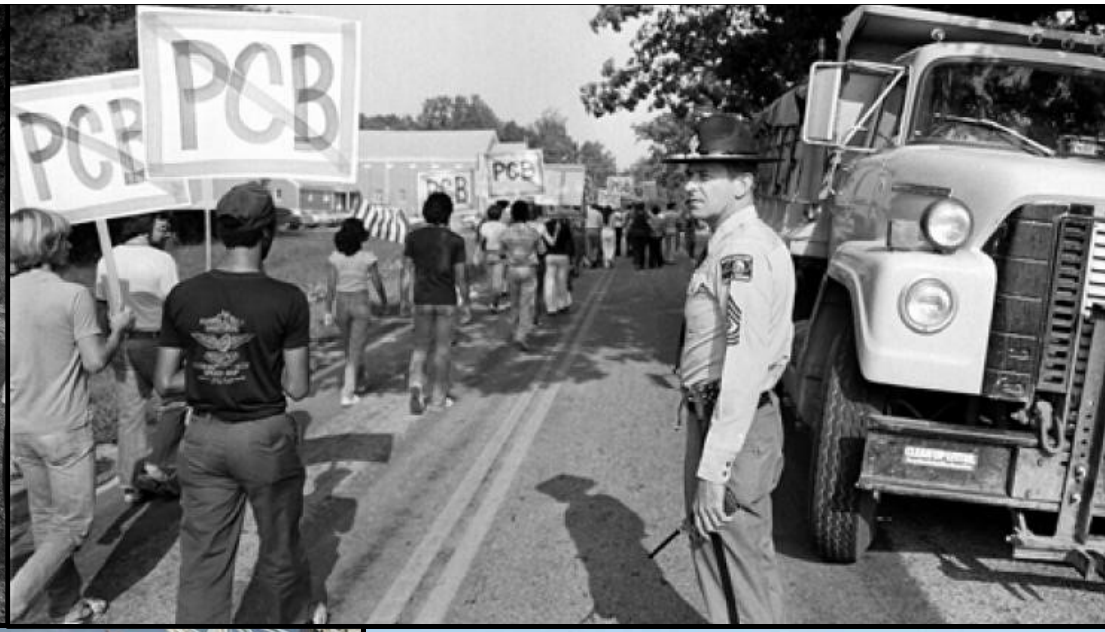
Washington State Department of Health

THE HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL (HEAL) ACT

EMBEDDING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INTO WASHINGTON STATE GOVERNMENT

PCB
PCB
PCB
We Care Abou
Our Furture!
Don't Harm the
lives of Generations
To Come
NO PCB
WE CARE
TOO!!
WARREN County
YOUTH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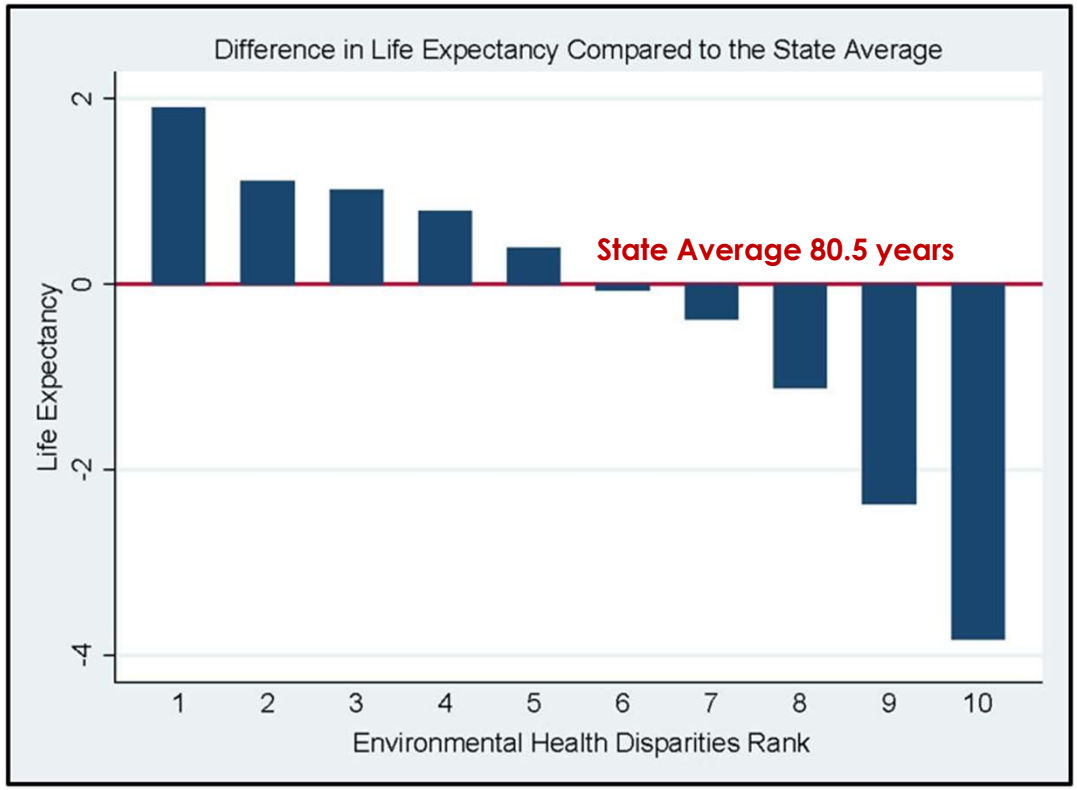
Environmental Health Disparities in Washington State

