

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE March 7, 2023

TO Honorable Chair and Members of the Workforce, Education and Equity Committee

SUBJECT **Environmental Justice Equity Indicators Update**

In 2019, the City of Dallas released an [Equity Indicators Report \(Report\)](#) that was developed in collaboration with the City University of New York's Institute for State and Local Governance (CUNY ISLG), and the Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP). It is intended to be used as a comprehensive tool to help Dallas understand and measure progress toward equity across the various communities it serves. The Report measures disparities in five thematic areas: economic opportunity; education; neighborhoods and Infrastructure; justice and government; and public health. Through community engagement, the City identified the need to include indicators directly tied to environmental justice.

On August 24, 2022, the City Council adopted the [Racial Equity Plan \(REP\)](#). The REP is a strategic framework that outlines short-, mid-, and longer-term goals inclusive of Department Progress Measures and an Environmental Justice Big Audacious Goal that is aimed to equitably engage and address the disproportionate impact pollution and climate issues have on historically disadvantaged communities. Those environmental justice progress measures, action targets, and overarching goal can be found throughout the plan. Additionally, funding has been allocated to advance the environmental justice measures. OEI and partnering departments are in the process of developing environmental justice equity indicators that will be integrated into the next Equity Indicators Report and support the environmental justice goals identified in the REP.

Environmental Commission

On October 12, 2022, the OEI briefed the EVC on the REP and the inclusion of environmental justice goals, targets, and measures. In November 2022, the Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability (OEQS) engaged the EVC Environmental Justice Subcommittee to solicit recommendations for the new environmental equity indicators. The subcommittee met again in December to finalize Environmental Justice Subcommittee Recommendations, which were ultimately [approved by the EVC](#). These recommendations are the following:

- **Recommendation 1:** Adopt an Equity Indicator that comparatively measures the overall weighted average Environmental Justice Score for a neighborhood based upon the Dallas Environmental Justice Screening tool metric, assessing overall neighborhood measure of proximity to environmental pollution categorized as: 1) a major source of air emissions; 2) a large or small quantity generator of hazardous waste; 3) a current or former landfill site; 4) a surface water body categorized as impaired on the Texas 303d List; 5) a wastewater discharge facility; or 6) a U.S.

DATE March 3, 2023
SUBJECT **Environmental Justice Equity Indicators Update**

Environmental Protection Agency Superfund or Brownfields Program site or a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Voluntary Cleanup Action Site, Municipal Setting Designation site, or other state-defined impaired property

- **Recommendation 2:** Adopt an Equity Indicator that comparatively measures the tree canopy coverage in communities in Dallas
- **Recommendation 3:** Adopt an Equity Indicator that comparatively measures the kilowatts of solar installed on single-family homes in Dallas.
- **Recommendation 4:** Adopt an Equity Indicator that comparatively measures the distance to fresh, healthy foods to households in Dallas.

Environmental Justice Equity Indicator Development

OEQS, in partnership with OEI, are evaluating the EVC environmental justice equity indicator recommendations. To date, OEQS has found the recommendations to be consistent with the City's ongoing efforts. Most notably, the Office of Data Analytics and Business Intelligence (DBI), in partnership with OEQS, has developed an environmental justice mapping tool to better identify potential environmental disparities between census blocks and council districts within the City of Dallas. In December 2022, DBI delivered a draft tool to OEQS. After an internal review by OEQS, the two departments plan to seek input from internal and external stakeholders. OEQS plans to use the tool to support EVC's first recommendation.

OEQS is also evaluating other tools to support the EVC and other equity indicators, including the [City of Dallas Urban Agriculture and Community Health Explorer](#) that supports the draft [Comprehensive Urban Agriculture Plan](#), the Texas Trees Foundation Equity Tree Planting Map, and the American Forest's Tree Equity Score Analyzer (TESA).

Should you have any questions, please contact Carlos Evans, Director of the Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability at carlos.evans@dallas.gov.



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