

EcoLogix Group

Equity in Freight Planning

Baltimore Regional Transportation Board

Freight Movement Task Force

June 23, 2022



Equity and Project Planning

EO 14008 – Justice 40

- Federal funding covered by Justice 40 has a goal of delivering 40% of the overall benefits of relevant federal investments to disadvantaged and underserved communities.
- Performance towards that goal will be tracked.
- An Environmental Justice (EJ) Scorecard will be used for funding decisions and funding applications.
- Individual agencies, such as the Corps of Engineers and USDOT, have their own guidance for implementation.

Maryland House Bill 1200

- Requires applicants for permits with a public participation requirement to conduct an EJ screen of the address of the permit location.
- Takes effect October 1st, 2022
- Requires the applicant to provide that EJ screen to MDE
- MDE then required to run their own screen to double-check the screen provided by the applicant.

Example USACE Goals in Fiscal Year 2023 Civil Works Budget

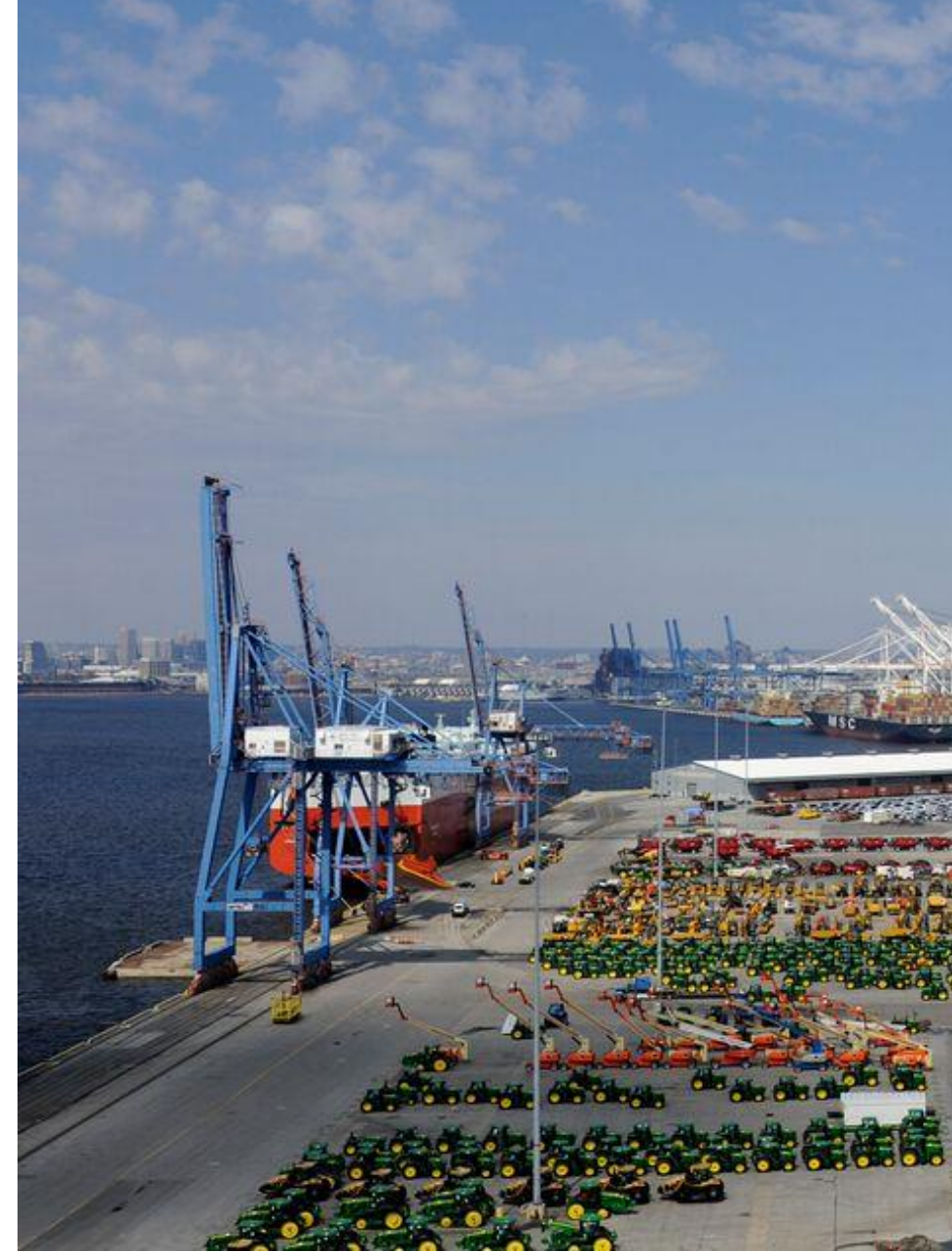
- Support the Administration's Justice40 Initiative through investments in projects that benefit disadvantaged communities by increasing their resilience to climate change.

