

Golden Era of Environmental Justice



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Toxic Wastes



Chicago Neighborhood Residents Say "No" to Being City's Dumping Ground



Martin Levine

February 22, 2021



City Public Health Official Defends Decision To Block Metal Shredder's Proposed Move To Southeast Side

The city rejected a permit for the rebranded General Iron metal scrapper to move from Lincoln Park to East Side. The shredder's parent company is appealing the decision.



Noah Asimow

9:54 AM CST on Jan 19, 2023





Ready for Reuse

Kane County Recreational Property

Illinois Route 25 near the Village of South Elgin, Kane County, Illinois 60120



Site Name: Tri-County Landfill Co./Waste Management of Illinois
Inc. Superfund Site

Size: Approximately 66 acres



Clean Water and Sanitation

Flint doctor makes state see light about lead in water

Robin Erb Detroit Free Press

Published 11:07 p.m. ET Oct. 10, 2015 | Updated 9:58 a.m. ET Oct. 12, 2015

[View Comments](#)



Under the steady gaze of a watercolor giraffe and tissue paper butterflies, a Flint pediatrician and mother of two last month forced the state of Michigan to snap to attention.



Mona Hanna-Attisha, MD, MPH program director for the pediatric residency at the Hurley Children's Hospital at Hurley Medical Center in Flint. *Ryan Garza, Detroit Free Press*

WATER IS
A HUMAN
RIGHT
NOT A PRIVILEGE

Data Points: the environmental injustice of lead lines in Illinois

People of color in Illinois are up to twice as likely as White Illinoisans to live in the communities where almost all of Illinois' lead service lines are located

 Metropolitan **Planning** Council



Lead Service Line Replacement

Elgin's Efforts to Remove Lead from our Service Lines

**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION ABOUT
ELGIN DRINKING
WATER**





Dr. Rodney Alford – internist, pediatrician in Watseka

2005 Illinois Governor's Environmental Hero Award

"It was a major health problem, where people were trudging through **raw sewage** to get to their homes," Dr. Alford said.

Hopkins Park mayor: "He went out on a limb and put in writing the problems that, as a healthcare professional, he saw as a **major health hazard.**"

After Dr. Alford sent a letter and photos and met with state officials in Springfield, Hopkins Park obtained \$400,000 from the state to evaluate and repair its sewage system.



“WE HAVE TO LIVE IN THIS
STUFF. WE ARE LIVING IN
THE RAW SEWAGE; WE
NEED HELP.”

