

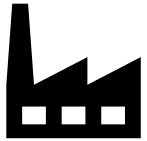
Introduction to Environmental Justice Principles and Orientation to Mapping Tools



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MA Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA) of 1989



Who reports?

Massachusetts manufacturers who:

- Operate under certain Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes
- Have >10 employees
- Manufacture or process $\geq 25,000$ lbs (or otherwise use $\geq 10,000$ lbs) of listed substances

Covers a little over 400 MA facilities



What TURA requires

- Report to the state
- Pay a fee
- Create a Toxics Use Reduction Plan every two years

TURA does not prohibit companies from using listed chemicals.

Office of Technical Assistance (OTA)

- **Non-regulatory** agency
- Provides **free, confidential** technical and compliance assistance to MA businesses that use toxic substances
- Gives **concrete recommendations** for toxics reduction and resource conservation

OTA has conducted 3,500 site visits at 1,500 facilities, reducing **millions of pounds** of toxic chemicals and **millions of dollars** in operating costs.

Environmental Justice: Introductory Terminology

Equality



The assumption is that **everyone benefits from the same supports**. This is equal treatment.

Equity



Everyone gets the supports they need (this is the concept of "affirmative action"), thus producing equity.

Justice



All 3 can see the game without supports or accommodations because **the cause(s) of the inequity was addressed**. The systemic barrier has been removed.

What do we mean by equality, equity, and justice?

What do we mean by Systemic?

SYSTEMIC:

Systemic describes something that happens inside a system or affects all parts of a system.

If a cancer is systemic, it's present throughout the body. If you're describing how the cancer progressed, however, you could say it spread systematically from organ to organ.

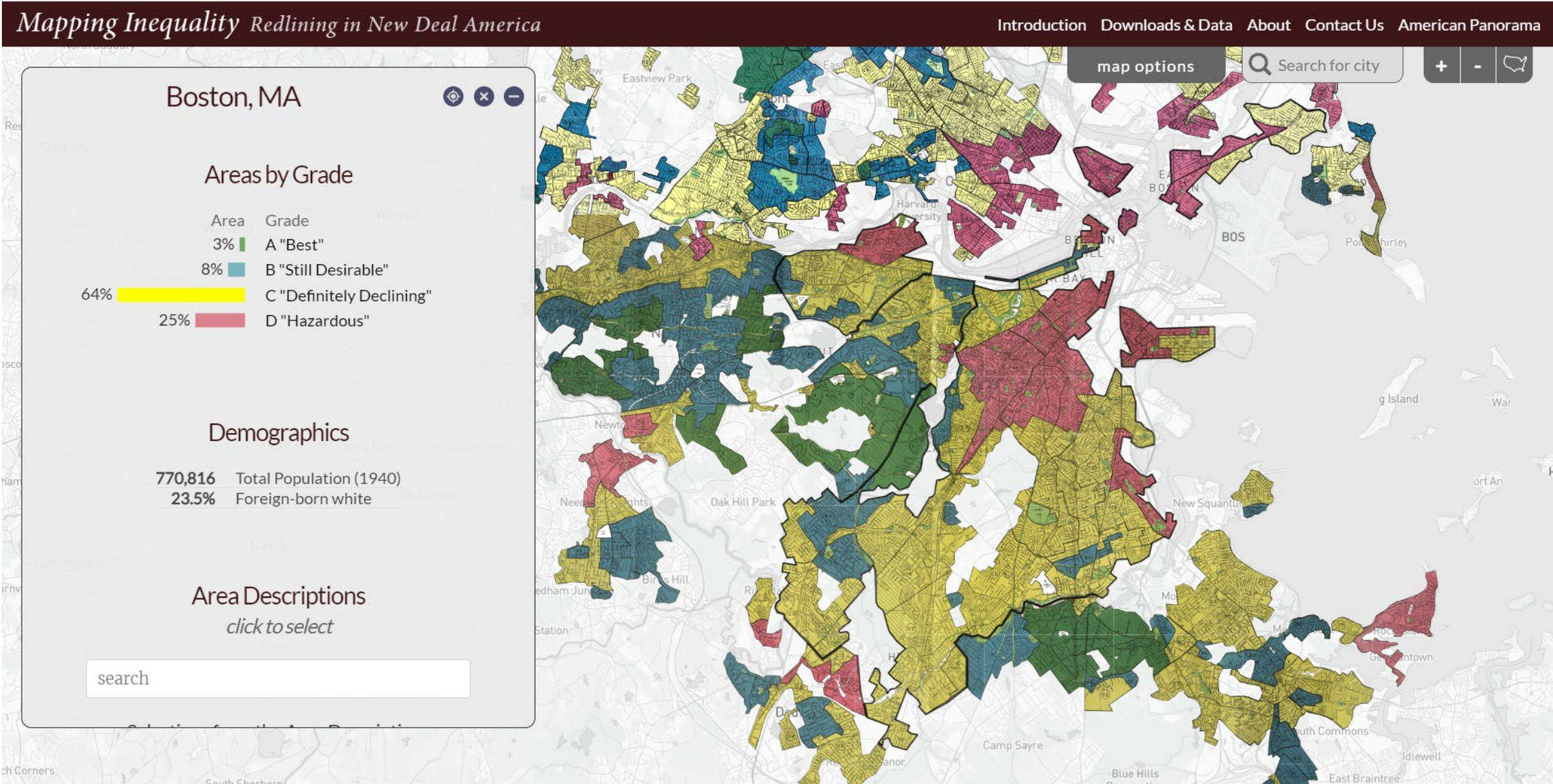
Systemic can also denote something that is "deeply ingrained in the system" Which helps explain why you sometimes hear it in discussions about social or political issues.

