

FACT SHEET

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICIES



As part of The Ontario Plan (TOP) 2050 Update the City is required to address recently adopted state legislation, which includes Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000). SB 1000 was passed in 2016 to address the inequitable distribution of pollution and associated health effects in low-income communities. It requires local governments to identify environmental justice communities in their jurisdiction and address environmental justice in their general plans.

What is Environmental Justice?

Throughout our communities, some bear a disproportionate burden of pollution and associated health risks. Environmental justice seeks to correct this inequity by reducing pollution and increasing public investments in these communities, while also ensuring their input is considered in decisions that affect them.

What is an Environmental Justice Community?

An environmental justice community is an area of the City where residents have the highest risk of exposure to pollution in the air, water, and soil. This pollution may be caused by passing vehicles (cars and trucks) or by the daily activities of businesses and institutions. Residents in these areas also tend to be burdened by socioeconomic and health issues, such as higher rates of language barriers, poverty, and asthma.

Such areas also tend to experience lower rates of investment and improvements from individuals, private companies, and public agencies. All these factors can lead to unequal opportunities to lead a healthy and prosperous life.

Changes We Are Making in the TOP 2050 General Plan Update

SB 1000 was codified in Section 65302(h)(1) of the Government Code and requires that a general plan include 1) **an environmental justice element**, or 2) related goals, policies, and objectives **integrated into other elements**. TOP 2050 integrated 22 Environmental Justice policies into Land Use, Mobility, Environmental Resources, Safety, Parks & Recreation, and Social Resources Elements. Below are examples of how the City will develop goals, policies, and actions to improve existing and future conditions for Ontario.

Reducing exposure to pollution. Develop strategies and support regulations that will help reduce exposure to air pollution and hazardous materials.

Improving public facilities. Increase access to community health facilities, parks, community centers, and other public services and facilities, particularly in underserved areas.

Promoting healthy food. Improve the health and wellness of all residents through policies, regulations, and programs that foster healthier food options

Increasing physical activity. Establish new opportunities for outdoor and indoor recreation as part of a comprehensive and integrated network of spaces and facilities, focusing on underserved areas.

Enhancing civic engagement. Increase the amount and quality of community engagement throughout the planning, development, and operation of our communities and City

A summary of TOP 2050 Environmental Justice policies is attached and provides the current policy as included in TOP 2035, adopted in 2010, and a suggested revision to that policy for TOP 2050.

Goal	Policy	Topic	Current Policy	Suggested Revision
LAND USE ELEMENT				
Goal LU1			A Community that has a spectrum of housing types and price ranges.	A Community that has a spectrum of housing types and price ranges that match the jobs in the City and that make it possible for people to live and work in Ontario and maintain a quality of life.
	LU1		Balance	
	LU1-4	EJ	Mobility. We require development and urban design, where appropriate, that reduces reliance on the automobile and capitalizes on multi-modal transportation opportunities. (Refer to Mobility Element Policy M3-3)	Multimodal Mobility. We require development and urban design, where appropriate, that reduces reliance on the automobile and capitalizes on active transportation, transit, electric vehicles, and multi-modal transportation opportunities. (Link to Mobility Element Policies M-2.1, M-3.3; Community Design Element Policies CD-2.6, CD-3.1, CD-3.3, CD3.6) [EJ TOPIC: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY and COMPLETE STREETS ACT]
Goal LU2			Compatibility between a wide range of uses.	Compatibility between a wide range of uses and resultant urban patterns and forms.
	LU2		Compatibility	
	LU2-2	EJ	Buffers. We require new uses to provide mitigation or buffers between existing uses where potential adverse impacts could occur. (Refer to Community Design)	Buffers. We require new uses to provide mitigation or buffers between existing uses where potential adverse impacts could occur. Additional mitigation is required when new uses could negatively impact environmental justice areas. (Link to Community Design Element) [EJ TOPIC: POLLUTION]
	LU2-10	EJ	NEW POLICY proposed to meet requirements of new State laws.	Sensitive Uses. We monitor and share information with the community about stationary and non-stationary emission sources. We encourage siting and design of facilities to minimize health and safety risks on existing and proposed sensitive uses, especially in environmental justice areas. [EJ TOPIC: POLLUTION]
MOBILITY ELEMENT				
Goal M1			A system of roadways that meets the mobility needs of a dynamic and prosperous Ontario.	
	M1		Roadway Systems	
	M1-4	EJ/UD	Complete Streets. We work to provide a balanced context sensitive, multimodal transportation network that meets the needs of all users of streets, roads, and highways, including motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, children, persons with disabilities, seniors, movers of commercial goods and users of public transportation.	Complete Streets. We work to provide a complete, balanced, context-aware, multimodal transportation network that meets the needs of all users of streets, roads, and highways, including motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, children, persons with disabilities, seniors, movers of commercial goods, and users of public transportation. We prioritize implementation of complete streets improvements in environmental justice areas to facilitate opportunities for residents to use active transportation systems. [EJ TOPIC: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY]
Goal M3			A public transit system that is a viable alternative to automobile travel and meets the basic transportation needs of transit-dependent.	
	M3		Public Transit	
	M3-1	EJ	Transit Partners. We maintain a proactive working partnership with transit providers to ensure that adequate public transit service is available	Transit Partners. We maintain a proactive working partnership with transit providers to ensure that adequate public transit service is available, cost-efficient, and convenient, particularly for residents in environmental justice areas. [EJ TOPIC: PUBLIC FACILITIES]
	M3-2	EJ	Transit Facilities at New Development. We require new development to provide transit facilities, such as bus shelters, transit bays, and turnouts, as necessary.	Alternative Transit Facilities at New Development. We require new development adjacent to an existing or planned transit stop to contribute to the creation of transit facilities, such as bus shelters, transit bays and turnouts, and bicycle facilities, such as secure storage areas. [EJ TOPIC: PUBLIC FACILITIES]
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE ELEMENT				

