

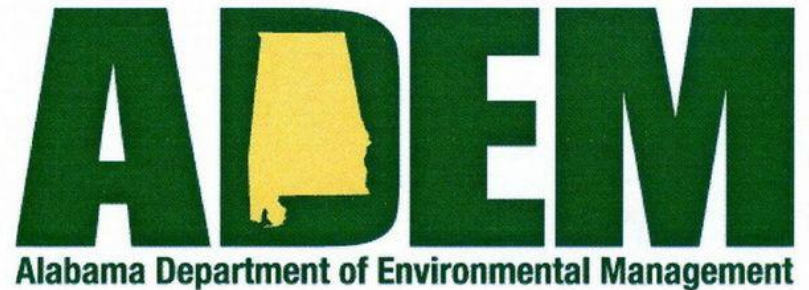
# Environmental Justice: Historical Perspective and Current Challenges

BUILDING THE JOINT CAPACITY OF THE STATE, COMMUNITIES,  
AND INDUSTRIES TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



# Let's Play

# Kahoot!

- 1.Download Kahoot app.**
- 2.Select the green socially box**
- 3.Tell your age**
- 4.Enter the game pin**
- 5.Choose your Name**
- 6.Let's Play!!!**

**Kahoot!**

**Environmental Justice**  
**Past Present and Future**



# Agenda

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## The Creation of Environmental Justice Communities

- Significant Historical Laws & Policies
- Impacts of Laws on Communities

## Disproportionate Exposure To Environmental Burdens

## Federal Government Response

- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (1994)

## State Government Reaction to Response

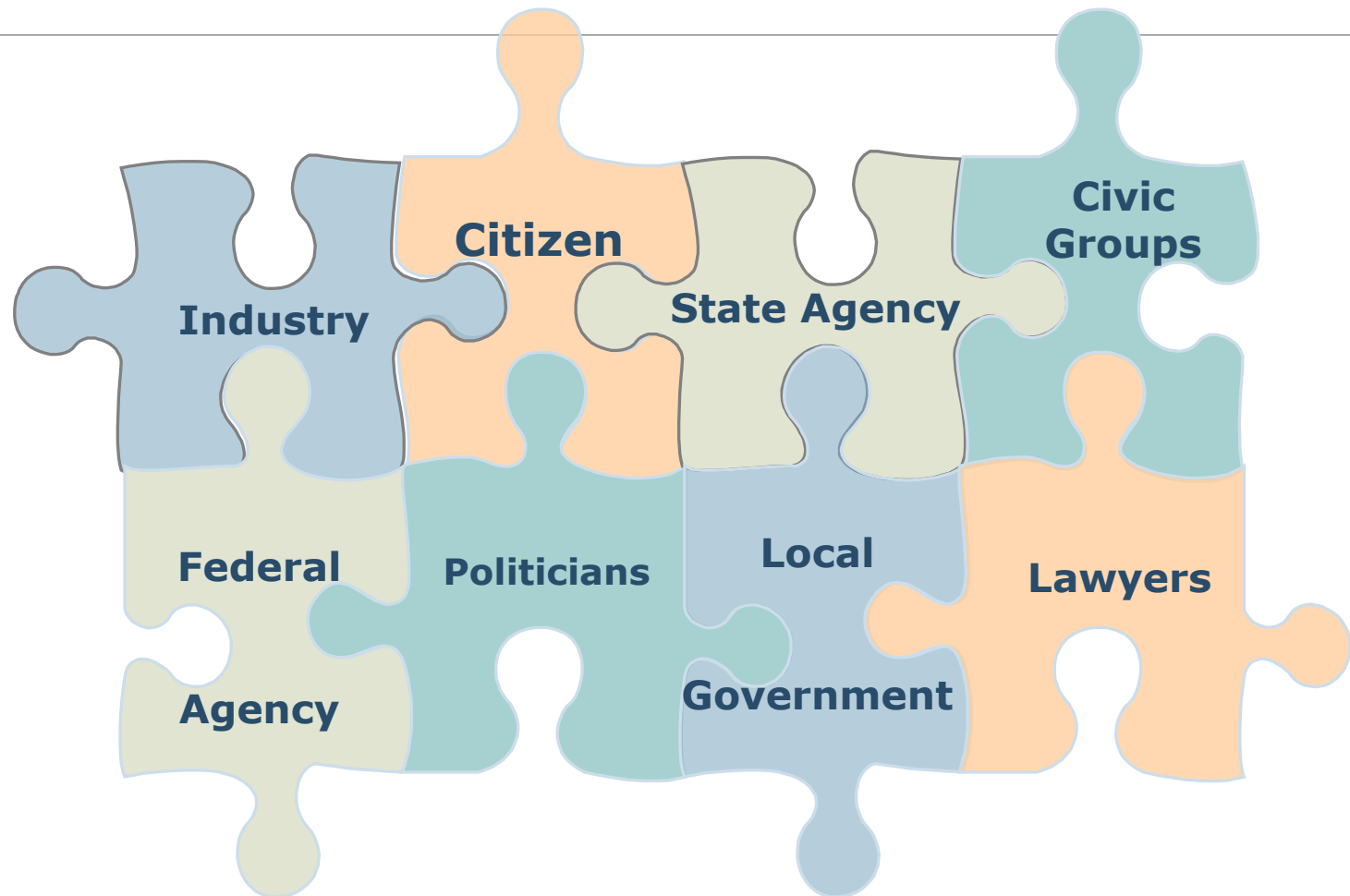
- Alabama Department of Environmental Management
- Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