Systemic Impacts: Long-term Environmental Effects of Historic “Redlining”

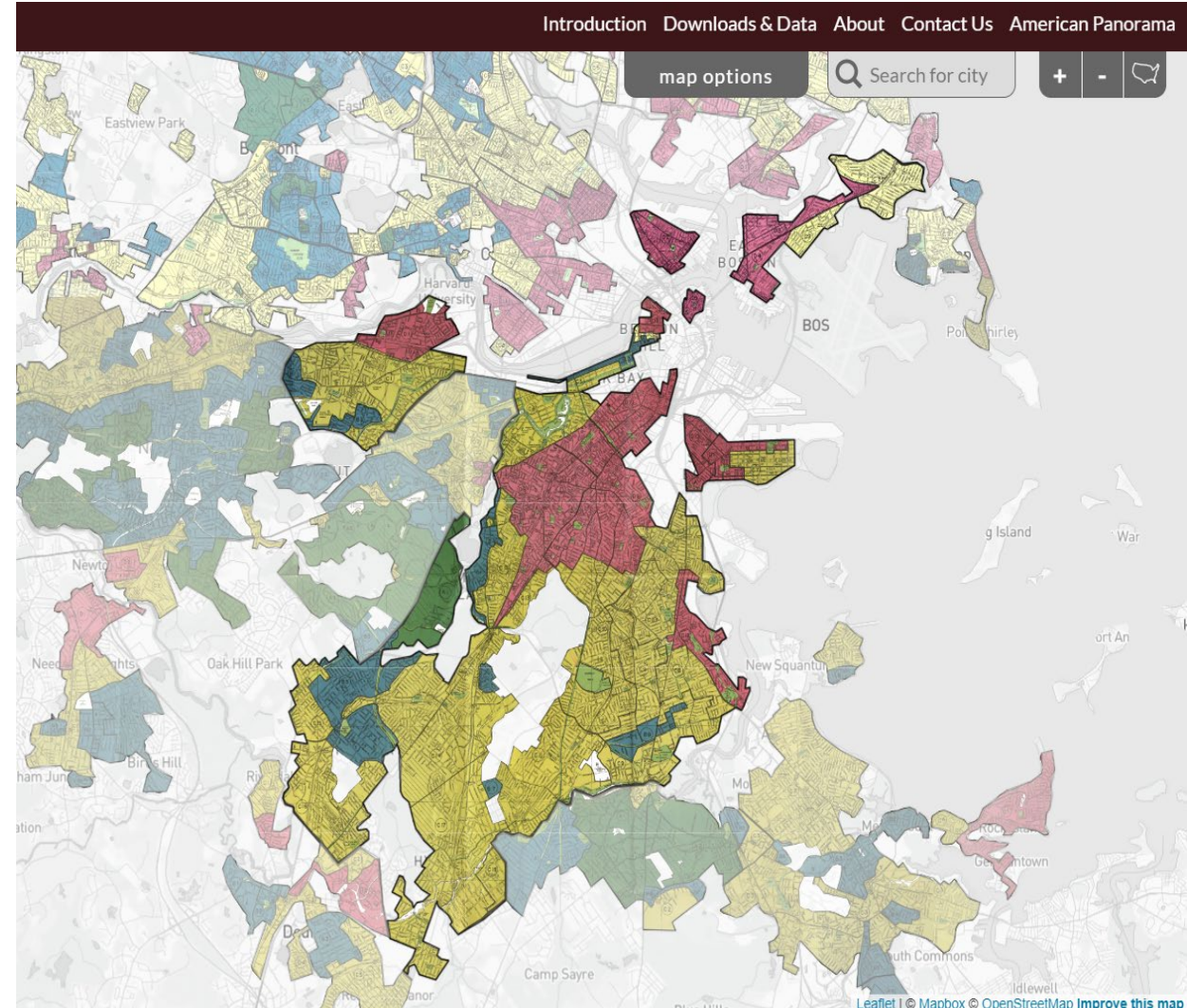
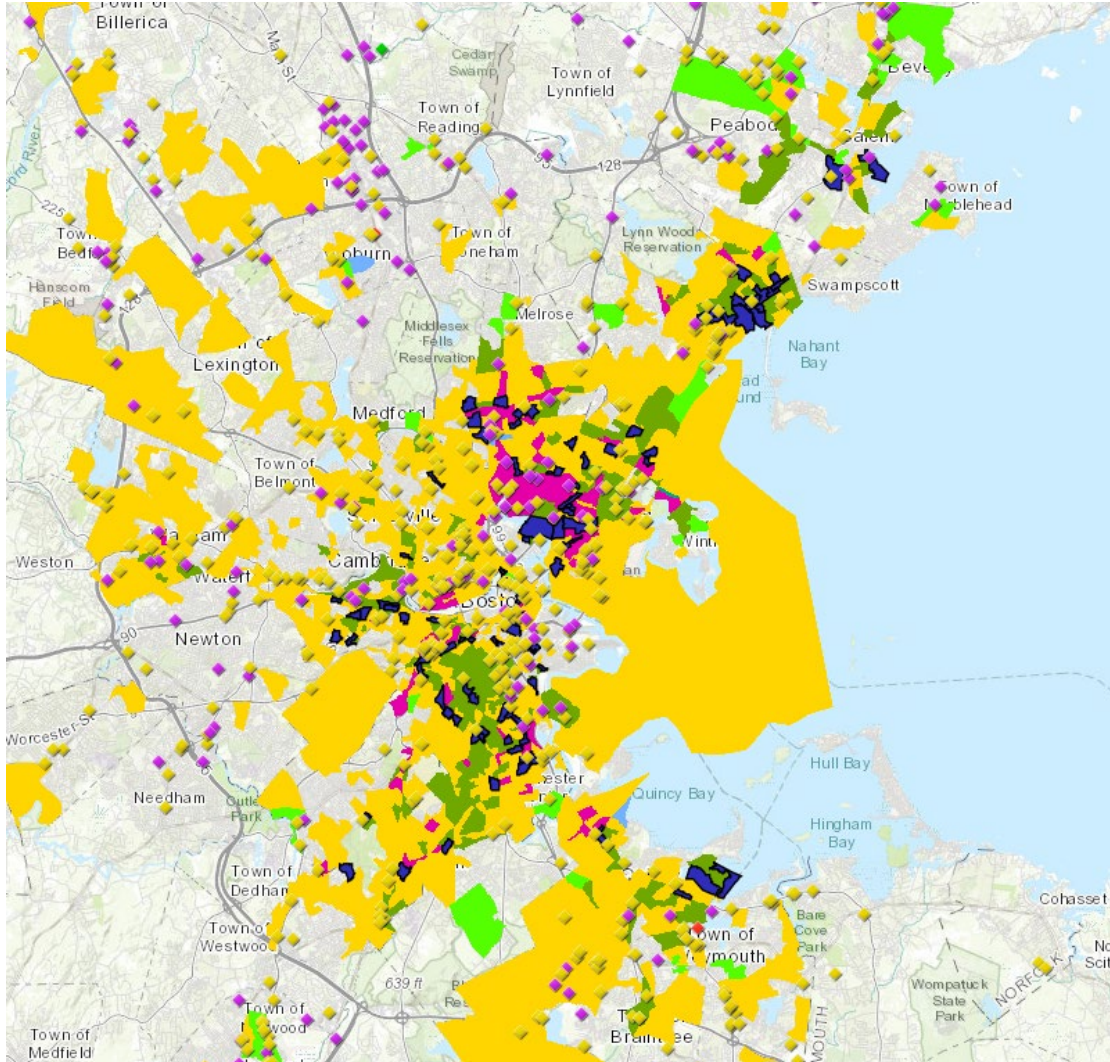
- The formation and reality of today's EJ neighborhoods are founded in the Homeowners' Loan Corporation maps of the 1930s.
- These maps, which designated undesirable areas in “red,” deeply influenced where banks would financially support the formation of “good” residential neighborhoods.
- Race was explicitly used as a factor in their assessments.