Goal	Policy	Topic	Current Policy	Suggested Revision
Goal ER1			A reliable and cost-effective system that permits the City to manage its diverse water resources and needs.	
ER1			Water and Wastewater	
	ER1-5	EJ	Groundwater Management. We protect groundwater quality by incorporating strategies that prevent pollution, require remediation where necessary, capture and treat urban runoff, and recharge the aquifer.	Water Resource Management. Environmental justice areas are prioritized as we coordinate with local agencies to protect water quality, prevent pollution, address existing contamination, and remediate contaminated surface water and groundwater. [EJ TOPIC: POLLUTION]
Goal ER4			Improve indoor and outdoor air quality and reduced locally generated pollutant sources.	
ER4			Air Quality	
	ER4-4	EJ	Indoor Air Quality. We will comply with State Green Building Codes relative to indoor air quality.	Indoor Air Quality. We will comply with State Green Building Codes relative to indoor air quality. We seek funding to improve indoor air quality for households with poor indoor air quality, with priority for lower income households in environmental justice areas. [EJ TOPIC: SAFE AND SANITARY HOUSING]
	ER4-7	EJ	Other Agency Collaboration. We collaborate with other agencies within the South Coast Air Basin to improve regional air quality at the emission source.	Other Agency Collaboration. We collaborate with other agencies within the South Coast Air Basin to improve regional air quality at the emission source, with a particular focus on sources that affect environmental justice areas in Ontario. [EJ TOPIC: POLLUTION]
	ER4-8	EJ	Tree Planting. We protect healthy trees within the City and plant new trees to increase carbon sequestration and help the regional/local air quality.	Tree Planting. We protect healthy trees within the City and plant new trees to increase carbon sequestration and help the regional/local air quality. We expand the tree canopy in environmental justice areas to enhance air quality and reduce the "heat island" effect. [EJ TOPIC: POLLUTION]
	ER4-9	EJ	NEW POLICY proposed to meet requirements of new State laws.	New Localized Air Pollution Sources Near Existing Sensitive Receptors. We require new development to conduct a Health Risk Assessment for land uses that generate more than 100 trucks per day or 40 trucks per day by trucks operating transportation refrigeration units (TRU's) within 1,000 feet from sensitive land uses (California Health and Safety Code § 42705.5(a)(5)). If the health risk assessment determines the new development poses health hazards that increase the incremental cancer risk above the threshold established by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), we will only approve permits upon the condition that adequate mitigation measures are proposed and implemented for potential impacts on the sensitive uses around the site and along the route within Ontario taken by the trucks to and from freeways. We require new developments that must perform a health risk assessment to conduct additional public outreach by sending notifications in multiple languages to all residents living within 500 feet, and encourage hosting a public meeting. [EJ TOPIC: POLLUTION]
SAFETY ELEMENT				
Goal S1			Minimize risk of injury, loss of life, property damage, and economic and social disruption caused by earthquake-induced or other geological hazards.	
S1			Seismic/Geologic Hazards	
	S1-4	EJ	Seismically Vulnerable Structures. We conform to state law regarding unreinforced masonry structures.	Seismically Vulnerable Structures. We conform to state law regarding unreinforced masonry structures and coordinate with not-for-profits to facilitate seismic retrofits in environmental justice areas and for low-income households. [EJ TOPIC: SAFE & SANITARY HOUSING]
Goal S6			Reduce the potential for hazardous materials exposure and contamination.	