– WALTER BYRD
RESIDENT OF CENTREVILLE

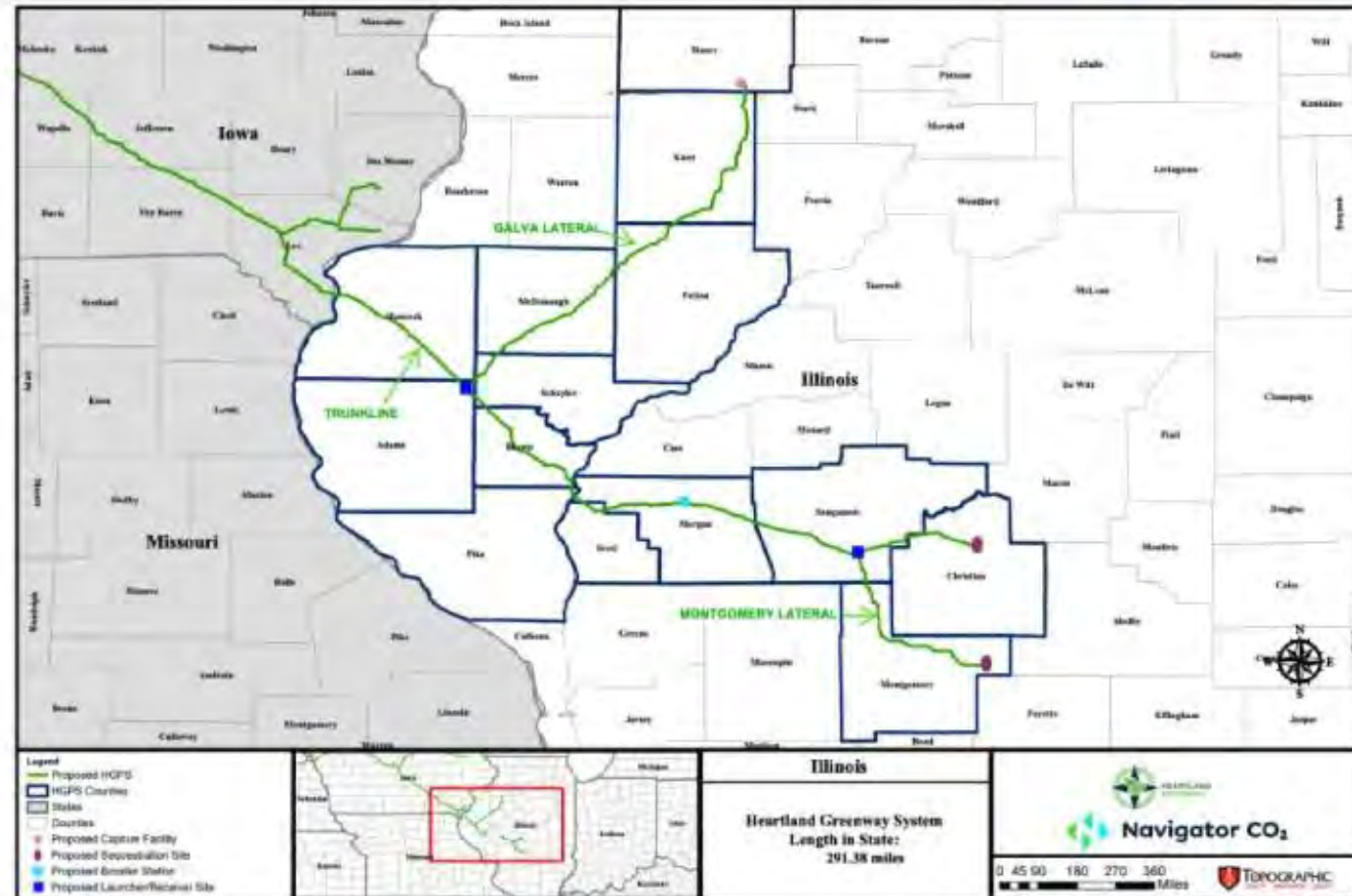
Risks of Destruction



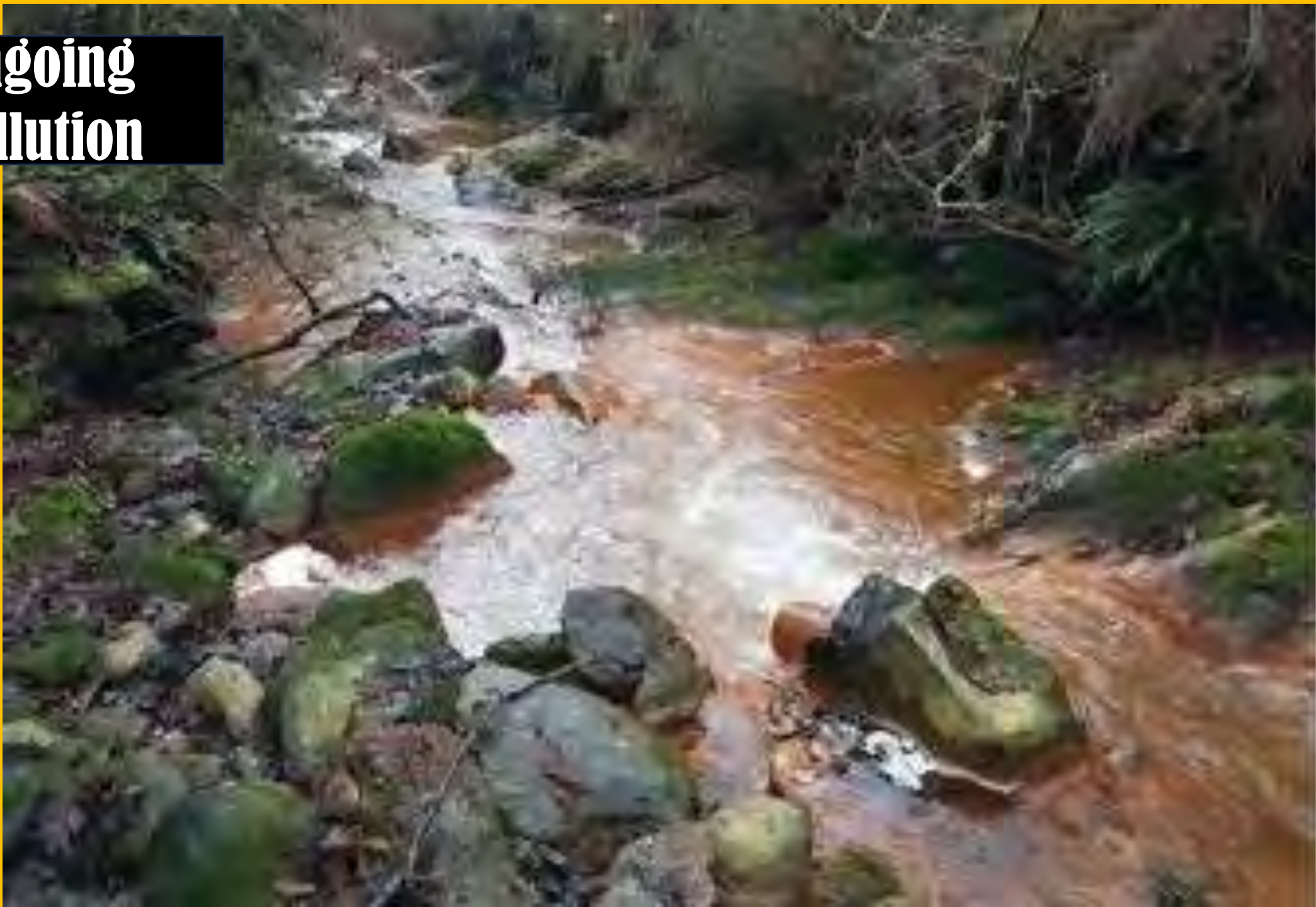
CO2 pipeline company pulls permit request in Illinois

NPR Illinois | 91.9 UIS | By Sean Crawford

Published October 10, 2023 at 4:13 PM CDT





Ongoing Pollution





Co-chair of Clean Power Lake County and life-long Waukegan resident Dulce Ortiz stands on North Beach with the Waukegan Generating Station coal-fired plant in the distance behind her Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021, in Waukegan, Illinois. (Erin Hooley/Chicago Tribune) (Erin Hooley / Chicago Tribune)

A large white semi-truck is driving on a residential street. The street is lined with multi-story brick houses. The truck is in the foreground, moving from left to right. The houses are in the background, showing a mix of red and brown brick. There are trees and a utility pole visible between the truck and the houses.

