



Washington's Environmental Justice Law

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What is the HEAL Act?

- The Healthy Environment for All Act, or the HEAL Act, passed in 2021.
- It instructs agencies to consider, plan for, and address <u>environmental justice</u> issues of <u>environmental and health</u> <u>disparities</u> in a wide scope of agency activities – collaboratively!

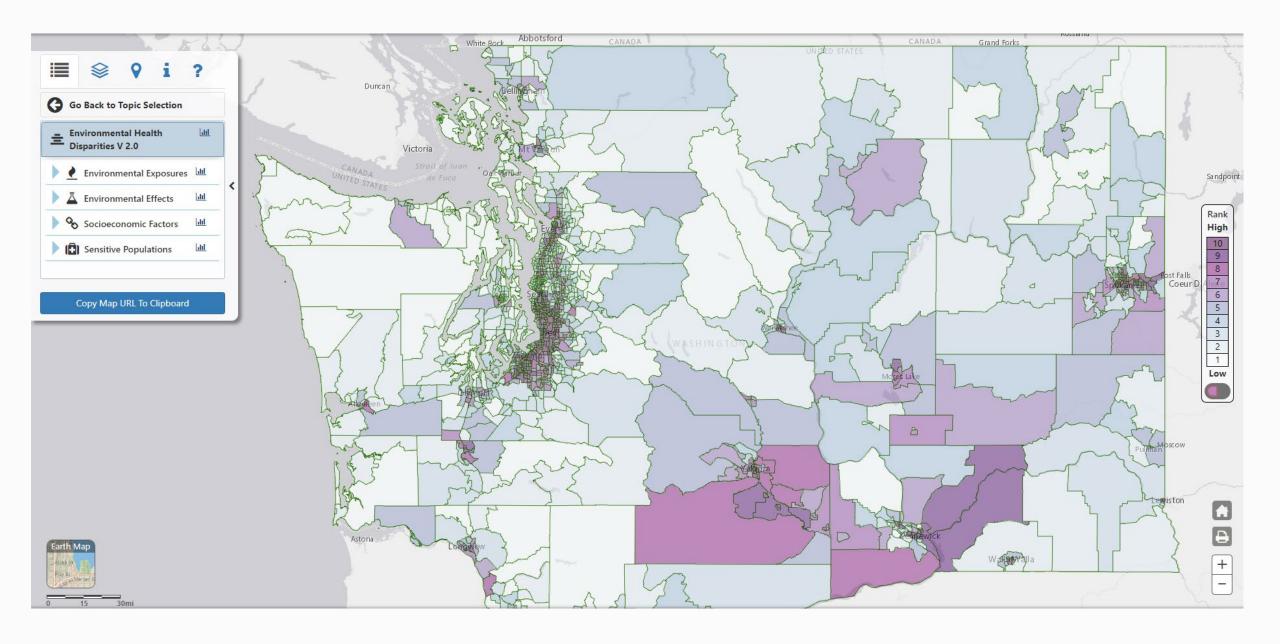


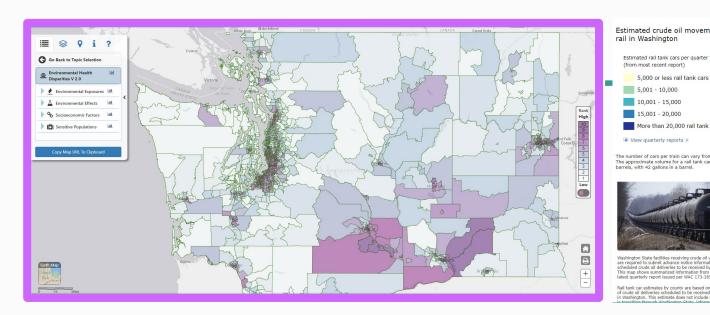
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Historically and today, people who are disproportionately exposed to <u>environmental harms</u> and are disproportionately denied access to <u>environmental benefits</u> largely include Tribes, indigenous communities, communities of color, and low-income populations.

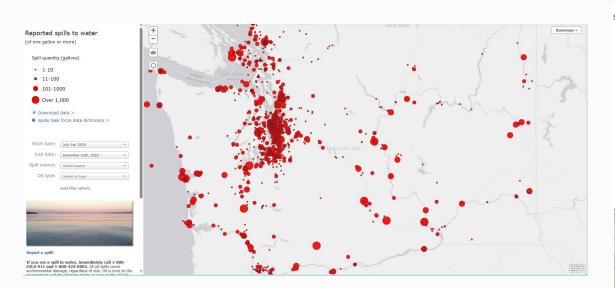
- Environmental harms include things like exposure to hazards, contamination of traditional foods, loss or damage to culturally important sites and species.
- Environmental benefits may include things like clean water, access to nutritious foods.

