

Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool Beta Version

PCFO Request for Information Snapshot

March 31, 2022

<u>Parent Agency:</u> Executive Office of the President	<u>Agency:</u> Council on Environmental Quality
<u>Application Deadline:</u> April 25, 2022	<u>Docket Number:</u> CEQ-2022-0002

Summary

The Council on Environmental Quality has issued a request for information (RFI) to solicit feedback on the beta version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool.

Eligible Recipients

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) created a [beta version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#), including interactive maps highlighting disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. Federal agencies will use the tool to implement the Justice40 Initiative goals to direct 40% of investments to disadvantaged communities. The tool employs and visualizes indicators to identify communities that exhibit conditions of underinvestment in energy, transit, housing and water infrastructure, disproportionate pollution burden, and job training and employment.

Under the [current methodology \(v0.1\)](#), a census tract will be considered disadvantaged if (1) it is above the threshold for one or more climate or environmental indicator; and (2) it is above the threshold for one or more socioeconomic indicator.

CEQ will use responses to this RFI and comments received through the [online survey](#) to consider potential updates to the beta version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool.

Who Should Respond

Stakeholders in the public, private, advocacy, not-for-profit, academic, and philanthropic sectors, as well as from state, Tribal, and local governments, and territorial areas are welcome to provide feedback.

Response Guidelines

Requirements:

- All submissions received must include the agency name, "Council on Environmental Quality," and the docket number, CEQ-2022-0002, for this RFI.
- Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be private, Confidential Business Information (CBI), or other information the disclosure of which is restricted by statute. All comments received will be posted without change, including any personal information provided.

- Each response should include:
 - The name of the individual(s) or entity responding.
 - A brief description of the responding individual(s) or entity's mission or areas of expertise.
 - A contact for questions or other follow-up on your response.
 - Ensure all links to academic literature, datasets, or other resources are publicly-available.
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Key Questions

Respondents to this RFI do not need to address every question, but CEQ seeks and welcomes input in the following areas:

- Methodology: Please refer to the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool website for more information regarding the methodology (available at <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/methodology>)
 - Given the function and role of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool in identifying disadvantaged communities to support the Justice40 Initiative, please provide comments and recommendations for improving the methodology used to identify disadvantaged communities.
 - Recognizing the role of the tool in identifying disadvantaged communities for Justice40 investment benefits across agencies and programs, how can the tool's methodology incorporate a cumulative impacts approach that quantitatively measures the combined adverse factors that contribute to the conditions that Justice40 is intending to address?
- Datasets: Data in this beta version of the tool provides measures for socioeconomic status and in the areas of climate, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transit, affordable and sustainable housing, training and workforce development, clean water infrastructure, and the remediation of legacy pollution.
 - What recommendations for additional datasets would enhance and improve upon the set of indicators currently used in the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool? In your comments, please include why and how the data recommendations would improve upon the current set of data and/or indicators used in the tool.
 - In your response, please include the following:
 - Full information regarding data sources (including url, government agency, and/or organization);
 - Intended measure—what does the dataset and/or indicator measure (for example, pollution exposure or emissions, health conditions, energy accessibility, transportation access, etc.)?;
 - Scope—does the recommended data and/or indicator include data from all 50 states and territories? If not, please provide comments as to how to address the issue;
 - A summary of the quality (i.e., completeness, accuracy, consistency, and reliability) of the data for use in the tool; and
 - Geographic resolution of the data (i.e., census block, census tract, zip code, county, etc.).

- Map Usability and Accessibility. The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool map (available at <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov>) provides an online geospatial platform that provides the user with the capability to identify the communities identified as disadvantaged by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool methodology. We are soliciting information regarding usability and accessibility of the geospatial platform. Please provide recommendations on the following:
 - What modifications can improve the usability, accessibility, or design of the mapping functions that display the data and results of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool?
 - Are there specific features or functions that will enhance the usability of the interactive map by community members and organizations, government staff, and other stakeholders?
 - Additional Feedback: What additional feedback would you like to provide on the beta version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool?
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How to Submit

Interested parties can use any of the following options to provide feedback:

1. Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov>.
 2. Fax: 202-456-6546.
 3. Mail: Council on Environmental Quality, 730 Jackson Place NW, Washington, DC 20503.
 4. Online survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cejst-survey>
 - a. Note: The online survey is not considered a response to the RFI, but the feedback will be utilized to consider potential updates to the tool.
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Resources

- [Federal Register Request for Information](#)
- [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool Beta Version](#)
- [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool - Methodology and Data](#)
- [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool: Frequently Asked Questions](#)