Chicago, Climate Change & Weather  • Environment & Public Health

**Chicagoans who live near heavy-traffic corridors
are breathing the most polluted air**

Climate Disasters





Why Does Disaster Aid Often Favor White People?





Health Or A Paycheck: New Report Shows How Extreme Heat May Hurt Farmworkers

By Dana Cronin  Aug 17, 2021



Jobs in Green Economy





Coal miners in southern Illinois

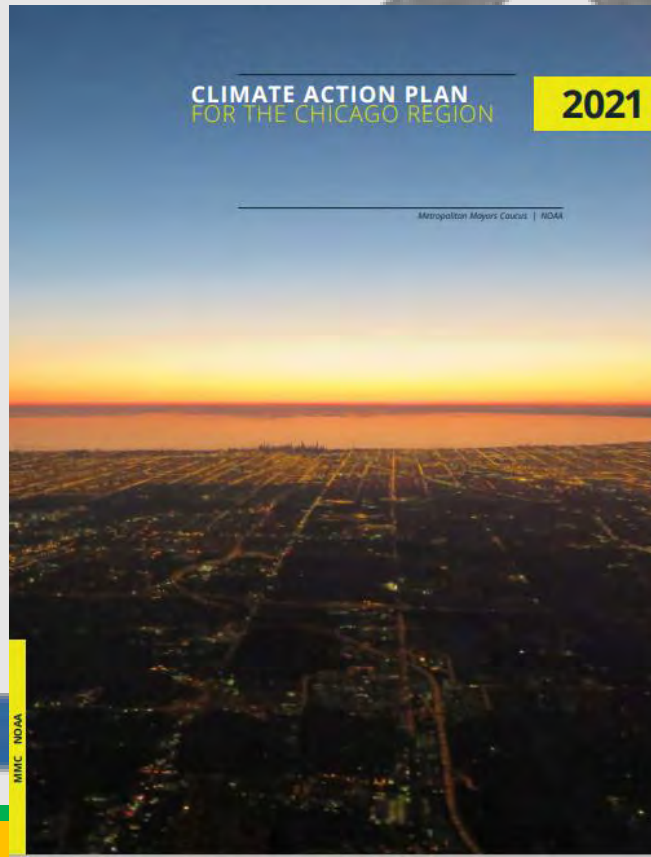