You can explore these maps in more detail here:

<https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=5/39.1/-94.58>



Current EJ Populations vs. HOLC Red-lining map



Key Definitions of Environmental Justice in Massachusetts

Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice is based on the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental hazards and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment regardless of race, color, national origin, income, or English language proficiency. (MA EEA Environmental Justice Policy, 2021)

Equal Protection

The protection of all groups of people regardless of income, ethnicity, class, handicap, race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, genetic information, or ancestry from an unfair burden of environmental hazards and/or limited access to environmental benefits (e.g., clean and natural resources). (MA EEA Environmental Justice Policy, 2021)

Meaningful Involvement

All neighborhoods have the right and opportunity to participate in energy, climate change, and environmental decision making. (MA EEA Environmental Justice Policy, 2021)

Environmental Justice Populations in Massachusetts

In Massachusetts, a neighborhood that meets one or more of the following:

Low Income

- Block group whose annual median household income is equal to or less than 65 percent of the statewide median (\$89,026 based on 2017 – 2021 census ACS 5-year estimates).

People of Color (Minority)

- 40% or more of the residents identify as a race other than white.

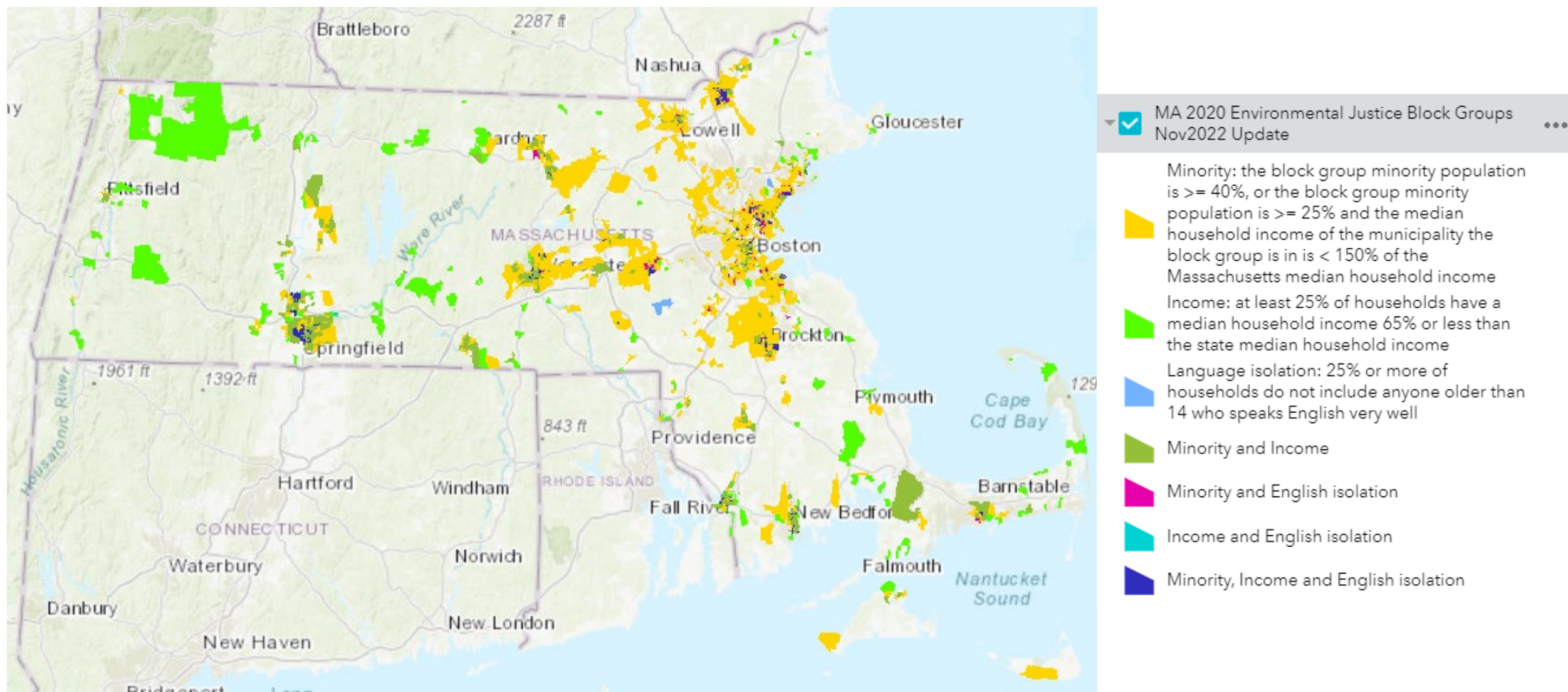
Limited English Proficiency (English Isolation)

