

The U.S. EPA EJSCREEN: A Resource for Social Equity Design

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The U.S. [EJSCREEN: Environmental Justice Mapping and Screening Tool](#) is an invaluable resource for understanding the environmental justice context of a proposed land-use or building project. It uses publicly available data that is linked to a dynamic Geographic Information Systems-based (GIS) [map environment that runs entirely online](#). The system covers the entire U.S. at a very granular scale relative to Census boundaries. A user can view and make changes to the online map of their chosen location based on scale, boundaries around a site, and which Environmental and Demographic Indexes to view and overlay, and then automatically generate reports with the map images and tables.

How does it work?

According to the U.S. EPA, EJSCREEN allows users to access high-resolution environmental and demographic information for locations in the United States, and compare their selected locations to the rest of the state, EPA region, or the nation. The tool may help users identify areas with:

- Minority and/or low-income populations

- Potential environmental quality issues

- A combination of environmental and demographic indicators that is greater than usual

There are [11 Environmental Indexes](#) and [6 Demographic Indexes](#) that can be selected to create data tables and maps of a specific location based on the users chosen radius. Apart from making the demographic data and the environmental data collected by U.S. EPA and others more readily identifiable in specific locations, EJSCREEN then provides the opportunity to