Photo: Brian Cassella/*Chicago Tribune*



Park Forest Climate Action and Resilience Plan



Approved by Park Forest Village Board
February 18, 2019



WE WILL CHICAGO

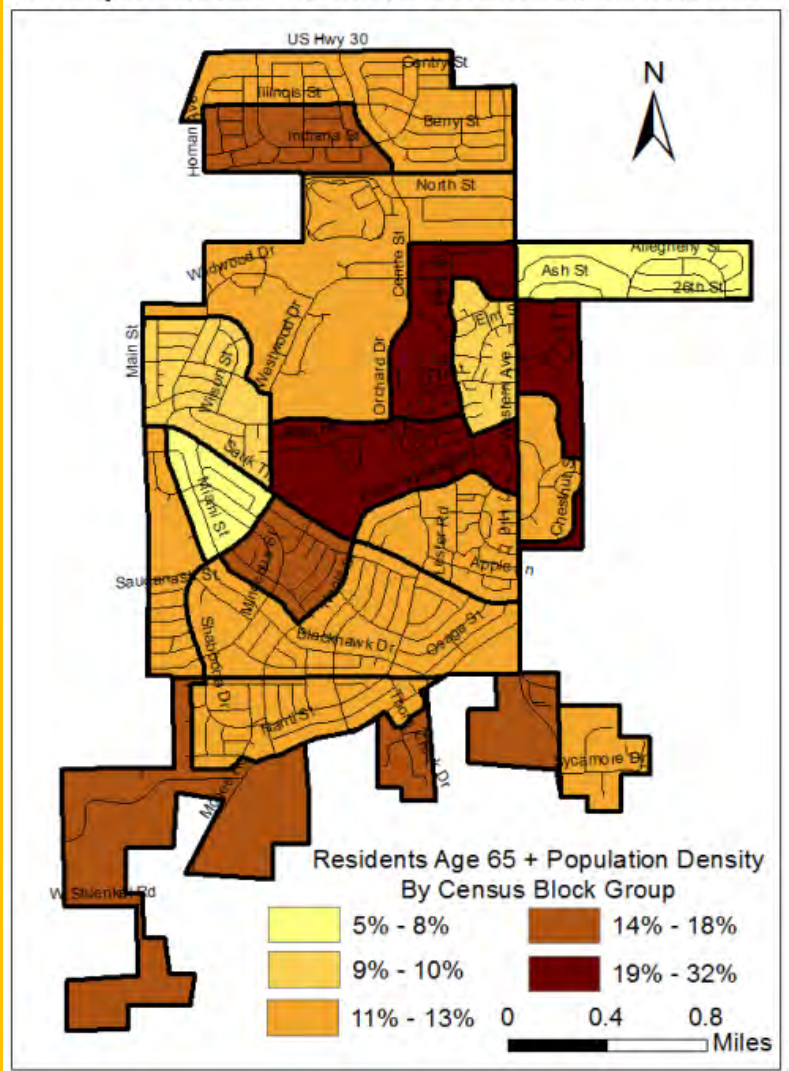
A framework plan
for the city's future

PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 2023

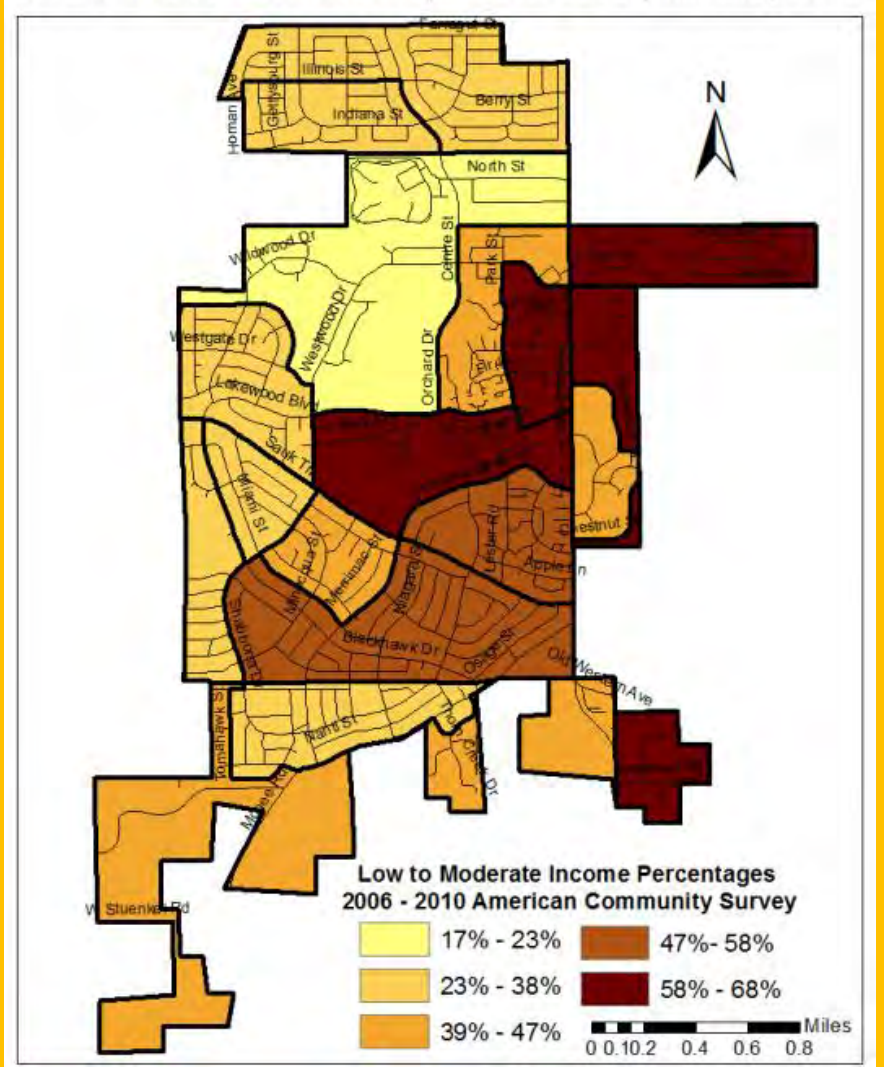
wewillchicago.com



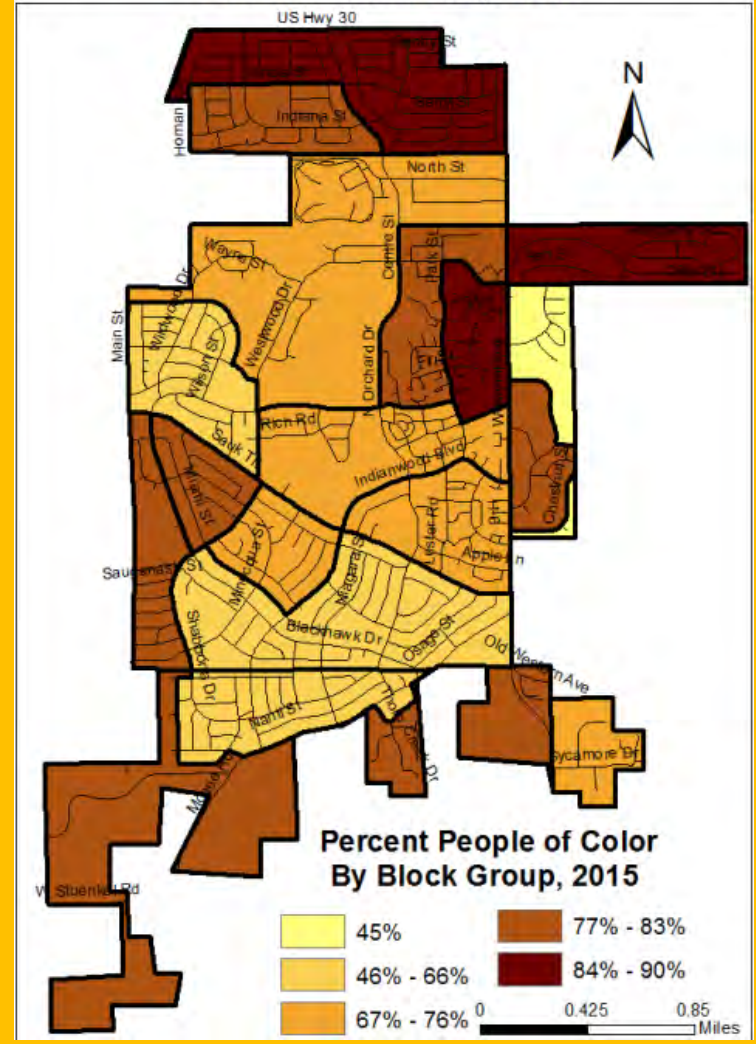
Density of Residents 65+, Park Forest, Illinois, 2015