- 25% or more of households lack English language proficiency

People of Color (Minority) and Low Income

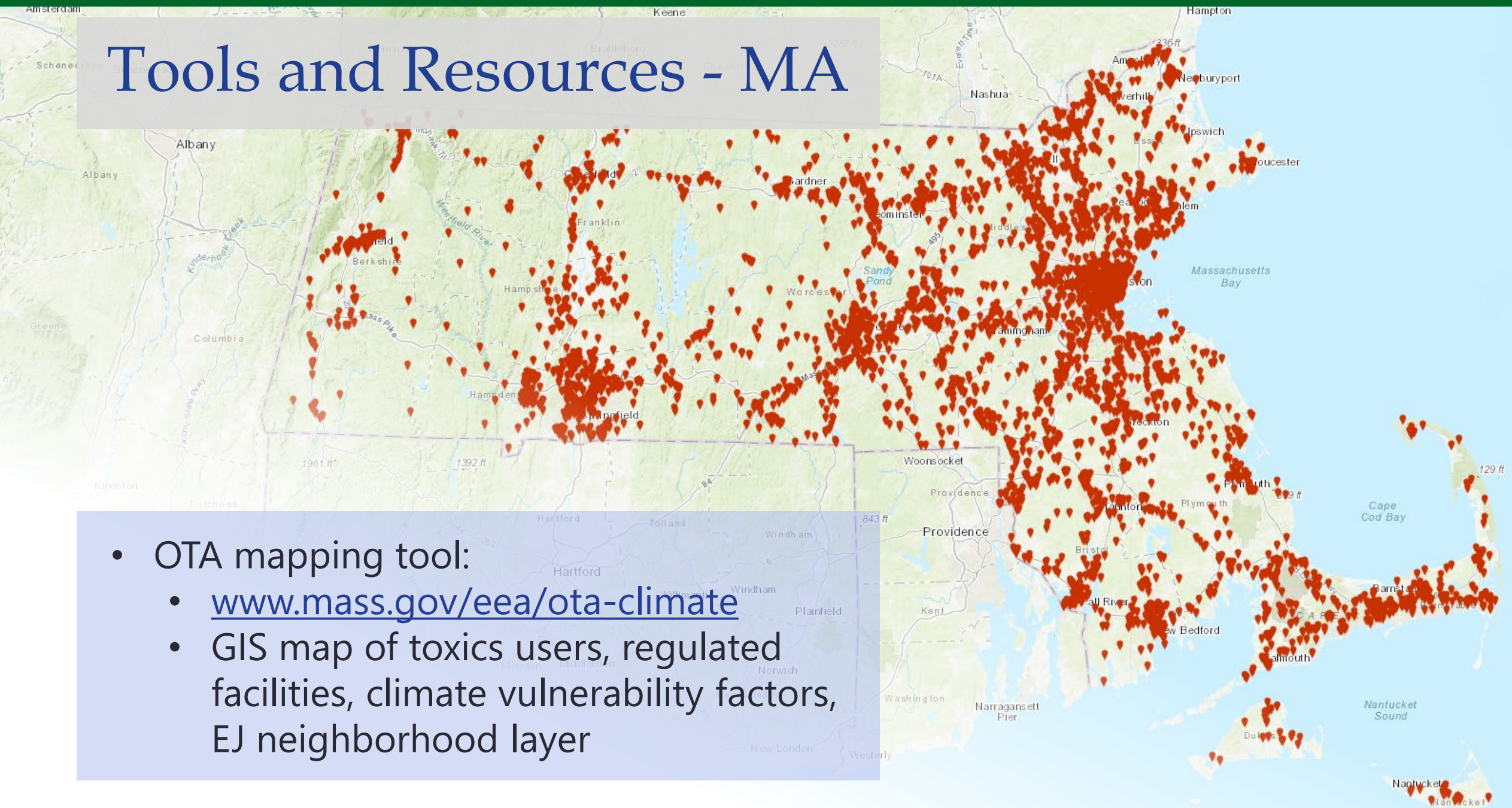
- 25% or more of the residents identify as a race other than white and annual median household income of the municipality in which the block group is located does not exceed 150% of the statewide annual median household income.

