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Community-Focused Exposure and Risk Screening Tool (C-FERST)



Quick Start Guide

Office of Research and Development
National Exposure Research Laboratory

C-FERST Quick Start Guide

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Introduction to C-FERST

The Community-Focused Exposure and Risk Screening Tool (C-FERST) is an online information access and mapping tool that communities can use to learn more about their environmental issues and exposures. The tool includes local maps, reports, fact sheets, and links to other public health tools. C-FERST also offers reports from community projects that address local issues and structured community guides that can help communities assess local environmental conditions. C-FERST is intended to provide screening-level information to help users learn about community environmental and public health issues; however, it does not quantify risk values, and is not intended to be the sole basis for any public health decision.

C-FERST is intended to serve the needs of a broad range of users, including the general public, environmental and public health professionals, state and local risk assessors, EPA community involvement coordinators and environmental justice coordinators working on local-scale issues, and academic institutions serving local communities. It may be mutually beneficial for community members and groups to work with regional, state or local environmental experts, and local academic institutions to identify and learn about issues, and interpret C-FERST data and results. C-FERST is available to anyone with a computer and an internet connection. No special software is needed, however the tool runs most effectively with a high-speed internet connection.

This Quick Start guide describes the main components of C-FERST. Each section describes how to navigate to a component of C-FERST from the C-FERST Home Page and then describes its basic features.

C-FERST Home page



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Community-Focused Exposure and Risk Screening Tool (C-FERST)

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Compare Your Community

Use C-FERST to Compare Your Community with County and State Estimates

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Questions and Answers

- [What is C-FERST?](#)
- [Who can or should use C-FERST?](#)
- [What can I use C-FERST for?](#)

Community-Focused Exposure and Risk Screening Tool (C-FERST) provides access to resources that can be used to help communities learn more about their environmental issues and risks. The options below show how to use C-FERST to view a community's environment, compare community environmental conditions, explore and learn about environmental issues, plan projects with community guides, and participate in the C-FERST User Forum.

View



- [View Your Community](#)
 - [Maps](#)

Compare



- [Compare Your Community](#)
 - [Community Data Table](#)

Explore



- [Explore and Learn](#)
 - [Environmental Issues](#)
 - [Exposure and Risk Reduction Options](#)

Getting Started

- [C-FERST Quick Start Guide](#)
- [Questions and Answers about C-FERST](#)
- See the [full disclaimer](#)
- [View C-FERST Limitations](#)

Plan Your Project



- [Community Guides](#)
 - [CARE Roadmap](#)
 - [PACE-EH Guidebook](#)

C-FERST Users



- [About C-FERST](#)
- [C-FERST User Forum](#)

Resources



- [Additional Tools](#)
- [Citizen Science](#)
- [Environmental Measurement Methods](#)

Related EPA Tools

- [EnviroAtlas](#)
- [Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool](#)

Under Development:

- [Community-LINE Source Model \(C-LINE\)](#)
- [Tribal-Focused Environmental Risk and Sustainability Tool](#)

[Contact Us](#) to ask a question, provide feedback, or report a problem.

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The Home page in C-FERST has several main options:

- **View** maps of your community's environment
Provides examples of how to use C-FERST Maps to view your community's environment, followed by a link to the mapping tool.
- **Compare** local, county, and state estimates
Provides examples of how to use C-FERST Community Data Table to compare local estimates to county and state; includes a link to the Community Data Table.
- **Explore** information about your environment
Provides examples of how to use C-FERST Environmental Issue Profiles to learn information about your environment and how to find Exposure and Risk Reduction options projects.
- **Plan Your Project** with community guides
Contains information on how C-FERST can be used in conjunction with community assessment guides, including EPA's Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Roadmap, and the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE-EH) Guidebook.
- **C-FERST Users**
Contains information about C-FERST like answers to common questions and how to participate in the C-FERST User Forum.
- **Resources**
Contains information beyond C-FERST regarding additional tools, citizen science, and environmental measurement methods.

There are also boxes on the side of the web page with links to:

- Questions and Answers
- C-FERST Disclaimer and Limitations
- Related EPA tools
- EPA Tools Under Development

If at any time you need assistance, a "Contact Us" link is available at the bottom of the page. Use this link to ask questions, provide feedback, or report a problem.

