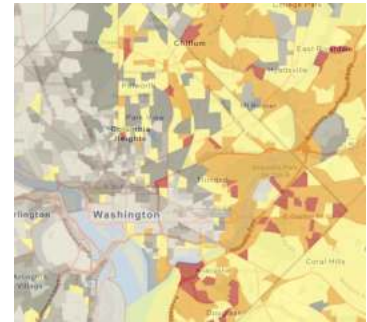


Name: WaterBuffalos
Username: Waterbuffaloes23
School: Poolesville Highschool

If you're in the United States, use [EJ Screen](#) to find where you live and search the environmental justice indexes. If you are elsewhere, use the [EJ Atlas](#) to find an example of environmental injustice in your region.

- Describe the issue
 - In 2023, DC got an F for ozone standards. Ozone is a secondary pollutant formed by chemical reactions between pollutants emitted by vehicles, industry, and other sources. The Washington, D.C. metropolitan area often experiences high levels of ground-level ozone, exceeding government standards. Exposure to high levels of ozone can lead to various health problems, particularly for individuals with respiratory conditions, children, and the elderly.
- Who is it impacting most?
 - As seen in the Environmental Justice Screen, there is a direct correlation between low-income communities of color and unhealthy ozone levels. The areas in the red often have POC and low-income indexes of ~90% along with high ozone percentiles of ~70.
- How close to where you live is this injustice occurring?
 - This injustice is occurring not only in the major city I live closest to, but also in my county. Wealthy white neighborhoods such as Potomac don't deal with as high ozone levels compared to areas like Silver Spring or Gaithersburg.
- Is any local government or organization working to intervene?
 - The Metropolitan Air Quality Committee reaches out to the public and provides education on the steps they can take to reduce air pollution. They also provide important air quality forecasts to the community.
- If the solution were up to you, how would you approach it? Consider referencing the above-mentioned environmental justice principles.



District of Columbia, DC	US Percentile
Population: 265	
Ozone EJ Index:	95 %ile
Demographic Index:	96 %ile
Low Income:	89 %ile
People of color:	98 %ile
Ozone:	72 %ile

Name: WaterBuffalos
Username: Waterbuffaloes23
School: Poolesville Highschool

- It is vital to enforce stricter emission standards for vehicles, industries, and power plants, especially when it comes to reducing nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds.
- Investing in renewable energy research and implementing renewable energy sources can help prevent harmful ozone emissions. Monetary incentive can be provided to individuals and businesses who make the transition.
- Air quality can be improved by enhancing urban communities, especially those that are low-income, through the incorporation of green spaces and trees, along with increased walkability.

Day 5 Greener: Washington, D.C. faces challenges related to ozone pollution, primarily stemming from transportation emissions, industrial activities, and weather conditions in the warmer months. The ozone in DC jeopardizes the livelihoods and health of thousands of citizens, especially low-income people of color. It is vital that we take action against this pressing environmental justice issue, which includes raising awareness of its existence. #PGC2023

@anitabondsdsc @mayor_bowser @brianneknadeau

@TurningGreenOrg, @DrBronner, @CaptainPlanetFdn, @Friends_Earth



Name: WaterBuffalos
Username: Waterbuffaloes23
School: Poolesville Highschool

In 2023, DC got an F for ozone standards.



<- Example

Exposure to high levels of ozone can lead to **various health problems (i.e. bronchitis, asthma, irritation, etc.)**, particularly for individuals with respiratory conditions, children, and the elderly.

As seen in the Environmental Justice Screen, there is a **direct correlation between low-income communities of color and unhealthy ozone levels**. The areas in the red often have POC and low-income indexes of ~90% along with high ozone percentiles of 70+.

WHAT ACTIONS CAN BE TAKEN?

It is vital to enforce **STRICTER EMISSION STANDARDS** for vehicles, industries, and power plants, especially when it comes to reducing nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds.



Investing in **RENEWABLE ENERGY** research and implementing renewable energy sources can help prevent harmful ozone emissions. Monetary incentives can be provided to individuals and businesses who make the transition.

Air quality can be improved by enhancing urban communities, especially those that are low-income, through the **INCORPORATION OF GREEN SPACES** and trees, along with increased walkability.

