

# Building Environmental Justice and Cumulative Impacts into Local Decision Making



Photo courtesy Ironbound Community Corp., Artist Cece Carpio

**Meaningful Engagement for Effective Implementation: Case Studies and Lessons Learned**

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**New Partners for Smart Growth Conference**  
**February 2, 2018, San Francisco, CA**

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THE NEW SCHOOL

**MILANO**

Environmental Policy and  
Sustainability Management



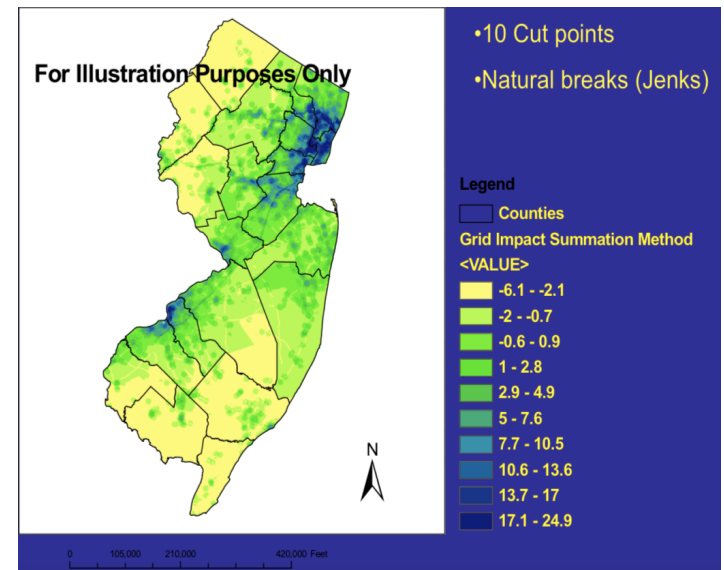
# State level Cumulative Environmental Impacts

*“Cumulative Impacts refers to the total harm to human health and the environment that results fro combinations of assaults and stressors over time”*  
(Cumulative Impacts Project)

How to address multiple pollutants emitted by multiple sources?

States, USEPA typically regulate pollutant by pollutant through individual standards

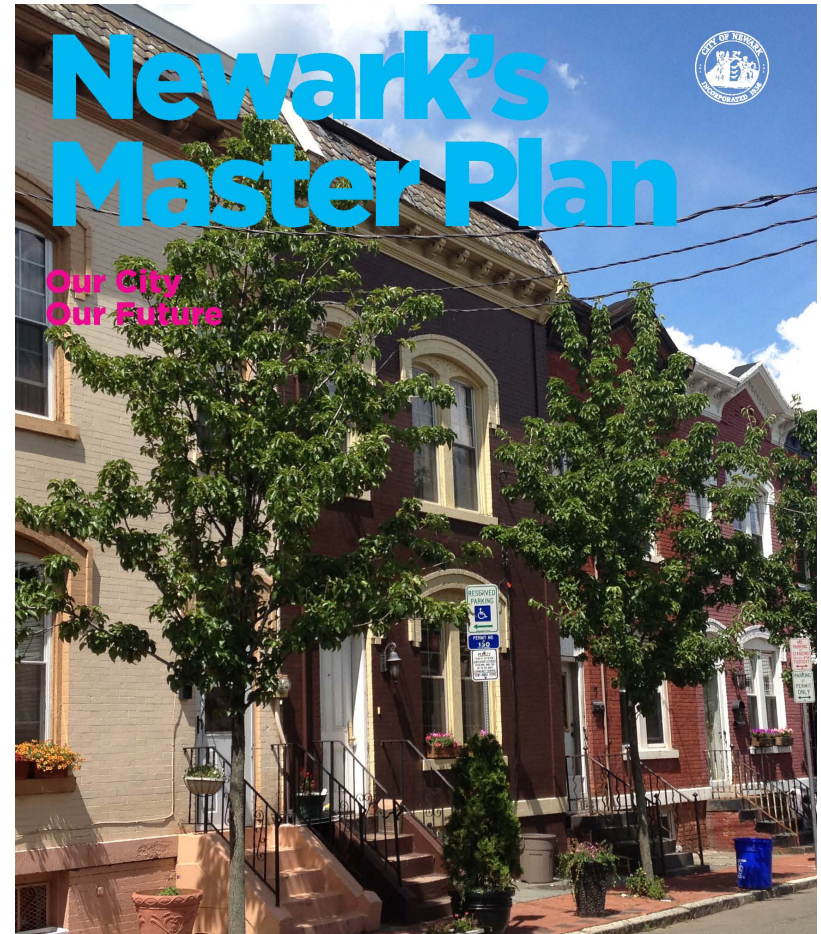
Detrimental health effects possible even if no individual standard is violated.



