

Toxic Trends Mapper

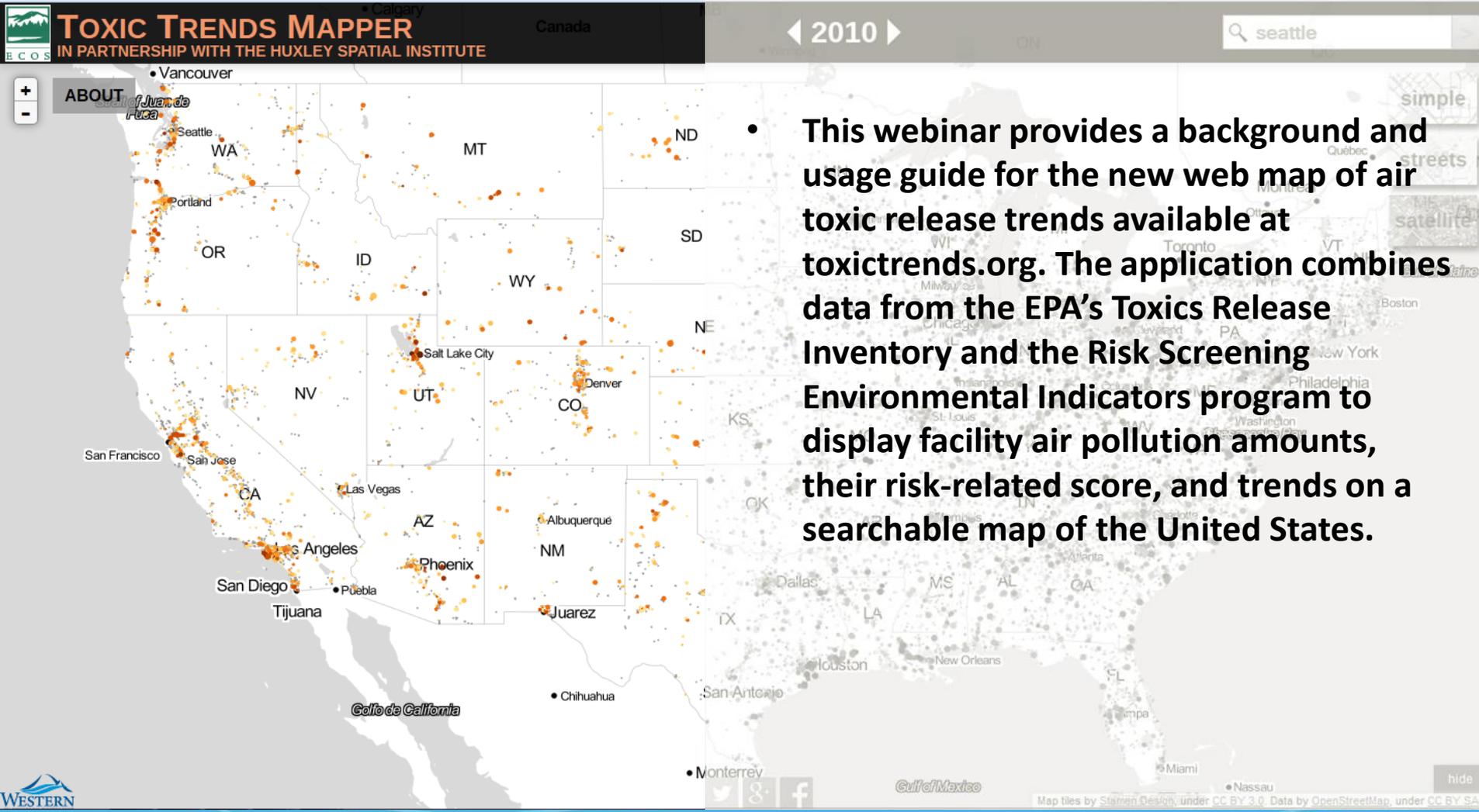
Background

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“Not all pollution is created equally”