In WA, there is a nearly six-year life expectancy gap between census tracts most impacted by environmental hazards and those least impacted.

When disaggregated by race and income, the data shows that environmental hazards disproportionately harm communities of color and low-income communities.



Environmental Justice Definition

Environmental justice means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, rules, and policies.

Environmental justice includes addressing disproportionate environmental and health impacts in all laws, rules, and policies with environmental impacts by prioritizing vulnerable populations and overburdened communities, the equitable distribution of resources and benefits, and eliminating harm.

The HEAL Act

TRANSFORMATION OF AGENCY CULTURE, POLICY, AND PRACTICE

Covered HEAL Act Agencies

HEAL Implementation

July 1st, 2022
Community Engagement Plans due

Jan 1st, 2023
Strategic planning obligation due

July 1st, 2023
EJ Assessments begin on initial significant agency actions

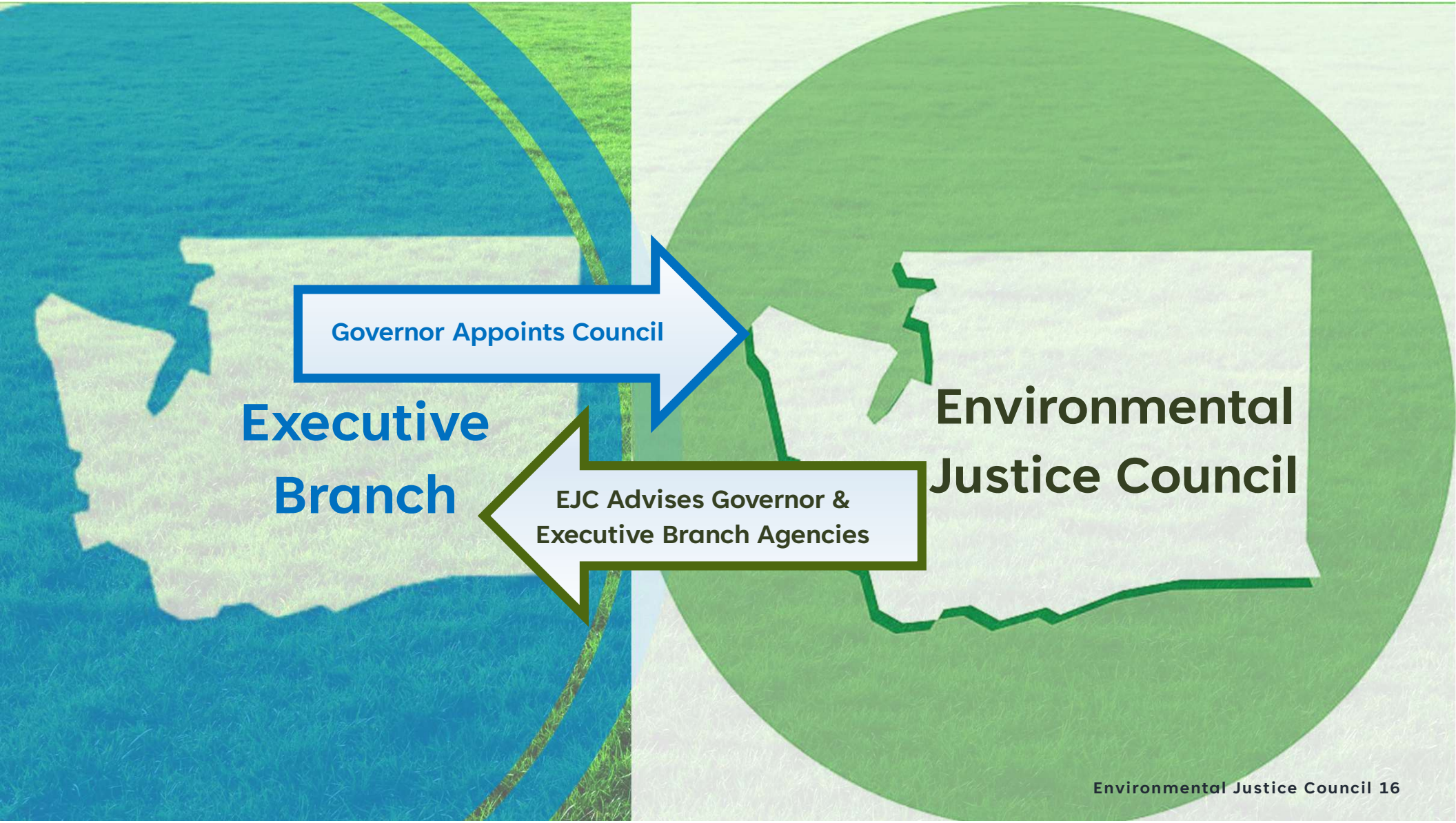
July 1st, 2023
Budgeting and funding obligation due

Annually, starting 2024
Agencies publish dashboards describing progress

Biennially, starting Dec 2023
EJ Council evaluates agency implementation

July 1st, 2025
EJ Assessments begin on additional significant agency actions identified by agencies

Environmental
Justice Council


Governor Appoints Council
Executive Branch
EJC Advises Governor & Executive Branch Agencies
Environmental Justice Council

