



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Environmental Justice & MDE

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Overview

1. MDE EJ Priority
2. Climate Change & Climate Justice
3. Community Partnerships
4. Air Monitoring Grant
5. MDE Screening Tool & HB1200
6. Recent Legislation



MDE's Environmental Justice Priority

- Governor Moore directed us to “leave no one behind”.
- Environmental Justice is Secretary McIlwain’s number one priority.
- Secretary McIlwain is visiting overburdened communities around the state to hear about community priorities.



Secretary Serena McIlwain with Turner’s Station community leadership.





Climate Change and Climate Justice

- Maryland has the most ambitious climate change goals of any state:
 - 60% GHG reduction by 2031
 - Net-zero by 2045.
- Established by the Climate Solutions Now Act, which also established EJ & Climate Justice frameworks, including community definitions.
- Justice is a key element of Maryland’s approach: **we will achieve our climate goals by investing in communities that have been left behind & overburdened by pollution.**
- “Maryland’s Climate Pathway” to achieve GHG goals out for feedback now, final plan due in December.

JUNE 2023
MARYLAND'S CLIMATE PATHWAY
An analysis of actions the state can take to achieve Maryland's nation-leading greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals

Target	Future	Global
How Maryland can meet its climate goals of 60% reduction of GHG emissions by 2031 and attain a net-zero economy by 2045	The benefits of this pathway extend beyond emissions reductions to improved air quality, job creation, cost-savings, and more	By achieving Maryland's climate targets the State can set a national and global example for how a state can go all-in on climate action

 **SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY**
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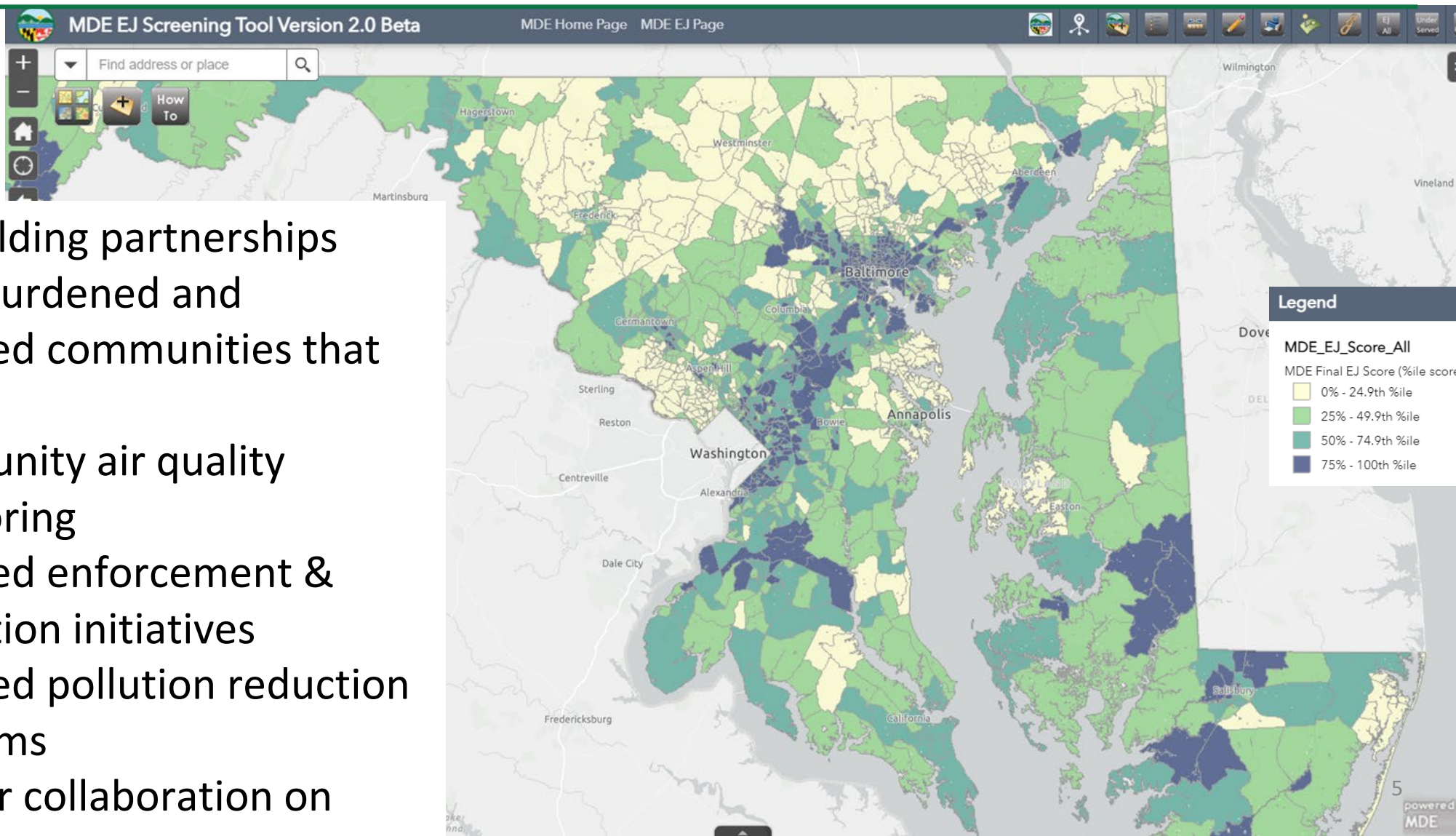
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www.marylandsclimatepathway.com