# Municipal Zoning, Planning and Land Use

Municipal Planning & Land Use Approaches to Pollution:

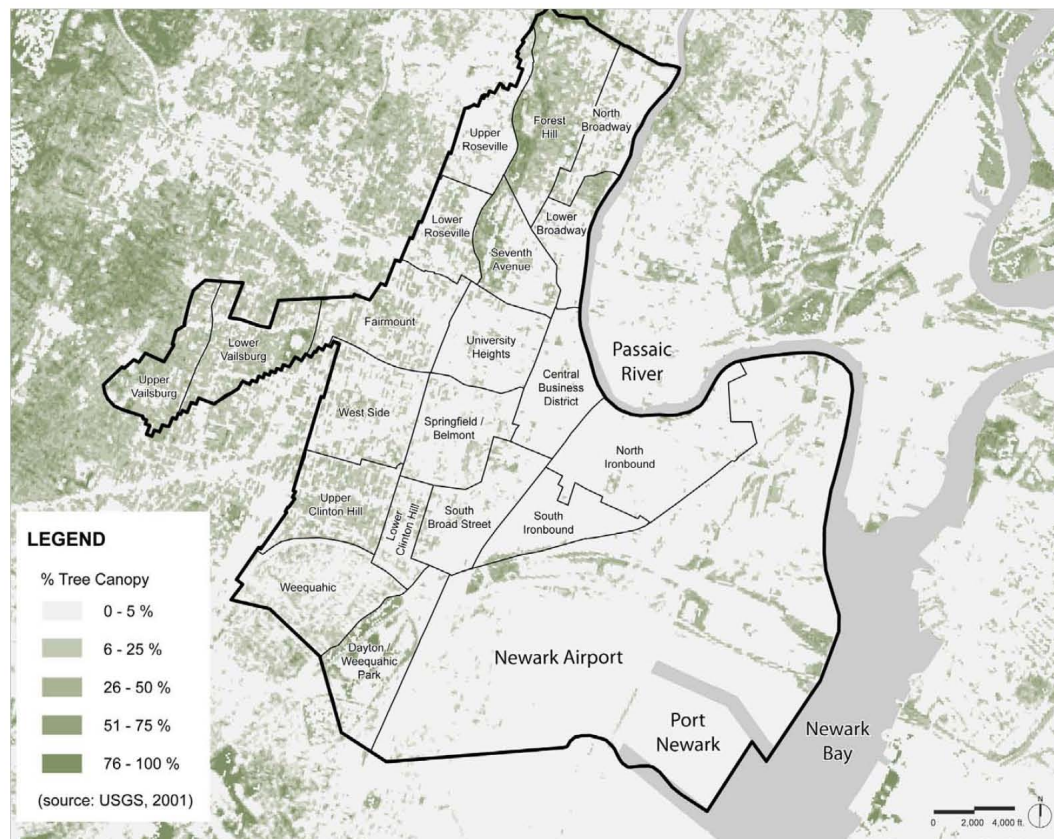
- ❖ New & modified uses:  
Development process
- ❖ Existing uses:  
Amortization phase outs
- ❖ Affirmative planning:  
Master plan, zoning, etc.





# Environmental & Health Burdens in Newark: Environmental Resource Inventory

- ❖ 15% Tree Coverage
- ❖ 27% Asthma Rates
- ❖ 70% Paved Surface
- ❖ > 300 Permitted Facilities
- ❖ > 100 Brownfield Sites
- ❖ 5 Superfund sites
- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> largest seaport in US
- ❖ Waste Incinerator
- ❖ Flood Zone