The Corps FY 2023 Budget is committed to securing environmental justice and spurring economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities that have been historically marginalized and overburdened and funds will be used to — 1) improve outreach and access to Civil Works information and resources; 2) improve access to Civil Works technical assistance programs (e.g., Planning Assistance to States and Floodplain Management Services) and maximize the reach of Civil Works projects to benefit the disadvantaged communities, in particular as it relates to climate resiliency; and, 3) ensure any updates to Civil Works policies and guidance will not result in a disproportionate negative impact on disadvantaged communities.¹

¹ <https://www.usace.army.mil/Media/News/NewsSearch/Article/2980200/statement-by-assistant-secretary-of-the-army-for-civil-works-on-the-presidents/>

How Does this Affect Transportation Organizations?

- Includes transportation grants – specifically the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- Other federal investments and spending will be looked at through an EJ lens.
<https://www.transportation.gov/equity-Justice40>
- Reactivation of EO 12898 on Environmental Justice for permit actions.



The Intersection of Transportation and Equity

EJ Screening Tools

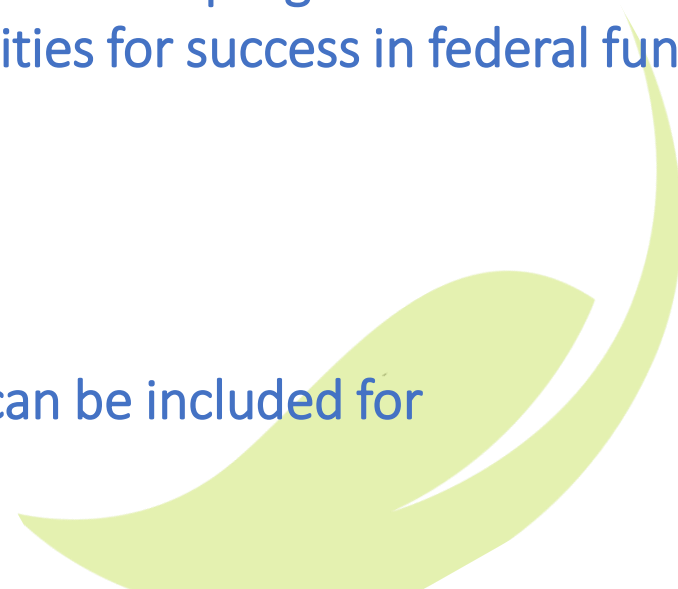
- EJ screening tools are used to identify marginalized and underserved communities and those overburdened by pollution.
- Screening tools include transportation-related factors like: particulate matter 2.5, ozone, diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, air toxics respiratory hazard index, clean energy and energy efficiency parameters, clean transit factors, NOx, and asthma rates, among others.
- Screening tools include:
 - U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) EJScreen v2.0
 - White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST – beta version)
 - Environmental Defense Fund
 - Electric Vehicle Charging Justice40 Map Maryland EJ Screen Mapper
 - MDE EJ Screening Tool (released June 7, 2022)

Transportation and Air Quality – Maryland

- MDE, MDOT MPA and MDOT meet monthly as part of a Voluntary Air Agreement to work cooperatively to identify and implement projects to improve air quality and to recognize the interests of citizens and communities. EcoLogix facilitates these meetings.
- MDE's Air and Radiation Administration's focus when meeting with underserved communities generally centers on three main air quality issues: excessive vehicle idling; diesel truck/equipment emissions; and fugitive dust. Idling and diesel emissions are both directly related to freight movement.
- Enforcement actions are planned this summer to reduce idling to comply with State law.

