

Communities and Equitable Revitalization at EPA Region 2

January 25, 2022



Strategic Programs Office EPA Region 2

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Community Driven Solutions

EPA's Community Driven Solutions

- Enhances the Agency's collaboration with communities
- Provides communities with access to funding, training, capacity building, and other technical assistance so that communities:
 - Can meaningfully engage in EPA's decision-making processes
 - Can design and implement local solutions that address their priorities
- R2 CDS
 - NY: Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse, Newburgh
 - Indian Nations: St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Shinnecock Nation
 - NJ: Trenton*, Paterson*, Newark*, Camden*, Vineland
 - Puerto Rico: Caño Martín Peña*
 - **USVI: St. Croix, USVI**



Case Study: St. Croix – Limetree Bay Oil Refinery



- Largest of the three islands
- Southern portion of St. Croix is the industrial corridor (refinery, distillery etc.)
- Majority of population has EJ concerns

Estate Population

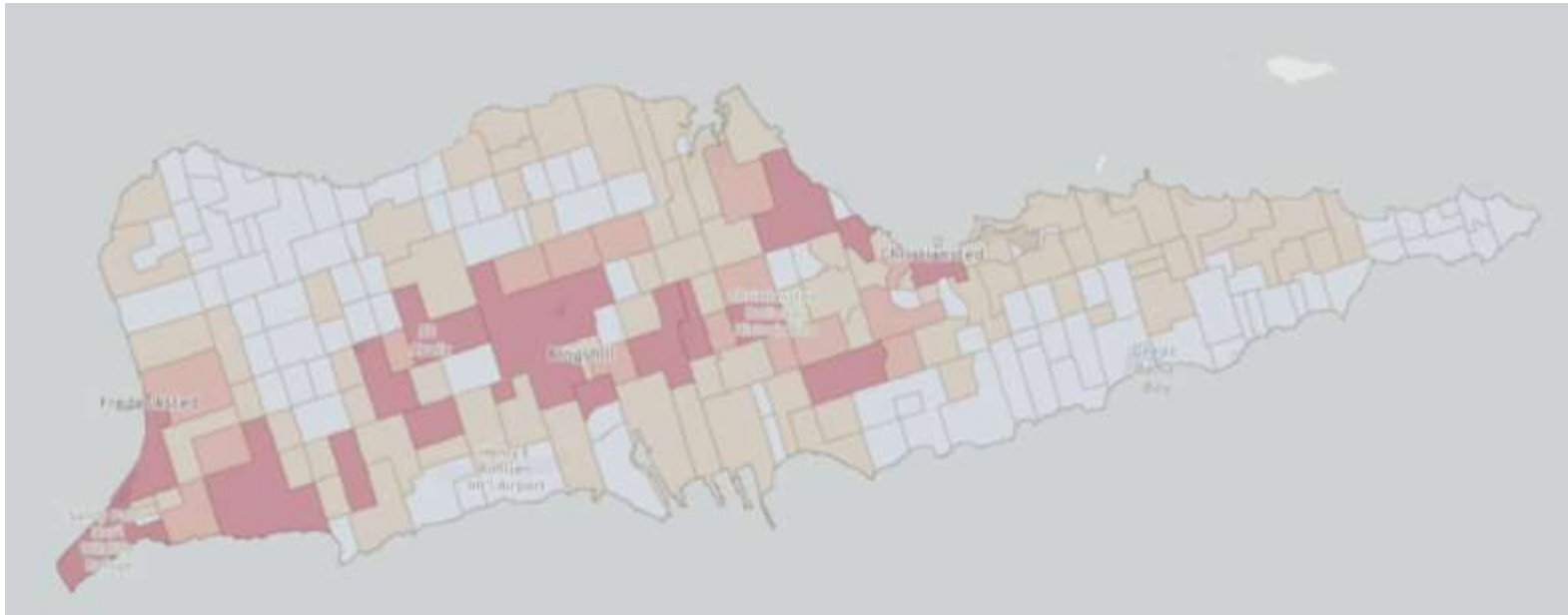
1,000 – 3,315

500 – 1,000

30 – 500

0 – 30

**based on 2010 census data*



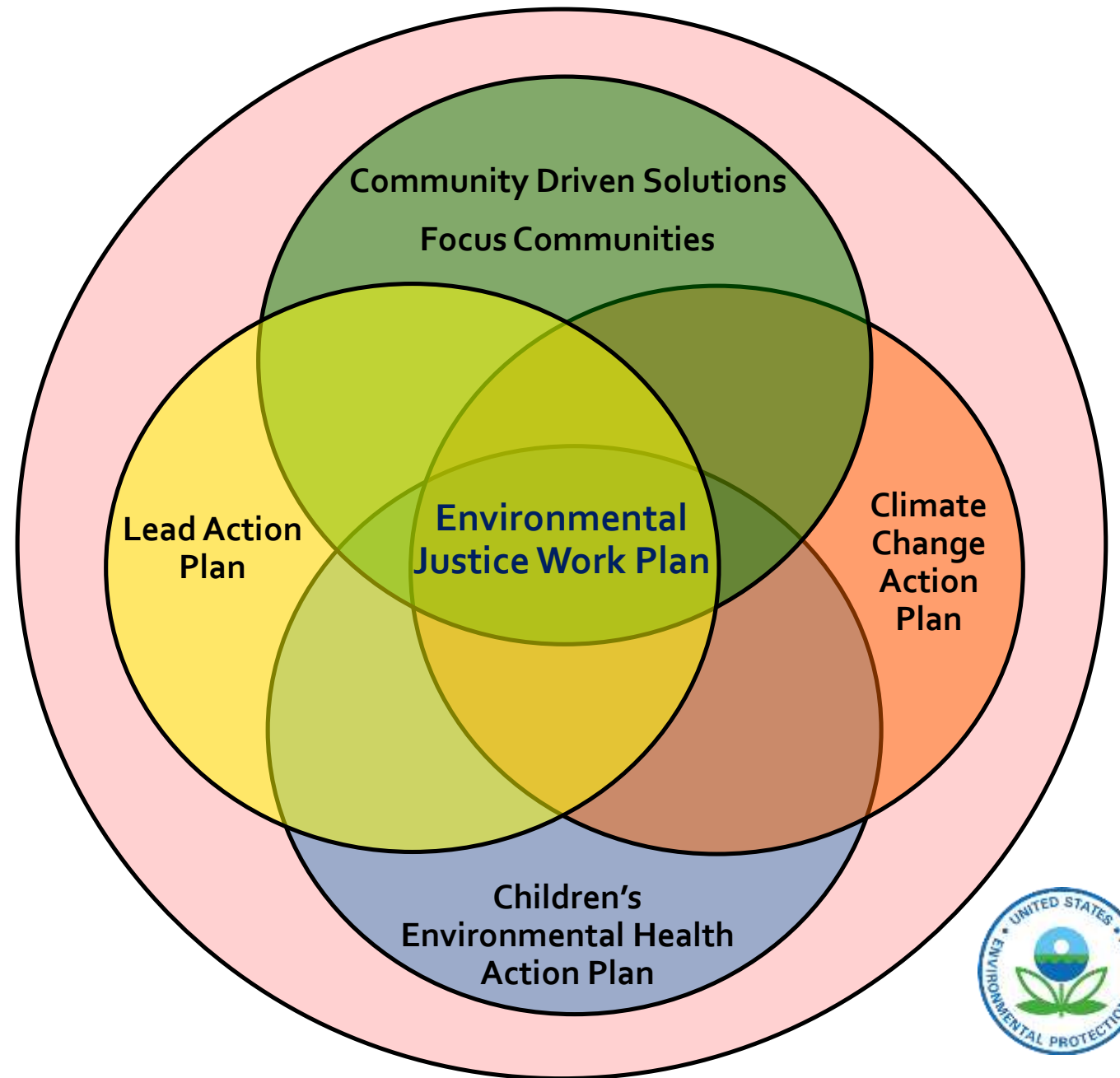
Case Study: St. Croix Limetree Bay Oil Refinery

- **Feb 2021:** Refinery operations restarted in under the ownership of Limetree Bay
- **Feb – May 2021:** Series of incidents at the refinery led to release of toxic substances
- **May 2021:** EPA set up a community hotline, found that Western portion of the island (Frederiksted) was disproportionately affected
- **May 2021:** CAA Sec 303 ordered issued by EPA temporarily suspending operations
- **June 2021:** Limetree Bay announces it will extend the shutdown due to finances
- **July 2021 & Beyond:** EPA teams working with local officials, community leaders, university researchers and other federal agencies to understand on continued response and future mitigation

