

Engage with EGLE!

PRESENTED BY: Natalie Brown, Community
Engagement Specialist

EGLE



MECC

**MICHIGAN
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLIANCE
CONFERENCE**

Learning objectives

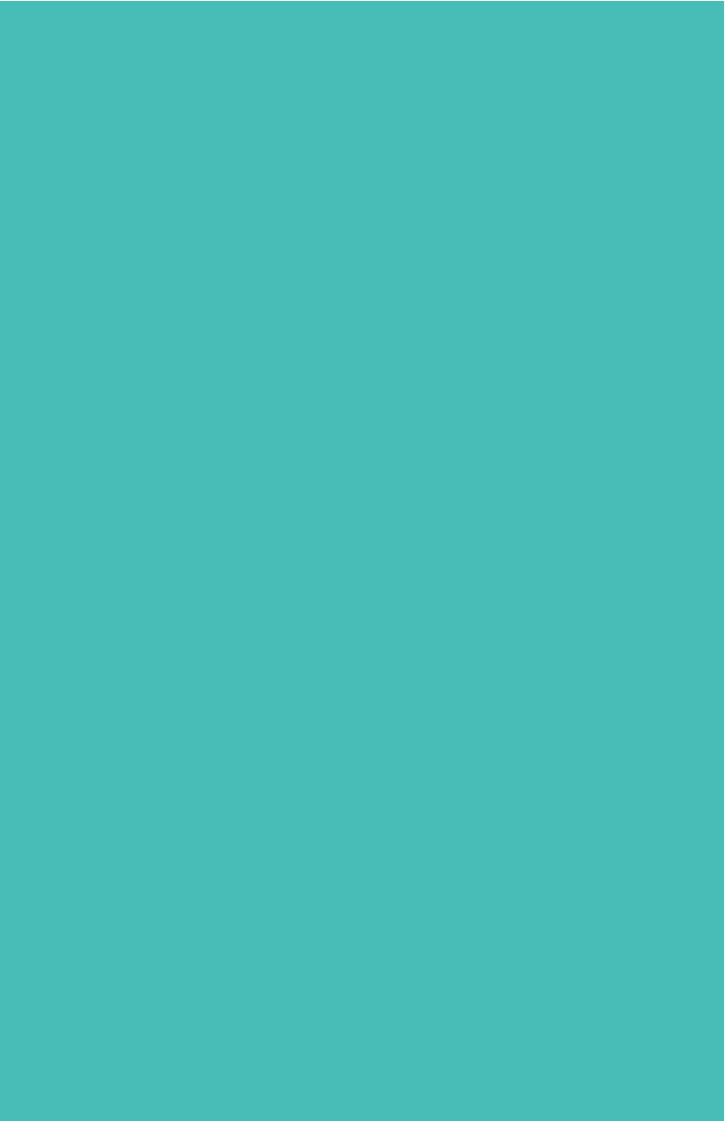
- What is community engagement?
- Why is it important?
- What is EGLE doing to engage communities?

Poll!

Raise your hand if attended an EGLE engagement activity or event?

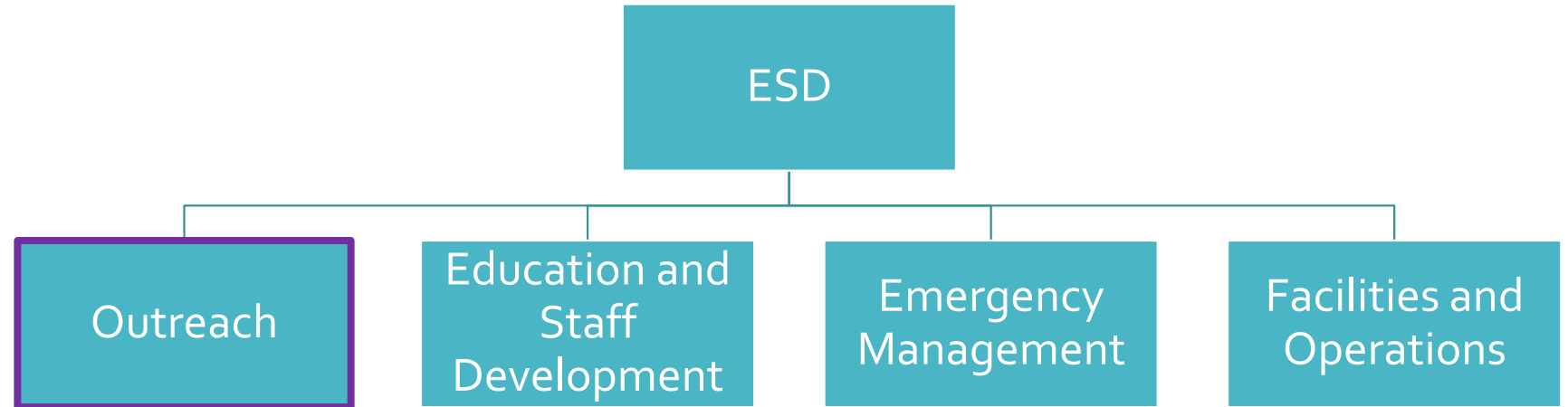
What we'll cover during this session

- EGLE's outreach and engagement environment
- Defining community engagement
- Spectrum of public participation and where EGLE activities fall
- Community Engagement Specialist role and initiatives
- Questions



