



# Environmental Justice & the 303(d) Program Update

Sara Schwartz

June 2023

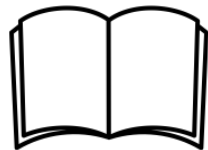
# Agenda



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



The screenshot shows a web application interface. On the left, a blue sidebar contains the text "Protecting Our Water: The Clean Water Act Through an Environmental Justice and Civil Rights Lens" and a "Click to Begin" button. The main content area features a large image of water with a "Social Index Scores" overlay. This overlay includes a legend for percentiles (0-100th), a list of indicators such as "% Low-Income Population in HUC12" and "% Minority Population in HUC12", and a "Top 10 HUC12s" list with corresponding watershed names like "Headwaters Cuyahoga Creek" and "Lower Greasy Creek". Below the text is a map of a watershed area with a blue color gradient representing the social index scores.

**Protecting Our Water:**  
The Clean Water Act  
Through an  
Environmental Justice  
and Civil Rights Lens

[Click to Begin](#)

**Social Index Scores**

Percentile	Indicator	Top 10 HUC12s
0-10th Percentile	% Low-Income Population in HUC12	051002020101 Headwaters Cuyahoga Creek
10-20th Percentile	% Minority Population in HUC12	051002020203 Lower Greasy Creek
20-30th Percentile	% Less Than High School Educated Population in HUC12	051002030101 Otter Creek-Goose Creek
30-40th Percentile	% Linguistically Isolated Population in HUC12	051002030103 Martins Creek-Goose Creek
40-50th Percentile	% Vulnerable Age Group Population in HUC12	051100010303 Upper Dry Creek
50-60th Percentile	Inverse NPS Pollution Control Project Count in HUC12	051100010808 Ugly Creek-Green River
60-70th Percentile	Unassessed Waters, % of HUC12	051100011105 Dog Creek
70-80th Percentile		051402030304 Caney Fork-McHenry Creek
80-90th Percentile		051402060704 City of Cairo-Ohio River
90-100th Percentile		