Goal	Policy	Topic	Current Policy	Suggested Revision
S6			Hazardous Materials	
	S6-3	EJ	Safer Alternatives. We minimize our use of hazardous materials by choosing non-toxic alternatives that do not pose a threat to the environment.	Safer Alternatives. We minimize our use of pesticides and other hazardous materials by choosing non-toxic alternatives that do not pose a threat to the environment, especially when it could affect public park facilities and open spaces. [EJ TOPIC: POLLUTION]
	S6-5	EJ	Location of Hazardous Material Facilities. We regulate facilities that will be involved in the production, use, storage, or disposal of hazardous materials, pursuant to federal, state, county, and local regulations so that impacts to the environment and sensitive land uses are mitigated.	Location of Hazardous Material Facilities. We regulate facilities that will be involved in the production, use, storage, or disposal of hazardous materials, pursuant to federal, state, county, and local regulations, so that impacts to the environment and sensitive land uses are mitigated. We prohibit new hazardous waste facilities in close proximity to sensitive land uses and environmental justice areas. [EJ TOPIC: POLLUTION]
PARKS & RECREATION ELEMENT				
Goal PR1			A system of safe and accessible parks that meets the needs of the community.	
PR1			Planning & Design	
	PR1-1	EJ	Access to Parks. We strive to provide a park and/or recreational facility within walking distance (¼ mile) of every residence.	Access to Parks. In all new residential development areas, we strive to provide a park and/or recreational facility within walking distance (¼ mile) of every residence and prioritize the establishment of parks in environmental justice areas that do not have adequate access to parks. [EJ TOPIC: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY]
Goal PR2			A range of recreational programs provided by public, private, and nonprofit organizations that meet the needs of the community's varied interests, age groups, and abilities	
PR2			Recreational Programs	
	PR2-4	EJ	Access to Programs. We provide a range of program opportunities for residents of all income levels.	Access to Programs. We provide a range of recreational and physical exercise programs that are accessible to residents of all income levels throughout the community and prioritize establishing and maintaining equitable access for residents in environmental justice areas. [EJ TOPIC: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY]
SOCIAL RESOURCES ELEMENT				
Goal SR1			A community where residents have access to information, services, and goods that improve their health and wellbeing.	
SR1			Health	
	SR1-2	EJ		Nutrition Choices. We support the promotion of equitable access to affordable healthy food choices in the community, including community gardens, farmers markets, and cooking classes. [EJ TOPIC: HEALTHY FOOD]
	SR1-3	EJ	Healthy Education. We promote health education, including disease prevention, mental health, nutrition, and physical fitness	Health Education. We promote equitable access to health education, including disease prevention, mental health, nutrition and physical fitness. [EJ TOPIC: PUBLIC FACILITIES]
	SR1-4	EJ	Physical Activity. We encourage activities and community design that improves the physical fitness of our community members.	Physical Activity. We encourage activities and community design that improve the physical fitness of our community members, with an emphasis on the provision of activities and facilities in environmental justice areas. [EJ TOPIC: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY]
Goal SR2			A range of educational and training opportunities for residents and workers of all ages and abilities that improves their life choices and provides a skilled workforce for our businesses.	
SR2			Education	

Goal	Policy	Topic	Current Policy	Suggested Revision
	SR2-6	EJ	New policy to address civic engagement	Language. We promote broad outreach in languages used by the community for proposed projects that could negatively affect environmental justice areas. [EJ TOPIC: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT]
	SR2-7	EJ	New policy to address civic engagement	Community Engagement. We promote targeted outreach and education to historically underrepresented groups to encourage meaningful participation in decision-making process for projects whose outcomes will affect land use in environmental justice areas. [EJ TOPIC: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT]
Goal SR5	Local heritage, entertainment, and cultural experiences that enrich the lives of Ontario's residents, workers, and visitors and serve to attract residents and businesses to the City.			
	SR5	Entertainment and Culture		
	SR5-1	EJ	Provisions of Entertainment and Culture. We support a range of entertainment and cultural experiences, such as public art, exhibitions, and performances.	Provision of Entertainment and Culture. We support equitable access to a range of entertainment and cultural experiences such as public art, exhibitions and performances. [EJ TOPIC: PUBLIC FACILITIES]