

Uniting for Change: Grassroots and Policy Solutions to Tackle Plastics

X Braithwaite, B.S. in Community and Justice Studies

Environmental Justice Organizer

Clean Water Action



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WATER
ACTION

PEOPLE • ACTION • JUSTICE

Clean Water Action

Since our founding during the campaign to pass the landmark Clean Water Act in 1972, Clean Water Action has worked to **win strong health and environmental protections** by bringing issue expertise, solution-oriented thinking and **people power to the table**.

Our mission is to **protect our environment, health, economic well-being and community quality of life**.

Clean Water Action organizes strong grassroots groups and coalitions, and campaigns to elect environmental candidates and to solve environmental and community problems.

Some actions we take across states include:

- Getting health-harming toxics out of everyday products
- Protecting our water from dirty energy threats - drilling and fracking for oil and gas, and power plant pollution
- Keeping our clean water laws strong and effective to protect water and health



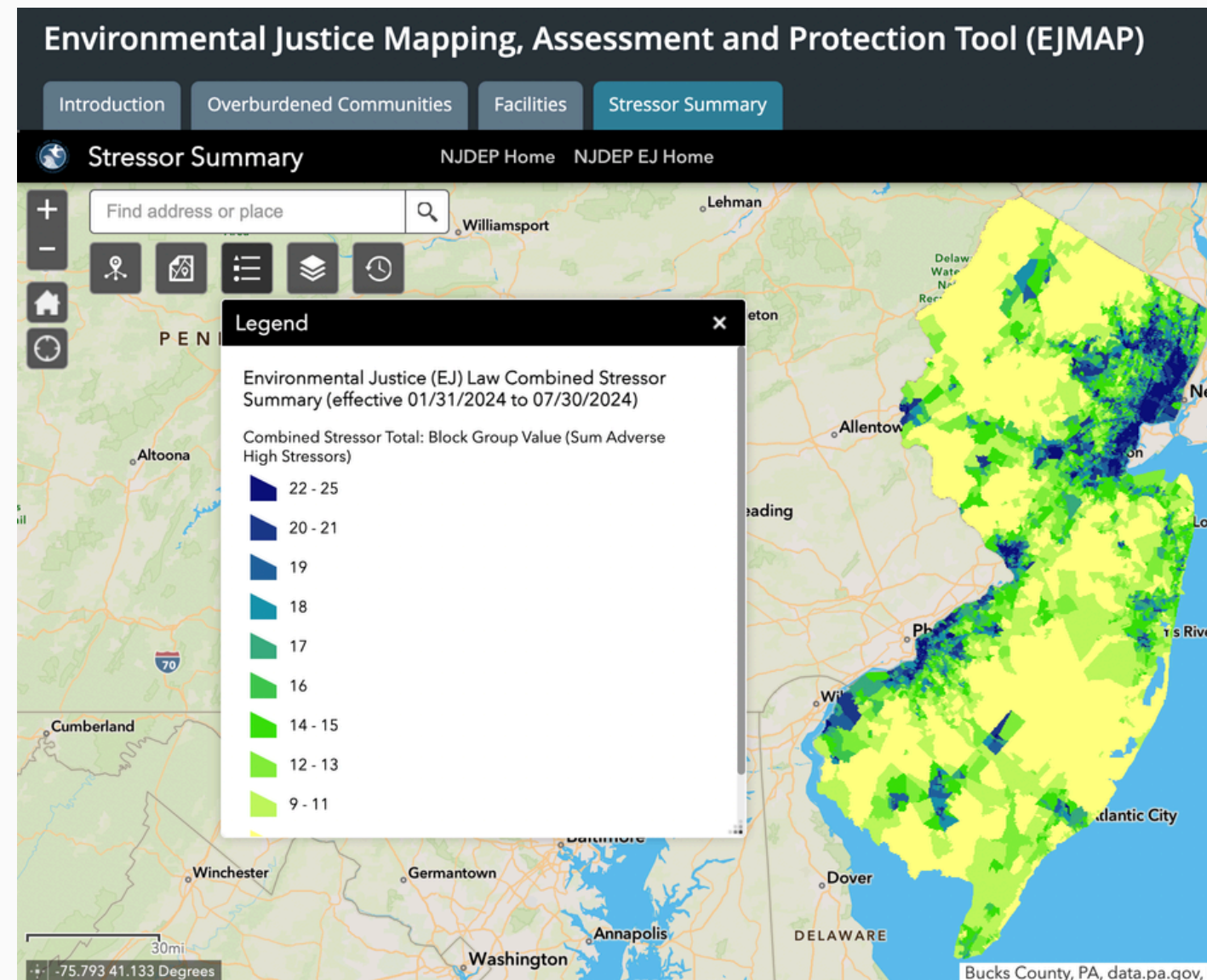
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What percentage of children in Newark suffer from asthma due to air pollution?

