Environmental Justice & the 303(d) Program Update

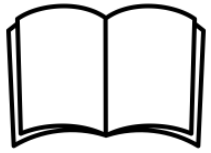
Sara Schwartz

June 2023

Agenda

New program resources

Resources in the works



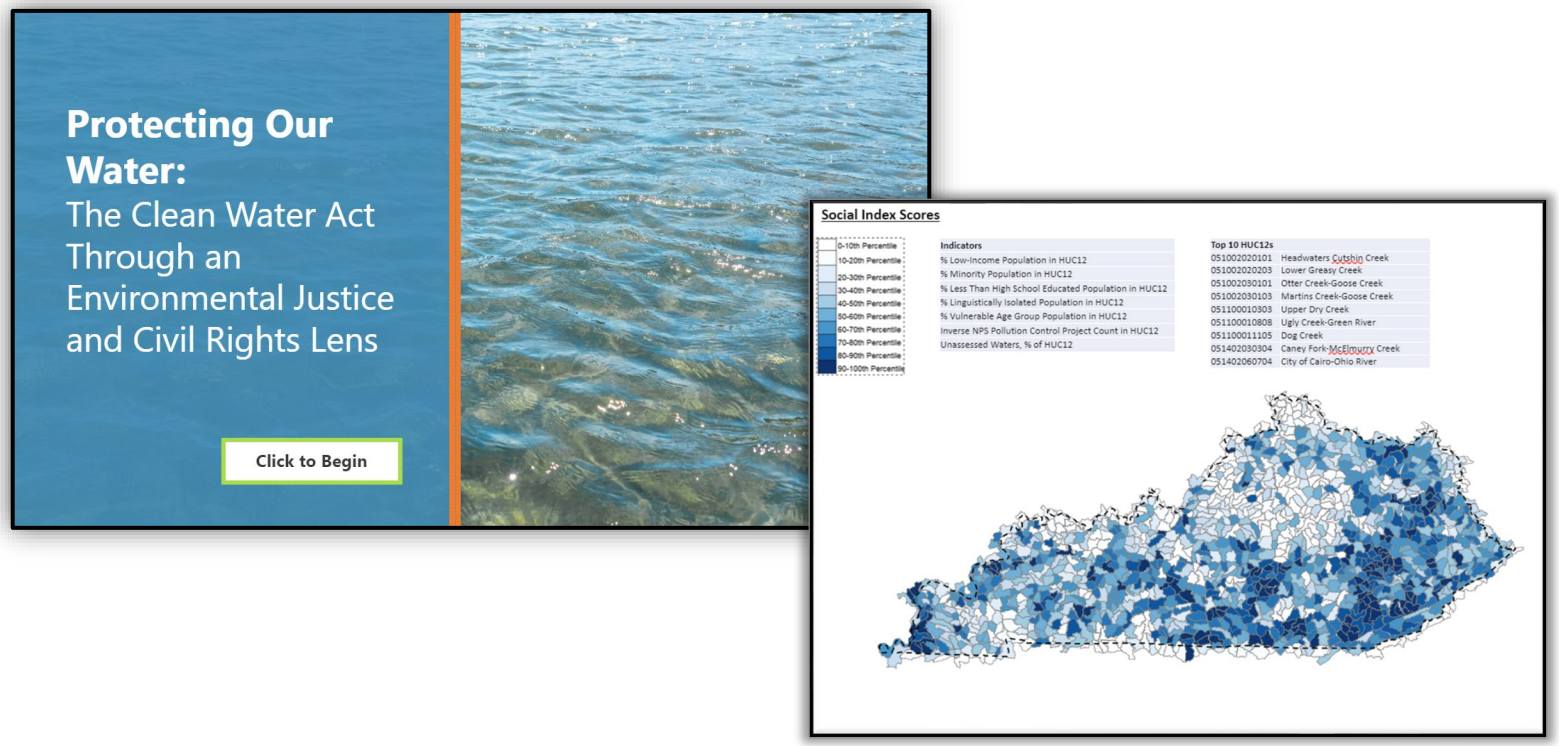
Resources for awareness

New Program Resources

1. 2022-2032 Program Vision
2. 2024 Integrated Reporting Memo
3. Environmental Justice Compendia (ELI)
4. Watershed Index Online EJ Indicators
5. Webcast: Integrating EJ into Water Resource Management