## Where do we go from here?

- Moving Forward Through Education, Collaboration, Motivation

# Overview

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# HISTORICAL LAWS

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- ▶ Black Codes (1865)
  - ▶ African Americans
- ▶ Jim Crow Laws (1877)
  - ▶ African Americans
  - ▶ Hispanic Americans
- ▶ General Allotment Act (Dawes Act of 1887)
  - ▶ Native Americans
- ▶ Alien Land Laws (1913)
  - ▶ Asian Americans

# HISTORICAL LAWS/POLICIES

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- Zoning and Land Use Laws
- Expulsive Zoning
- Historical Housing Legislation
  - The Housing Act of 1934
  - 1935 Federal Home Loan Bank Board (FHLBB)
  - 1948–1968: Unenforceable Restrictive Covenants
  - The Housing Act of 1949
- Redlining

# CREATION OF AN EJ COMMUNITY

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1. Laws forced certain races of people to live in certain areas.
2. Laws limited the types of jobs available; thereby limiting the sources of income for these races.
3. Laws allowed forced landowners to give up property; in subsequent decades almost half of all Indian lands in the U.S. was sold.
4. Laws forbade those who were not American citizens and were not eligible for citizenship from owning agricultural land.
5. Laws prevented access to educational opportunities.
6. Laws determined who could live where.

# LIMITATIONS BY LAW

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- Political Limitations
- Land Ownership Limitations
- Occupational Limitations
- Educational Limitation
- Limitations on Sources of Income



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# Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (1994)

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE DEFINED

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*“Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, culture, education, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”*

- **Fair treatment** means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal environmental programs and policies.
- **Meaningful Involvement** means that potentially affected community residents have an appropriate opportunity to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and/or health; the public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision; the concerns of all participants involved will be considered in the decision-making process; and the decision-makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

# PLAN EJ 2014

## Cross-Agency Focus Areas

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1. Incorporating Environmental Justice into Rulemaking.
2. Considering Environmental Justice in Permitting.
3. Advancing Environmental Justice through Compliance and Enforcement.
4. Supporting Community-Based Action Programs.
5. Fostering Administration-Wide Action on Environmental Justice. Tools Development will focus on developing the methods, mechanisms, and systems that support environmental justice analysis, technical assistance, and community work.

## Tools Development Areas

1. Science.
2. Law.
3. Information.
4. Resources.

## Program Initiatives

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EPA will designate one initiative per appropriate program for inclusion in Plan EJ 2014. Existing EPA initiatives can be tailored to better integrate environmental justice and produce greater benefits for overburdened communities.

## Outcomes

EPA built a foundation for integrating EJ in its programs and across the federal government by:

1. Clarifying its legal authorities to address EJ concerns in a comprehensive manner
2. Developing a nationally consistent EJ screening and mapping tool
3. Developing approaches for advancing EJ in regulatory decision-making
4. Expanding EPA's capacity to support communities by strengthening its internal community through the reinvigoration of the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (IWG) established under EO 12898
5. Strengthening EPA's science capacity to address EJ

# CURRENT CHALLENGES

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- ❖ What happened after Plan EJ 2014
- ❖ Lack of environmental education and awareness
- ❖ Diminishing resources
- ❖ Political hurdles facing environmental laws
- ❖ Lack of communication between all parties – “No Collaboration”
- ❖ Policy vs. Law
- ❖ **FEAR!**
- ❖ “Action without Representation”

# STATUS QUO



“What if we don’t change at all ...  
and something magical just happens?”