Community Partnerships

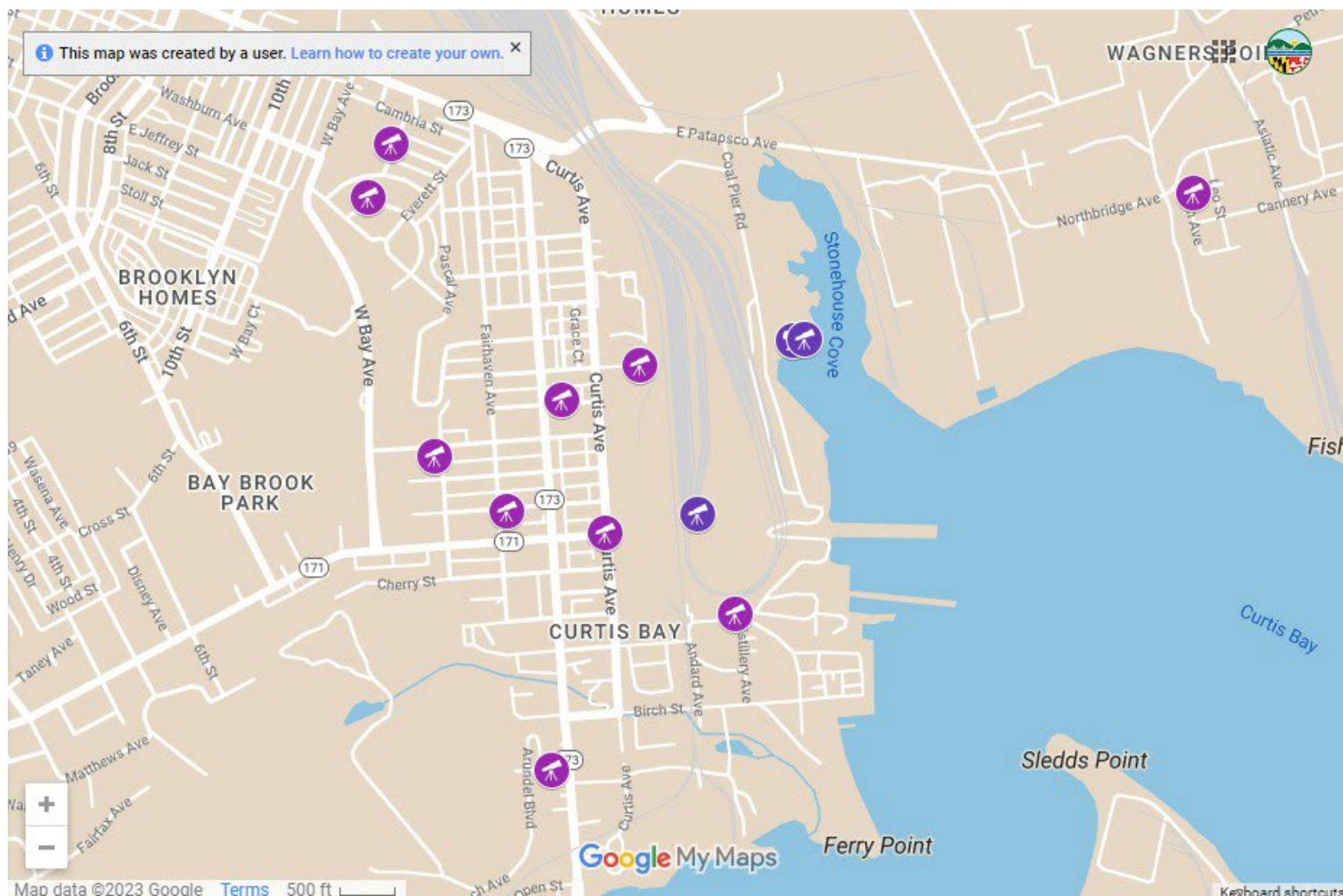
- MDE is building partnerships with overburdened and underserved communities that include:
 - Community air quality monitoring
 - Targeted enforcement & inspection initiatives
 - Targeted pollution reduction programs
 - Greater collaboration on