Low to Moderate Income, Park Forest, Illinois, 2010



People of Color, By Percent of Block Group Park Forest, Illinois, 2015



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN
FOR THE CHICAGO REGION

2021

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus | MMC

Impacts from climate change are profoundly inequitable.

Historical policies and systemic racism have created conditions that leave low-income individuals and people of color more vulnerable to climate-related hazards.

Underlying conditions such as poor stormwater infrastructure, inadequate housing stock, lack of tree cover, exposure to air pollution, and barriers to transit and active transportation are chronic stressors that amplify impacts from climate hazards like flooding and extreme heat.

■ ★ WE WILL CHICAGO

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE & ENERGY

Creating healthy and resilient
neighborhoods for Chicagoans
to thrive

GOAL 2

Use environmental justice principles to establish criteria and policies for geographies harmed by environmental degradation.





Illinois Environmental
Protection Agency



Illinois Solar for All



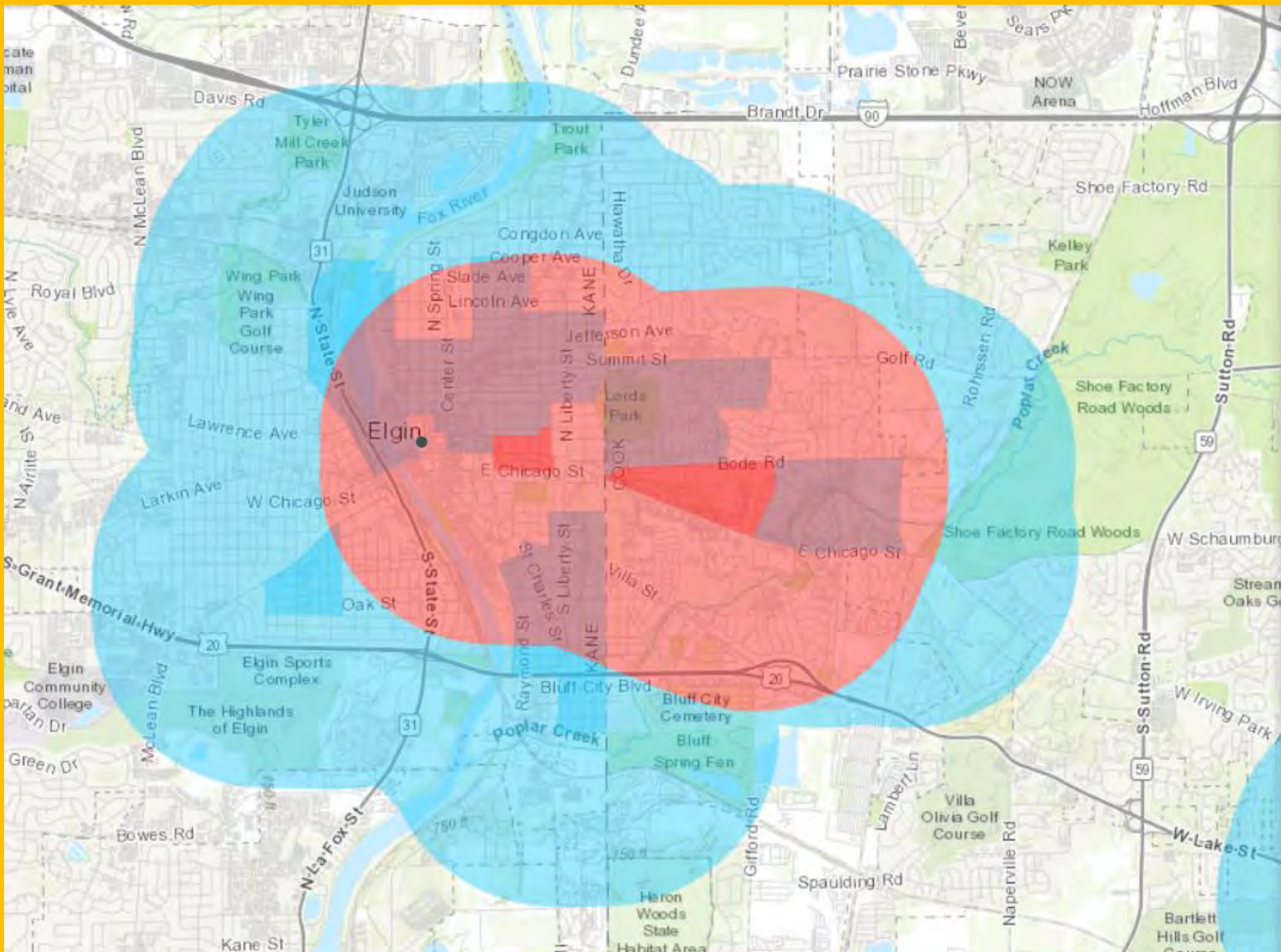
ILLINOIS COMMISSION *on* Environmental Justice

FUNCTION

The principle of environmental justice requires that no segment of the population, regardless of race, national origin, age, or income, should bear disproportionately high or adverse effects of environmental pollution.