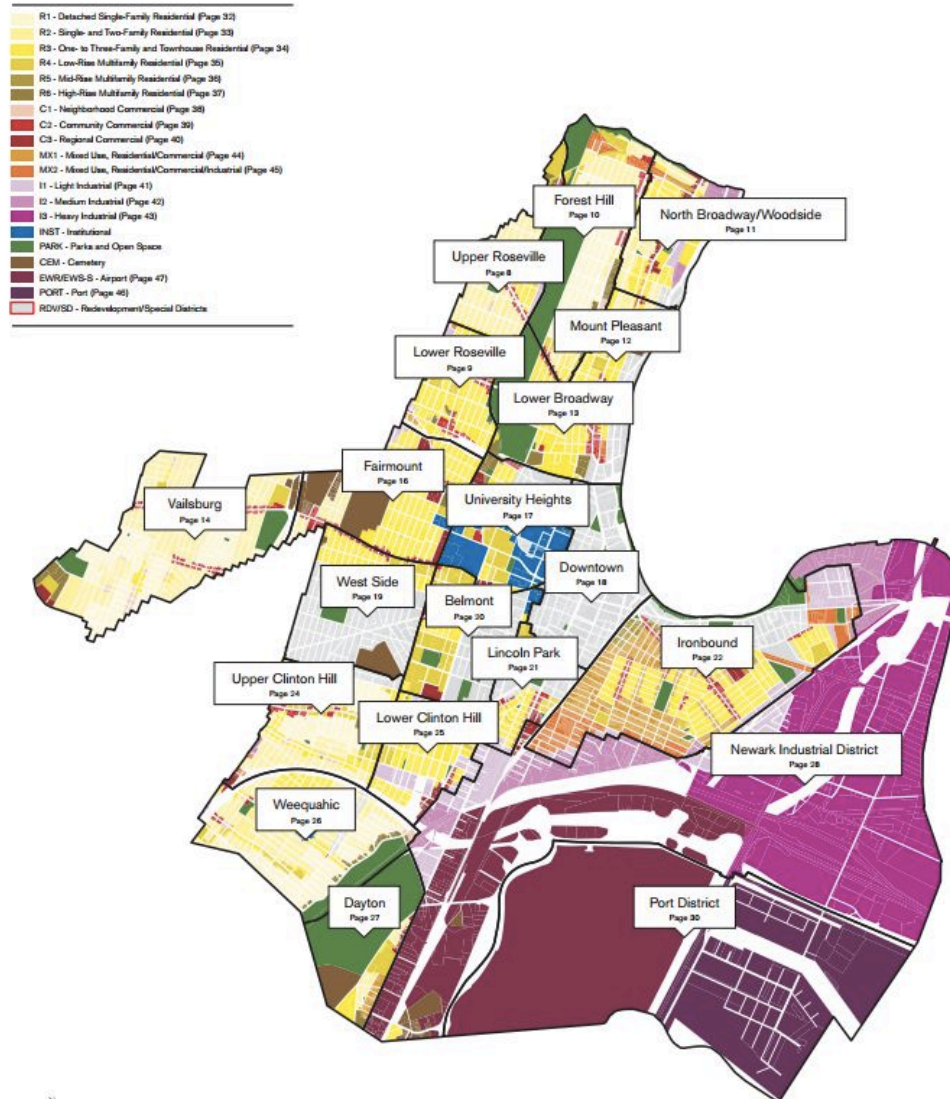




# Designed to Complement Master Plan & Strengthen Newark's Zoning Ordinance

Newark Zoning Maps

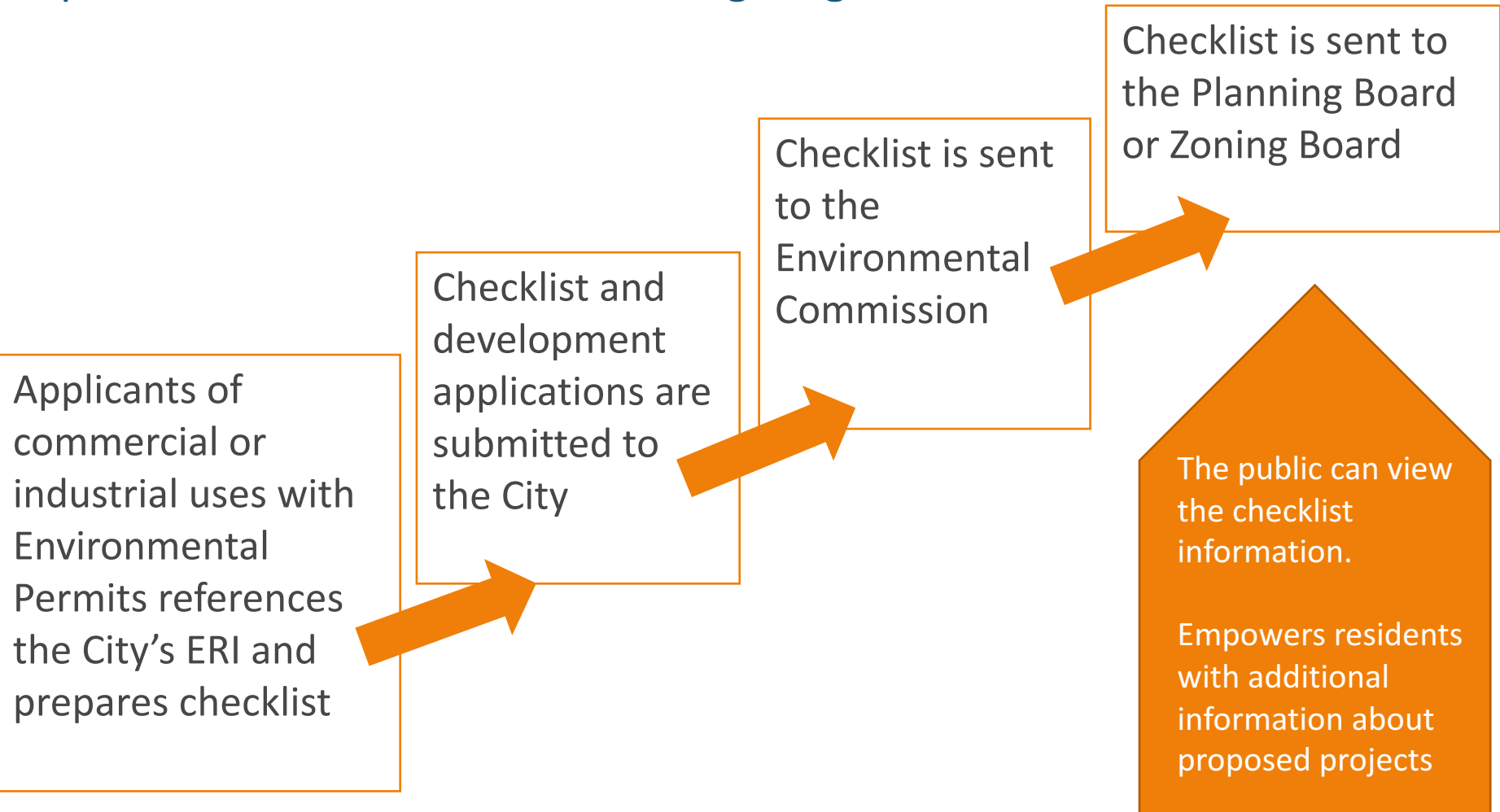
## Newark Zoning & Neighborhoods



- ❖ Three pronged approach: Master plan, Re Zoning, Development Process
- ❖ Inclusion of EJ in Master Plan
- ❖ Strengthen Zoning to make unwanted land uses prohibited or conditional
- ❖ Create Baseline ERI

# How does the Ordinance Work?

Empowers planning & zoning boards with additional information pertaining to the proposed development's potential environmental impact within the context of existing neighborhood conditions.



# Promotes Transparency & Greater Input from Community



- ❖ It allows the public and city officials to be fully informed of a proposed projects' potential and burdens on the local community.
- ❖ The Ordinance requires new industrial or commercial projects with environmental permits to provide a detailed set of information about their potential to impact the local environment & quality of life



# Advancing Policy Through the Political Process & Community Organizing

- ❖ The Transition Committee recommended *Cumulative Impacts* be passed in the Mayor's first 100 days.
- ❖ Support from the Env Commission
- ❖ Organized residents around the city
- ❖ Advocated & educated city agencies
- ❖ Tensions between development & environmental review



**100** Days  
of Believing in  
**NEWARK**  
Report and Documentary

# Snapshot of Checklist

- Truck Trips (Diesel Pollution)
- Particulate from other sources