Proactive

~~Reactive~~

# EDUCATION

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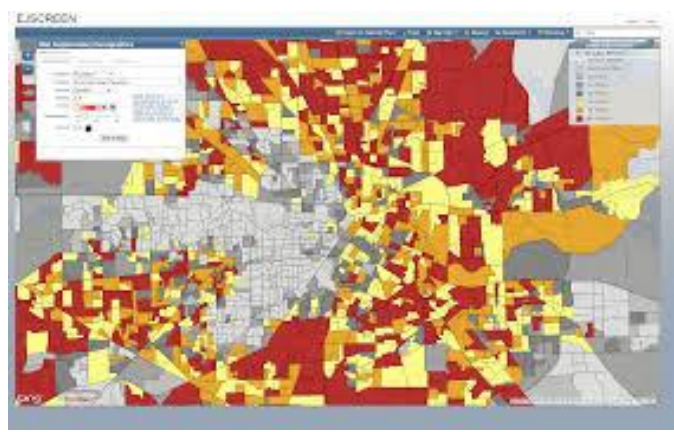






# EJ Screen

- A tool and data to be shared with everyone
- Highlights areas that may need further review
- Pre-decisional screening tool
- Does **NOT** direct final outcomes
- Baseline screening to supplement local information and experience
- Should **NOT** be used to label areas as an “EJ Community”