The Commission was formed through the [Environmental Justice Act](#). 1997

“An area of EJ concern: a census block group with a low-income and/or minority population greater than twice the statewide average.” Potential inclusion based on self-identification.



Legend

EJ Tracker 2022 (added 8-1-23)

- EJ Status 2022 Buffered
- Minority Population ≥ 76.1
 - Low Income ≥ 57.6
 - Minority Pop & Low Income
- EJ Status 2022
- Minority Population ≥ 76.1
 - Low Income ≥ 57.6
 - Minority Pop & Low Income

EJ Notification Process

What happens when the Illinois EPA receives a permit application



1. Permit Reviewer receives permit application

The permit reviewer checks the EJSTART mapping tool to determine if the site is an area of EJ concern. If so, the EJ staff gets a review request.



2. EJ staff reviews the request

EJ staff determines whether enhanced outreach is warranted based on whether a permit application might generate significant public interest.



3. Composing an EJ Notification Letter

If enhanced outreach is necessary, EJ staff prepares a notification for the public with info on the application, process, and how to contact the EJ Officer.



4. Sending out the EJ Notification Letter

Distribute the info to relevant elected officials, groups and individuals in the area or statewide.



5. Respond to any follow up

Office of Environmental Justice acts as a liaison between the EPA in reviewing the application and EJ Communities.



**Affordable solar energy.
More savings.
A brighter tomorrow.**

All people should be protected from pollution and **all populations have a right to a clean and healthy environment.**

Illinois Solar for All projects focus in areas that stand to benefit the most from **access to solar energy**, including environmental justice communities....

RENEWABLE RESOURCES



Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan

Draft Revised Plan for Public Comment

August 15, 2019

Illinois Solar for All Program shall “include incentives for low-income distributed generation and community solar projects”.

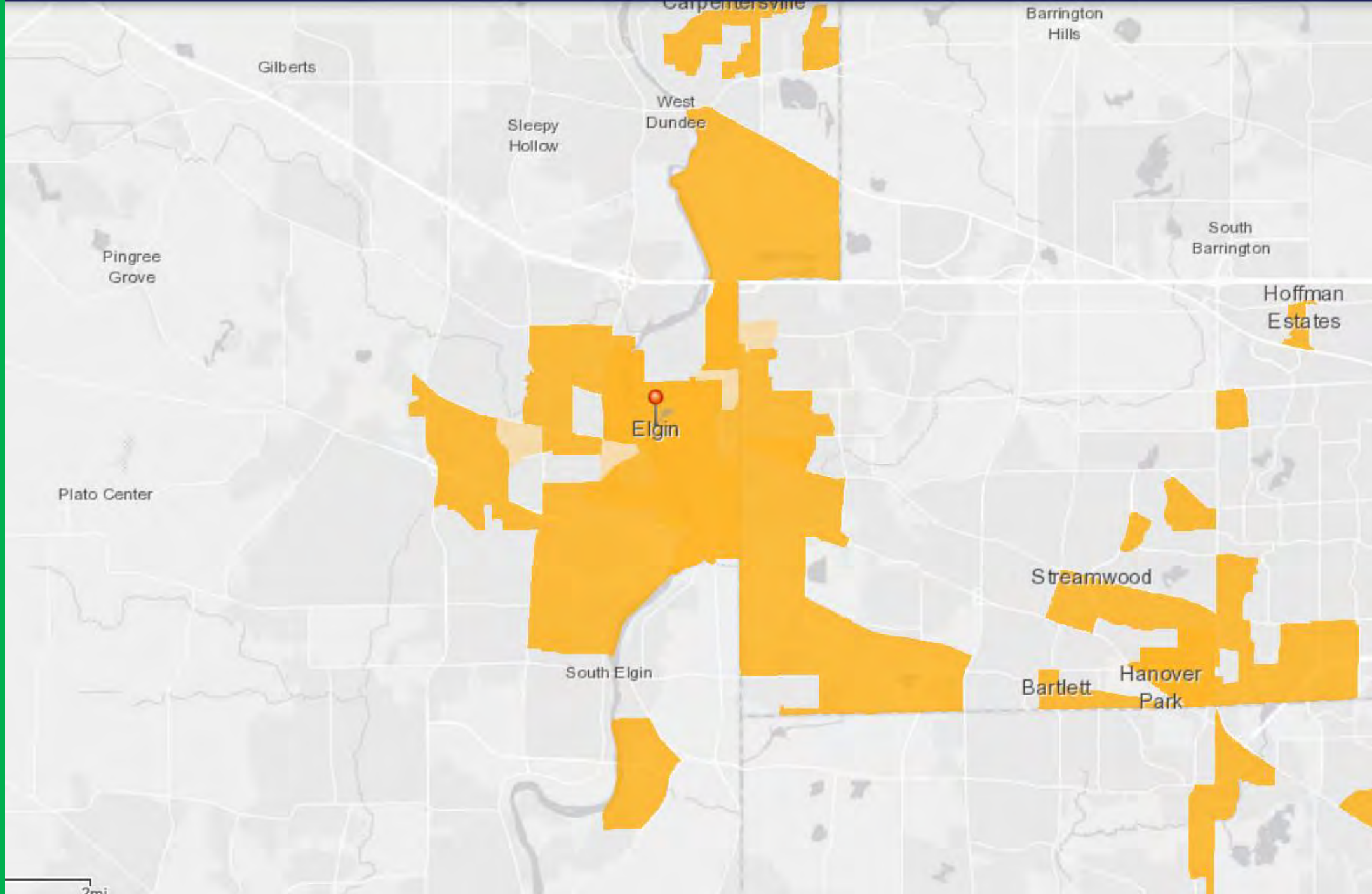
“Low-income households’ means persons and families whose income does not exceed **80% of area median income**, adjusted for family size and revised every 5 years.”