Environmental Justice Council

Co-Chair

Co-Chair

4 Members Representing Tribes/Tribal Communities

7 Community Representatives Including 1 Youth Rep.

2 EJ Practitioner/Academic Representatives

1 At-large Representative

1 Representative from a Building/Construction Trade Union

1 Representative from the Business Community

7 Agency Representatives (non-voting)

Washington State Agencies

EJ Interagency Work Group
Staffed by EJ Council Staff

Agencies Required to Implement HEAL

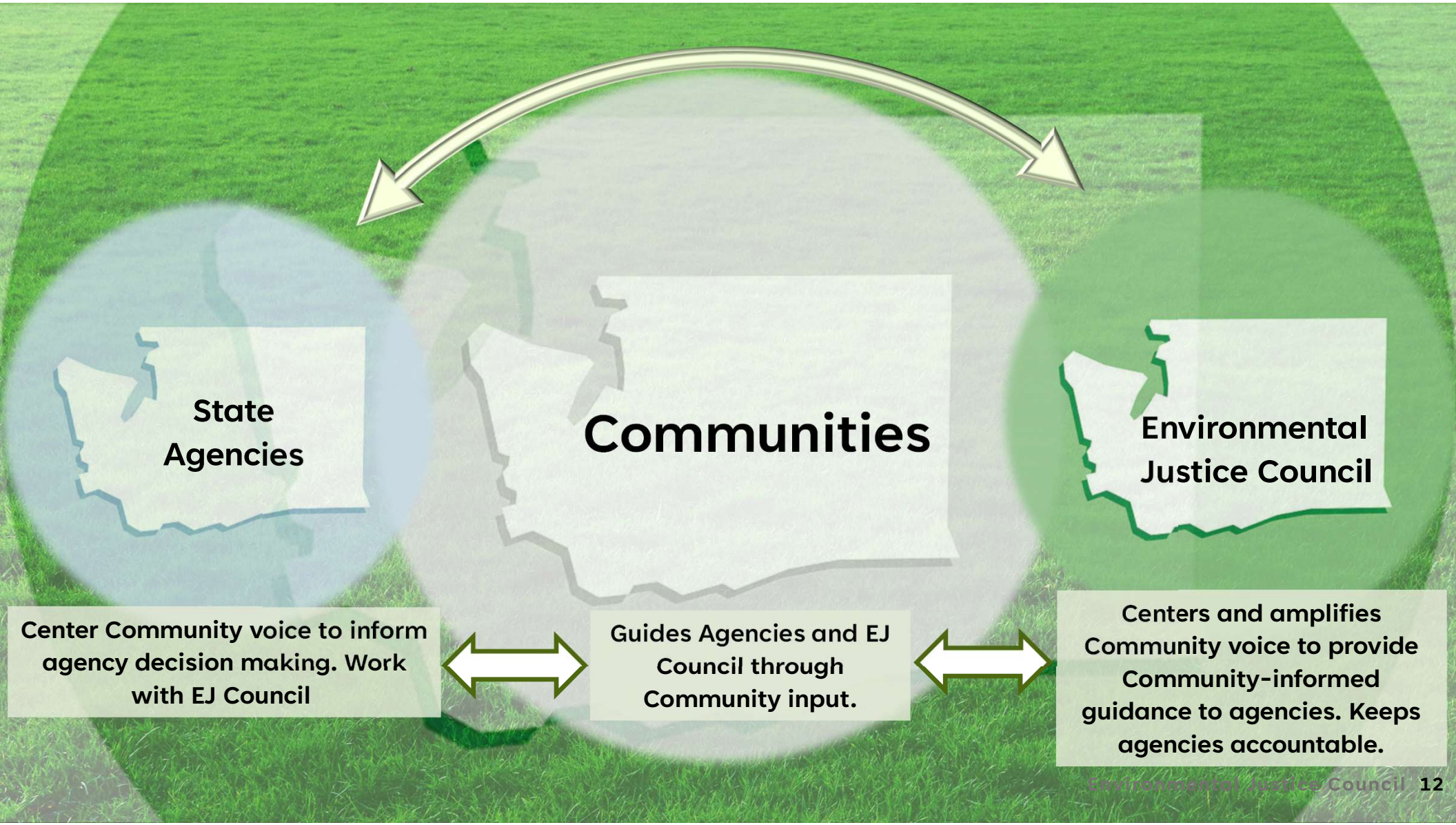
- Transportation
- Agriculture
- Natural Resources
- Commerce
- Health
- Ecology
- Puget Sound Partnership