Environmental Justice Populations in Massachusetts



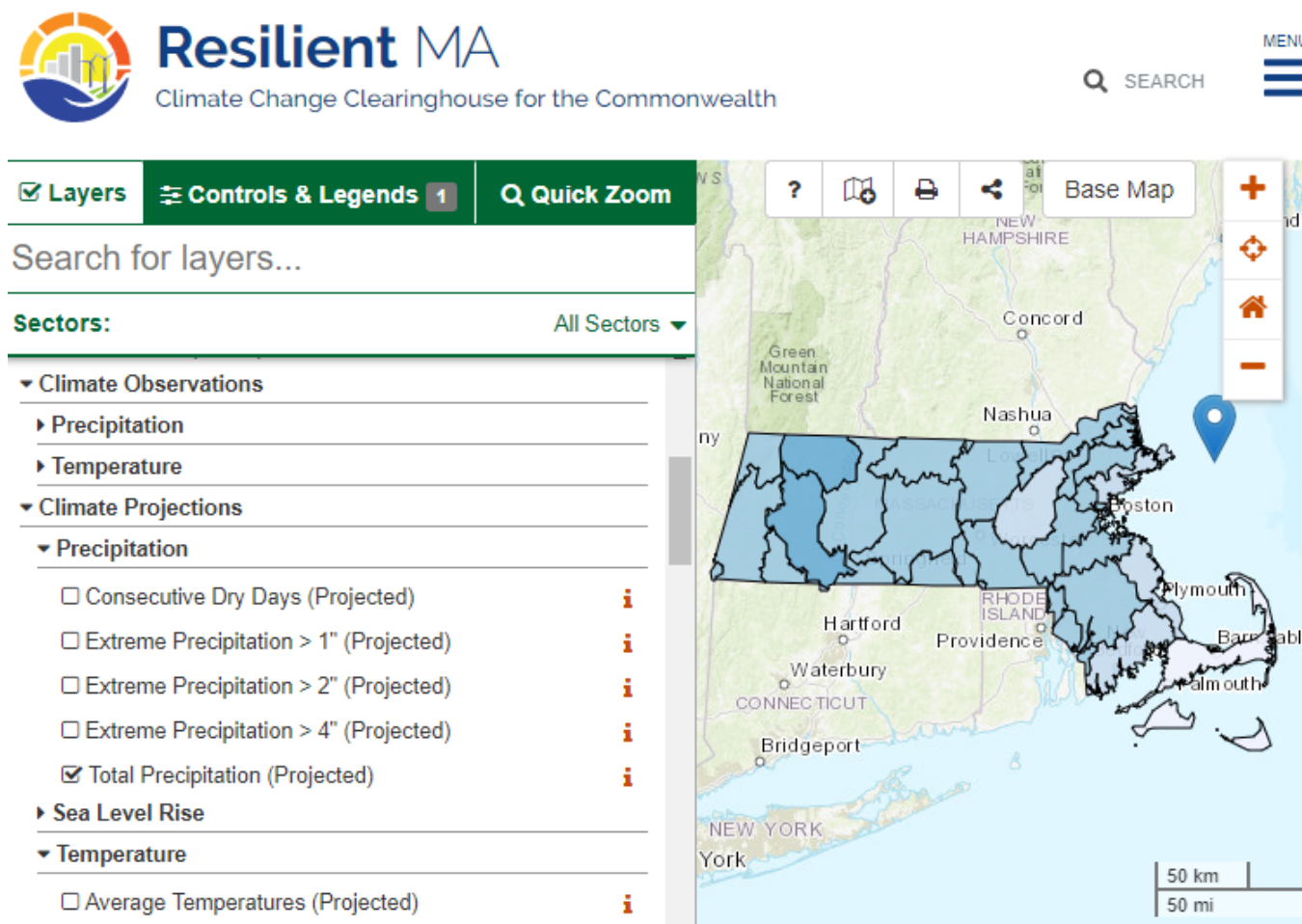
Tools and Resources - MA

- OTA mapping tool:
 - www.mass.gov/eea/ota-climate
 - GIS map of toxics users, regulated facilities, climate vulnerability factors, EJ neighborhood layer



Additional Mapping Tools - MA

- Existing data, e.g., FEMA flood maps, based on historical patterns
