

## DEPARTMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION PLAN

**CITY OF CHICAGO'S GOAL:** *Take a whole-government approach to improve and protect the environment, health, and quality of life in environmental justice (EJ) communities through changes to internal policies, processes, practices and/or budgets.*

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**Department Name:** *Department of Public Health*

**Department Scope and Authorities:**

Chapter 11-4 of the Municipal Code, the Chicago Environmental Protection and Control Ordinance, is “enforced by the commissioner of the department of health,” with “[a]ll duties and powers granted” under that ordinance to be exercised by her. MCC § 11-4-020. The Commissioner is empowered to adopt rules “necessary or proper” to administer the City’s environmental ordinances, MCC §§ 2-112-070; 2-112-110(b)(6). The Commissioner is also empowered to “encourage and conduct studies, investigations and research, including joint cooperative investigation and research with public and private agencies and organizations, relating to the environmental protection authorities conferred on the Commissioner pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, as the Commissioner may deem advisable and necessary;” and is granted wide authority to “do any and all other acts which may be necessary for the implementation of other powers conferred on the Commissioner under [the Municipal Code].” MCC § 2-112-110(b)(12), (c).

**Environmental Justice Strategy:** **Make environmental data, including air quality information and cumulative impact indicators, available through publicly accessible website(s) and dashboard(s).**

CDPH is committed to protecting the health of all Chicagoans, particularly those who live in Environmental Justice Neighborhoods. Community residents have called upon CDPH to improve its capacity to collect and disseminate data for use in land use planning and zoning as well as environmental permitting and enforcement. Through input at community meetings and a review of public comments, and as reflected in the Cumulative Impact Assessment “Community Input Summary,” CDPH has heard a call for us to address data gaps in pollution monitoring and be more transparent about how data is being used to hold companies accountable for their community impacts.

CDPH is committed to making its environmental data more accessible and useful to the public. To this end, CDPH intends to develop and maintain a cloud-based geographic information system (GIS) and/or web portal to provide regulated businesses and the community with access to environmental data, such as emissions inventory data, modeling data and results of air dispersion and risk assessment modeling, and cumulative impact indicators. The portal will also include dashboards for visualizing and analyzing air quality, meteorological, and environmental data. The GIS/web portal will be a valuable tool for regulated businesses and the community. It will allow them to:

- Access environmental data in a user-friendly format.
- Visualize and analyze environmental data.
- Identify potential environmental risks.

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- Make informed decisions about environmental compliance.
- Participate in environmental planning and decision-making.

The GIS/web portal helps build public trust by demonstrating that CDPH is committed to sharing information and working with the community to address environmental concerns. It can also help to promote environmental stewardship by providing businesses and the community with the information they need to make informed decisions about environmental issues.

**Supporting Department(s):** This effort will require support from AIS for development support, and CDOT and DPD for data sources. It's envisioned other City departments will use the dashboard for planning and decision making.

**Impact Measures:**

- Percent of CDPH-collected data made publicly available
- Quality of data in terms of completeness and accuracy
- Timeliness of data publication
- Utilization of the data by regulators, industry, researchers, and the general public

**Related Department Investments & Prior Commitments:** In 2012, CDPH started publishing its environmental permitting, inspections, complaints, and enforcement data in the City's Open Data Portal. CDPH also makes a wide range of health-related data available on the Chicago Health Atlas (<https://chicagohealthatlas.org/>).

| Action Steps   | Timeline         | Status  |
|--|------------------|---------|
| Publish bulk storage air quality and meteorological data in the City's Open Data Portal  | 2023             | Ongoing |
| Develop system to allow real-time ingestion of fence line air quality and meteorological data from regulated facilities  | 2023-2024        | Ongoing |
| Work with the Environmental Equity Working Group and/or any formally approved community advisory body to co-develop the content and format of data tools to ensure that they can be readily used and understood. | Early 2024 -2025 | Planned |
| Develop GIS portal to display and distribute emissions inventory data and other environmental data such as air sensor and meteorological data.   | 2023-2025        | Planned |

**Community Input & Response**

**Community Input:**

*There was community interest in the use of dispersion modeling to evaluate air quality at EJ areas and having this data be made available to the public.*

**Response to Community Input:**

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In response to the comment, the dashboard will now include the modeling data and results of air dispersion and risk assessment models.