View Maps of Your Community's Environment

How to Access the Maps from the C-FERST Home page

- 1) Go to **View Maps of your Community's Environment**. This page contains a description and examples, followed by a button to Get Started: **"View Community Maps"**

The screenshot shows the EPA C-FERST website. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Learn the Issues', 'Science & Technology', 'Laws & Regulations', and 'About EPA'. A search bar is on the right. The main content area is titled 'View Maps of Your Community's Environment Using C-FERST'. Below the title, there is a paragraph explaining that C-FERST maps contain information on pollution sources, estimated concentrations, exposures and risks from pollution, demographics and other key community characteristics. An example section titled 'Example: Using C-FERST to Map Environmental Issues' describes how to map benzene exposure, poverty, and health care facilities. Below this, a 'Get Started' section contains a button labeled 'View Community Maps' which is highlighted with a red box. A sidebar on the left lists various navigation options like 'View Maps', 'Compare Your Community', and 'Explore and Learn'.

- 2) Returning users can click the **Maps** link under **View**

This screenshot shows a navigation menu with four main sections: 'View', 'Compare', 'Explore', and 'Getting Started'. Each section has a representative image and a list of links. The 'View' section includes a link to 'View Your Community' with a sub-link 'Maps' highlighted by a red box. The 'Compare' section includes 'Compare Your Community' and 'Community Data Table'. The 'Explore' section includes 'Explore and Learn' with sub-links for 'Environmental Issues' and 'Exposure and Risk Reduction Options'. The 'Getting Started' section includes 'C-FERST Quick Start Guide', 'Questions and Answers about C-FERST', 'See the full disclaimer', and 'View C-FERST Limitations'.

Basic Features of C-FERST Maps

You are here:

EPA Home » C-FERST » C-FERST Maps of Community Environmental Conditions

C-FERST Maps of Community Environmental Conditions

Browser Requirements

Use the Map Viewer below to explore maps that identify sources of pollution in your community and the surrounding area. These maps do not contain every map layer that may be important to a community; you may want to check with state or local agencies for data that could be added to the maps for a more complete picture of your community's conditions. **Please view the C-FERST Maps Questions and Answers and User Guide prior to using C-FERST Maps.**

More Information

- [C-FERST Maps Questions and Answers](#)
- [Maps User Guide](#)
- [Description of C-FERST Map Layers](#)
- [Example uses of C-FERST Maps](#)

[View Map in Full Screen](#)

ArcGIS ▾ Community-FERST and Tribal-FERST Map

The Modify Map button opens a menu for adding data to the map.

Modify Map Sign In

The screenshot shows the ArcGIS web interface for C-FERST maps. The interface includes a top navigation bar with 'Details', 'Basemap', 'Share', 'Print', 'Measure', and 'Bookmarks' buttons, along with a search box. A left sidebar contains a 'Contents' pane with expandable layers like 'EPA Registered Facilities (Sites)', 'Water Quality', 'STORET Water Monitoring Sites', 'Impaired Waters with TMDLs', 'Schools', and 'Neighborhood Boundaries'. The main map area shows the United States with various map layers overlaid. A scale bar at the bottom indicates 0, 300, and 600 miles. Callout boxes provide detailed instructions for using the 'Details' button, 'Basemap' button, zoom controls, 'Bookmarks' button, and search box.

The Details button shows or hides the contents pane on the left side of the map, including the three buttons below it:

- Information about the map
- Map contents
- Map Legend

The Basemap button opens a gallery of different basemaps you can view.

The plus and minus buttons allow you to zoom in or out.

The Bookmarks button allow you save locations (for your current session) so you can easily zoom back to those locations.

The search box is where you enter your location.

Refer to the [C-FERST Maps User Guide](#) for more detailed description of these features and how to use them.

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Community Data Table

How to Access the Community Data Table from the C-FERST Home page

- 1) Go to **Use C-FERST to Compare Your Community with County and State Estimates**. This page contains a description and an example with a button to **“Get Started: Create the Community Data Table.”**

The screenshot shows the EPA C-FERST website. The top navigation bar includes 'Learn the Issues', 'Science & Technology', 'Laws & Regulations', and 'About EPA'. The main content area is titled 'Use C-FERST to Compare Your Community with County and State Estimates'. On the left, a sidebar lists various options, with 'Community Data Table' under 'Compare Your Community' highlighted. The main text describes the Community Data Table and includes an example section. A 'Get Started: Create a Community Data Table' button is highlighted with a red box.

