

CalEnviroScreen 5.0 Draft



This document was created by staff at OEHHA. Staff used generative artificial intelligence to create this image.

What is CalEnviroScreen?

CalEnviroScreen is a mapping tool created by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) to identify communities most impacted by pollution. CalEnviroScreen compares census tracts by their pollution levels and community factors that can make residents more vulnerable to pollution.

How is CalEnviroScreen used?

The California Environmental Protection Agency and other government agencies at all levels use CalEnviroScreen to guide decisions and direct resources to the communities that need it most. Residents and community groups also use the tool to better understand and respond to pollution in their neighborhoods. Using CalEnviroScreen can lead to better health and cleaner environments.

Share Feedback on CalEnviroScreen 5.0

CalEnviroScreen helps identify and invest in overburdened communities, supporting their efforts to address pollution and improve health. That is why it is important that CalEnviroScreen reflect the daily realities of your community and is easy to use.

We would like to hear your thoughts on the proposed changes, what data or issues could be better represented in CalEnviroScreen 5.0, and how we can make the tool easier to use. You can share feedback in the following ways:

- Attend the informational webinar for 5.0
- Attend a 5.0 workshop for your region
- Provide written public comments

Proposed 5.0 Changes

We are updating CalEnviroScreen to version 5.0 by proposing the changes below and creating a plan to involve communities in the process.

New Indicators

Diabetes Prevalence:
Compares census tracts by estimated percentage of adults with diabetes

Small Air Toxics Sites:
Includes oil and gas well locations and small stationary sources of air pollution (e.g., gas stations)

Improved Existing Indicators

Hazardous Waste: Expanded buffer around large hazardous waste facilities from 1 to 4 kilometers

Drinking Water Contaminants: Improved score calculation and now includes concentration data for six PFAS chemicals. Water quality data for additional Tribal areas

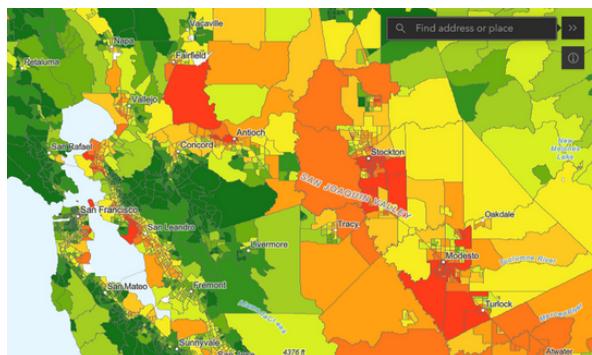
Children's Lead Risk from Housing: Now includes children's blood lead level data

All Existing Indicators: Updated with the most recent data available

Updated Census Tract Data

Analyzed all indicators using 2020 census tract geography

How does CalEnviroScreen work?



CalEnviroScreen uses environmental (e.g., air and water pollution), health (e.g., asthma), and socioeconomic information (e.g., poverty) to compare pollution burden and community vulnerability for census tracts across the state. The draft CalEnviroScreen 5.0 has 23 indicators that describe the relative health risk that communities face from pollution exposure.

Why is CalEnviroScreen important for my community?

State and local government agencies use CalEnviroScreen to direct resources to the communities that need them most. These resources can strengthen community infrastructure, resiliency, and wellness.

For Example

Under California Senate Bill 535 and Assembly Bill 1550, at least 25% of the state's cap-and-trade funding must be invested in Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and low-income communities. Most DACs are identified as the census tracts receiving the highest 25% of overall scores in CalEnviroScreen.



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Why is CalEnviroScreen important for my health?

CalEnviroScreen provides actionable data on pollution exposures that can negatively impact health. This data can influence public health decision making and investments.

For Example

Communities for a Better Environment and other environmental justice and labor allies in Richmond used CalEnviroScreen to provide data for their "Make Polluters Pay" campaign. This campaign led to a \$550 million settlement to fund essential city services, upgrade city infrastructure, and prepare the city for a Just Transition away from fossil fuels towards a clean, regenerative economy.