Three sub-programs target 25% of incentives to community solar projects in “environmental justice communities” as defined by the IPA.

Illinois Power Agency defines “EJ Community”

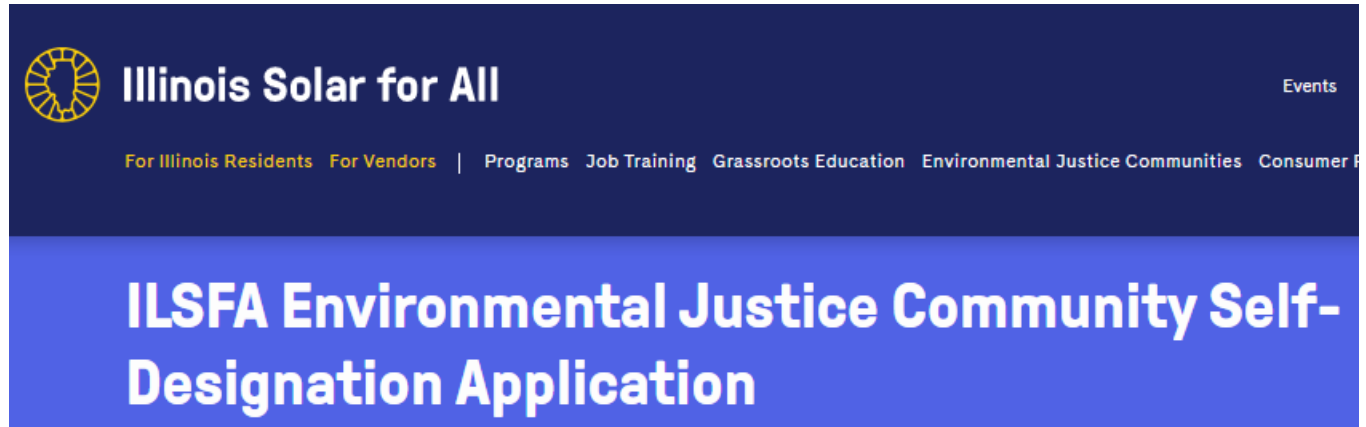
- **Screening for about 10,000 census block groups**
 - 11 environmental indicators
 - 6 demographic indicators
 - Weighted by percentile rank
 - **Top 25% designated as EJ Communities**





Illinois Power Agency defines “EJ Community”

- Screening - top 25% designated as EJ Communities



- **Self-Designation process**

- Requests from community-based organizations, local governments, or community residents
- Quantitative and qualitative environmental and/or socioeconomic factors showing disproportionate burden not adequately captured in screening
- Can adjust census block groups
- Committee reviews – Elevate Energy program administrator

Review of Self-Designation Applications

- Up to 70 points for indicators
 - 20 exposure
 - 10 environmental effects
 - 15 sensitive population
 - 15 social economic factors
 - 10 directly adjacent to EJ block group
- Must achieve **45 points for approval**
- Freedom of Information Act request in February 2023
 - 21 applicants
 - 6 approved
 - Some applicants resubmitted

Approved	Rejected
Downtown/West Bloomington (6/21)	Alton (12/21)
Englewood Greater Grand Crossing (6/20)	Alton Beltline North (11/22)
South Kankakee (7/20)	Carbondale (9/19)
South Peoria (7/19)	Centralia (3/21)
Waukegan (2/21)	East Garfield Park (6/21)
Wayman Bloomington (6/20)	Evanston Mt. Zion (9/20)
	Galesburg (11/19)
	Havana (5/21)
	Lagrange (8/19)
	Mt. Vernon Outland Area (3/20)
	New Berlin (8/19)
	Pekin (8/19)
	Pillsbury Mills (3/20)
	South Effingham Industrial Corridor (7/21)
	University Park (11/20)
6 total	15 total

New Jersey Environmental Justice Law (2020)

- No community should bear a disproportionate share of the adverse environmental and public health consequences of facilities.
- Overburdened communities must have a meaningful opportunity to participate.
- Limit future facilities in overburdened communities.