TOXIC TRENDS MAPPER
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HUXLEY SPATIAL INSTITUTE

Canada

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seattle

ABOUT

E C O S

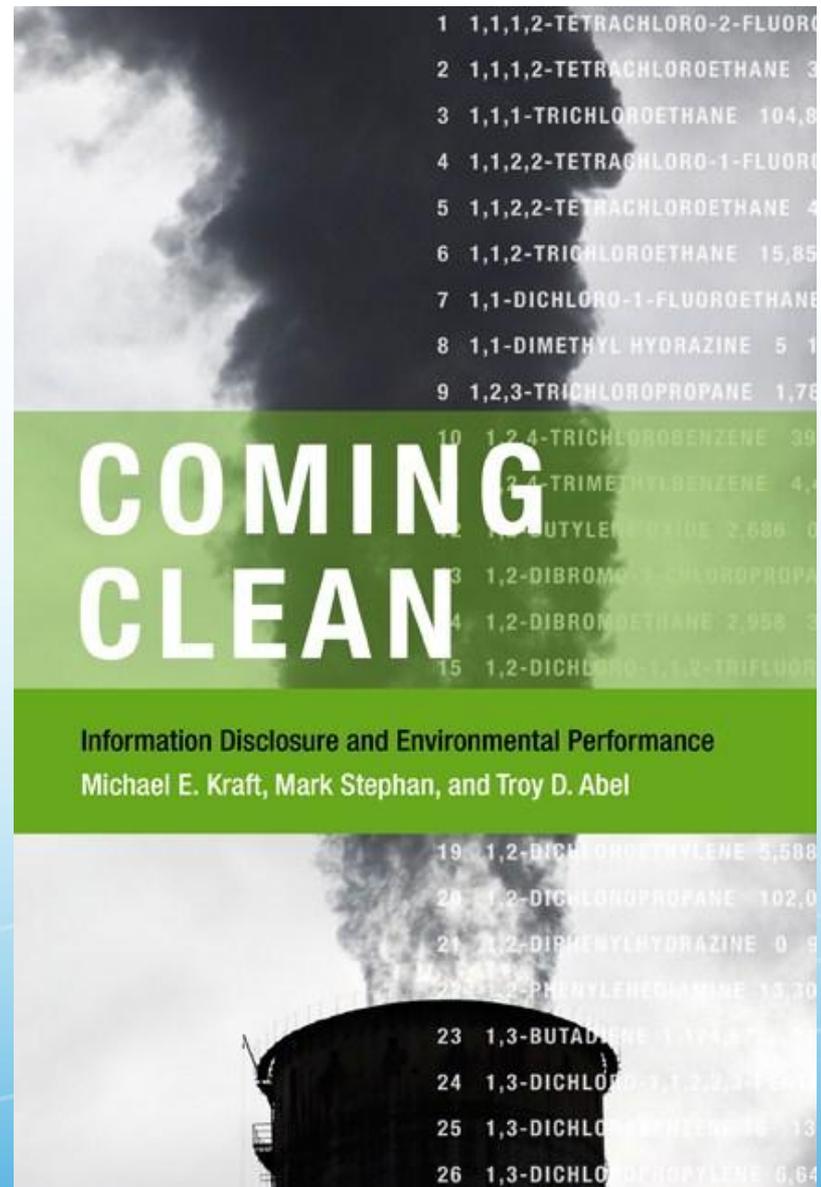
simple streets satellite

- This webinar provides a background and usage guide for the new web map of air toxic release trends available at toxictrends.org. The application combines data from the EPA's Toxics Release Inventory and the Risk Screening Environmental Indicators program to display facility air pollution amounts, their risk-related score, and trends on a searchable map of the United States.

Map tiles by Stamen Design, under CC BY 3.0. Data by OpenStreetMap, under CC BY SA.