- 2) Returning users can click the **Community Data Table** link under **Compare Your Community** on the home page.

The screenshot shows the C-FERST home page with three main sections: 'View', 'Compare', and 'Explore'. The 'View' section includes 'View Your Community' and 'Maps'. The 'Compare' section includes 'Compare Your Community' and 'Community Data Table', with the latter link highlighted by a red box. The 'Explore' section includes 'Explore and Learn', 'Environmental Issues', and 'Exposure and Risk Reduction Options'. A 'Getting Started' sidebar on the right lists links for 'C-FERST Quick Start Guide', 'Questions and Answers about C-FERST', 'See the full disclaimer', and 'View C-FERST Limitations'.

Basic Features of the Community Data Table

Once you have reached the Community Data Table page, you can search for and select your location to generate a table like the one below. For a more detailed description of this process, see the [C-FERST Community Data Table Quick Start Guide](#).

You are here: EPA Home » C-FERST » Community Data Table

Community Data Table

The map shows the census tract for the area you have selected.



The default indicators in the table are based on EPA-related issues, stakeholder feedback, and available data. There may be other important issues that are not currently included in this table.

Indicators and Indices	Tract 523800	Wayne County	Michigan	Data Info/Notes
▶ Environmental Concentration Estimates				
▶ Human Exposure Estimates				
▼ Health Risk Estimates				
Cumulative Air Toxics Cancer Risk ¹ (risk per one million persons)	54.4	37.6	31.3	2011 NATA
Outdoor Air - Acetaldehyde Cancer Risk ¹ (risk per one million persons)	0.3	0.2	3.3	2011 NATA
Outdoor Air - Arsenic Cancer Risk ¹ (risk per one million persons)	0.3	0.2	0.2	2011 NATA
Outdoor Air - Benzene Cancer Risk ¹ (risk per one million persons)	6.0	6.3	5.3	2011 NATA
Outdoor Air - Butadiene Cancer Risk ¹ (risk per one million persons)	1.35	2.05	1.58	2011 NATA
Outdoor Air - Ethylene Glycol Cancer Risk ¹ (risk per one million persons)	15.9	15.7	14.3	2011 NATA
Outdoor Air - Naphthalene Cancer Risk ¹ (risk per one million persons)	1.3	1.6	1.2	2011 NATA
Outdoor Air - PAH Cancer Risk ¹ (risk per one million persons)	0.5	0.3	0.2	2011 NATA
Cumulative Air Toxics Non-Cancer Respiratory Risk (Hazard Quotient ²)	1.53	1.76	1.34	2011 NATA
Outdoor Air - Acetaldehyde Non-Cancer Respiratory Risk (Hazard Quotient ²)	0.2	0.2	0.2	2011 NATA
Outdoor Air - Acrolein Non-Cancer Respiratory Risk+ (Hazard Quotient ²)	1.0	1.3	1.0	2011 NATA
Outdoor Air - Chromium Non-Cancer Respiratory Risk (Hazard Quotient ²)	0.0005	0.0004	0.0003	2011 NATA
Outdoor Air - Diesel PM Non-Cancer Respiratory Risk (Hazard Quotient ²)	NaN	NaN	NaN	2011 NATA
Outdoor Air - Formaldehyde Non-Cancer Respiratory Risk (Hazard Quotient ²)	0.1	0.1	0.1	2011 NATA
Outdoor Air - Naphthalene Non-Cancer Respiratory Risk (Hazard Quotient ²)	0.001	0.001	0.012	2011 NATA
Cumulative Air Toxics Non-Cancer Neurological Risk (Hazard Quotient ²)	0.002	0.002	0.002	2011 NATA
Outdoor Air - Lead Non-Cancer Neurological Risk (Hazard Quotient ²)	0.002	0.002	0.002	2011 NATA
▶ Demographic, Social and Economic Indicators				

There are several sections of the table, which can be expanded or collapsed by clicking on the section heading or the small arrow beside it.