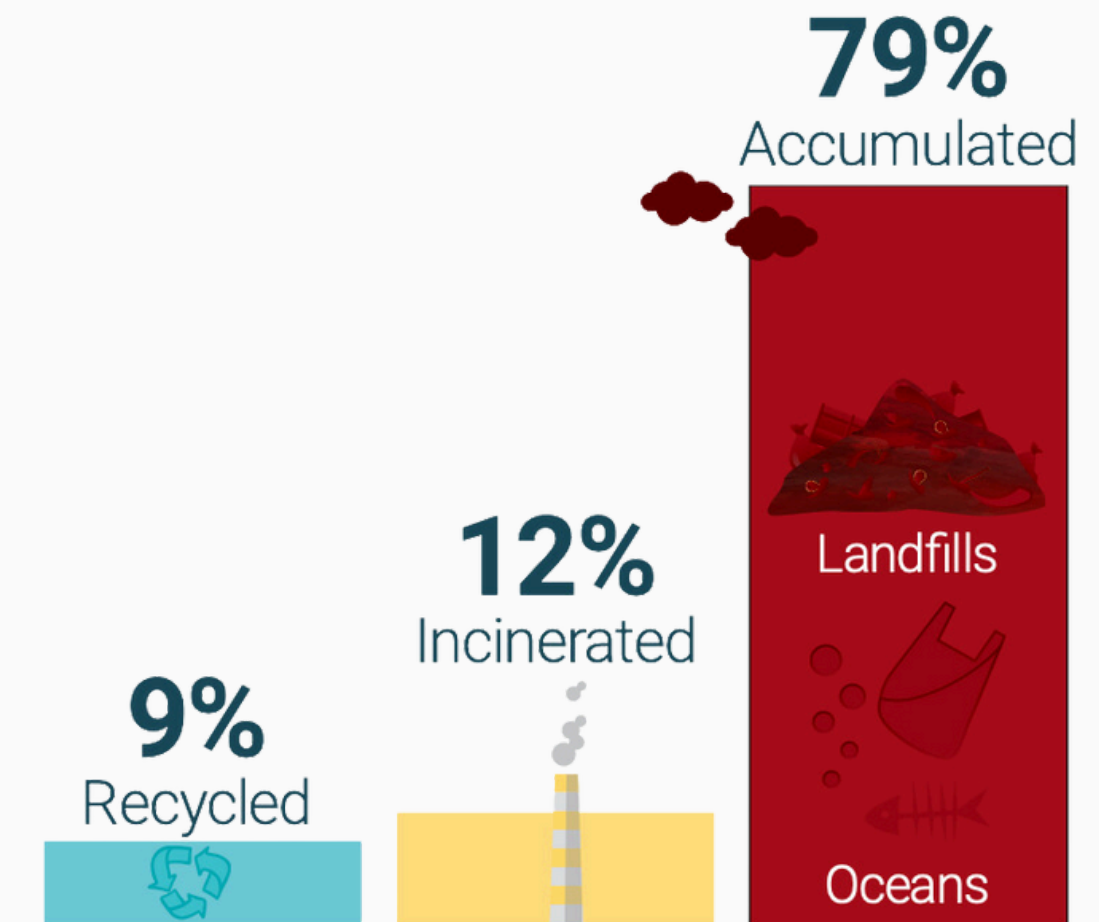
**1 IN 4
CHILDREN**

There is a disproportionate burden of air pollution on overburdened communities of color.

