

Harvard Environment and Law Data Collection (HELD Collection) Codebook

Last updated: 2025-3-25

Cite this dataset as:

Ansolabehere, Stephen, Perls, Hannah, Beckfield, Jason, Martinez, Ana, Carlson Sirvent León, Dylan, and Greco, Luca, 2024, “Harvard Environmental and Law Data (HELD) Collection,” dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/held-extracted-data/, Harvard Dataverse.

The Harvard Environment and Law Data (HELD) Collection contains 19 datasets with information pertinent to issues of environmental justice, community resilience, and regulatory compliance from across the U.S. Federal government. It was created and is presently maintained by members of the [Strengthening Communities Cluster](#) at the Salata Institute, Harvard’s home for climate and sustainability research.

The purpose of HELD is to serve as a growing collection of environmental justice data for researchers. Each dataset uploaded to the Dataverse is assigned its own DOI, which ensures stable access. Researchers interested in contributing should reach out to the principal investigators: Stephen Ansolabehere¹ (sda@g.harvard.edu); and, Hannah Perls² (hperls@law.harvard.edu). For any questions on the datasets or the Dataverse, please refer them to the fellows: Ana Martinez³ (anamartinez@iq.harvard.edu); Dylan Carlson Sirvent³ León (dylancarlson@iq.harvard.edu); and, Luca Greco⁴ (lgreco@law.harvard.edu).

The guide has two parts. The first walks the reader through how to access the datasets in the HELD collection. The second describes each of the 19 datasets. Finally, the work the Cluster does exists in a larger ecosystem of organizations with shared goals of making environmental data easily accessible online, such as:

- [Environmental Data & Governance Initiative \(EDGI\)](#)
- [Environmental Policy Innovation Center \(EPIC\)](#)
- [Open Environmental Data Project \(OEDP\)](#)
- [Boston University X Harvard Climate and Health CAFÉ Research Coordinating Center](#)

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Table of Contents

Using the HELD Collection	4
Accessing the HELD Collection	4
Accessing datasets in HELD	5
Navigating datasets in HELD	6
Contents in the HELD Collection	8
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	8
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) & Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Awards & Selections Map	8
Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO Exporter)	8
Environmental Justice Mapping and Screening Tool (EJScreen)	8
EPA Title VI External Civil Rights Docket	8
Local Greenhouse Gas Inventory Tool (LGGIT)	8
Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) Risk and Technology Review (RTR)	8
Tribal Greenhouse Gas Inventory Tool	8
Particulate Matter (PM) Air Quality Standards	8
Interim Framework for Advancing Consideration of Cumulative Impacts	
Department of Energy (DOE)	8
Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) Reporter	8
Local Investments for Demonstration and Deployment Projects	8
Energy Justice Dashboard (BETA)	9
Low-Income Energy Affordability Data (LEAD)	9
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	9
Environmental Justice Index (EJI)	9
Heat and Health Index (HHI)	9
National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network	9
Department of Interior (DOI)	9
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Projects Map	9
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	9

National Risk Index (NRI)	9
BRIC and Flood Mitigation Assistance Obligations Dashboard	9
Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)	9
Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)	9
Executive Office of the President (EOP)	9
Environmental Justice Scorecard	9
Department of Transportation (DOT)	10
DOT Priorities	10
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	10
Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Reports by Species/Stock	10
US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP)	10
National Climate Assessments	10

Using the Harvard Environment and Law Data Collection (HELD):

1. Accessing HELD

To access, paste dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/held-extracted-data/ into browser. The URL links to a landing page which should look like this:

The screenshot shows the Harvard Environment and Law Data (HELD) Collection landing page. The header includes the Harvard Dataverse logo and navigation links: Add Data, Search, About, User Guide, Support, Sign Up, and Log In. The main heading is "Harvard Environment and Law Data (HELD) Collection" with a subheading "(QSS)". Below this, there's a "Harvard Dataverse >" link and "Contact" and "Share" buttons. A paragraph explains the purpose of the collection: "The purpose of this collection, put together by members of the Salata Strengthening Communities research cluster, is to store critical climate and law datasets accessible at various locations in one place. The datasets are downloaded and uploaded with minimal modification. The collection should be helpful to any researcher working on policy, compliance, and community issues related to the environment." A search bar is present with the text "Search this dataverse..." and a "Q" button. Below the search bar, there's a "1 to 10 of 10 Results" section. On the left, there's a sidebar with filters: "Databases (0)", "Datasets (19)", and "Files (4,347)". Under "Publication Year", there's "2025 (2)" and "2024 (17)". Under "Subject", there's "Earth and Environmental Sciences (15)", "Arts and Humanities (14)", "Social Sciences (8)", "Law (1)", "Medicine, Health and Life Sciences (1)". Under "Author Name", there's "EPA (7)", "DOE (4)", "CDC (2)", "CEQ (1)", and "DOI (1)". The main results section shows four entries: "Environmental Justice Mapping and Screening Tool (EJScreen)", "EPA Title VI External Civil Rights Docket", "DOT Priorities", and "Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Reports by Species/Stock". Each entry includes a thumbnail, title, date, and a brief description. A "Feedback" button is located at the bottom right.

2. Accessing datasets in HELD

Each entry in the dataset is its own dataset. For example, clicking on the latest entry — ‘Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) Risk and Technology Review (RTR)’ — should redirect to a landing page which looks like this:

The screenshot shows the landing page for the "Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)" dataset. The header is the same as the previous page. The main heading is "Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)" with a subheading "Version 1.0". Below this, there's a "Cite Dataset" button and a link to "Learn about Data Citation Standards". The "Description" section states: "Downloaded data from CEQ's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). As described by the Council: 'The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) is a geospatial mapping tool that identifies areas across the nation where communities are faced with significant burdens. These burdens are organized into eight categories: climate change, energy, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, water and wastewater, and workforce development. Each burden is ranked using percentage thresholds or yes/no indicators and based on this methodology, communities are considered disadvantaged: if they are in census tracts that meet the thresholds for at least one of the tool's categories of burden, or if they are on land within the boundaries of Federally Recognized Tribes.' [Quote from https://toolkit.climate.gov/tool/climate-and-economic-justice-screening-tool] (2024-12-05)". The "Subject" section lists "Arts and Humanities; Earth and Environmental Sciences". The "Notes" section states: "CEJST data was downloaded by Dylan Carlson Sivrent León on December 5th, 2024." The "License/Data Use Agreement" section shows the "CC0 1.0" license. On the right, there's an "Access Dataset" button with "Contact Owner" and "Share" options. Below this, there's a "Dataset Metrics" section showing "1,540 Downloads". At the bottom, there's a navigation bar with "Files", "Metadata", "Terms", and "Versions" tabs.

To access the data, click on “Access Dataset.” A dropdown menu will appear that looks like this. Click one of the options and a zip file will be downloaded, which once opened, will contain the entirety of the dataset.

The screenshot shows the Harvard Dataverse website. At the top is the Harvard Dataverse logo and navigation links: Add Data, Search, About, User Guide, Support, Sign Up, Log In. Below the header, it says "Harvard Environment and Law Data (HELD) Collection (IQSS)". The main title is "Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)" with a version of 1.1. A map of the United States is shown on the left. To the right of the map is the citation: "CEQ, 2024, 'Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)', <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/86JLET>, Harvard Dataverse, V1, UNF:6:wizRkK3jritqleRqYQg== [fileUNF]". Below the citation are links for "Cite Dataset" and "Learn about Data Citation Standards". On the right, there is an "Access Dataset" button with a dropdown menu showing "Download Options", "Original Format ZIP (833.9 MB)", "Archival Format (.tab) ZIP (840.9 MB)", "Explore Options", and "Binder". Below this, there is a "Description" section with a paragraph about the tool, a "Subject" section with "Arts and Humanities; Earth and Environmental Sciences", a "Notes" section with "CEJST data was downloaded by Dylan Carlson Sirvent León on December 5th, 2024.", and a "License/Data Use Agreement" section with a Creative Commons BY-NC-ND 4.0 International license icon and the text "CC0 1.0".

