



Environmental Justice and the 303(d) Program

June 2022

EJ and the 303(d) Program

Fair Treatment and Meaningful
Involvement

Assessment and Listing

TMDL Prioritization

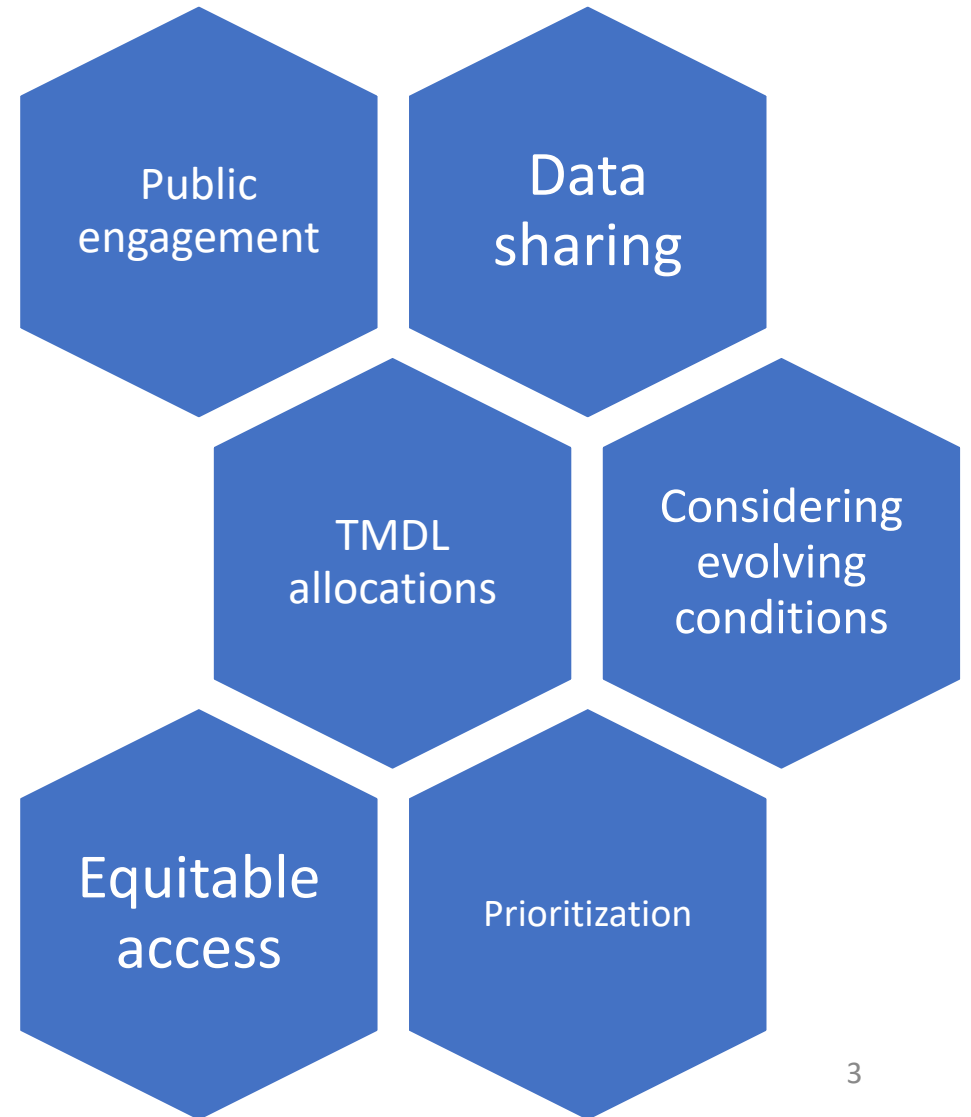
TMDL Development and
Implementation

All Buckets: Program Vision Focus Area

Seeks to adequately consider environmental justice in:

- Water quality assessment,
- Impaired waters listing,
- TMDLs, and
- Other restoration and protection plans

in order to address disproportionately high and adverse environmental, water quality, climate-related, and other relevant impacts on underserved communities.



Assessment, Listing, Prioritization: 2024 Integrated Reporting Memo

- Public engagement
- Participatory science
- Information sharing and capacity building



TMDL Prioritization: Watershed Index Online & New EJ-Related Indicators

- National library of over 400 watershed indicators used for comparing watershed characteristics anywhere in the conterminous United States
- In 2021, WSIO was updated with indicators that related to environmental justice