Air Monitoring focus: Curtis Bay

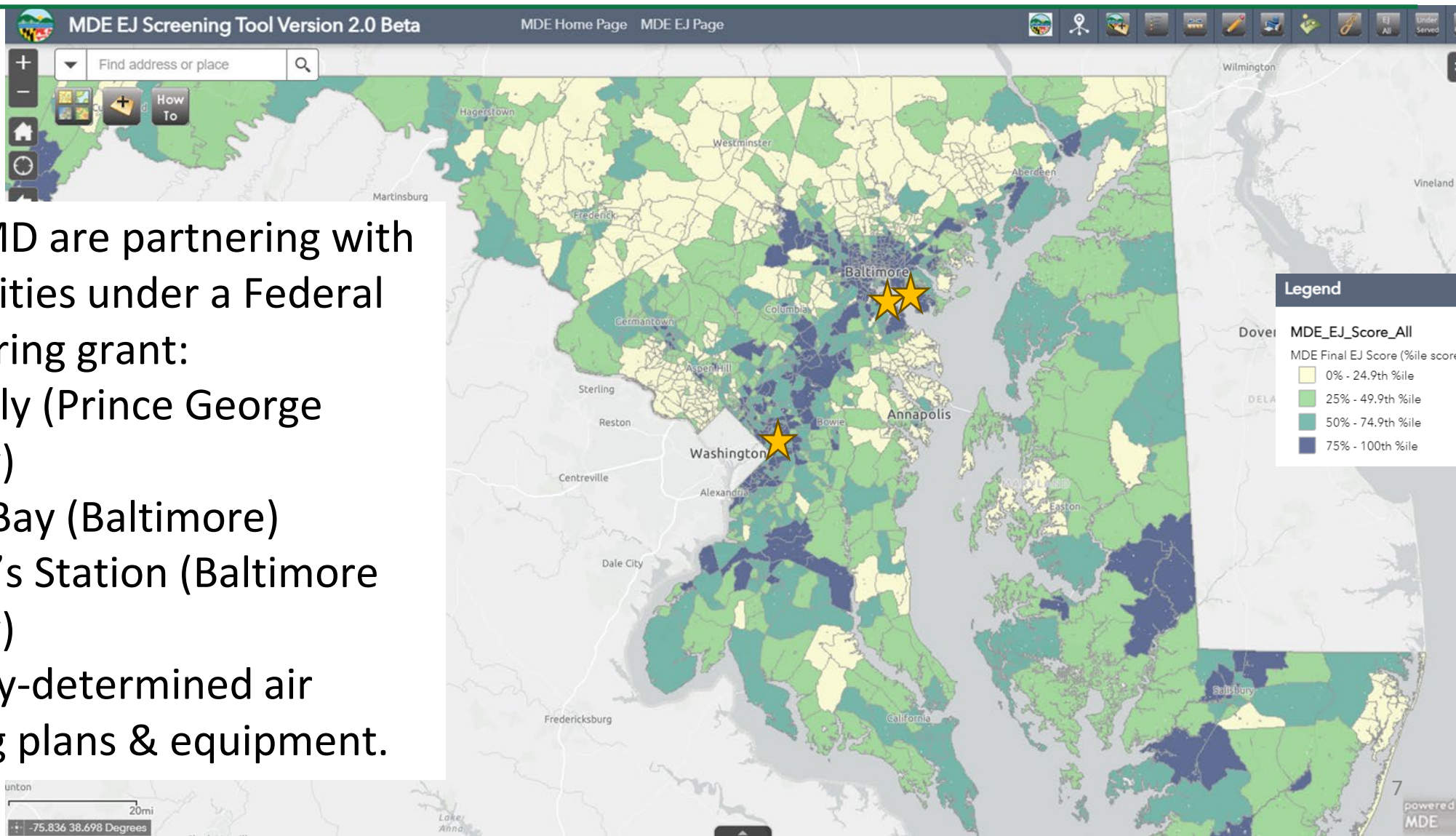
- Overburdened community in South Baltimore.
- Impressive community-led air monitoring project, partnership with Johns Hopkins, UMD, MDE scientists.
- Intensive measurement of multiple pollutants throughout neighborhood.
 - Comprehensive data enables detailed analysis of contribution from multiple sources.
- MDE supporting equipment calibration/colocation, data analysis, interpretation.
- Results informing permit processes.