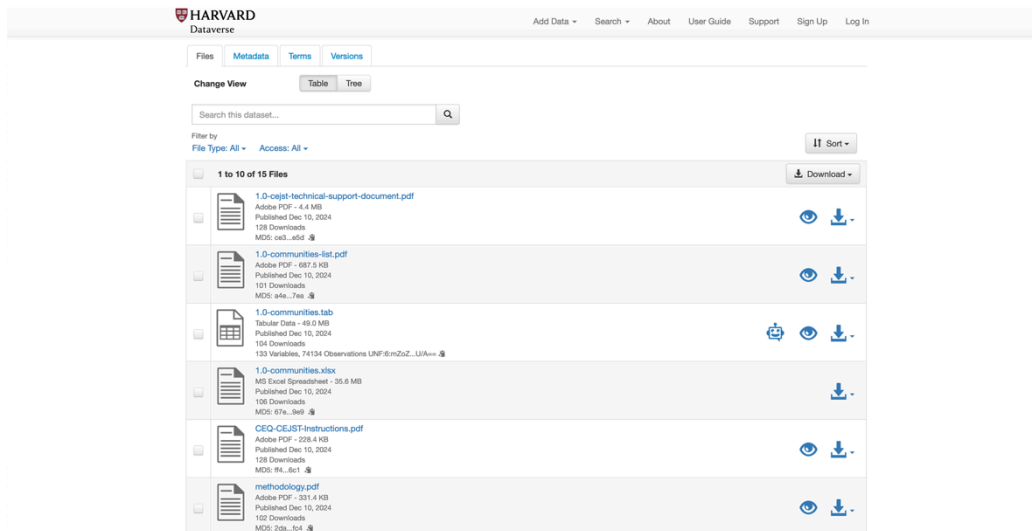
However, if one wants to selectively download components of the dataset, scroll down to “Files” and select the files of interest. In this case, what will be downloaded is not the entirety of the dataset but only the selected files — highlighted in yellow. Another option is also to click on the download icon to the right of each file.

The screenshot shows the "Files" tab of the Harvard Dataverse interface. At the top, there are tabs for "Files", "Metadata", "Terms", and "Versions". Below these is a "Change View" section with "Table" and "Tree" options. A search bar says "Search this dataset...". Below the search bar, there are filters for "File Type: All" and "Access: All". A message says "3 files are currently selected. Select all 15 files in this dataset. Clear selection." Below this is a list of files. The first file is "1.0-cejst-technical-support-document.pdf" (Adobe PDF - 4.4 MB, Published Dec 10, 2024, 131 Downloads, MD5: ce3...d0d). The second file is "1.0-communities-list.pdf" (Adobe PDF - 687.5 KB, Published Dec 10, 2024, 124 Downloads, MD5: a4e...7ea), which is highlighted in yellow. The third file is "1.0-communities.tab" (Tabular Data - 49.0 MB, Published Dec 10, 2024, 125 Downloads, 133 Variables, 74134 Observations UNF:6:m2uZ_UlA==), which is also highlighted in yellow. The fourth file is "1.0-communities.xlsx" (MS Excel Spreadsheet - 35.6 MB, Published Dec 10, 2024, 128 Downloads, MD5: 67e...9d9), which is highlighted in yellow. The fifth file is "CEJST-Instructions.pdf" (Adobe PDF - 228.4 KB, Published Dec 10, 2024, 152 Downloads, MD5: f4...6c1), which is highlighted in yellow. The sixth file is "methodology.pdf" (Adobe PDF - 331.4 KB, Published Dec 10, 2024, 123 Downloads), which is not highlighted. Each file has a download icon to its right.