Resources in Development

- Clean Water Act Environmental Justice Modules
- Recovery Protection Screening Tool – 319 Pilot Project

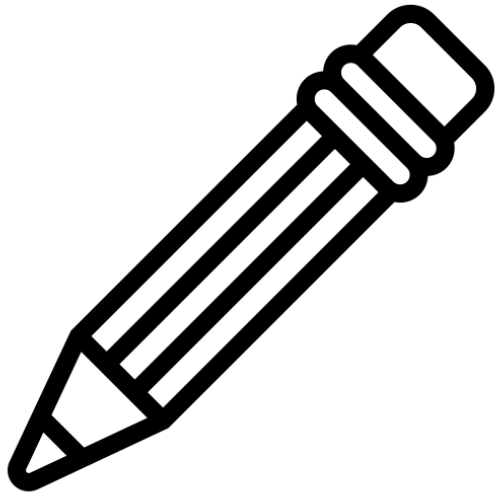


CWA EJ Modules

Learning Objectives

General Public Audience: Learn what tools and resources a concerned community member can use to advance EJ in water management.

Practitioners Audience: Learn about existing approaches and additional ideas to integrate EJ into your work, as well as what equity looks like in the implementation of their CWA program.



Opportunities

Public Comment

Public Meetings

Submit Data/Information

DRAFT

Volunteer

Report a Violation

Learn More!

Public Comment

WQS | 303(d) | NPDES

Many programs within the CWA are required to share documents with the public for their comments and questions or chose to do so voluntarily. The types of documents available for public comment include but are not limited to:

- TMDLs, impaired waters list
- Water quality standards
- Permits
- Comprehensive Conservation Management plans

DRAFT

Additionally, EPA provides public notices about regulatory and certain other actions the agency takes. Search opportunities for public comment on EPA actions here.

Click on a program above for specific public comment opportunities, and check out your state, territory, tribal, or local environmental department for upcoming opportunities.

- Text will show here when button is clicked.

DRAFT

Who?

What?

When?

Where?

Why?

Case Study Map

Click on a star to learn more (jump to State Case Study Text slide)

CWA EJ Modules

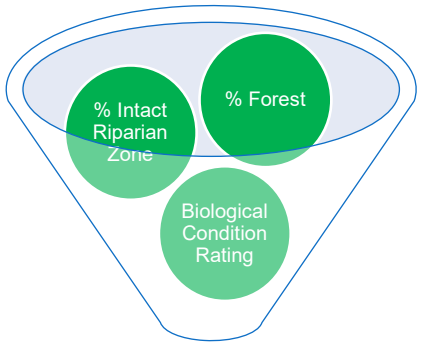
Programs included in the module

* Water Quality Standards
* Monitoring
* 303(d) listing and TMDLS
* 319/Nonpoint Source Management
* 404 permitting
* 401 certification
* 402/National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
* Clean Water State Revolving Fund
* Urban Waters
* National Estuary Program

RPS Pilot Project – 319 & Kentucky

HUC12 indicators are combined into **Index Scores** – offer overall picture of ecological, stressor, and social characteristics

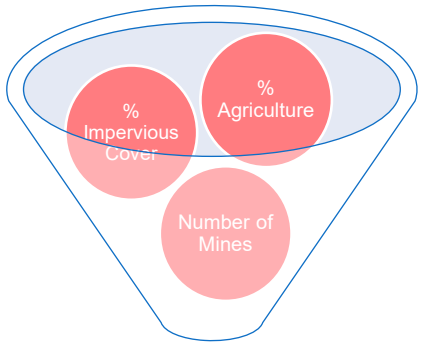
Ecological Indicators



Ecological Index

(High Scores = Better Condition)

