Tulane Environmental Law Clinic's Community Engagement Program: ERLI Update
Louisiana Resident Resources

Pollution and Atmospheric/Water Data:

- **Air Toxics Ambient Air Standard (AAS) 2007 Review**: Provides the list of Federal resources used by the LDEQ to justify changes made to the Toxic Air Pollutant Ambient Air Standards.
    - https://deq.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/Air/TAPchangeswithreasonsforchange.pdf

- **Atmospheric Composition Analysis Group PM2.5 Data:** Provides annual datasets of ground-level fine particulate matter (PM2.5) mass concentrations for North America, China, Europe, and other regions.
    - Link here.

- **Benzene Pollution at Petroleum Refinery Fencelines:** This story map is a source for regularly updated benzene monitoring data organized around for main issues: EPA Action Level, Long-Term Public Health Threat, Short-term Public Health Threat, and Actual vs Adjusted Benzene Concentrations.
    - https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9cc8aa37cb34444dbb053a097c22ba07

- **Emissions Inventory:** Provides Emissions Reporting and Inventory Center (ERIC) reports including annual data for criteria and toxic emissions based on both facilities and pollutants. This dataset uses certified inventory data from each facility and compiles it into quarterly reports.
    - https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/eric-public-reports

- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**
    - **Benefits of Reducing PM2.5 Precursors:** This Technical Support Document provides new estimates of the benefit per ton (BPT) values of reducing PM2.5 precursors from 17 sectors.
        - https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-02/documents/sourceapportionmentbpttsd_2018.pdf
    - **Environmental Quality Index (EQI):** This tool provides county level data for air, water, land, built, and socioeconomic environments to give an overview of environmental quality across the U.S.
        - https://www.epa.gov/healthresearch/environmental-quality-index-eqi
    - **Facility Level Information on Greenhouse Gases Tool (FLIGHT):** Provides user with information about greenhouse gas emissions from facilities across the U.S. that are required to report their annual emissions to the EPA.
        - https://ghgdata.epa.gov/ghgp/main.do
    - **State Inventory and Projection Tool:** Provides a helpful, interactive spreadsheet model to assist state legislators in developing greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories. The spreadsheet model includes information such as data

and emission factors that can potentially shorten the time spent on developing an inventory.

- https://www.epa.gov/statelocalenergy/state-inventory-and-projection-tool

- **LDEQ Ambient Air Monitoring Data and Reports:** Provides links to real time data, searchable data for specific dates, excel files containing historical data, and Louisiana Annual Monitoring Network Plans.
  - https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/ambient-air-monitoring-data-reports

- **NOAA Air Resources Laboratory, HYSPLIT:** A tool used to create models that simulate local and global dispersion and trajectory of various atmospheric substances.
  - https://www.arl.noaa.gov/hysplit/

- **Oil and Gas Watch:** A public inventory that tracks the expansion of oil, gas, and petrochemical infrastructure throughout the nation by compiling information from sources like government records, news articles, and corporate filings.
  - https://oilandgaswatch.org/

- **PERI (Political Economy Research Institute) Air Toxics at School:** Provides national air toxics data surrounding K-12 and higher schools. The user can select a school of interest and is provided with information such as top five surrounding polluting facilities, air toxics rankings and percentiles, and top five surrounding pollutants.
  - https://www.peri.umass.edu/air-toxics-at-school

- **Pushing Back: A Guide for Frontline Communities Challenging Petrochemical Expansion:** This toolkit provides users with information about petrochemicals and the risks and impacts of their production/use.
  - https://www.pushbackagainstpetrochemicals.org/

- **Refinery Air Watch:** A site that collects fence line air monitoring data from oil refineries and enables you to download the results. This site offers two-week sampling data from all U.S. oil refineries and continuous monitoring data from California refineries.
  - https://www.refineryairwatch.org/

- **River Runner:** This tool uses data from the USGS' (U.S. Geological Survey) NLDI (Hydro Network-Linked Data Index) API and NHD (National Hydrography Dataset) to show continuous downstream paths from any point waterbody in the U.S.
  - https://river-runner.samlearner.com/

- **Sanitary Surveys for Recreational Waters:** Provides EPA data collected at the edge of recreational waterbodies and the surrounding watersheds such as weather conditions, number of birds, dogs, and people, amount of algae, land use, location of stormwater outfalls, and surface water quality.
  - https://www.epa.gov/beach-tech/sanitary-surveys-recreational-waters#marine

- **Wind Data:**
  - **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Data Access:** Provides user with National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) weather and climate data such as land-based, marine, radar, and satellite datasets.
    - https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/products