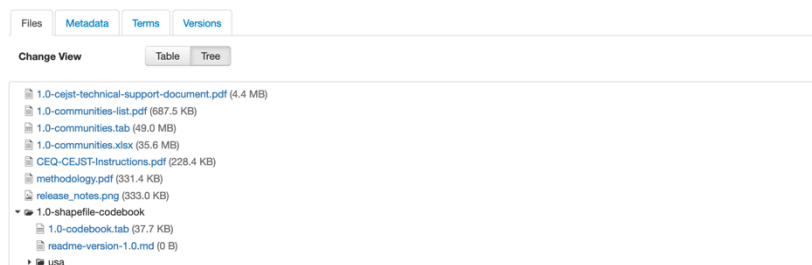
3. Navigating datasets in HELD

In each dataset, there are two components: the files and the metadata.

The files are where the actual data is stored. These files can be viewed in two ways — as a table or as a tree. Table view shows all the individual files:



Tree view nests the files into its respective folders:



There are two ways to download data from the dataset. One way is by clicking the blue button “Access Dataset,” which is on the top right of the page. It will download all files. If the collection of files is not too large, the download will be a .zip file. However, if it is too large, a full download will have to be done in batches. If only specific files are needed, each file or a group of files can be individually selected to be queued up for download.

The metadata is information about the handling of the dataset by the Strengthening Communities Cluster team. It is found in the second tab to the right of the “Files” tab. Clicking on it will pull up information on the dataset uploaded, who managed its download as well as its upload, and from where the information was pulled. The information will be helpful for any researcher who may have specific questions and wants to see the chain from download to upload.

The **title** identifies the dataset. The **author** is the government Department, Agency, or Office which hosts the dataset. The **depositor** is the member of the Strengthening Communities Cluster team who uploaded the dataset into the HELD Collection. The **deposit date** is when the upload was done. In the **notes** section, the depositor will note when the data was downloaded.

In the **data source** section, the depositor will note from which link they downloaded the dataset.

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Dataverse

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Citation Metadata ▾

Persistent Identifier	doi:10.7910/DVN/B6ULET
Publication Date	2024-12-10
Title	Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)
Author	CEQ
Point of Contact	Use email button above to contact. Ansolabehere, Stephen (Harvard) Carlson Sirvent León, Dylan (IGSS)
Description	Downloaded data from CEQ's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). As described by the Council: "The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) is a geospatial mapping tool that identifies areas across the nation where communities are faced with significant burdens. These burdens are organized into eight categories: climate change, energy, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, water and wastewater, and workforce development. Each burden is ranked using percentage thresholds or yes/no indicators and based on this methodology, communities are considered disadvantaged: if they are in census tracts that meet the thresholds for at least one of the tool's categories of burden, or if they are on land within the boundaries of Federally Recognized Tribes." [Quote from https://toolkit.climate.gov/tool/climate-and-economic-justice-screening-tool] (2024-12-05)
Subject	Arts and Humanities; Earth and Environmental Sciences
Notes	CEJST data was downloaded by Dylan Carlson Sirvent León on December 5th, 2024.
Depositor	Carlson Sirvent León, Dylan
Deposit Date	2024-12-10
Data Source	https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/downloads#3/33.47/-97.5

Contents in the HELD Collection:

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

1. **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) & Inflation Reduction Act IRA) Awards & Selections Map** - Highlights investments made in communities through the BIL and the IRA. [DOI: <http://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/M3UT2Z>]
2. **Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO Exporter)** - Search for facilities to assess facility compliance with environmental regulations. [DOI: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/TUMSLH]
3. **Environmental Justice Mapping and Screening Tool (EJScreen)** - Assess environmental burdens, and climate change risks, and health disparities in communities. [DOI: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/RLR5AX]
4. **EPA Title VI External Civil Rights Docket** [DOI: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/CS4P68] – Explore Title VI complaints submitted to EPA.
5. **Local Greenhouse Gas Inventory Tool (LGGIT)** - Calculates GHG emissions for sectors like residential, commercial, transportation, and waste management, with separate modules for community-wide inventories and local government operations. [DOI: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/OIOHNF]
6. **Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) Risk and Technology Review (RTR)** - Final MATS rule incorporates advances in control technologies and plant performance, using the EPA's Power Sector Modeling Platform 2023 for analysis. [DOI: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/FXOGTQ]
7. **Tribal Greenhouse Gas Inventory Tool** - Interactive spreadsheet tool calculates GHG emissions for many sectors, including residential, commercial, transportation, and waste and water management. [DOI: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/BP2ARU]
8. **Particulate Matter (PM) Air Quality Standards** - Reviews air quality standards for particulate matter and five other pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. [DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/DURL0D>]
9. **Interim Framework for Advancing Consideration of Cumulative Impacts** - The EPA announced a 90-day public comment period on the newly developed document *Interim Framework for Advancing Consideration of Cumulative Impacts*. The framework document is available at <https://www.epa.gov/cumulative-impacts> and in the docket (Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OLEM-2024-0360). The Framework is intended to provide EPA programs with a foundation for developing approaches to incorporate analysis and consideration of cumulative impacts into their work, with the goal of achieving results that improve health and quality of life in America's communities.

Department of Energy (DOE)

- 10. Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) Reporter** - Explore census tracts categorized as disadvantaged communities by DOE. [DOI: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/APSFVO]
- 11. Local Investments for Demonstration and Deployment Projects** – Highlights DOE-specific investments made in communities through the BIL and the IRA. [DOI: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/YDCLTF]
- 12. Energy Justice Dashboard (BETA)** - Assess DOE investments in communities experiencing disproportionate and adverse cumulative impacts on its economy, public health, environment, and more. [DOI: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/MWAKOZ]
- 13. Low-Income Energy Affordability Data (LEAD)** - Assess energy burden, energy costs, income, demographics, and educational attainment in low-income households across communities. [DOI: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/ZDV0KN]

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- 14. Environmental Justice Index (EJI)** - Assess the cumulative impacts of environmental injustice on health for every census tract. [DOI: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/ZVKXVQ]
- 15. Heat and Health Index (HHI)** - Assess communities where people are most likely to feel the effects of heat on their health. [DOI: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/6DP10F]
- 16. National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network** - A compilation of data and information on environments and hazards, health effects, and population health. [DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/NKE1DD>]

Department of Interior (DOI)

- 17. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Projects Map** - Highlights investments made in communities through the BIL. [DOI: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/PIHRRO]

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- 18. National Risk Index (NRI)** - Assess communities most at risk for eighteen natural hazards. [DOI: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/JSQ8KZ]
- 19. BRIC and Flood Mitigation Assistance Obligations Dashboard** - The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities and Flood Mitigation Assistance Obligations Dashboard uses publicly available data from OpenFEMA to enable users to explore information about Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities and Flood Mitigation Assistance subapplications in their area. [DOI: [10.7910/DVN/EHD2XU](https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/EHD2XU)]

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

- 20. Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)** - Assess communities which are faced with significant burdens in eight categories: climate change, energy, health,

housing, legacy pollution, transportation, water and wastewater, and workforce development. [DOI: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/B6ULET]

Executive Office of the President (EOP)

21. Environmental Justice Scorecard - Assess federal investments that Congress has funded through both discretionary and mandatory appropriations, as well as supplemental appropriations, such as those that Congress made in the BIL and the IRA. [DOI: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/E6TPEM]

Department of Transportation (DOT)

22. DOT Priorities – Compiles the U.S. DOT’s top priorities for improving the transportation system. [DOI: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/Q914LW]

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

23. Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Reports by Species/Stock – Reports assess marine mammal stocks in U.S. waters. [DOI: doi.org/10.7910/DVN/L0N4QZ]

U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP)

24. National Climate Assessments - Analyzes the effects of global change on the natural environment, agriculture, energy production and use, land and water resources, transportation, human health and welfare, human social systems, and biological diversity. [DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/JJRG3J>]