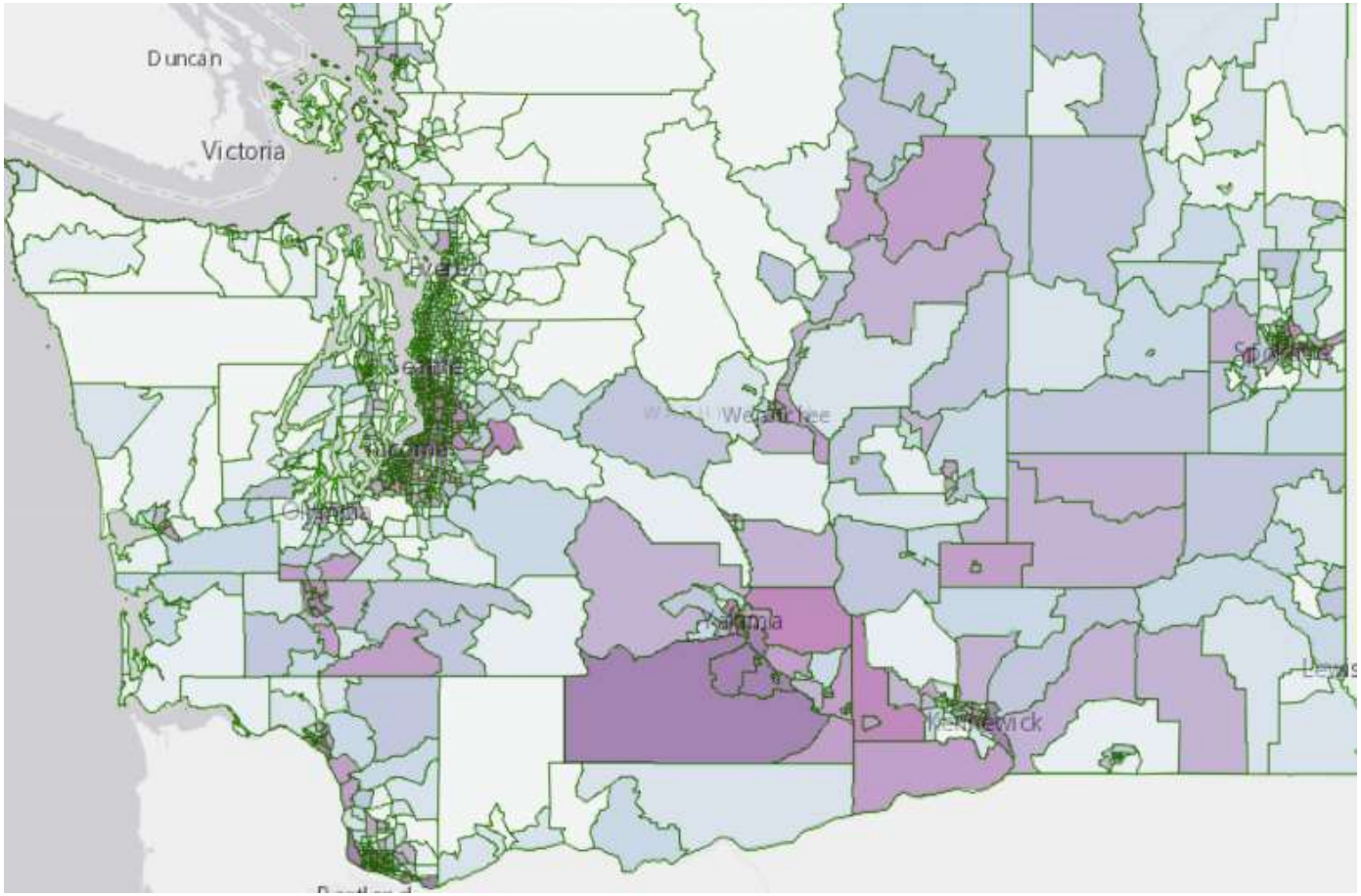
Agencies Opting In

- Attorney General's Office

Agencies Joined in a "Listen & Learn" Capacity

- Fish and Wildlife
- State Board of Health
- Country Roads Administration Board
- Recreation and Conservation Office
- Pollution Liability Insurance Agency
- Washington State Transportation Commission


State Agencies
Communities
Environmental Justice Council
Center Community voice to inform agency decision making. Work with EJ Council