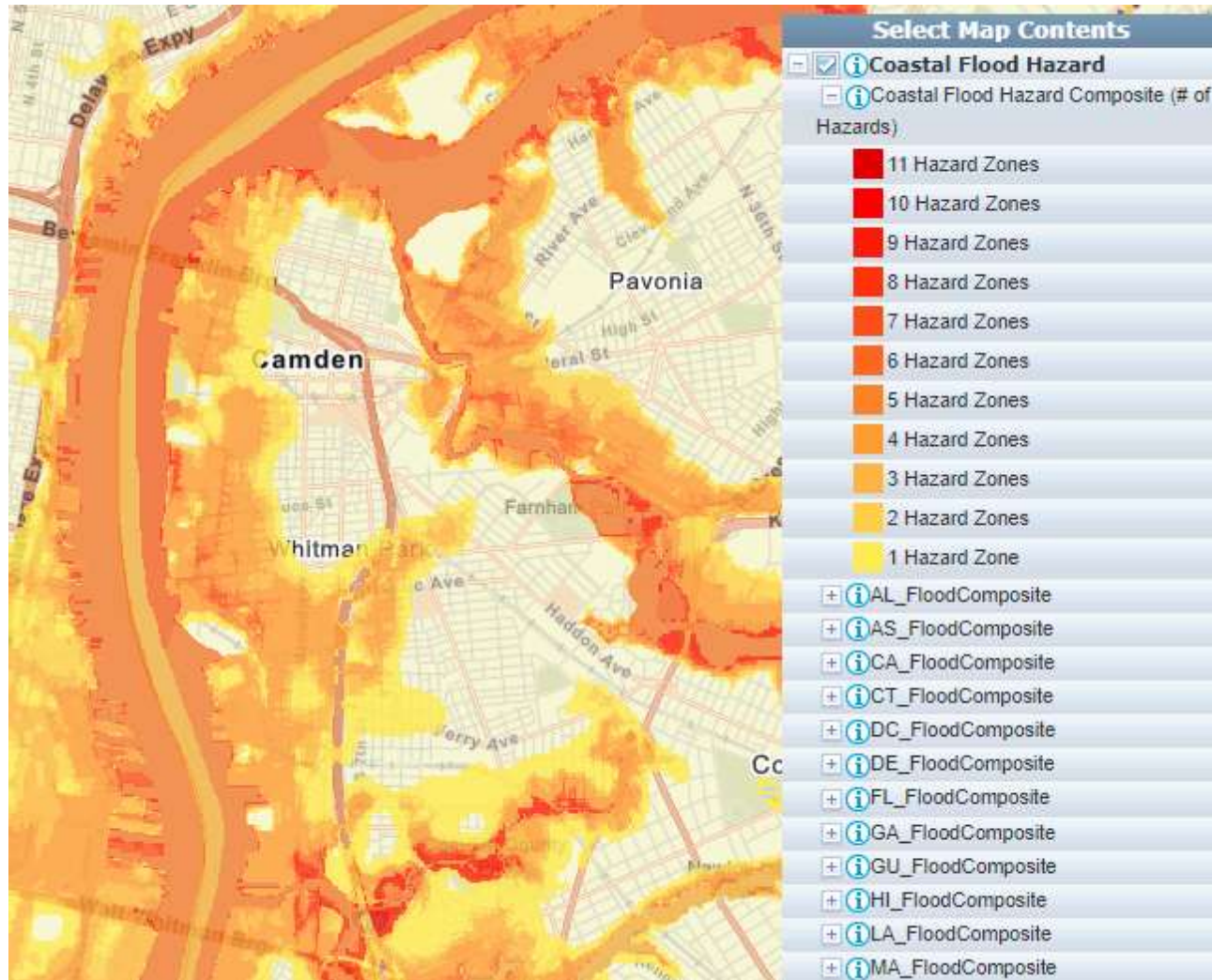


Environmental Justice

It encompasses CDS, CEH,
Lead Action Plan and Climate
Change



Climate Justice in EJSCREEN

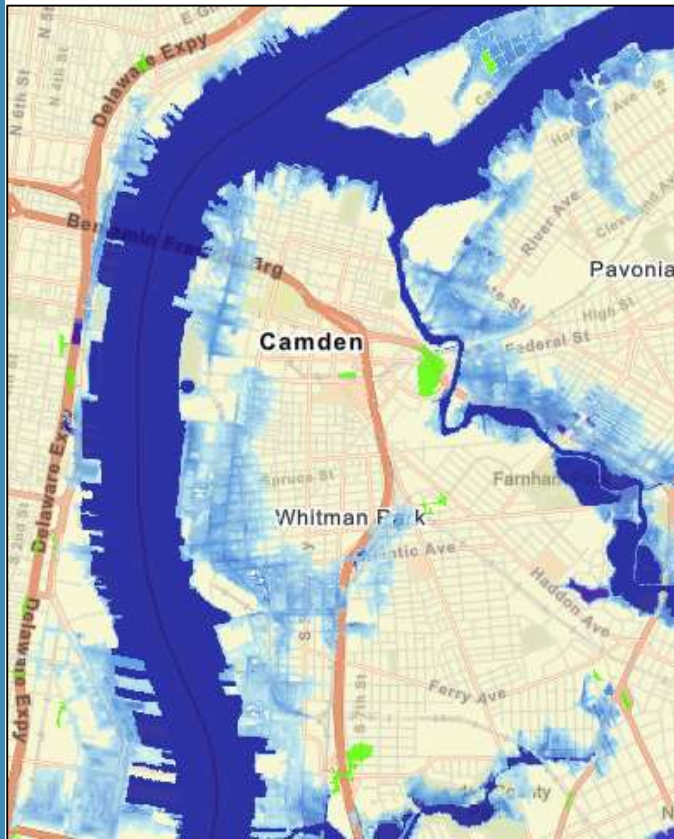


- Coastal Flood Hazard
- Flood Plain
- Sea Level Rise

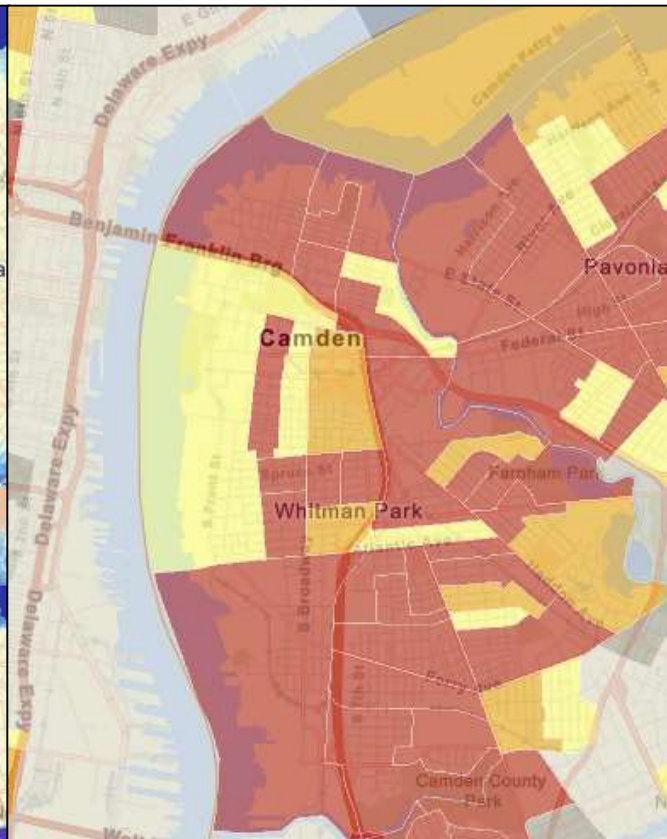


Climate Justice in EJSCREEN

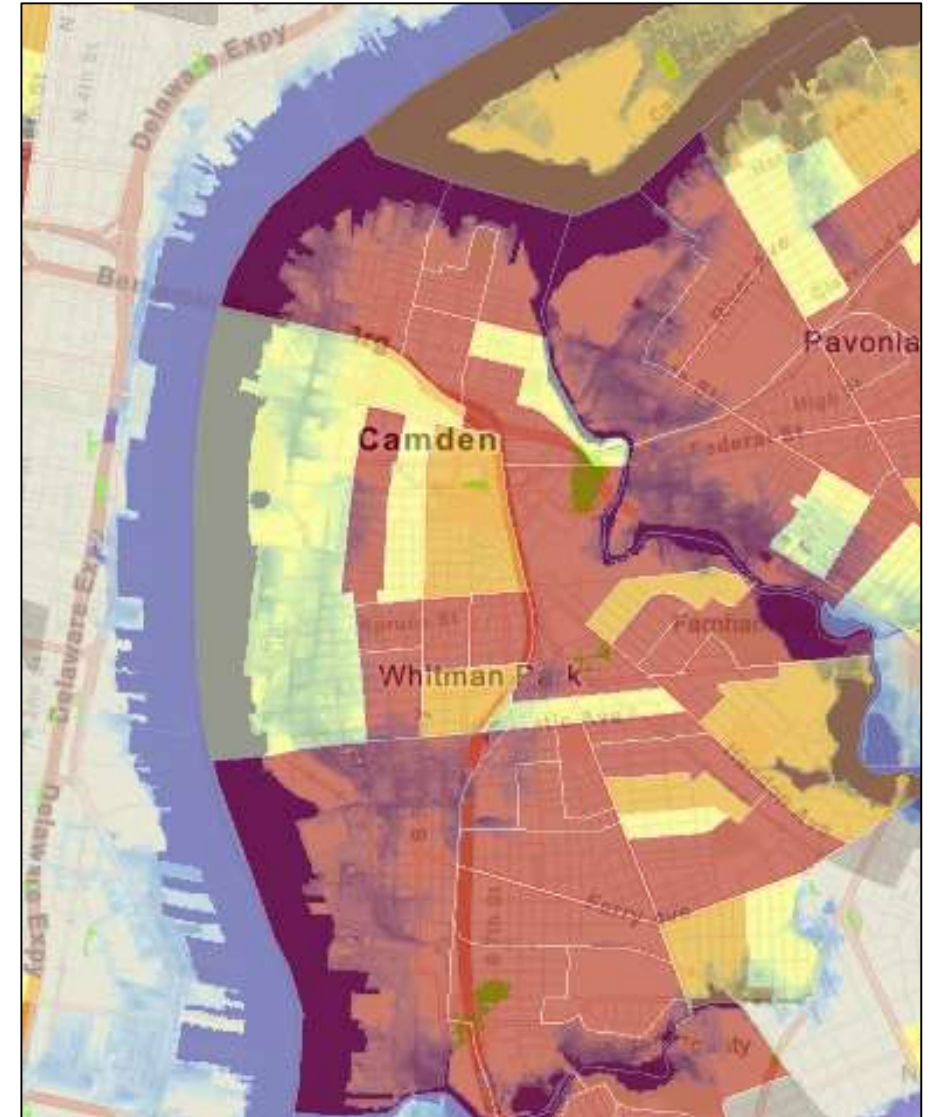
Sea Level Rise (6 ft)



Demographic Index



Combined



Community Revitalization

Technical Assistance Programs – Local Foods, Local Places

- Supports locally-led, community-driven efforts to:
 - Improve access to healthy local food,
 - Boost economic opportunities for local farmers and businesses, and
 - Protect air and water quality
- Example: Culebra, Puerto Rico – Mujeres de Islas



Technical Assistance Programs – Building Blocks for Equitable Development

- Delivers targeted technical assistance and tools to stimulate a discussion about growth and development and strengthen local capacity to implement sustainable approaches.
- Tools used in 2021:
 - Emerging Mobility
 - Leveraging Cultural Anchor Institutions
 - Building Regional Disaster Resilience
 - Supporting Equitable Development
- Example: Paterson, New Jersey – Paterson Habitat for Humanity



Technical Assistance Programs – Recreational Economy for Rural Communities

- Helps communities identify strategies to grow their outdoor recreation economy and revitalize their Main Streets.
 - Ensure that all residents and visitors have equitable access to and can benefit from the growing outdoor recreation economy,
 - Foster community pride, good stewardship, and local economic benefits, and
 - Develop in-town amenities.
- Example: Cambridge, NY



Monthly Resources Guide

- Compilation of funding opportunities, tools, and webinars related to sustainable community and economic development.
- Contact Lance Caldwell at caldwell.lance@epa.gov



Technical Assistance and Funding Resources Guide

A Monthly Update from U.S. EPA, Region 2

January 2022

This guide is designed to assist community organizations, local governments, universities, and other partners in navigating technical assistance and funding opportunities across Region 2.

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Thank You!

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