How Can You Be Prepared?

1. Validate your commitment to disadvantaged and underserved communities through actionable partnerships.
 - a) Identify disadvantaged and underserved communities in your area of responsibility
 - b) Identify Screening tool(s), become familiar with their characteristics and limitations
 - c) Apply an equity gap analysis to your existing community outreach programs
 - d) Ensure you can leverage your relationships with communities for success in federal funding and permitting decisions.
2. Understand the emerging guidance in real time.
3. Evaluate all underway and planned projects to identify what can be included for disadvantaged and underserved communities.
4. Document current activities in terms that resonate with current policymakers and decision makers.



Community Agreements

- Recognize the burden people with marginalized identities endure
- Embrace discomfort
- Practice Empathy
- Accept imperfection from yourself, others, and the process
- Know your intent / Own your impact / Assume good intentions
- Practice “both/and” thinking
- Embrace non-closure and commit to the work to get to closure
- Stay engaged
- W.A.I.T. – Why *am* I talking? Why *aren't* I talking?
- Be easy on people
- Be hard on yourself to make time for priorities

Types of EcoLogix Equity Services

- Sharing a network of connected organizations
- Making connections to HBCU's and black woman organizations
- Assisting clients in understanding Justice 40 - Environmental Justice
- Developing communication and community engagement programs
- Performing gap analyses – where can equity efforts be more robust?
- Assisting with outreach and interviewing black and brown community leaders for strategic planning
- Assessing and preparing grant applications
- Attending White House EJAC and NEJAC meetings and sharing information with clients
- Assisting with selecting and running EJ mapping tools, with our minority and woman-owned business team members

Example Resources Available to Help

The EPA Ports Initiative - this program:

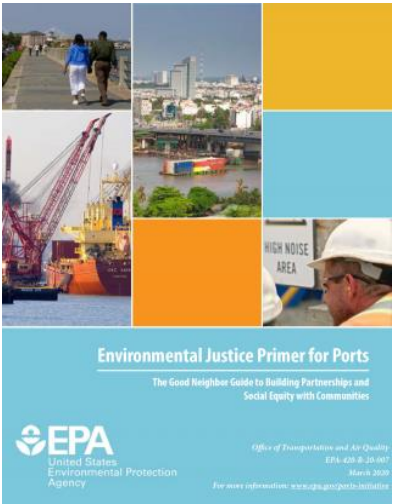
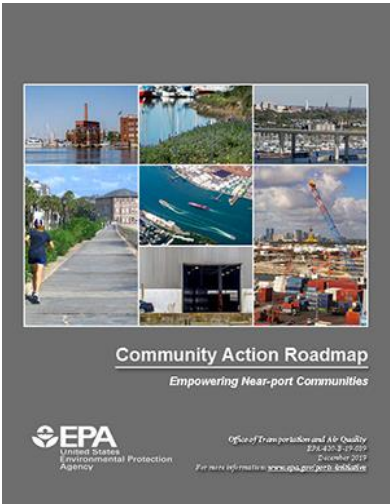
- Helps ports capitalize on funding for clean energy technology;
- Provides tools to identify smart infrastructure investments;
- Promotes port community collaboration for effective planning;
- Increases efficiency in federal government and port operations; and
- Creates a knowledge clearinghouse.



Example EJ Community Collaboration Resources

Resources for community collaboration available through the Ports Initiative include:

- Ports Primer for Communities
- Community Action Roadmap
- EJ Primer for Ports, including the Good Neighbor Roadmap