Guides Agencies and EJ Council through Community input.
Centers and amplifies Community voice to provide Community-informed guidance to agencies. Keeps agencies accountable.



[WA Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) Map]

Partners

ENVIRONMENTAL & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

FRONT AND
CENTERED

pscleanair.org
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

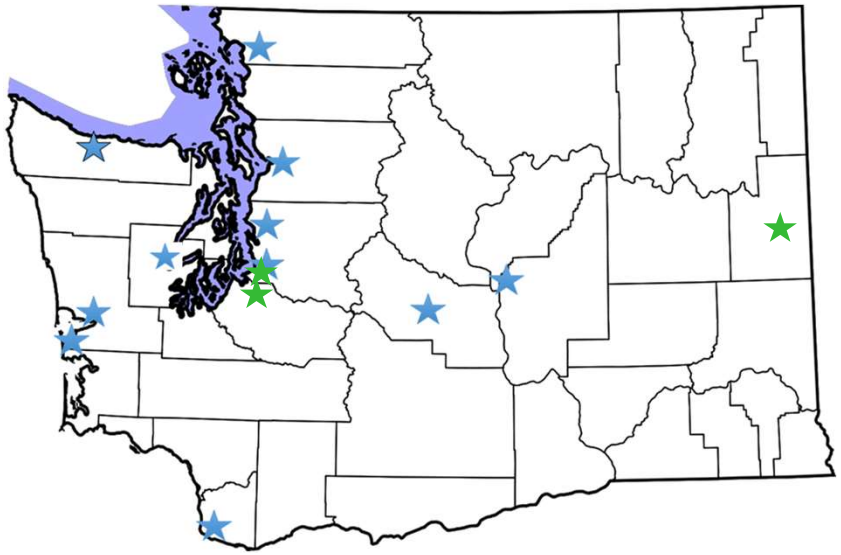
ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH
TRACKING