EGLÉ's Outreach and Engagement Environment

Environmental Support Division



ESD is responsible for EGLE's:

- Proactive public outreach and engagement
- Internal and external training and events (think webinars and conferences- you're at one right now!)
- Ensuring a safe and healthy workplace
- Communicating environmental emergencies

Outreach and engagement is everywhere at EGLE

- Communications team- social media, web, Public Information Officers
- GIS Team- maps & data
- Specific roles across Offices and Divisions
- Within other roles- responding to complaints, presenting at public hearings, interacting with community groups

What is community engagement?

Community engagement is...



Trust, partnership, and relationship-building



The process of informing and involving people in the projects that affect them



Tailored to the individual community and project or issue

- Examples (including outreach)
 - Informational materials in plain language
 - Surveys and questionnaires
 - Public hearings and meetings
 - Comment periods
 - Input sessions
 - Group facilitation
 - Advisory groups
 - Community meetings and events
 - Community learning sessions and open houses

Community engagement is...

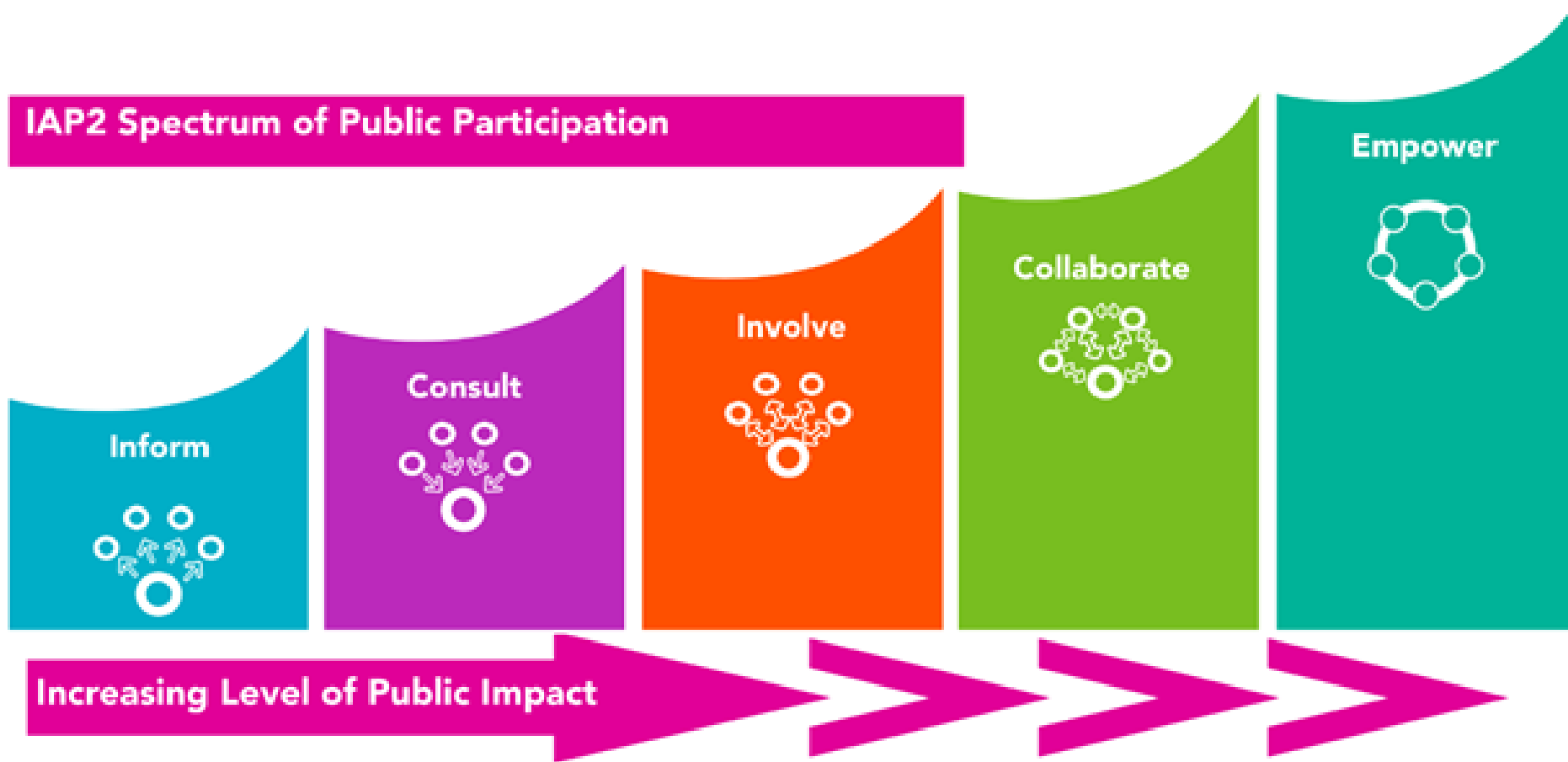
- **Qualitative!**
 - *Inductive* process- collect information and form process vs. decide on process, then collect information
 - Community engagement is *supposed to evolve* as information is collected and analyzed