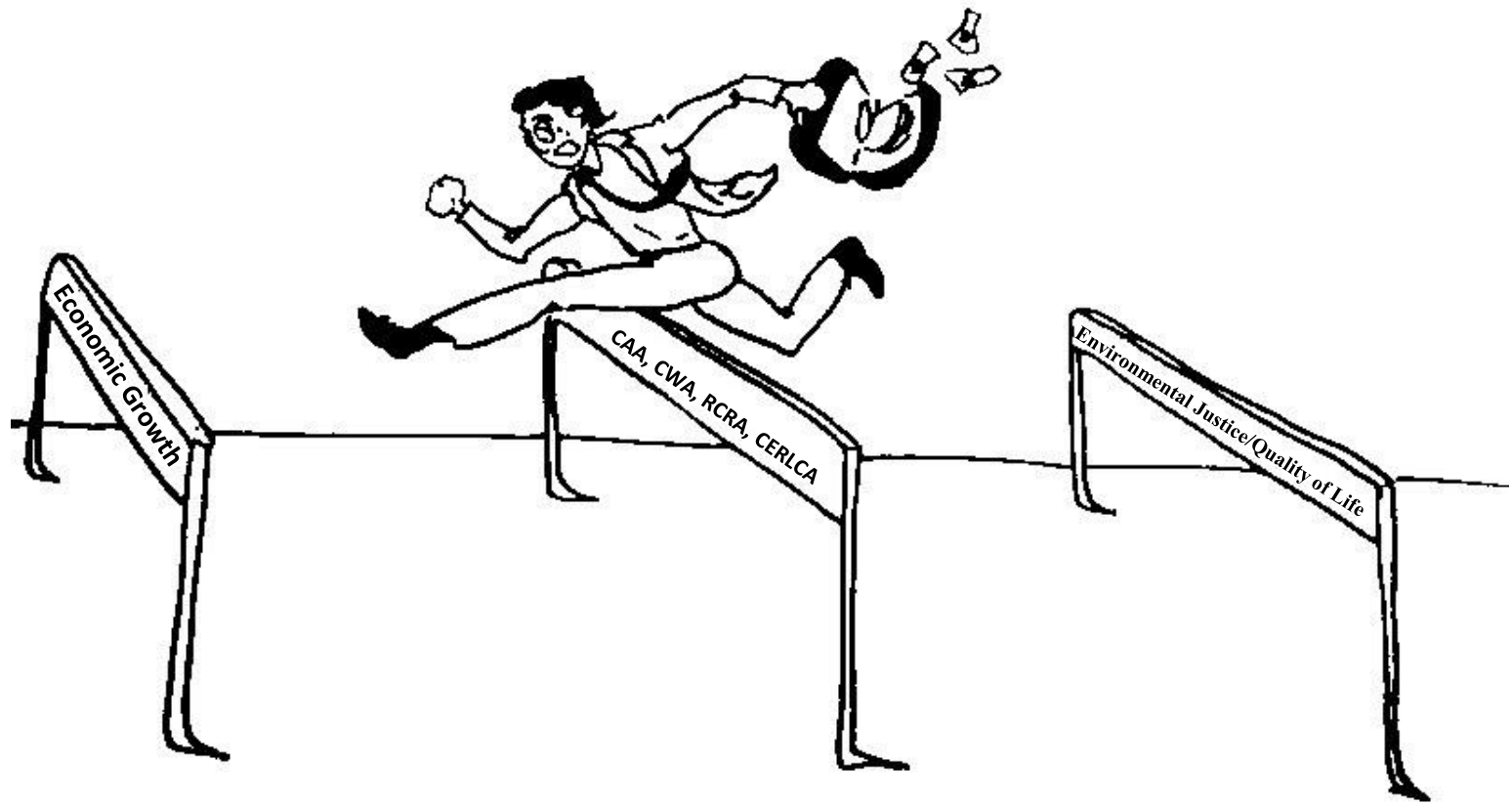
# COLLABORATION

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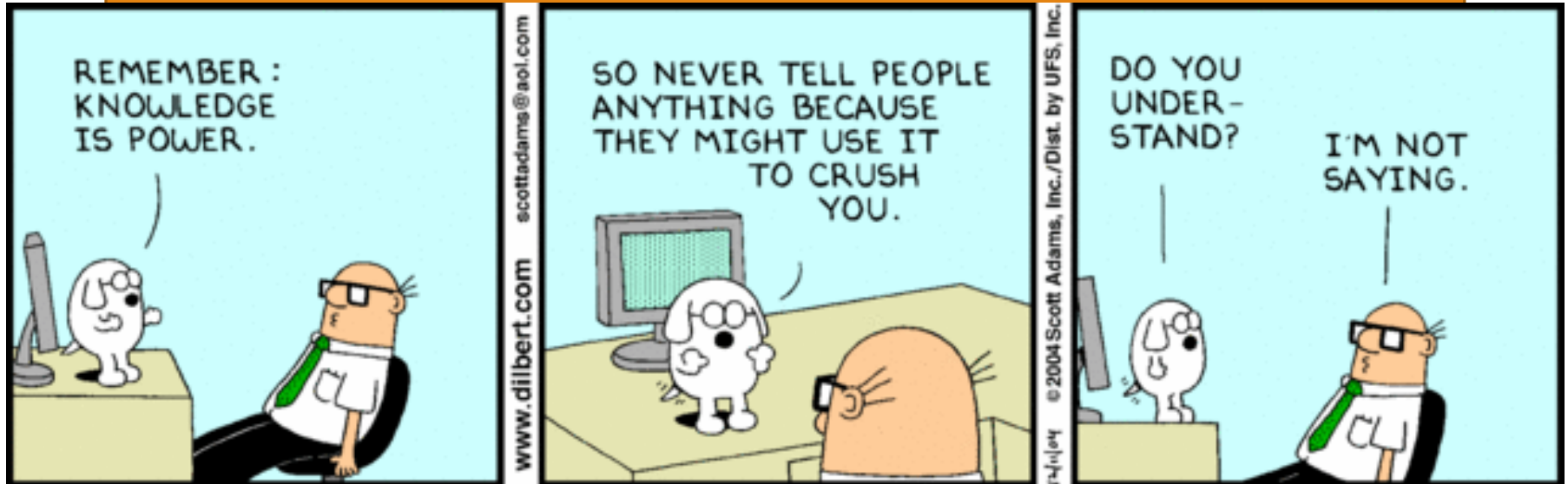


# POLITICAL HURDLES

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# FEAR



# BE TRANSPARENT



# EJ 2020 ACTION AGENDA

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EJ 2020 Goals & Areas		
Goal I: Deepen EJ Practice Within EPA Programs to Improve the Health and Environment of Overburdened Communities	Goal II: Work With Communities to Expand Our Positive Impact Within Overburdened Communities	Goal III: Demonstrate Progress on Significant National Environmental Challenges
Rulemaking	States and Local Governments	Lead Disparities
Permitting	Federal Agencies	Drinking Water
Compliance and Enforcement	Community-Based Work	Air Quality
Science	Tribes and Indigenous Peoples	Hazardous Waste Sites

# EJ PROGRESS

integrity  
responsibility  
audit  
measurability  
comparability  
credibility  
calculability  
ethics  
compliance  
visibility  
social  
clarity  
accountability



**EJ 2014**

**EJ 2020**

**LET'S TALK**



# Questions



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