This exposure contributes to higher risks for adverse health outcomes for <u>overburdened communities and vulnerable</u> <u>populations</u>.

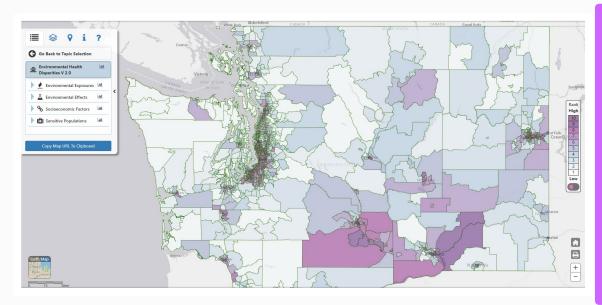




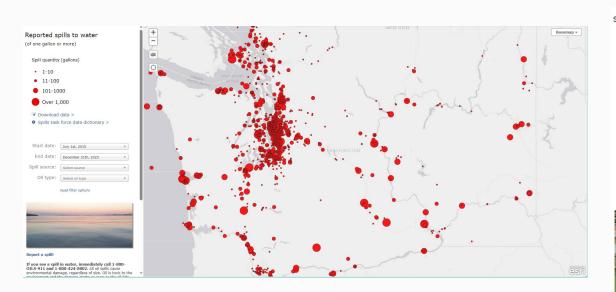




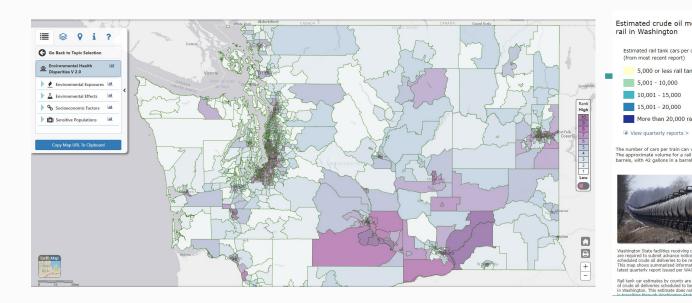




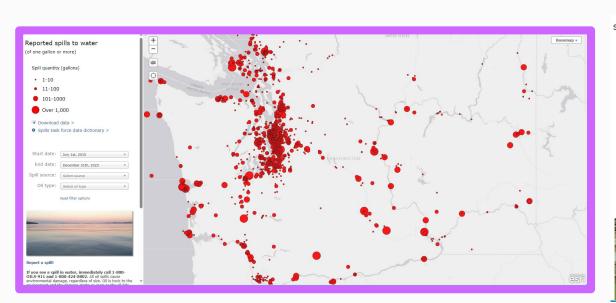




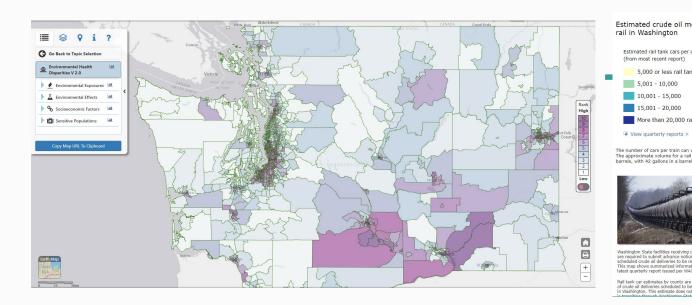




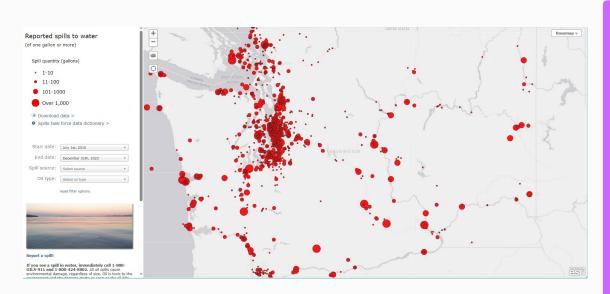


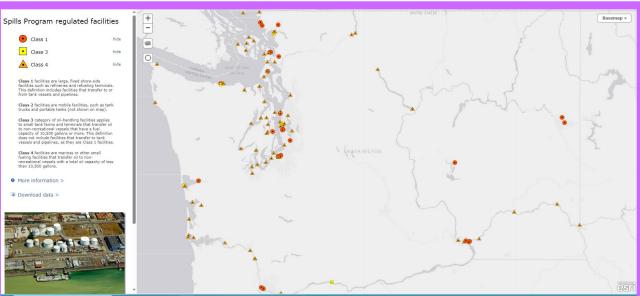


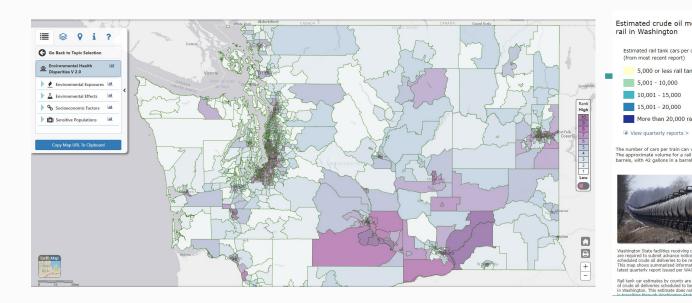




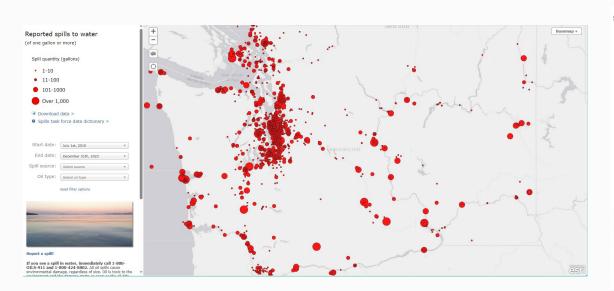
















Adopt Tribal consultation framework and community engagement plan



Incorporate EJ into agency strategic plans



Budget Equity



Conduct
Environmental
Justice
Assessments of
significant agency
actions





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More outreach and invitations from:

Agencies Required to Implement HEAL

Ecology

Transportation

Commerce

Puget Sound Partnership

Health

Natural Resources

Agriculture

Broader Collaboration

Environmental Justice Council

Community Groups

Tribal Consultation

Agencies Opting In

Attorney General's Office

Joined in a "Listen & Learn" Capacity