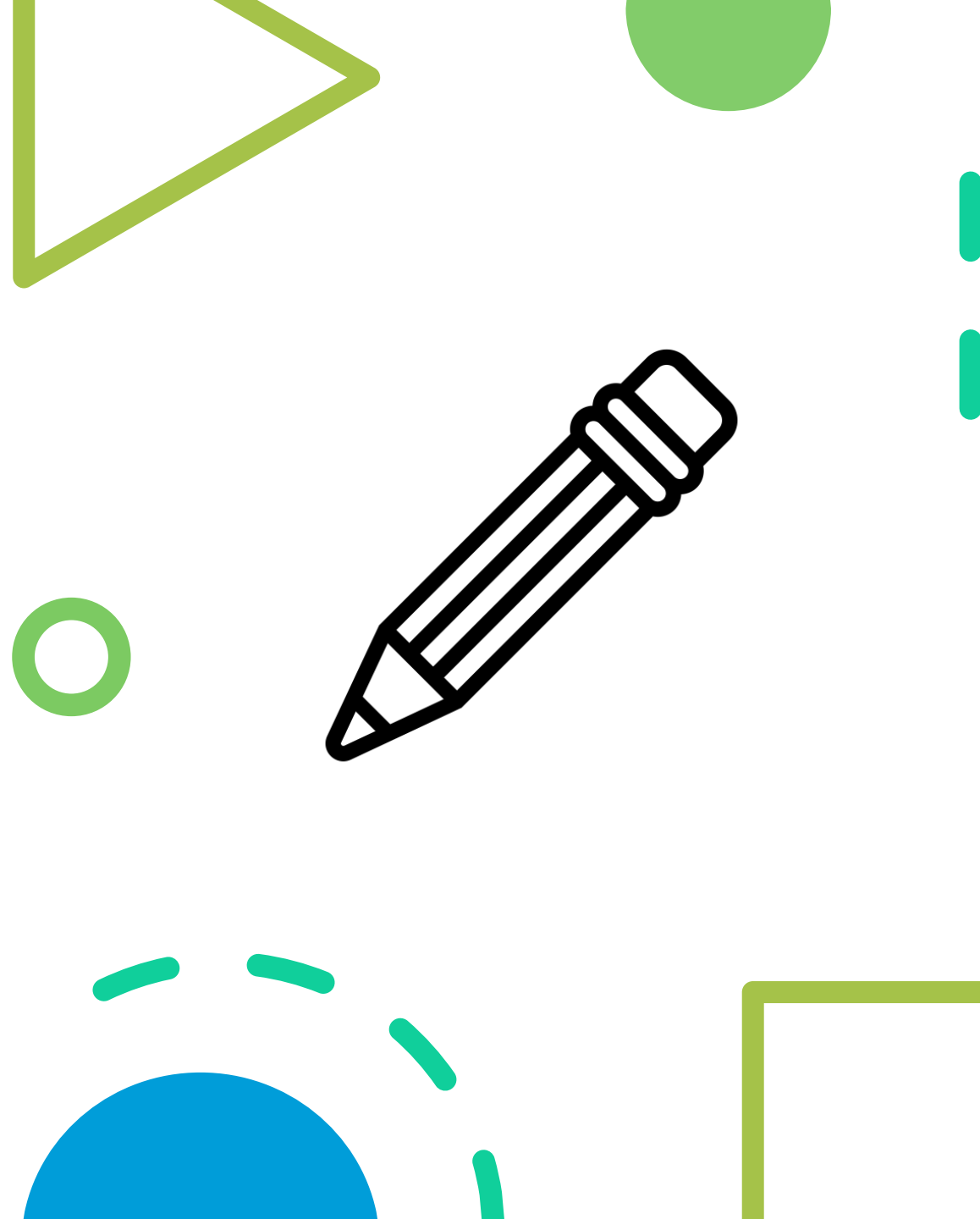


# CWA EJ Modules

## 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.





**Public  
Comment**



**Public  
Meetings**



**Submit  
Data/Information**

# Opportunities

---



**Volunteer**



**Report a  
Violation**



**Learn  
More!**

**DRAFT**



# 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

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

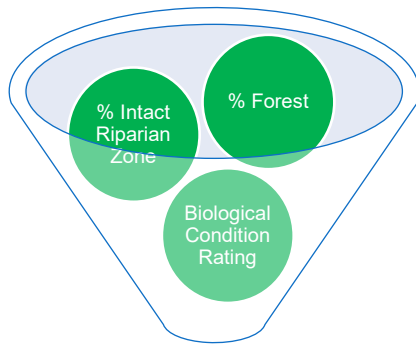
## Programs included in the module

- \* 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*

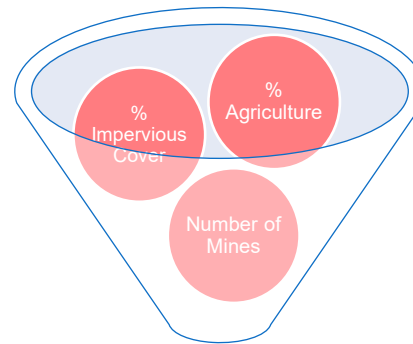


## Ecological Index

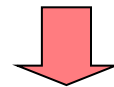


*(High Scores = Better Condition)*

## *Stressor Indicators*

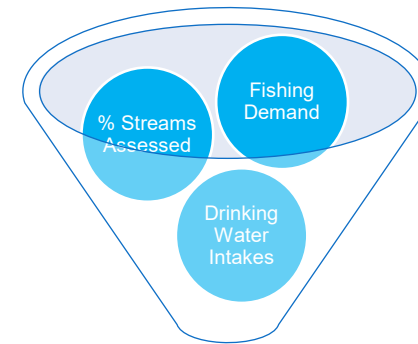


## Stressor Index



*(High Scores = Greater Stress)*

## *Social Indicators*



## Social Index



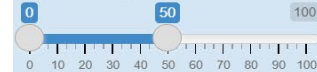
*(High Scores = Favorable Traits)*

# Interactive Data Visualization of RPS Screening Results

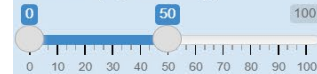
## Kentucky RPS Results: NPS Equity Screening

### Filters

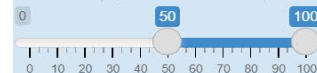
Ecological Index 1 Percentile - PHWA (high = healthy)



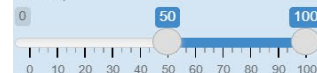
Ecological Index 2 Percentile - Other indicators (high = healthy)



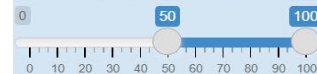
Stressor Index 1 Percentile - NPS indicators (high = greater stress)