Equitable Collaboration Conversations

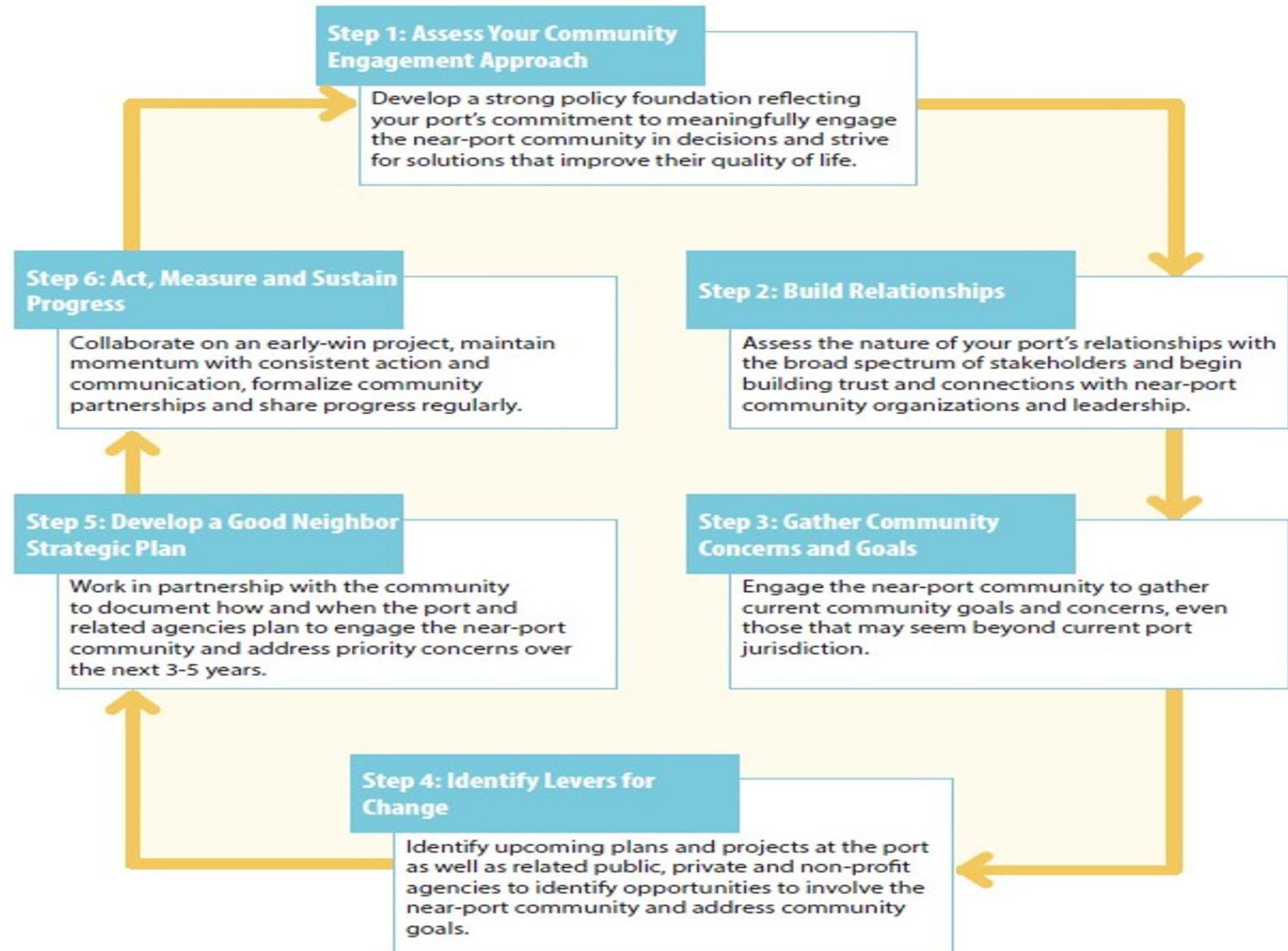


- Adaptive
- Inclusive
- Responsive
- Deliberative
- Truth-Seeking
- Trauma-Informed

Single Meetings, Community Dialogue, or Long-term Collaborative Change Process

Building Environmental Justice and Social Equity: The Good Neighbor Roadmap

Steps in the Good Neighbor Roadmap Process





Summary

- EcoLogix has been connecting Black and Brown communities with decision-makers and others for over two decades;
- Ensuring that their voices are heard while advancing equity and social justice;
- This is an essential component of our business model, and it is a matter of our core personal convictions.
- Equity is an important focus at the local, state and federal level and brings new opportunities. Helping clients understand and use screening tools to promote equity is imperative.

Contact Us!

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