  - **Windfinder:** Provides the user with global real time wind data such as forecasts, wind speed, live weather, and wind maps.
    - https://www.windfinder.com/?utm_source=windfinder.com&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=redirect#3/39.5040/-98.4375

Health Risk, Social Vulnerability, and Historical Data:

- **Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry:** A federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ATSDR responds to environmental health emergencies, investigates emerging environmental health threats, conducts research on the health impacts of hazardous waste sites, and provides guidance to state and local health partners.
  - https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/

- **Center for Disease Control Cancer (CDC) Data and Statistics:** Provides the user with national cancer statistics and data visualization tools from United States Cancer Statistics (USCS). These sources provide information such as new cancer cases, cancer deaths, survival, sex, age, race, ethnicity, and state/county.
  - https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dcpc/data/index.htm

- **EASIUR Online Tool:** The EASIUR (Estimating Air Pollution Social Impact Using Regression) online tool acts a model to estimate the public health cost (social cost) of pollution emissions in the United States.
  - https://barney.ce.cmu.edu/~jinhyok/easiur/

- **Environmental Justice Index (EJI):** A tool that uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the EPA, the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration, and U.S. CDC to rank the cumulative impacts of environmental injustice on health for every census tract in the U.S.
  - https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/eji/index.html

- **EJ (Environmental Justice) Screen:** A tool for screening and environmental justice mapping that provides updated demographic, health, and environmental information from the National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA), a growing review of air toxics in the United States developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
  - https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen

- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**
  - **Guidance on Proper Sampling Protocols:** Provides guidance on how to choose a sampling design for environmental data collection that can be used in a research study's Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).
    - https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/g5s-final.pdf
  - **State Planning Electronic Collaboration System (SPECS) tools:** Provide information about nonattainment and maintenance areas for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAQQS). https://www.epa.gov/air-quality-implementation-plans/tools-state-implementation-plan-sip-status
    - **Nonattainment and Maintenance Population Tool:** Displays the number of people living in designated nonattainment and maintenance areas for current and revoked NAAQS, based on 2019 population. It also displays the individual counties in nonattainment and maintenance areas on an interactive map.
    - **Nonattainment and Maintenance Area Dashboard**: Provides information about nonattainment and maintenance areas for current and revoked NAAQS. Information in the dashboard can be filtered by state, NAAQS, area name, area status, area classification, and other fields. When viewing information about a specific area, the history of EPA actions on the area is displayed at the bottom of the page.
    - **Required State Implementation Plan (SIP) Elements Dashboard:** Provides details about individual states' Clean Air Act and regulatory planning requirements associated with implementing, attaining, and maintaining the NAAQS through SIPs. Information in the dashboard can be filtered by state, plan category, NAAQS, area, and specific SIP element.

- **Louisiana Tumor Registry (LTR):** Published by the LTR each year, this provides statewide reports on cancer rates by parish and census tracts, based on the most recent 5 or 10 years of data. Contrary to common belief, these reports do not evaluate the causes of cancer.
  - https://sph.lsuhsc.edu/louisiana-tumor-registry/data-usestatistics/monographs-publications/

- **National Cancer Institute SEER Program Cancer Statistics:** Provides user with annual reports on cancer statistics, rates, and trends. Here, the user can also find interactive tools, maps, and graphs such as SEER Explorer in which provides information on cancer incidence, survival, U.S. mortality and U.S. lifetime risks statistics.
  - https://seer.cancer.gov/statistics/

- **Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units – Region 6:** A national network of experts in the prevention, diagnosis, management, and treatment of health issues that arise from environmental exposures from preconception through adolescence.
    - https://www.pehsu.net/region6.html

- **Planet Tracker:** A non-profit financial dashboard that aligns capital markets with planetary boundaries. With several research topics available, Planet Tracker also includes a Plastics Programme in which toxic emissions from plastic production are highlighted in addition to the carbon footprint, physical pollution on land and sea, microplastics, and more.
    - https://planet-tracker.org/

- **ProPublica ToxMap:** This tool uses EPA RSEI toxic air pollution data to allow users to see the toxics-related health risks across the U.S. By pinpointing industrial facilities whose pollution is reported to the EPA, the tool provides a detailed map of the facilities, pollution hotspots, and associated cancer risk from the specific pollutants being emitted.
    - https://projects.propublica.org/toxmap/

- **Richmond University's Social Vulnerability and Redlining Maps:** Shows the 1930's Federal Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) maps along with area descriptions, in comparison with contemporary health disparities. This tool demonstrates the history and consequences of *redlining*: "the practice of denying fair access to credit, particularly mortgages, based on the race of the residents of a neighborhood." These HOLC maps are combined with the Center for Disease Control's Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) scores for census tracts today that assess a community's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural and human disasters.
    - https://dsl.richmond.edu/socialvulnerability/