Spectrum of Public Participation

International Association of Public Participation

IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation



INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
To provide the public with balanced and objective information.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, options and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that concerns are considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including identification and selection of solutions.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
We will keep you up-to-date.	We care what you think.	We are in dialogue, working together, and using feedback in our actions.	Your leadership and expertise are critical to how we address the issue.	We will implement what you decide.

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
P2 Goal	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the project or issue	To obtain public feedback on analysis, options and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision such as developing solutions and identifying of a preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public
What we do	Website, Social Media Project Announcement Information Materials Formal Presentations Webinars Door-to-door Outreach Public Meetings Interactive Digital Platforms	Public Hearings Focus Groups Comment Forms and Surveys (Requests for Information) Survey – Community Change Grants) Public Comment Periods			

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
P2 Goal	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the project or issue	To obtain public feedback on analysis, options and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision such as developing solutions and identifying of a preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public
What we do			Stakeholder Group/Steering Committee (Grant funded partnerships) Advisory Council – Michigan Advisory Council on Environmental Justice Advisory Council –MPART Community Advisory Working Group Advisory Council – Grant Specific work – where partners are funded and guide design, process, and outcomes of work Advisory Council – Areas of Concern Program (WRD) Co-creation of learning opportunities: Community Learning Session		Ballot Measures/Legislation Participatory Budgeting

Community Engagement Specialist

What do I do? 😊

Role at EGLE

- Community Engagement Specialist at EGLE
 - Department-wide, statewide position
 - Working with divisions to understand what's going well, where can we build engagement, provide technical assistance and engagement opportunities
 - Getting to know community organizations, associations, unions, etc. to understand how EGLE can improve community engagement practices

Day-to-day

- Meet & greets:
 - 50+ one-on-one meet and greets with organizations and individuals across Michigan
- Events/tours/public meetings
- Tool development
- Cross-agency collaboration



Initiatives

Community Organization Database

EGLE has launched an internal Community Engagement Database to strengthen connections with community-based organizations across the state. This map-based tool allows our Community Engagement Specialist to easily identify local organizations, professional groups, trade associations, and other partners.

- The database helps EGLE:
 - Build and maintain relationships with community partners
 - Share timely and relevant information
 - Keep organization contact details organized in one central location

For example, when EGLE hosts a public meeting about a facility or project, the database allows us to quickly identify nearby community organizations and contact them directly. This helps ensure that information reaches as many interested groups as possible.

Community Organization Database

- Form (community-facing)-
EGLE
Engagement
Database
Form



EGLE Engagement Database Form



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Thank you for your interest in the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) Community Engagement Database. This form is for community-based organizations, professional associations, trade groups, and other organizations interested in staying connected with EGLE. This information will not be shared outside of EGLE.

EGLE will use the provided information to:

- Help EGLE staff identify community organizations and professional associations interested in their topics and regions;
- Develop and maintain partnerships with organizations interested in EGLE programs;
- Bring together contact information from different EGLE offices into one place.

People with disabilities may request this material in an alternate format by emailing EGLE-Accessibility@Michigan.gov or calling 800-662-9278.

EGLE does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, political beliefs, height, weight, genetic information, or sexual orientation in the administration of any of its programs or activities, and prohibits intimidation and retaliation, as required by applicable laws and regulations.