Advocating for policies that reduce emissions and industrial pollution can help improve health outcomes for communities like Newark.



Global Plastic Waste Estimates



U.S. Department of Justice, "Formosa Plastics Corp., TX, and Formosa Plastics Corp., LA, will spend more than \$10 million on pollution controls to address air, water, and hazardous waste violations at two petrochemical plants in Point Comfort, TX, and Baton Rouge, LA.", September 29, 2009.

From Awareness to Action

Understanding the Impact

Plastics pollution disproportionately affects communities of color, compounding existing environmental and social inequities.

It's essential to understand how systemic issues and environmental policies contribute to these disparities

- By recognizing how plastics pollution shapes our lived experiences, we can work to influence the health
- Advocate for the well-being of our communities and policies that address these root causes

Holding Space for Awareness

Everyone has a role in addressing plastics pollution

- Whether you are directly involved in the environmental justice field or working in other areas
- Your actions and insights can help drive meaningful change

Diverse experiences contribute to a powerful collective movement, and collaboration is key to advancing environmental equity and justice.

Empowering Action

There are a range of policy options available to address plastics pollution through an environmental justice lens

- Focus is on providing actionable strategies and best practices that empower you to advocate for change
- Mobilize your communities, push for policies that reflect our collective needs

Skip the Stuff

Clean Water Action's ReThink Disposable program is working to stop plastic trash advocating for a "Skip the Stuff" bill in New Jersey

- **~40 billion individual single-use plastic utensils** are discarded every year in the United States
- Plastic has recently been found making its way to our **bloodstream and then into breast milk** and the heart
- Most plastic utensils are unused and an unnecessary cost burden to restaurants
- Since 2014, online food ordering has **increased 300% faster than dine-in**, furthering the plastic pollution problem.