- Future projections for precipitation, sea level rise, and temperature based on modeling of GHG emission scenarios (RCP 4.5 & 8.5)
- EJ data layer



<https://resilientma.mass.gov/map/>

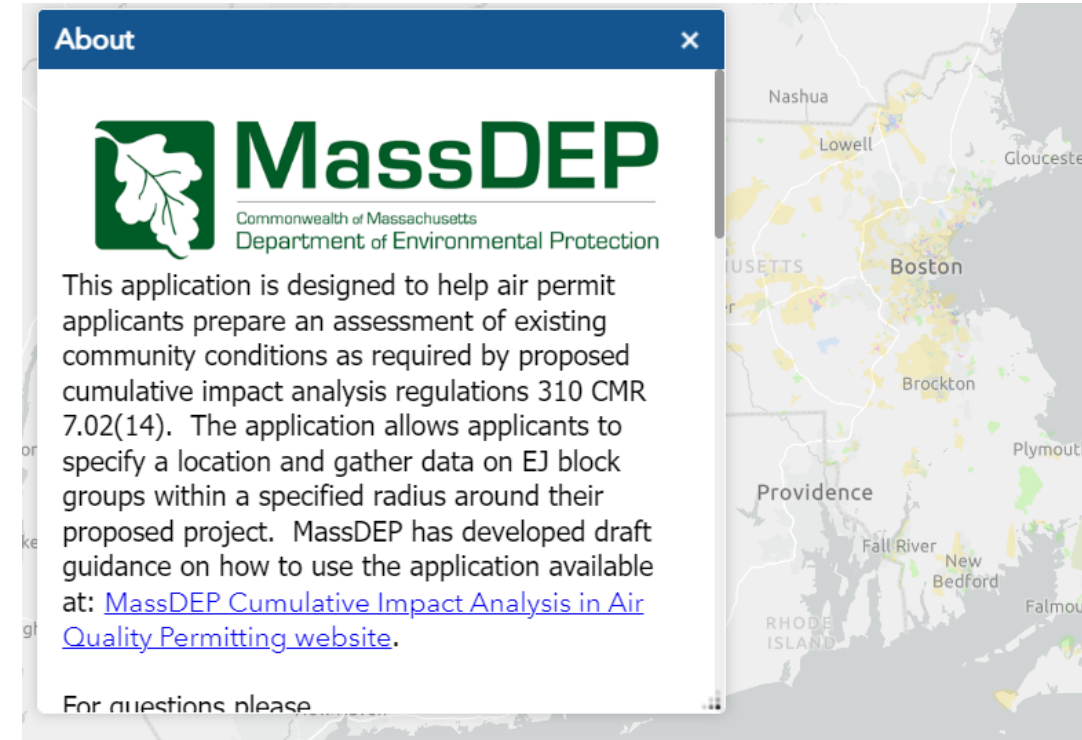
Additional Mapping Tools – MA & EPA

Massachusetts

- [EEA EJ Map Viewer](#)
- [MassDEP Cumulative Impact Analysis](#)
- [MDPH EJ Tool](#)

EPA

- [EJ Screen](#)



Contact Us

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