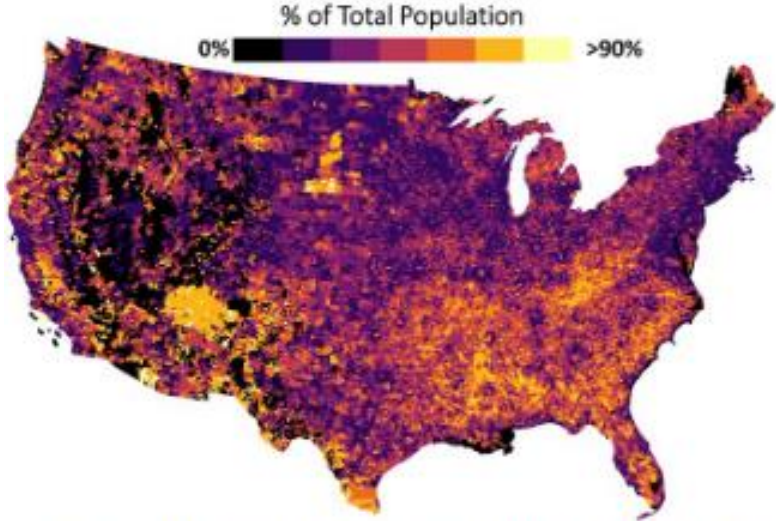


Figure 1. Map of % Low-Income Population in Watershed for HUC12s in the contiguous US.

Community Context	Hazardous Waste & Wastewater	Water Quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % Minority Population ▪ % Low-Income Population ▪ % Linguistically Isolated Population ▪ % Less than High School Educated Population ▪ % Vulnerable Age Group Population (<5 or >65) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Count of NPDES Effluent Violations in Watershed • Count of Risk Management Plan Sites in Watershed • Count of Hazardous Waste Management Sites in Watershed • Count of Toxic Release Inventory Sites in Watershed • Toxic Release and Exposure Potential in Watershed • Count of Superfund Sites in Watershed • Traffic Density in Watershed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessed Waters, % of WS • Aquatic Life/Recreational/Public Water Supply Use Assessed Waters, % of WS/Assessed • Waters with TMDLs, Count, % of WS/Assessed • Nitrogen and Phosphorus Yield in Watershed • Suspended Solid Yield in Watershed

TMDL Prioritization: Recovery Potential Screening (RPS) Tool

- Systematic method and Excel-based tool for comparing watersheds based on characteristics relevant to priority-setting
- New WSIO indicators can be readily applied using the RPS Tool – users can incorporate demographic and community context considerations when comparing watersheds
- New resources
 - Recently released a series of indicator reference sheets
 - Developing RPS scenario factsheets

Indicator Reference Sheet – March 6, 2022
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency


Point Source Discharge

Indicator Names

- NPDES Permit Count (2019)
- NPDES Major Permit Count (2019)
- NPDES Effluent Violations, Count in Watershed (WS) (2015-2019)

Indicator Category | **Stressor**
Subcategory | Hazardous Waste & Wastewater
Available in RPS Tool files for all lower 48 states

Indicator Description
Background
The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program issues, monitors, and enforces permits that regulate *point sources* of pollution to waters of the United States. Point sources can include sewage treatment plants and industrial facilities or stormwater drainage systems, livestock operations, and other dischargers. Permits for individual point sources are classified as *major* or *minor* based on discharge volume, waste characteristics, and other human and ecosystem health



Recovery Potential Screening
Scenario Fact Sheet Series | Introduction
EPA
March 9, 2022

Background & Purpose
Since 2006, EPA has supported the use of the Recovery Potential Screening (RPS) Tool for prioritizing watershed restoration and protection. The RPS Tool offers a systematic method to compare watersheds and evaluate their relative potential for successful watershed management. The RPS Tool has been applied by state and federal Clean Water Act programs and partners to identify priority watersheds for a variety of initiatives, including the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and implementation of nonpoint source (NPS) management practices.

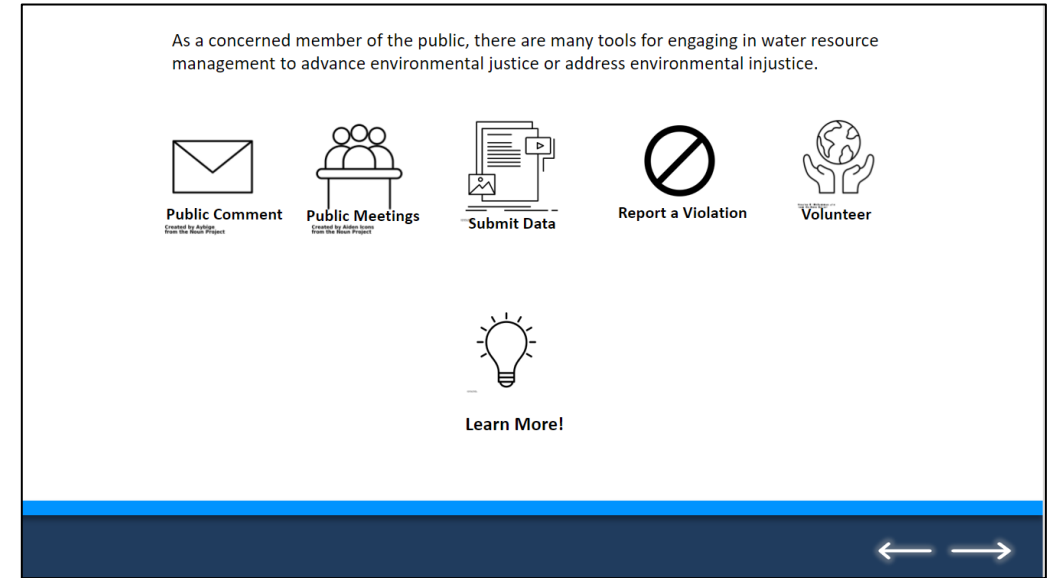
This document introduces the RPS Scenario Fact Sheet Series. The RPS Scenario Fact Sheet Series was developed for beginner RPS Tool users who have a basic understanding of RPS concepts but are uncertain about how to begin their own screening. Each fact sheet provides a starting point for a specific screening scenario (e.g., prioritizing watersheds for nutrient management) by briefly describing methods to identify relevant watersheds and highlighting potential indicator selections.