Environmental Justice Rulemaking Briefing



California: At least 35% of cap-and-trade auction proceeds for priority populations



Cumulative Project Outcomes



\$5.4 billion+ benefiting priority populations



851 transit agency projects funded, adding or expanding transit service



567,136 individual projects implemented



420,370+ rebates issued for zero-emission and plug-in hybrid vehicles



9,435 affordable housing units under contract



763,587 acres of land preservation or restoration



191,370 urban trees



78,252 tons of criteria air pollutant reductions



JUSTICE40

A WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE



▶ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



FY 2022-2026

EPA Strategic Plan

Goal 2:
Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights



Environmental & Climate Justice (ECJ) Grant Program Development



JUSTICE 40

APRIL 21, 2023

Executive Order on Revitalizing Our
Nation's Commitment to
Environmental Justice for All

GOALS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SCORECARD

Every agency should track the impacts that all government investments have on disadvantaged communities, especially where disadvantage is produced by racial discrimination and economic barriers.

Impacts include outcomes in health, economic opportunity, food security, environmental quality, climate change, maintenance of culture, access to quality housing, energy, transportation, safe affordable drinking water and sanitation, health care, and other physical and social infrastructure.

- Expand access to **clean drinking water** and eliminate lead service pipes
- **Clean up** Superfund and brownfield sites, reclaim abandoned mines, and cap unused oil and gas wells
- Improve **public transit** including clean vehicles

Source: [White House](#)



President Biden's
Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal is a
once-in-a-generation

INVESTMENT IN OUR NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE



Here's what's in it. →



AUGUST 17, 2022

FACT SHEET: Inflation Reduction Act Advances Environmental Justice

- Tax credits for **renewable energy** in low-income communities or buildings
- **Home energy efficiency** rebates for disadvantaged communities
- Remediation of **hazardous waste sites**
- Incentives for **clean trucks**
- **Public housing** energy, water and climate retrofits
- **Clean water** for disadvantaged communities
- **Air quality monitoring** in overburdened communities



September 2022



EJ ACTION PLAN

Building Up Environmental Justice
in EPA's Land Protection and Cleanup Programs



2. Incorporate Environmental Justice Considerations



EPA's Goal: Take immediate and affirmative steps to incorporate environmental justice considerations into our work, including assessing impacts to pollution-burdened, underserved and tribal communities in regulatory development and to maximize benefits to communities.

EJScreen Report (Version 2.0)

City: Elgin, ILLINOIS, EPA Region 5

Approximate Population: 110,559

Input Area (sq. miles): 37.89

Elgin, IL (The study area contains 1 blockgroup(s) with zero population.)

Selected Variables	Value	State Avg.	%ile in State	EPA Region Avg.	%ile in EPA Region	USA Avg.	%ile in USA
Pollution and Sources							
Particulate Matter 2.5 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	10.1	9.96	52	8.96	86	8.74	85
Ozone (ppb)	45.7	45.3	67	43.5	85	42.6	80
2017 Diesel Particulate Matter* ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	0.349	0.407	48	0.279	70-80th	0.295	70-80th
2017 Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	30	29	87	24	95-100th	29	80-90th
2017 Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.33	0.38	53	0.3	80-90th	0.36	50-60th
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	560	760	66	610	71	710	71
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.32	0.4	45	0.37	52	0.28	65
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.15	0.095	90	0.13	81	0.13	79
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	1.2	1.2	67	0.83	77	0.75	80
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	3.3	2.7	71	1.8	83	2.2	80
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km ²)	7.8	8	66	4.8	81	3.9	85
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	0.26	36	73	9	88	12	88
Socioeconomic Indicators							
Demographic Index	45%	34%	70	28%	81	36%	68
People of Color	59%	39%	73	26%	85	40%	71
Low Income	30%	28%	60	29%	59	31%	54
Unemployment Rate	6%	6%	61	5%	67	5%	63
Linguistically Isolated	8%	4%	78	2%	89	5%	79
Less Than High School Education	21%	11%	84	10%	89	12%	81
Under Age 5	7%	6%	70	6%	70	6%	68
Over Age 64	13%	15%	43	16%	37	16%	42

U.S. EPA letter to IL EPA Dec. 2022

in light of sampled lead levels and other factors, including large population served, large number of lead service lines, **environmental justice concerns**, and long time Elgin anticipates to optimize controls, EPA recommends that IEPA work with Elgin to ensure Elgin implements additional short-term measures to protect public health

**Park Forest
Climate Action and
Resilience Plan**



**WE WILL
CHICAGO**

A framework plan
for the city's future
PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 2023

wewillchicago.com
CHICAGO



JUSTICE40

A WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



FY 2022-2026

EPA Strategic Plan

**Goal 2:
Take Decisive Action to
Advance Environmental
Justice and Civil Rights**



Illinois Environmental
Protection Agency



Illinois Solar for All



Environmental & Climate Justice (ECJ)
Grant Program Development

A group of people, including children and adults, are holding hands in a circle against a bright blue sky. The image is slightly blurred, suggesting movement or a candid moment. The hands are of various skin tones, and some people are wearing colorful clothing like a yellow shirt and a red and white striped shirt.

1. Broad scope of EJ – part of sustainability and vulnerability

2. EJ in all policies (mainstreaming)

3. EJ factors (scores) but not cutoffs

4. Participatory process for EJ priorities and actions

5. Funding, enforcement, and more