Marta Young
Zero Waste Specialist
Clean Water Action

New Jersey Needs to “Skip the Stuff” When Getting Take-Out

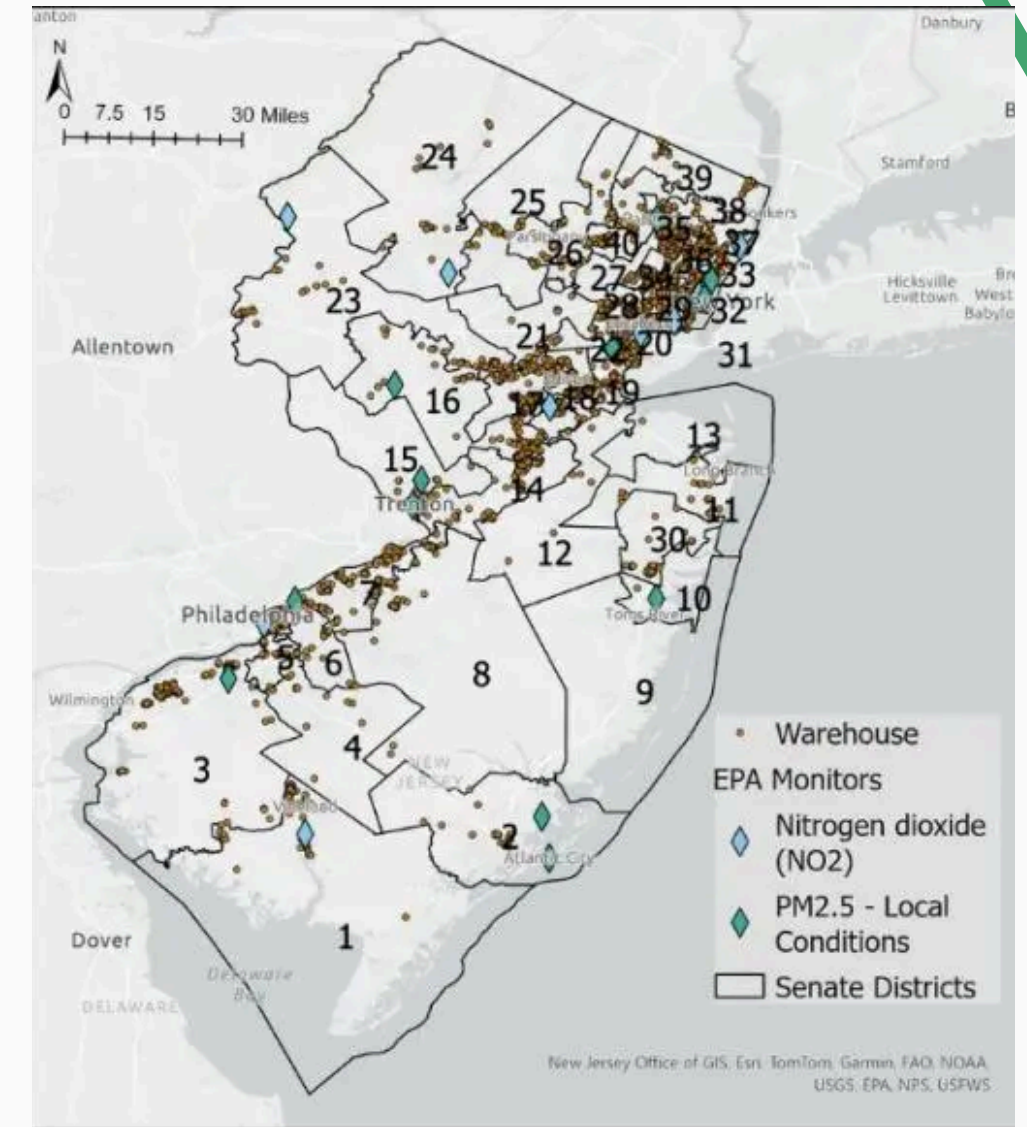
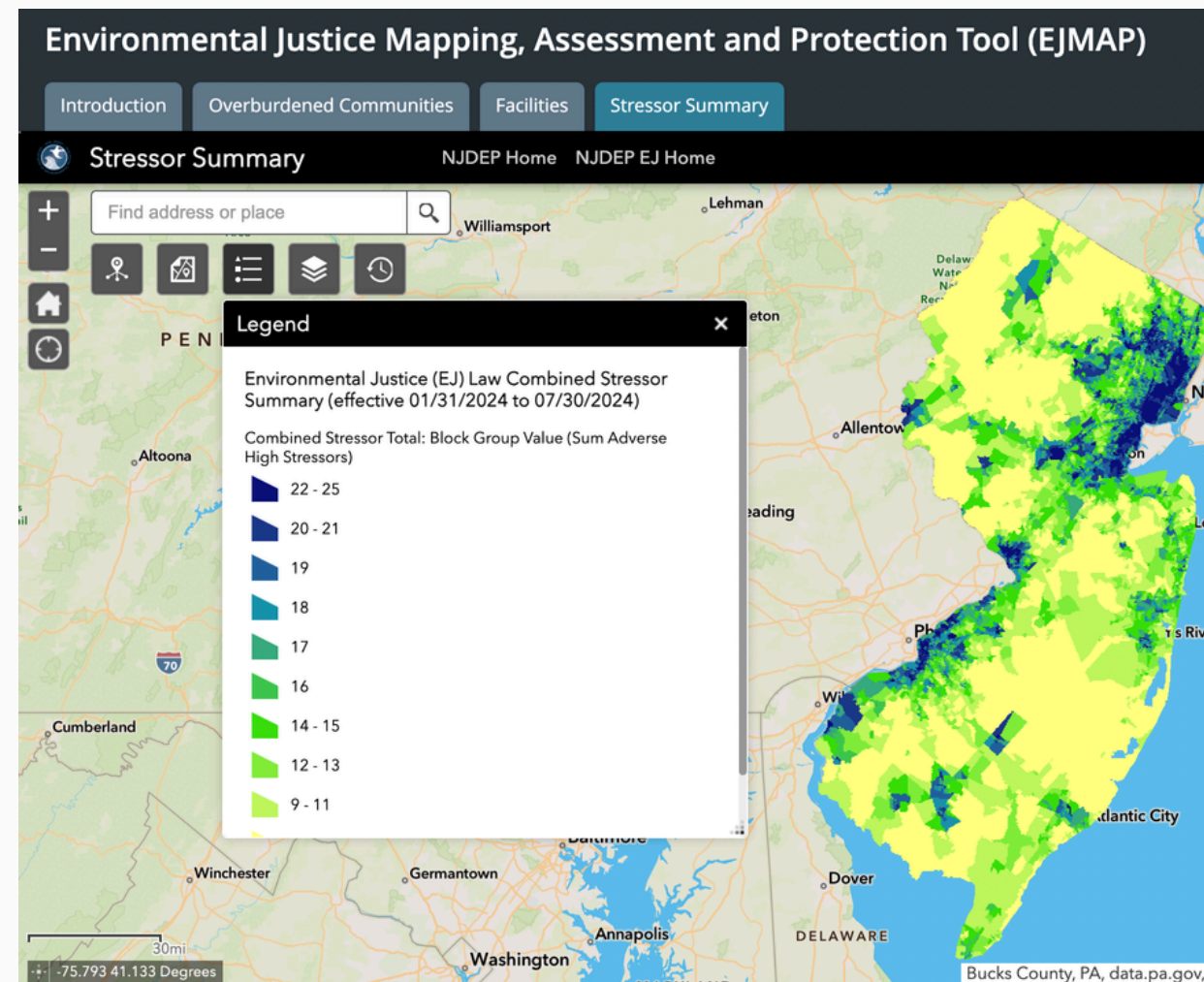