Photo courtesy of Communities for a Better Environment



"Fresno Arch on Van Ness Avenue" by Great Valley Center is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

The Fresno County Department of Public Health uses CalEnviroScreen—which is included on their Healthy Fresno County Data website—as a tool to monitor the health of residents. CalEnviroScreen also informed the City of Fresno's 2024 Community Environmental Health Impact Assessment.

What are the proposed changes to CalEnviroScreen?

To make sure that CalEnviroScreen reflects community priorities, OEHHA partnered with eight community-based organizations (CBOs) in a co-design process for CalEnviroScreen 5.0. We have suggested updates to CalEnviroScreen (described below) and created a plan to hear from you during this process. OEHHA also reviewed past public feedback on CalEnviroScreen to inform these proposed updates. OEHHA will continue to work with CBOs to involve communities in CalEnviroScreen and explore future updates, such as including climate indicators, warehouse locations, cancer data, and built environment data (e.g., green space, tree coverage).

New Indicators



Diabetes Prevalence: Compares census tracts by estimated percentage of adults with diabetes



Small Air Toxics Sites: Includes oil and gas well locations and small stationary sources of air pollution (e.g., gas stations)

Why is this change important?

People with diabetes are more vulnerable to health effects of pollution exposure and other environmental stressors.

Oil and gas wells release harmful pollution that can affect health. Smaller pollution sources can also add to long-term exposure and health risks in communities.

Improved Existing Indicators



Hazardous Waste: Expanded buffer around large hazardous waste facilities from 1 to 4 kilometers



Drinking Water Contaminants: Improved score calculation and now includes concentration data for six PFAS chemicals. Water quality data for additional Tribal areas



Children's Lead Risk from Housing: Now includes children's blood lead level data



All Existing Indicators: Updated with the most recent data available

Why is this change important?

Many communities experience negative health and social impacts from hazardous waste sites, even when they are more than 1km away.

The updated score better highlights which contaminants pose the most health risks. PFAS are now regulated drinking water contaminants, and exposure has been associated with negative health outcomes. The inclusion of Tribal water data supports more equitable data representation.

Adds a direct measure of lead exposure, which ensures more accurate representation of pollution burden.

Ensures accurate representation of pollution burden and community vulnerability, which influences overall CalEnviroScreen score.

Updated Census Tract Data



Analyzed all indicators using 2020 census tract geography

Why is this change important?

More accurate representation of the changing population distribution of California.

How can I provide feedback to improve CalEnviroScreen?

We would like to hear your feedback on the proposed updates to CalEnviroScreen. We also invite you to share what data or concerns should be better reflected in CalEnviroScreen 5.0 and how we can make the tool easier for everyone to use. You can share feedback in the following ways:



 Attend the informational webinar for draft 5.0 (Mon., 2/2/2026)

 Attend a draft 5.0 workshop for your region:

- **Virtual- Statewide:** Thurs., 2/5/2026 (Daytime)
- **Virtual- Statewide:** Mon., 2/9/2026 (Evening)
- **Virtual- LA Metro:** Wed., 2/11/2026
- **In-Person- Central Valley (UC Merced):** Tues., 2/17/26
- **In-Person- Bay Area (Oakland):** Wed., 2/18/2026
- **Virtual- San Diego/Imperial & Coachella:** Thurs., 2/19
- **Virtual- State Agencies:** Tues., 2/24/2026

 Providing written public comments



For more information on how to share feedback, please visit our CalEnviroScreen website:

<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/general-info/draft-calenviroscreen-50>

Why is my feedback important to improve CalEnviroScreen?

CalEnviroScreen helps identify and support communities facing environmental and health challenges, guiding investments where they are needed most. That's why it is important that the tool reflects the everyday experiences in your community and is simple to use.