- Vehicle Idling
- Tree Cover
- Impervious Surface

## Cover Sheet:

- ☐ Name of applicant entity
- ☐ Contact information
- ☐ Location of proposed project
- ☐ Summary project description
- ☐ Existing land use at project site
- ☐ Requested variance (if any)

## Basic Environmental Checklist:

- ☐ List of permits & approvals needed
- ☐ Dimensions (size of operation)
- ☐ Total project cost
- ☐ Activities with environmental impact

Type and quantity of air emissions

Type and quantity of groundwater emissions

Type and quantity of substances used/stored

Estimated truck trips per day

- ☐ Environmental Mitigation Activities

Pollution reduction technology

Stormwater management

Waste minimization or re-use programs

Etc.

# Next Steps

1. Review state policies related to cumulative impacts
2. Assess local environmental & cumulative impact issues
3. Assess the local policy conditions
4. Review model EJCI ordinances
5. Meet with residents, municipal agencies & other stakeholders
6. Create baseline ERI & Ordinance





# Resources

- Cumulative Impacts Project: <http://www.cumulativeimpacts.org>
- Newark Ordinance: <https://newark.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2770971&GUID=D0C566D0-463A-482D-A4AC-78884351DA79&FullText=1>
- Model Cumulative Impacts Ordinance: [https://www.tesu.edu/watson/institute/documents/muni\\_ord\\_110318a.pdf](https://www.tesu.edu/watson/institute/documents/muni_ord_110318a.pdf)
- US EPA EJ Screen: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>
- NJ Environmental Justice Alliance: <http://njeja.org>