- **RSEI (Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators) Model:** A model providing data and information about toxic substance emissions from industrial facilities. Data from the EPA Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) is used in combination with information such as potential human exposure and a chemical's relative toxicity to provide RSEI scores. These scores can be used for analyzing industrial pollution impacts on communities when combined with other demographic data.
    - **EasyRSEI:** Provides user with a dashboard of EPA RSEI model results through maps, tables, and charts. Data can be organized by geographic location, facilities, years, and types of chemicals and can be exported from the database.
        - https://edap.epa.gov/public/extensions/EasyRSEI/EasyRSEI.html
    - **RSEI Microdata:** Provides the user with a smaller and more manageable dataset containing values for each release and each potentially impacted geographic grid cell. This allows for the user to sum up potential impacts over the affected grid cells, allowing for a more realistic picture of the affects a small geographic area may be facing from TRI releases. These potential impacts presented in the grid

cells can also be traced back to the facilities that released the corresponding chemicals.

- https://www.epa.gov/rsei/rsei-geographic-microdata-rsei-gm

- **Safeguarding Science in State Agencies:** This report by the Brennan Center at NYU Law School and The Union of Concerned Scientists highlights political interference in science at state and local agencies across the country and shows the urgent need to protect science and prevent misuse.
  - https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/policy-solutions/safeguarding-science-state-agencies

- **Silent Springs Institute: Cancer & Environment Forum 2022:** A multi-session forum designed to teach participants about what science is available on the influence of environmental chemicals on cancer and lessons on cancer from public health and environmental medicine.
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uc6AxRPZJXI

- **Superfund Redevelopment Mapper:** An EPA tool developed to assist communities affected by Superfund sites reclaim and redevelop land to safe and beneficial use. This tool provides the user with possible opportunities for the reuse of these sites.
  - https://www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment/superfund-redevelopment-mapper

- **U.S. Climate Resilience Map:** This map acts as a tool to explain the intersection of climate risk and social vulnerabilities in communities using census tract level data, while sharing resilience efforts from ten cities across the U.S.
  - https://mappingresilience.onebillionresilient.org/explore?indicator=31

- **United States Geological Survey (USGS) Historical Topographic Map Explorer:** This tool allows the user to overlay historic maps on an area. It can be useful for understanding the potential impacts of industrial developments to historic places.
  - https://livingatlas.arcgis.com/topoexplorer/index.html

- **Violation Tracker:** A tool used to keep track of all governmental violations committed by companies and corporations throughout the United States. Search criteria includes parent companies, type of offense, federal agencies, state, etc.
  - https://www.goodjobsfirst.org/violation-tracker

ITEP Data and Industry News: These sites can provide early notification of proposed industrial projects.
- **Chemistry and Engineering News:** Through a subscription, the user has access to chemistry and engineering news articles published on the site. This includes articles for

users seeking information about topics such as business, education, environment, policy, etc.

- o https://cen.acs.org/index.html

- **Hydrocarbon Engineering:** Provides free access to the most recent articles related to elements of the hydrocarbon industry such as refining, gas processing, petrochemicals, clean fuels, and the environment.
  - o https://www.hydrocarbonengineering.com/

- **Louisiana Economic Development (LED)**
  - o **Advance Notification and ITEP:** Provides Louisiana Economic Development Industrial Tax Exemption Projects reports that compile application information such as estimated jobs created and total investments by each company dating back to 1996.
    - ▪ https://fastlaneng.louisianaeconomicdevelopment.com/public/reports
  - o **LED News Release:** Provides the most up to date news from the Louisiana Economic Department on major Louisiana business startups, expansions, investments, and economic news.
    - ▪ https://www.opportunitylouisiana.com/led-news/news-releases

- **Manufacturing.net:** Provides recent news articles related to aerospace, automotive, and energy industries and manufacturing.
  - o https://www.manufacturing.net/

- **1012 Industry Report:** A source for up-to-date news articles about Louisiana's oil and gas and petrochemical industries such as expansions, startups, investments, projects, and major financial news.
  - o https://www.1012industryreport.com/

Public Notices, Permits and Other Regulatory Documents:

Public notices are drafts of proposed project permits in which the public is provided information about potential emissions and comment deadlines. After public notices are released, there is a time period (around 30 days or less in some cases) known as the *"public comment period"* in which the public can submit comments on the proposed permits. As only major source facilities are included in these notices, minor source facilities do not have public comment periods. Despite the limited public comment period after a *notice* is released, the public is allowed to submit comments at any time after a *permit application* is submitted.

