

What is happening in my Zip Code

Overview

Tools are available to access data about emissions to air, water and land in your community.

Objectives

When complete, participants will better be able to:

- Access electronic resources to find local information
- Demonstrate the use of these resources to identify emission sources and types of emissions in your zip code

Facilitator Information

Time Requirement: 2 hours

Number of Instructors: 1 or more, consistent with ratio in the Minimum Criteria

Resources

- PowerPoint – What is happening in my zip code
- Computers, laptops, tablets or phones
- Internet access
- Whiteboard or equivalent and markers

Preparation

In advance, ensure operation of audiovisual equipment, including internet access

Test web links prior to the session

Print and make copies of the PowerPoint (3-slide Handout option) so participants can take notes and have all content to refer to in the future.

Become familiar with **MyEnvironment** website <https://enviro.epa.gov/myenvironment/>, this Facilitator Guide, and the PowerPoint. Guidance is shown below to aid in navigating the site:

Click on 'How to use this page (upper right corner of Home Page) or use this link <https://www.epa.gov/enviro/myenvironment-how-use-page>.

MyMap Menu

- Grab Map: add to e-mail, website
- Download Data: Air Pollution (ICIS-AIR), Toxic Releases to Air (TRI), Water Dischargers (NPDES), Toxic Releases to Water (TRI), Superfund Sites (NPL), Hazardous Waste (RCRAInfo), Toxic Releases to Land (TRI), Brownfield Properties (ACRES), Biennial Reporting (BR), Toxic Substances (TSCA)
- Measure: area or distance

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- Imagery: select map view from Google Street View, Bing Maps Bird's Eye, Bing Maps Aerial, ESRI Imagery, ESRI 3D, USGS Imagery 1-foot
- Basemap: select basemap imagery
- Print: save map in various formats such as PDF, jpg and more
- More Data: search online websites for more data
- Legend: select to make "Select Map Contents" menu appear or disappear in the upper right side of the map

Select Map Contents menu

Click on the main menu items of Air, Water, Land, Health, Climate, Energy and Other to drop down sub menus for each item. Select by adding check in the box of the data to view. Symbols representing that data will appear on the map. Symbols can be clicked on to show detailed information. Symbols with a "+" represent more than one facility.

MyAir

- Air Quality Index: Hover your mouse over the contents for more information and/or click on contents for more information. Click 'More AQI Information' to find data in a new location by inputting a zip code.
- Air Facilities: View map of air facilities
- Radon: View map of radon in your area. Click on links for more information on radon hazards and to view a radon map of the U.S.
- UV Index: Click on "Daily UV Index Forecast" image for more detailed information
- UV Index Forecast: Click on Day 1-4 to see map change
- Air Data Trends: Click on the link to plot a custom graph of air quality trends.
- Air Data Updates: Click to get RSS feed

MyWater

- Water Quality Assessment: Select river from list to view characteristics. View results on Map
- Drinking Water Sources: View information about public water systems and their violations of EPA drinking water regulations.
- Streamflow: View real-time water data from USGS which contains information about streamflow, ground water, water quality and tide telemetry. Click on the map for more info.
- New/Expiring Permits: View information on companies which have been issued permits to discharge wastewater into rivers.

MyEnergy

- Energy Production: select year for the state of the zip code you entered
- Energy Production/Consumption: select year for the state of the zip code you entered
- AgSTAR Partners: Click on link for more information
- Anaerobic Digester Projects in the U.S.: view map
- NREL In My Backyard Tool: IMBY tool estimates the electricity you can produce with a solar photovoltaic (PV) or wind turbine at your home or business
- Home Energy Saver: (HES) empowers homeowners and renters to save money, live better, and help the earth by reducing energy use in their homes
- NREL Biopower: click map to view biomass resources, infrastructure, and other relevant information using the Bio-power tool website
- Energy Facilities: click on "Enlarge Map" to view power generating facilities from the Emissions & Generation Resource Integrated Database (eGRID 2018). eGrid is a comprehensive source of data on the environmental characteristics of almost all electric power generated in the United States.
- What is GHG: follow links to learn about greenhouse gases

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- Landfill Gas (LFG) Energy Projects: click "View larger map" to view the locations of all currently operational LFG energy projects.
- Fuel Cost Calculator: Click the link to find out how much you can save by improving your fuel economy using the U.S. Department of Energy fuel cost calculator.
- Energy Star Tip of the Day: Read the Tip or use arrows to see other Tips
- Appliance Rebate Programs: Click the link to find about the Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program.

MyHealth

- Map (see above): locate cancer, infant mortality and low birth weight risk for the zip code chosen.
- Low Birth Weight: compares the county of the zip code with state and National data
- Cancer Risk: shows source characteristics (for example, mobile sources) and the chemicals associated with the risk. 'click to get the whole list' provides the full listing.
- Mortality: limited to infant mortality
- Health Map: real-time disease outbreak information

MyClimate

- Greenhouse Gas Emissions State and County Comparisons: hover over graphs for more information
- Large Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Your Area: view maps and charts of direct GHG emissions
- Impacts on Human Health: projected changes in regional temperatures due to climate change. Click on "More" for more information
- Climate Change Impacts on the Great Lakes: projected lake levels due to climate change. Click on "More" for more information

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- Climate Change Indicators: click on links for more information on 2016 Climate Change Indicators Report, Greenhouse Gases, Weather and Climate, Oceans, Snow and Ice, Society and Ecosystems
- Your Carbon Footprint: try out Greenhouse Gas Emissions Calculator, Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator and Power Profiler

MyLand

- Map: identify location of Superfund sites, RCRA sites, toxic releases to land, Brownfield properties and companies filing reports to EPA
- Food Waste: information on sustainable management of food
- Excess Food Map: provides information on excess food sites and identifies areas in need of food
- Brownfields: provides links to background on brownfields, view brownfields in your zip code
- Superfund: provides links to background on the Superfund Program
- Hazardous Waste: provides links to background on Hazardous Waste
- Cleanups in my Community: can generate a map of cleanups, and then access cleanup report.

Presentation of the Exercise

A PowerPoint has been created to help facilitate this exercise.

Have participants access *MyEnvironment* <https://enviro.epa.gov/myenvironment/> and enter a zip code

Referring to the PowerPoint, familiarize participants with the Home Page including the blue tool bar, the summaries of each section, and the How to use this page link. Briefly review the content of the 7 topics.

Following the PowerPoint, have participants click on *MyMap*. Instruct them to use the Legend to select Map Content items of interest and click on the icons that appear to identify emission sites.

Review the Worksheet

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Facilitate a discussion to determine what participants would like to learn about their community. List these information needs on the whiteboard. Link these needs with the *MyEnvironment* screen(s) to aid in searching. As appropriate, break class into groups of 3-4 based on common interest.

Ask one participant in each group to be the recorder for the discussion.

The groups should work for about 30 minutes getting familiar with the site, and finding information. Complete the Worksheet as the information is found.

Facilitate a discussion during the report back. Refer to the posting of information that participants wanted to find, and identify if there are still needs. Use your knowledge of *MyEnvironment* and the resources in the *More Information* section to point participants toward that information.