Washington State Department of
Health

DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Listening Sessions & Community Conversations

- Communities of color
- Households with lower incomes
- Immigrants and refugees
- Linguistically isolated groups

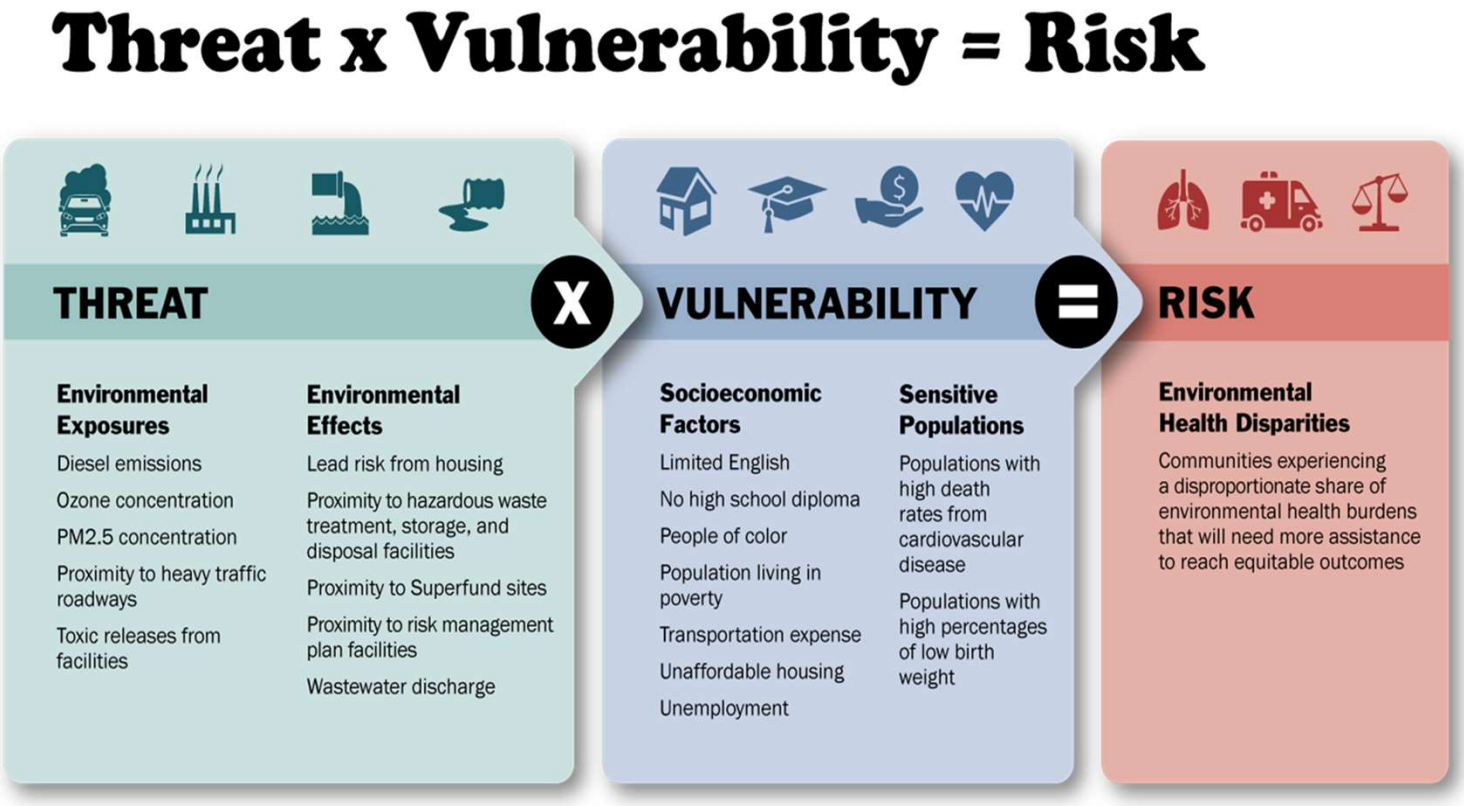


★ 2017 Listening Sessions
★ 2020 Community Conversations

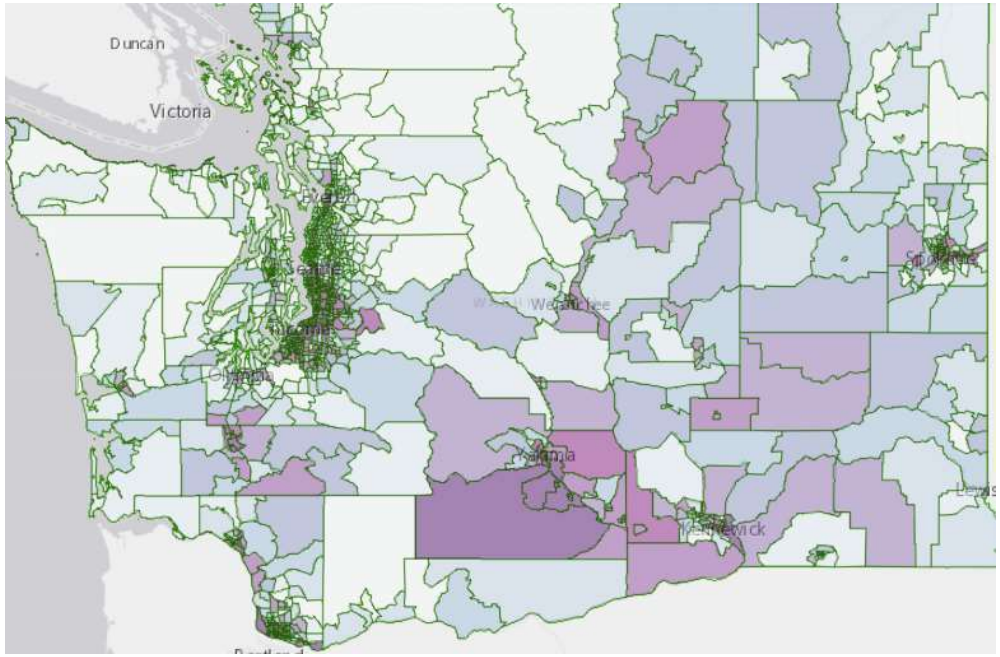
The Indicators

Environmental exposures	Environmental effects	Sensitive populations	Socioeconomic factors
Diesel emissions	Lead risk and exposure	Cardiovascular disease	Low educational attainment
Ozone	Proximity to hazardous waste generators and facilities	Low birth weight	Housing burden
Particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5)	Proximity to Superfund sites		Transportation expense
Toxic releases from facilities	Proximity to facilities with highly toxic substances		Linguistic isolation
Traffic density	Wastewater discharge		Poverty
			Race (people of color)
			Unemployment

Model for EHD Map



EHD Map Ranking



Least impacted									**Most** impacted
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
10% of communities	10% of communities	10% of communities	10% of communities	10% of communities	10% of communities	10% of communities	10% of communities	10% of communities	10% of communities
70% of communities are less impacted							are similarly impacted	20% of communities are more impacted	

HEAL Act: EHD Map

- Further develop the EHD map, engaging with communities, tribes, researchers, and the Environmental Justice Council
- Track changes in disparities over time
- Perform a comprehensive evaluation every three years
- Expand online video trainings and guidance on how to use the EHD map
- Provide support and consultation to state agencies on how to use the EHD map

EHD Map Next Steps

- EHD map version 3.0 planning
  - Tribal Engagement and Consultation
  - Community Engagement
  - Consult with EJ Council
  - EHD Map Technical Workgroup
  - Indicators under development

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