- **Advocate's Guide to Effective Participation in Environmental Permit Proceedings:** This guide is intended assist environmental advocates with navigating permitting processes regarding not only petrochemical sources, but other large industrial sources. The guide includes information regarding air and water permitting, NEPA, land use, public trust, and underground injection control.

- https://labucketbrigade.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/FINAL-Petrochemical-Guide-8_30_2023.pdf

- **Army Corps of Engineers RSS Feeds:** Provides automatic updates about U.S. Army Corps news through RSS feeds. These various feeds can be subscribed to through Outlook or Gmail and with an RSS reader, the user will be updated with the latest USACE news without having to manually check the USACE website. Some examples of feeds that can be subscribed to are "environmental", "permitting", and "public comment."
    - https://www.usace.army.mil/Contact/RSS/

- **Environmental Integrity Project (EIP), Advocate's Guide for Challenging LNG Projects:** A guide for environmental advocates that provides detailed information regarding effective participation in environmental LNG permit proceedings.
    - https://environmentalintegrity.org/advocates-guide-for-challenging-lng-projects/

- **Environmental Justice State by State:** An organization that aims to amplify efforts and support the advancement of environmental justice law and policy by providing a law library for community advocates, attorneys, scholars, and policymakers and highlighting emerging issues and strategies.
    - https://ejstatebystate.org/

- **EPA Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO):** A searchable EPA database that compiles compliance and environmental regulatory information on facilities throughout the nation.
    - https://echo.epa.gov/

- **Federal Register:** Acts as a tool used for searching the Federal Register Database for public inspection documents, notices, rules, and proposed rules from government agencies such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
    - https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/search

- **Louisiana Against False Solutions (LAFS) Permit Tracker:** This tool allows the user to overlay several Louisiana specific mapping layers including active permits, EJ layers, pipelines, pipeline facilities, and more.
    - https://januaryadvisors.shinyapps.io/lafs-permit-tracker/#map

- **Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)**
    - **EDMS:** The LDEQ database for all documentation submitted on behalf of companies with permitted facilities in Louisiana. Information such as air and water permits and applications, incident reports, and green card documentation can be found along with corresponding dates, addresses, and activity numbers for each facility.
        - https://edms.deq.louisiana.gov/app/doc/querydef.aspx

- **Permit Application Database:** Provides a searchable, daily updated database for all permit applications received by the LDEQ. The user can specify their search criteria for applications date or program (air, water, solid waste, etc) and export the data via Excel spreadsheets.
    - https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/resources/category/permit-applications-received
- **Check Permit Status tool:** Allows the user to view or search for the status of statewide permit applications. The user can filter their search by AI #, company name, parish, and media type and export the provided records via Excel spreadsheet.
    - https://internet.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/ONLINESERVICES/CHECK-PERMIT-STATUS
- **Public Notice Database:** A database providing all LDEQ public notices (drafts, i.e. proposed permits) and a filter in which the user can search for specific notices by keywords and/or dates.
    - https://deq.louisiana.gov/public-notices
- **Public Notice Alerts:** To sign up to have these notices automatically emailed to you, visit https://internet.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/SUBSCRIBES/PUBLIC-NOTIFICATION or contact the Public Participation Group in writing at LDEQ, P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313, by email at deq.publicnotices@la.gov , or by contacting the LDEQ Customer Service Center at (225)-219-5337.

- **Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**
    - **Coastal Use Permits:** Provides user access to all Coastal Use Permits applied for in Louisiana. Information such as company names, project plans, locations, and construction dates can be found in these permits.
        - http://www.dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/591
    - **Coastal Use Permit Search:** Database used to search for specific coastal use permits.
        - http://reports.dnr.state.la.us/sonris/cmdPermit.jsp?sid=PROD
    - **Public notice alerts:** To sign up to have these notices automatically emailed to you, email ocminfo@la.gov with your request.

- **Louisiana Press Association Public Notices Portal:** A source for compiled Louisiana public notices. User can specify parishes of interest, along with words or phrases they wish to filter the notices by and can sign up to receive automatic updates on new notices that fit their preferences.
    - https://louisianapublicnotice.com/

- **Parish Permitting:**
    - Permitting requirements vary by parish. Contact your local Parish Council Member or reach out to us (ERLI_Update@tulane.edu) for help determining what permit(s), if any, are needed for the activity in question.

- **USACE:** The US Army Corps of Engineers' website for permits applied for by companies in the New Orleans District. Public notices can be found in website or PDF format based on the year they were applied for, and automatic notifications can be set up through RSS feeds if user would like e-mail updates.
    - https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Public-Notices/