- **Restaurants should only give out single-use cutlery and condiment containers if requested by customers.**
- First ordinance passed in April 2020 in Maplewood, NJ
- Urge your town to pass a "Skip the Stuff" ordinance (Contact Marta Young)
- New Jersey needs to pass a “Skip the Stuff” bill so we can continue to be an environmental leader.



Marta Young
Zero Waste Specialist
Clean Water Action
myoung@cleanwater.org

Solution: Recentering on Coalition Building and Equity



Goal: Building People Power

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"In our society, change is reliant on power. Power is the ability to achieve purpose. It is the strength to bring about social, political, and economic change."

Power Over

Power Within

Power To

Power With

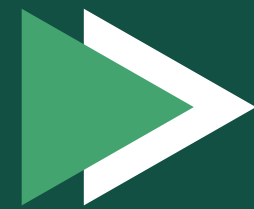
Power With

Power With

- Finding common ground among different interests in order to build collective strength
- Leads with collective action rather than control



Respect



Shared Power



**Mutual Support &
Solidarity**

Safe Water, Save Lives



Correctional facilities often are sited near toxic industrial sites, potentially exposing thousands of people to dangerous contaminants. Detecting E. coli in their drinking water raises concerns about the adequacy of their sewer systems.



Warehouse & Port Pollution Bill



Engaging communities and gaining legislative support for the Warehouse & Port Pollution bill, (A4679/S3546) .

This bill would curb pollution at warehouses and other truck attracting facilities by requiring them to implement concrete emission reduction measures.

Coalition for Healthy Ports



The Coalition for Healthy Ports' Mission is to improve Air Quality and Health of communities and workers, as well as ensure environmental justice is achieved in affected communities.

Priority One is to recruit organizations who will align with us and advance our mission to achieve 100% zero emissions in Overburdened Communities

Thank you!



xbraithwaite@cleanwater.org
973-262-1946