Clean Water Act and EJ Module

Learning Objectives

- Public: Learn what tools/resources a concerned community member can use to advance EJ in water management
- Practitioners: Learn about existing approaches and additional ideas to integrate EJ into their work

As a concerned member of the public, there are many tools for engaging in water resource management to advance environmental justice or address environmental injustice.



The infographic displays six icons representing different engagement tools. Each icon is accompanied by a label and a small explanatory text below it. The tools are: Public Comment (envelope icon), Public Meetings (table and chairs icon), Submit Data (document with arrow icon), Report a Violation (prohibited sign icon), Volunteer (hands holding globe icon), and Learn More (lightbulb icon). A blue bar at the bottom of the infographic contains two white arrows pointing left and right.

Public Comment
Created by AARP, from the WaterWipes

Public Meetings
Created by AARP, from the WaterWipes

Submit Data

Report a Violation

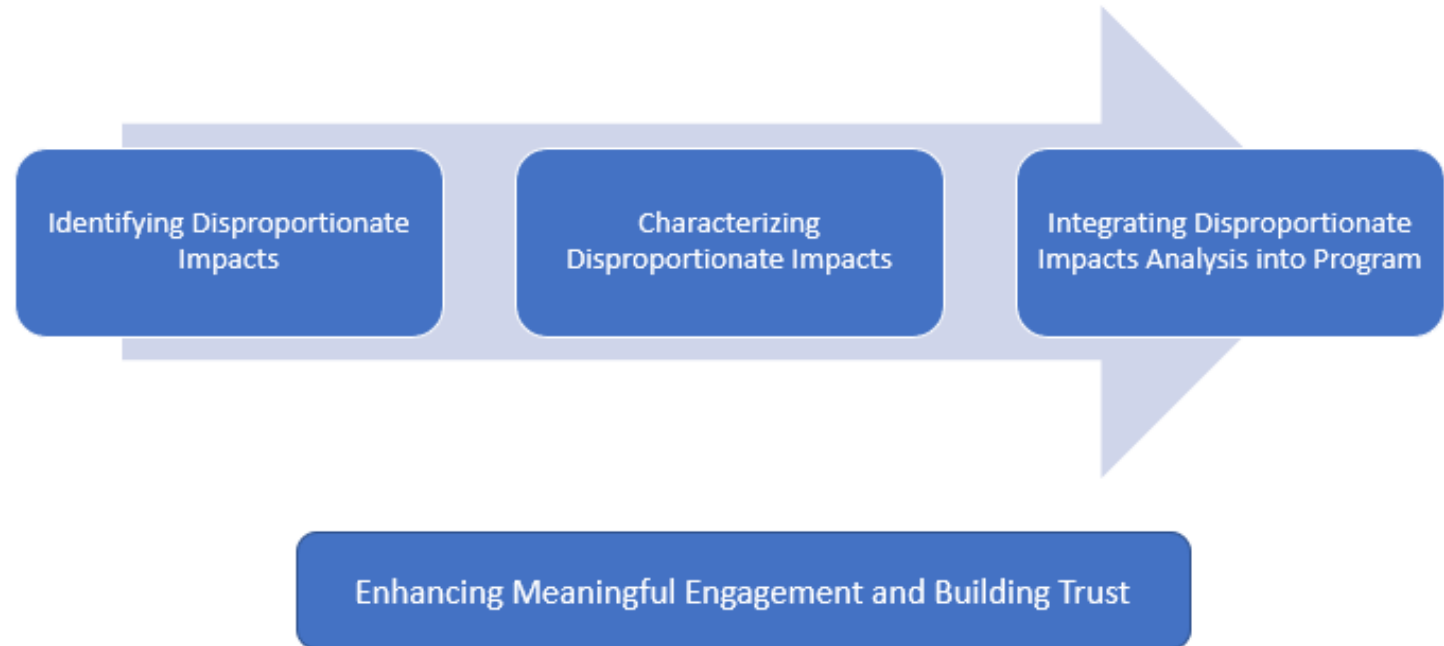
Volunteer

Learn More!



Additional Resources

1. **EPA Collaborative Problem Solving Model**
2. **Confronting Disproportionate Impacts and Systemic Racism in Environmental Policy**
3. **Best Practices for Meaningful Community Engagement, Groundwork USA**





Thank You!

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