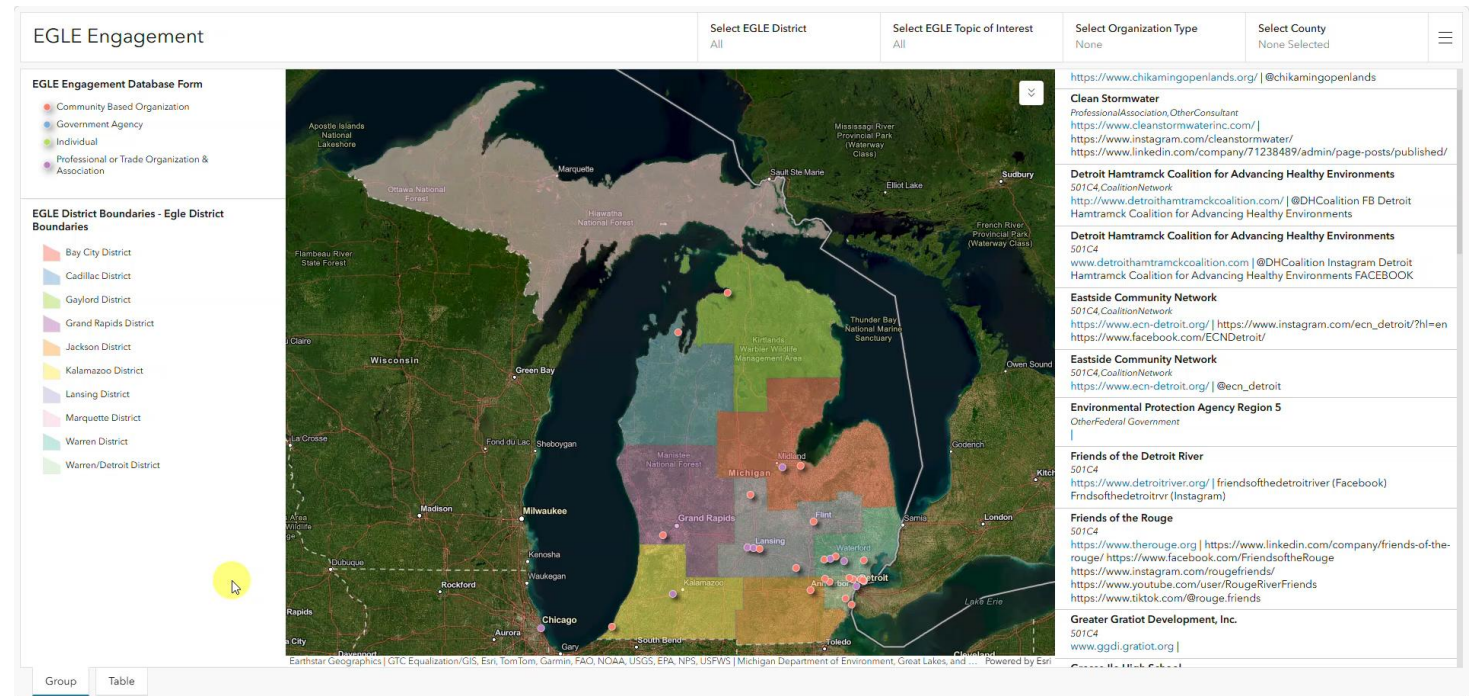
This form and its contents are subject to the Freedom of Information Act and may be released to the public.

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Community Organization Database

- Mapping tool (internal)



MiEnviro for Everyone!

- Multi-part webinar series designed to introduce MiEnviro to all Michiganders
- Each session breaks down a tile on the MiEnviro landing page



MiEnviro for Everyone!

Session name	Live attendees	Recording views	Total (so far!)
What is it and how to use it (November 19, 2025)	715	449	1,164
How to submit a complaint (December 16, 2025)	322	174	496
How to navigate Site Map Explorer (January 28, 2026)	418	178	596
Searching for Public Notices and Signing up for Alerts (February 18, 2026)	235	124	359
Searching for information on sewer system spills (March 24, 2026)	132	41	173
Finding beach quality information in BeachGuard (May 13, 2026)	126	22	148
Total (so far!)	1,948	988	2,936

MiEnviro for Everyone!

- Resources
 - YouTube playlist of recorded webinars: [MiEnviro Portal for Everyone - YouTube](#)
 - MiEnviro for Everyone webpage: [MiEnviro for Everyone webinar series](#)
- Upcoming sessions:
 - [Air Toxics Screening Levels](#): June 25, 10-11am
 - [Asbestos Notifications](#): July 29, 10-11am

Ongoing Initiatives

- Work with communities to identify best practices for information-sharing and shared learning
- Community engagement as a process and relationship rather than a checkbox
- Engage with EGLE webpage- Michigan.gov/EngageWithEGLE
 - More infographics, one-stop-shops for information about EGLE processes, hot topics, upcoming events, etc
- Newsletter
 - Goes out ~every six weeks
- Attend community organization meetings as appropriate



Questions?

Thank you!

- Natalie Brown, Community Engagement Specialist
- Email: brownn36@michigan.gov
- Phone: 517-246-8624