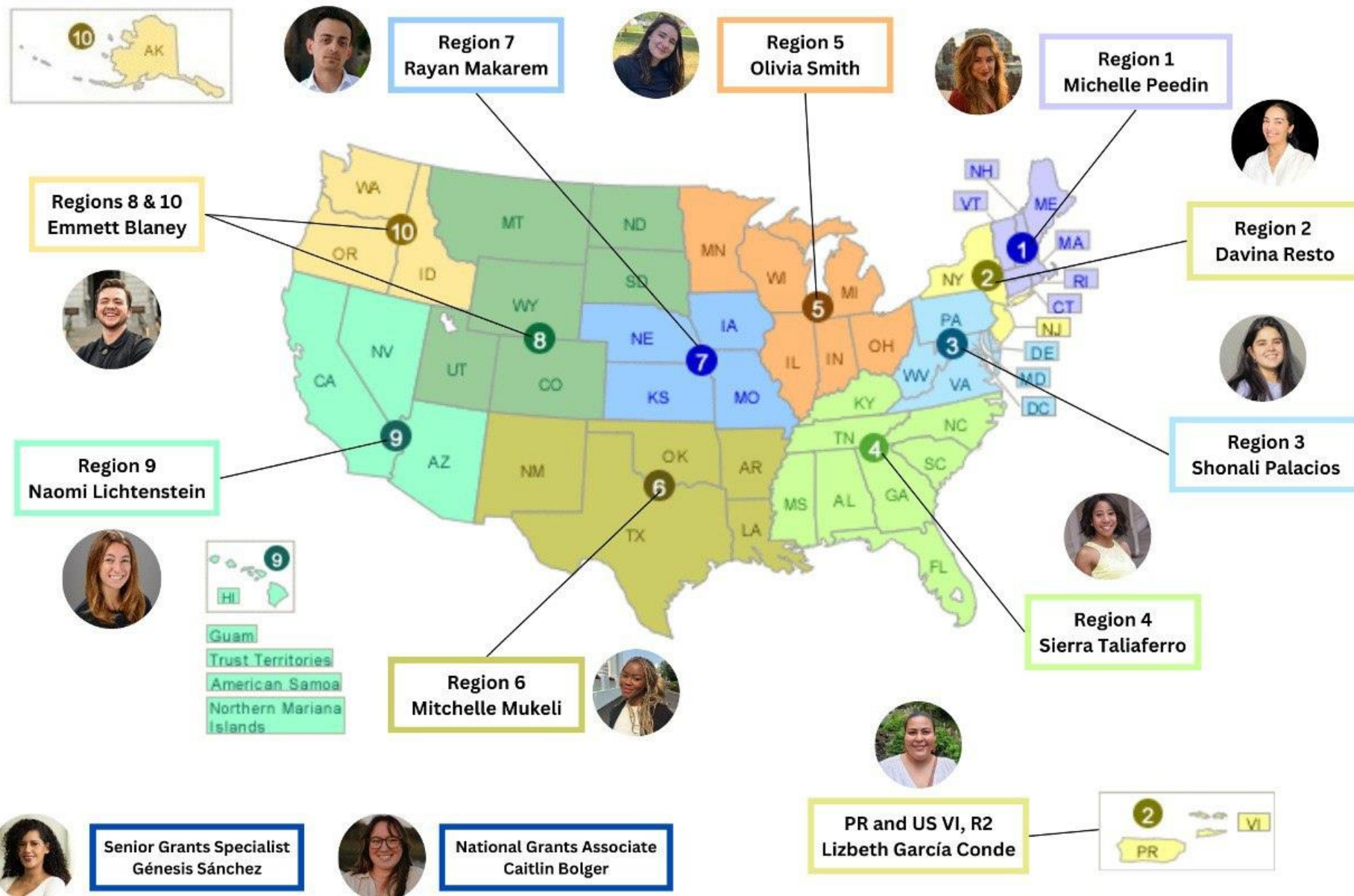
1:1 Assistance

10 technical assistance staff

2 grants specialists

Over 200 active EPA alumni volunteers

EPN's Pro Bono Capacity-Building Technical Assistance Team





EXAMPLE: TCGM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES

SAM.GOV REGISTRATION



We host SAM.gov registration [office hours](#) every two weeks on Wednesday from 2-3 PM ET.

1:1 VIRTUAL ASSISTANCE



We join virtual calls to meet with and support communities with brainstorming, project scoping, project eligibility, and application reviews.

AI GRANT WRITING MODULES



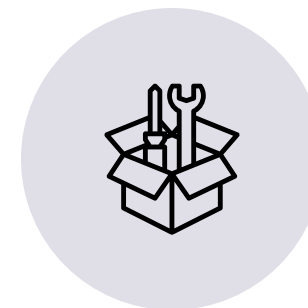
We have partnered with [GrantGenie](#) to provide two modules that will help you draft an overview of your organization and proposal ideas.

BUDGET SUPPORT AND CALCULATOR



This [worksheet](#) and [presentation](#) will walk you through key concepts of budgets for federal grants and help you develop your own budget. Access our Modified Total Direct Costs & Indirect Cost [Calculator](#) for budget assistance too.

PRE-AWARD AND POST-AWARD RESOURCES



We provide guidelines for specific EPA grants, as well as [checklists and resources](#) for selected grantees. We have collected and are developing additional resources on quality assurance plans.

FEDERAL UPDATES

- [Bi-Weekly Federal Funding Opportunities and Guidance](#)
- A Lawsuit brought by The Sustainability Institute, a federal judge in South Carolina ordered that EPA, USDA, DOE, and DOT immediately restore access to funding to the 32 grants that were parties to the case.
- The House of Representatives just passed an incredibly dangerous budget reconciliation bill
- Bi-weekly Federal Funding Opportunities and Guidance Office Hours
- Class Action Suit

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS – NEW ENGLAND

- [New England Environmental Finance Center](#)
- [New England Grassroots Environment Fund](#)
 - EJ Hub
- University of Connecticut
- [New England Rural Health Association](#)

EPN is here to help!

For 1:1 technical assistance, please complete [this form](#) or scan to QR code below.



Requests for technical assistance are divided by region and go directly to the inbox of each region's designated outreach associate.

Thank you!

Email: michelle.peedin@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org

Visit Our Website 
environmentalprotectionnetwork.org