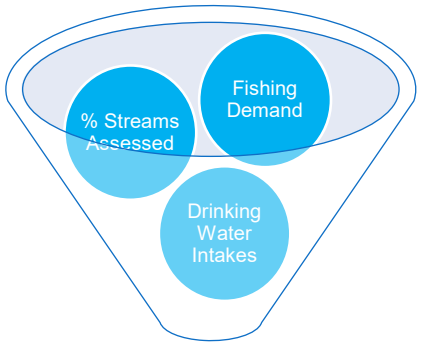
Stressor Indicators



Stressor Index

(High Scores = Greater Stress)

Social Indicators

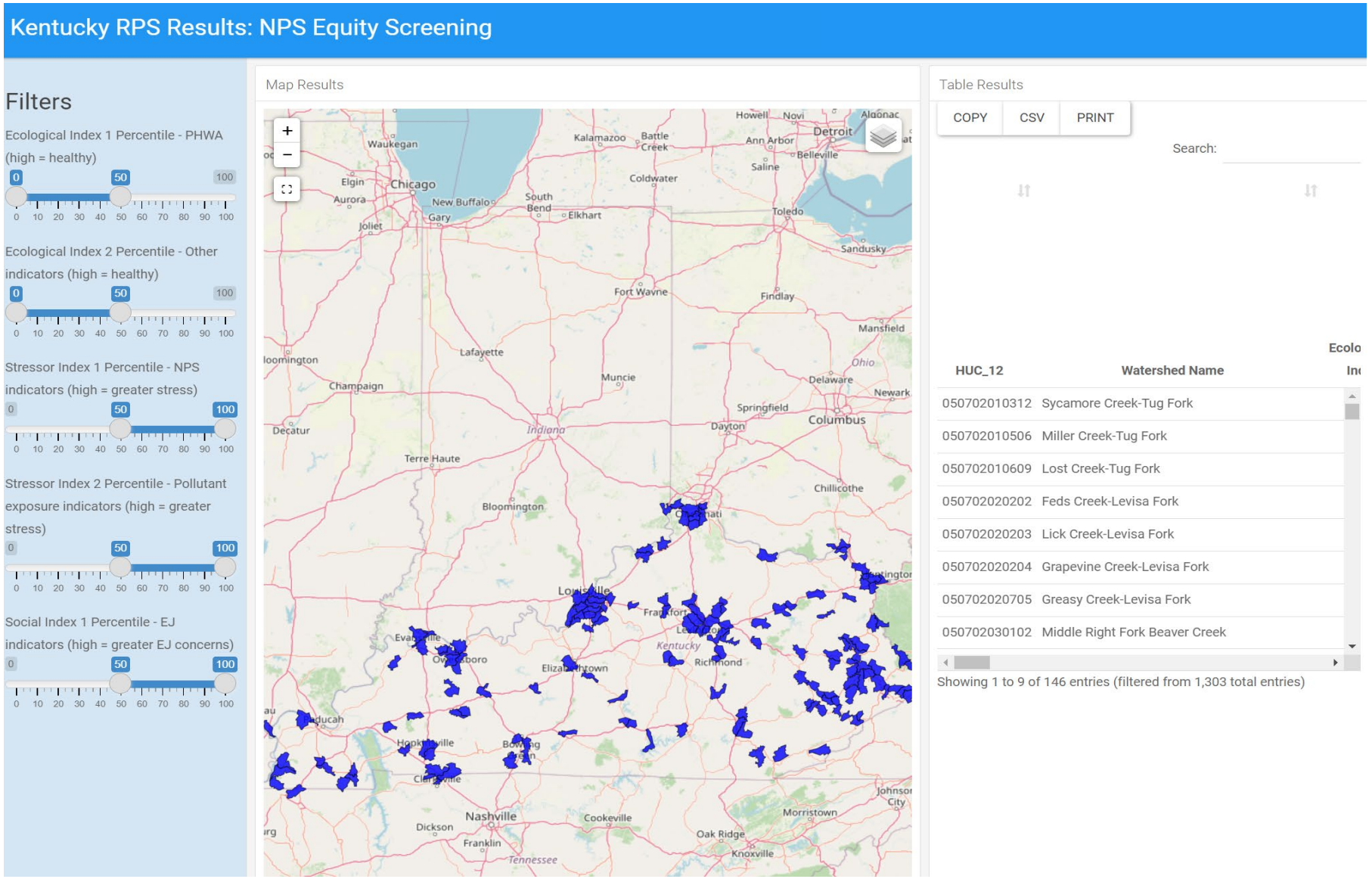


Social Index

(High Scores = Favorable Traits)