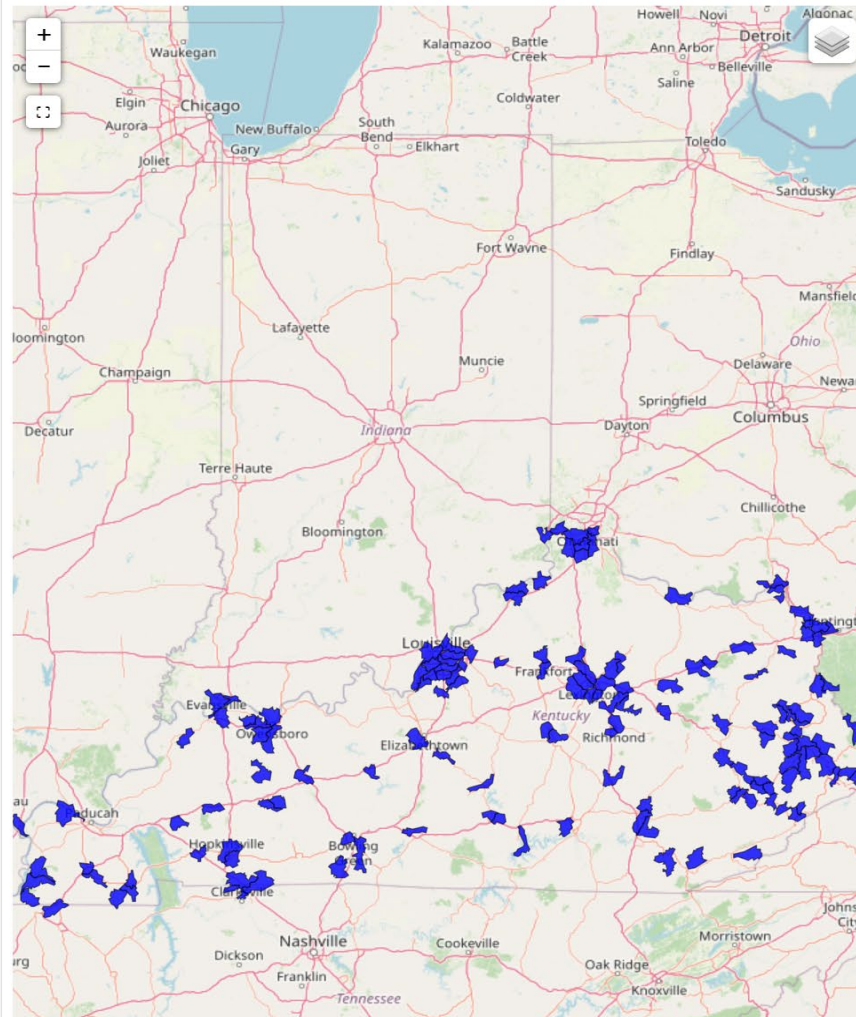
Stressor Index 2 Percentile - Pollutant exposure indicators (high = greater stress)



Social Index 1 Percentile - EJ indicators (high = greater EJ concerns)



### Map Results



### Table Results

COPY CSV PRINT

Search:

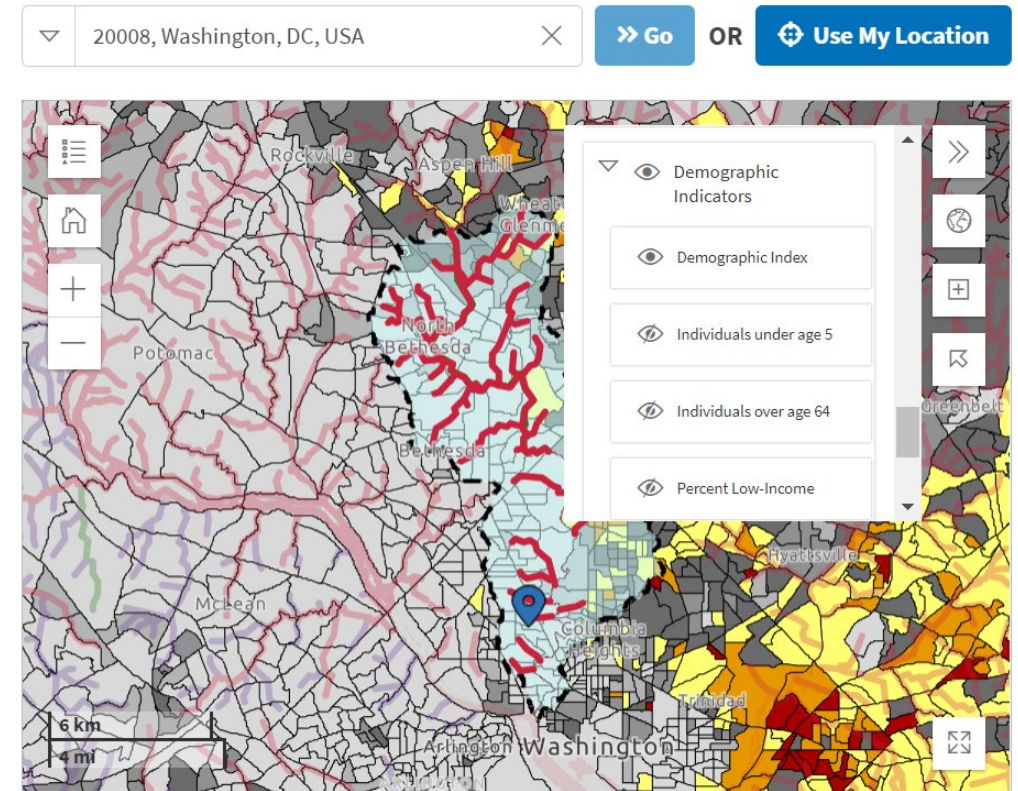
HUC_12	Watershed Name	Ecological Index 1 Percentile - PHWA
050702010312	Sycamore Creek-Tug Fork	
050702010506	Miller Creek-Tug Fork	
050702010609	Lost Creek-Tug Fork	
050702020202	Feds Creek-Levisa Fork	
050702020203	Lick Creek-Levisa Fork	
050702020204	Grapevine Creek-Levisa Fork	
050702020705	Greasy Creek-Levisa Fork	
050702030102	Middle Right Fork Beaver Creek	

Showing 1 to 9 of 146 entries (filtered from 1,303 total entries)

# 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

Let's get started!





# 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 %