Recreation and Conservation Office

Fish and Wildlife

State Board of Health

The Pollution Liability Insurance Agency

County Road Administration



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The following actions require an environmental justice assessment:

- 1. Rulemaking
- 2. New grant or loan programs
- 3. A new capital project, grant, or loan award for at least \$12,000,000
- 4. All (agency request) legislation

*Additional significant agency actions will be identified for 2025



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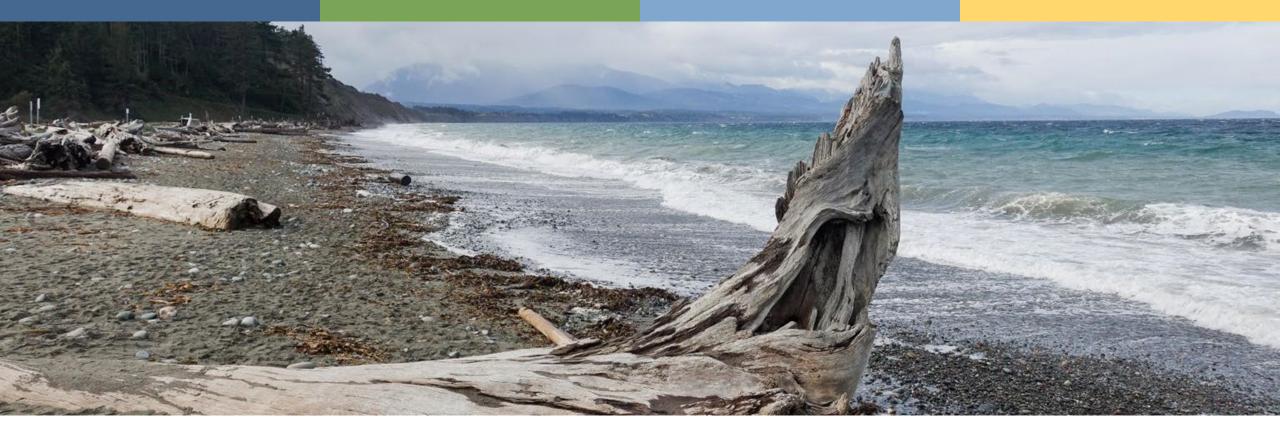




In sum

The HEAL Act empowers us as a state agency to:

- Build <u>new, supportive tools</u>
 - Community Engagement Plan
 - Identifying overburdened communities (process, list)
 - Community partners
 - Tribal Consultation Framework
 - Environmental Justice Assessments to inform agency work
- Set large-scale EJ and equity goals
 - Including budget equity goals (40%)
- Conduct an internal audit to <u>measure our progress</u>





Thank you and don't be a stranger! (Q & A to follow)

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