MIT Press, 2011

The authors find that TRI--probably the best-known example of information disclosure--has had a substantial effect over time on the environmental performance of industry. But, drawing on case studies from across the nation, they show that the improvement is not uniform: some facilities have been leaders while others have been laggards. The authors argue that information disclosure has an important role to play in environmental policy--but only as part of an integrated set of policy tools that includes conventional regulation and pollution prevention assistance.



Box 1. Industrial Environmental Performance Associated with Increasing or Decreasing Air Risks and Releases

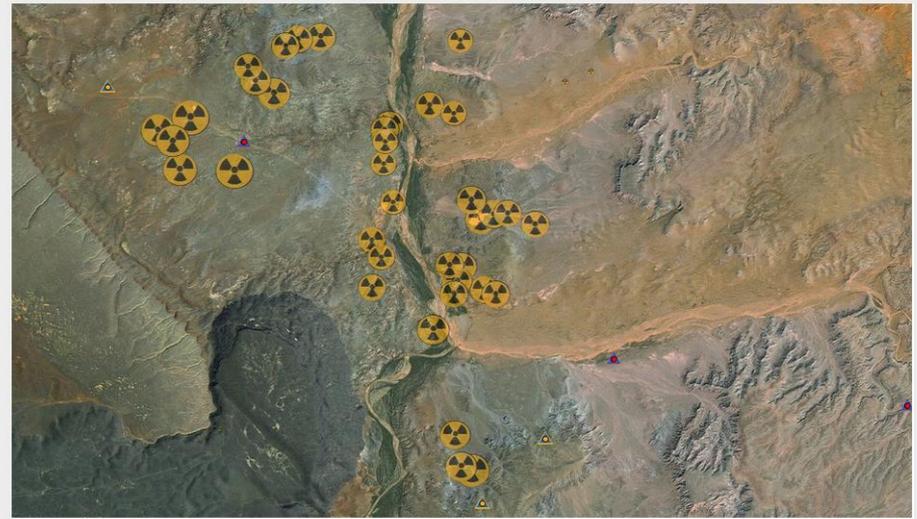
Risks	Releases		Total
	Increasing (dirtier)	Decreasing (cleaner)	
Decreasing (safer)	Blue Facilities 972 (8%) Example: a firm substitutes a relatively benign chemical for one of its most toxic air releases but still generates and even releases large quantities of less toxic pollutants.	Green Facilities 5,095 (42.1%) Example: a firm installs new pollution-control equipment that decreases the volume of its most toxic air releases and initiates source reduction activities that reduce its risk levels.	6,067 (50.1%)
Increasing (riskier)	Brown Facilities 4,604 (38%) Example: a firm increases production but takes no steps to control the higher volume of toxic air releases and the risks they pose.	Yellow Facilities 1,447 (11.9%) Example: a firm targets its biggest releases for reductions while maintaining or even increasing low-volume but highly toxic (riskier) air releases.	6,051 (49.9%)
Total	Dirtier 5,576 (46%)	Cleaner 6,543 (54%)	12,118 (100%)

Source: Abel, Stephan, and Kraft (2007). "Environmental Information Disclosure and Risk Reduction Among the States" *State and Local Government Review* 39(3): 153-65

The Greening of Industry

- Its uneven.
- The TRI probably is less influential than it once was.
- We believe reforming TRI into a performance disclosure program will reinvigorate its impact.
 - *target those facilities and firms that need greater incentives or technical assistance to reduce releases and risks while simultaneously encouraging, recognizing, and rewarding those facilities and firms that are steadily improving their environmental performance.*
- We also believe a performance disclosure program for GHGs will be more effective than what's currently being implemented.

<http://www.wvu.edu/huxley/spatial/maps/fppm/index.html>



Forgotten People
Participatory Mapping and Environmental Justice
Supporting Grassroots Organizations of the Navajo Nation

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