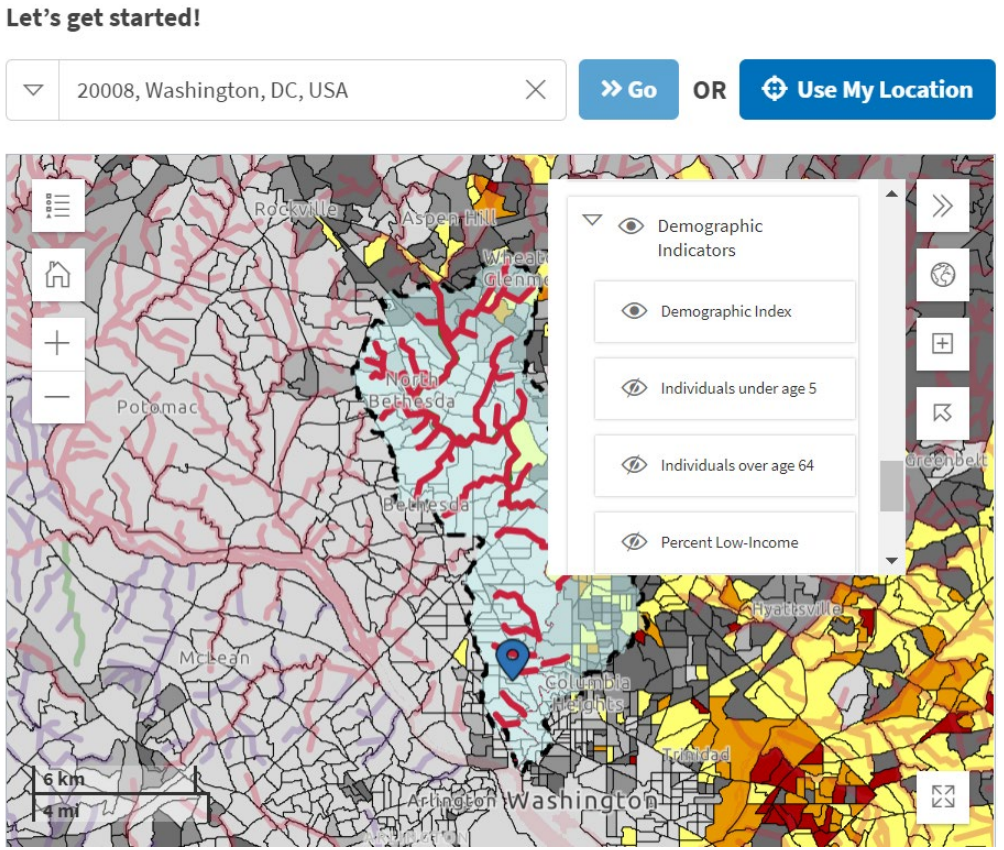
RPS index score diagram source: Cadmus Group

Interactive Data Visualization of RPS Screening Results



Resources for Awareness

- Executive Order: Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All
- EPA Legal Tools to Advance Environmental Justice
- EJScreen & How's My Waterway
- Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers



Thank you!

Sara Schwartz

schwartz.sara@epa.gov

Backup Slides

Kentucky RPS Indicators for NPS/Equity Analysis

Social

% Low Income Population

% Minority Population (used for study/analysis)

% Less Than High School Educated Population

% Linguistically Isolated Population

% Vulnerable Age Group Population

Inverse NPS Pollution Control Project Count

Unassessed Waters %