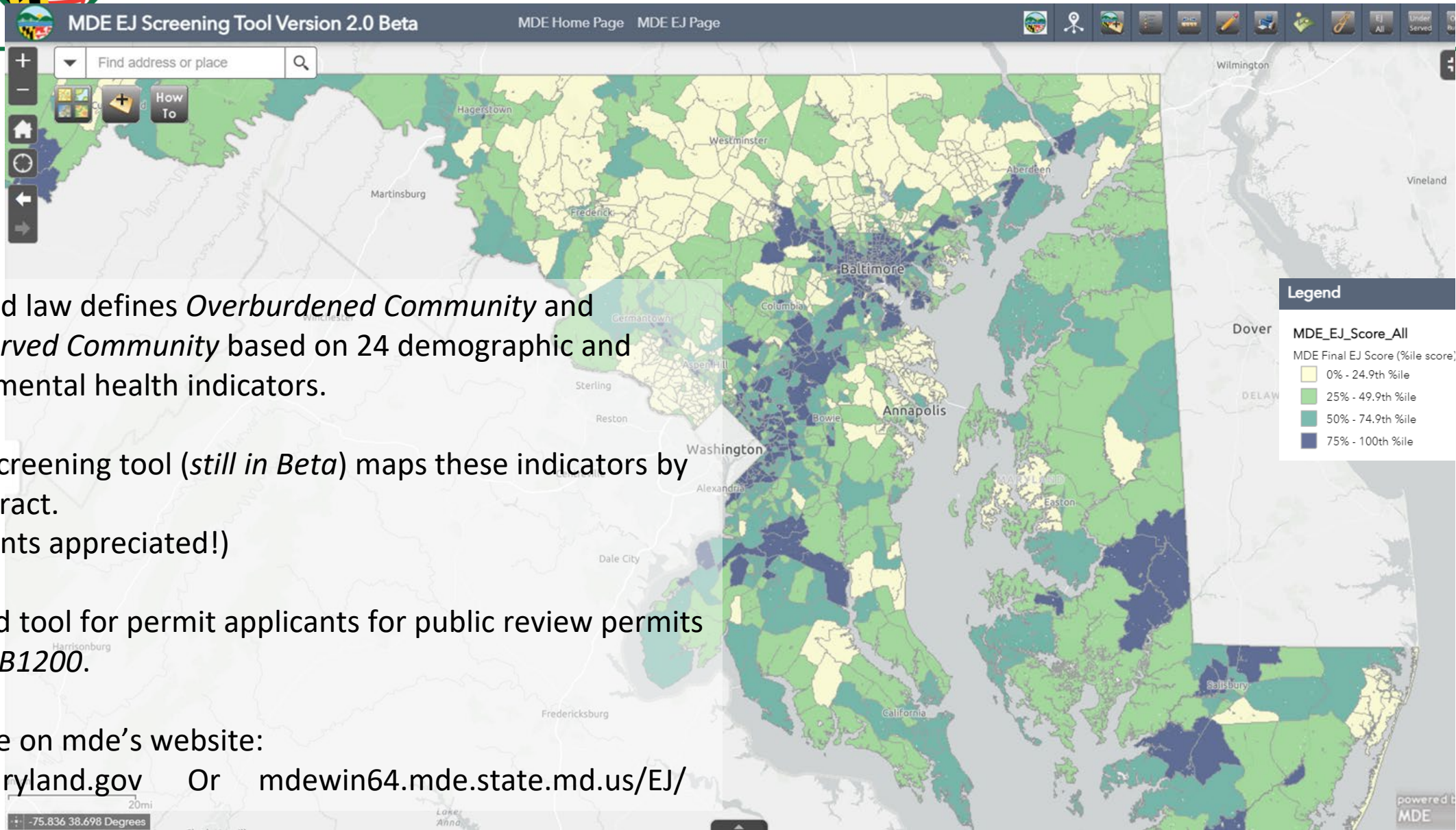
Community Air Monitoring Grant

- MDE & UMD are partnering with 3 communities under a Federal air monitoring grant:
 - Cheverly (Prince George County)
 - Curtis Bay (Baltimore)
 - Turner's Station (Baltimore County)
- Community-determined air monitoring plans & equipment.





MDE Screening Tool



Maryland law defines *Overburdened Community* and *Underserved Community* based on 24 demographic and environmental health indicators.

MDE's screening tool (*still in Beta*) maps these indicators by census tract.
(comments appreciated!)

Required tool for permit applicants for public review permits under *HB1200*.

Available on mde's website:
mde.Maryland.gov Or mdewin64.mde.state.md.us/EJ/



Recent Legislative Changes

2022

- Climate Solutions Now Act
 - Established more ambitious climate change goals.
 - Defined demographic and environmental health criteria for community focus.
 - Process to establish and track investment goals.
- House Bill 1200
 - Requires EJ scoring in permits.
 - Applicants must use MDE screening tool to determine EJ Score.
 - Included in permit; tool for community engagement and better pollution controls.

2023

- House Bill 840
 - Expanded assessment of pollution burden; MDE authority to change permits accordingly.
 - Department supported it, but it did not pass. Anticipate more bills next session.



THANK YOU

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