

MASSACHUSETTS
SMART GROWTH / SMART ENERGY CONFERENCE

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Neglected Space to a Special Place: Turning Brownfields into Parks

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Toolkit



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Brownfields

In Brief: Brownfields reuse is the redevelopment of contaminated properties into revitalized productive uses. Redeveloping brownfield sites promotes a smart growth agenda by revitalizing blighted urban areas, supporting local economic growth, and advancing environmental health. Brownfield projects can be a complicated and often involve four steps: site inventory, site cleanup, marketing the property, and funding strategies. Several incentives are available to developers and municipalities including national, state, and regional funding programs.

Introduction

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is committed to the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield properties as a way to stimulate the economy and promote environmental protection goals. Fostering the cleanup and re-use of contaminated properties is a priority for the state, and is consistent with the Commonwealth's [Sustainable Development Principles](#). This section of the Toolkit is a brief guide to brownfield redevelopment and resources available from the Commonwealth.

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Advancing Environmental Justice in the Commonwealth

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In Brief: Environmental Justice (EJ) is based on the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental pollution and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment. EJ is the equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies and the equitable distribution of environmental benefits. The objective of this section of the Toolkit is to provide guidance to municipalities and developers on how to better engage EJ populations in the planning and development process.

The Problem

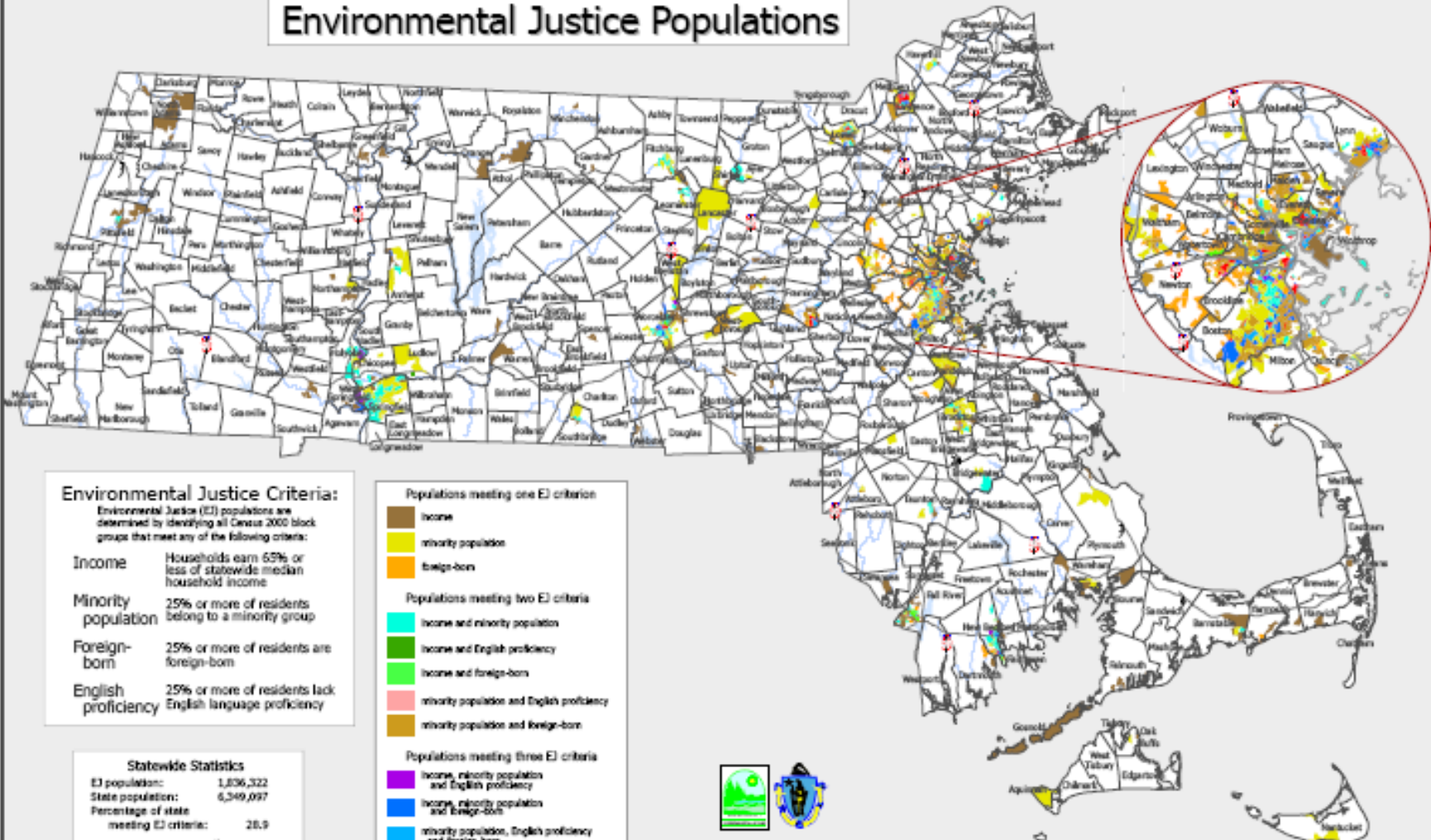
Studies conducted throughout the U.S. have documented patterns of environmental injustice. These studies have determined that lower-income and minority communities suffer from a disproportionately high share of environmental burdens and at the same time lack environmental assets in their neighborhoods. This pattern holds true in Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) defines EJ populations as neighborhoods (U.S. Census Bureau census block groups) that meet one of more of the following criteria:



EJ populations dwell in neighborhoods lacking environmental

Environmental Justice Populations



Environmental Justice Criteria:

Environmental Justice (EJ) populations are determined by identifying all Census 2000 block groups that meet any of the following criteria:

- Income** Households earn 65% or less of statewide median household income
- Minority population** 25% or more of residents belong to a minority group
- Foreign-born** 25% or more of residents are foreign-born
- English proficiency** 25% or more of residents lack English language proficiency

Statewide Statistics

EJ population:	1,836,322
State population:	6,349,097
Percentage of state meeting EJ criteria:	28.9
<i>sq. miles</i>	<i>acres</i>
EJ areas:	387 247,766
State area:	8,091 6,349,097
Percentage of state meeting EJ criteria:	4.8

Populations meeting one EJ criterion

- income
- minority population
- foreign-born

Populations meeting two EJ criteria

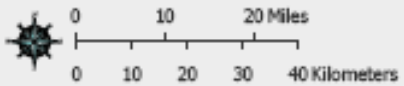
- income and minority population
- income and English proficiency
- income and foreign-born
- minority population and English proficiency
- minority population and foreign-born

Populations meeting three EJ criteria

- income, minority population and English proficiency
- income, minority population and foreign-born
- minority population, English proficiency and foreign-born
- income, English proficiency and foreign-born

Populations meeting all four EJ criteria

- income, minority population, English proficiency and foreign-born



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Chapter 21E Sites and Environmental Justice Areas

Sites Closed, October 1, 2002 to November 30, 2007