Columns contain estimates for the census tract you selected, as well as county and state estimates.

The last column contains a link to the data source, where you can find more information about the data.

Each row is an environmental or demographic indicator. The hyperlinked ones lead to an Issue Profile on the same indicator.

- [NATA Limitations](#)
- [NATA Frequent Questions](#)

¹ How does EPA estimate cancer risk? See [NATA 2011](#) for more details.
² Hazard Quotient is the ratio of the potential exposure to the substance and the level at which no adverse effects are expected. Please see [NATA: Glossary of Terms](#) for more information.

Curious about the data source? Find out more by clicking on the links to the Limitations, Frequent Questions, Glossary, and NATA 2011.

Environmental Issue Profiles

How to Access the Environmental Issue Profiles from the C-FERST Home page

- 1) Go to **Use C-FERST to Explore and Learn about Environmental Issues**. This page contains a description and examples, followed by a button to **“Get Started: Explore Issue Profiles”**

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You are here: EPA Home » C-FERST » Use C-FERST to Explore and Learn about Environmental Issues

Use C-FERST to Explore and Learn about Environmental Issues

C-FERST has information to help you explore and learn about environmental issues. The Environmental Issue Profiles contain links and data from various sources inside and outside EPA for issues and concerns commonly identified by communities. The Issue Profiles include links for exposure and risk reduction options and for community and tribal projects. Use these to explore and learn about environmental issues and to see what other communities have done.

Example: Exploring an Environmental Issue Profile in C-FERST

This example will demonstrate how to access and explore an Environmental Issue Profile in C-FERST. Environmental Issue Profiles are helpful for providing information on specific environmental issues of concern. These can provide a starting point for gathering more information on these concerns.

- [See the full example of accessing an environmental issue profile](#)

Get Started: [Explore Issue Profiles](#)

- 2) Returning users can click the **Environmental Issues** link under **Explore and Learn** on the home page

View

- [View Your Community](#)
 - [Maps](#)

Compare

- [Compare Your Community](#)
 - [Community Data Table](#)

Explore

- [Explore and Learn](#)
 - [Environmental Issues](#)
 - [Exposure and Risk Reduction Options](#)

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- [C-FERST Quick Start Guide](#)
- [Questions and Answers about C-FERST](#)
- See the [full disclaimer](#)
- [View C-FERST Limitations](#)

Basic Features of an Environmental Issue Profile

Once you have reached the Environmental Issue Profiles page, you can select an issue and view an Issue Profile:

You are here: EPA Home > C-FERST > C-FERST Issue Profile: 1,3 Butadiene

C-FERST Issue Profile: 1,3 Butadiene

Motor vehicle exhaust is a source of 1,3-butadiene. Although 1,3-butadiene breaks down quickly in the atmosphere, it is usually found in ambient air at low levels in urban and suburban areas. Short-term human exposure to 1,3-butadiene via inhalation can cause irritation of the eyes, nasal passages, throat, and lungs. Epidemiological studies have reported a possible association between 1,3-butadiene exposure and cardiovascular diseases. Epidemiological studies of workers in rubber plants have shown an association between 1,3-butadiene exposure and increased incidence of leukemia. Animal studies have reported tumors at various sites from 1,3-butadiene exposure. EPA has classified 1,3-butadiene as carcinogenic to humans by inhalation.

Learn more about 1, 3-butadiene by exploring the links provided below.

General Information

- Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry's [Toxic Substances Portal: 1,3 Butadiene](#) [EPA](#)
- [EPA Hazardous Air Pollutants](#)

Sources

- [Search TRIExplorer for Reports on Butadiene Releases from Stationary Sources](#)

Environmental Concentrations, Human Exposures, and Health Risks

Interested in learning more about a specific location? Type an address, city, or ZIP code into the box on the right side of the map below. Click on the map to see a pop-up with information about ambient concentration, exposure concentration and cancer risk for the chosen location(s). Navigate to the next feature by clicking the small arrow(↔) on the top right side of the pop-up.

ArcGIS 1,3-Butadiene Data in C-FERST Modify Map Sign In

- [Integrated Risk Information System \(IRIS\): 1,3-Butadiene Summary](#)
- [Health Effects Notebook for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Butadiene](#)
- [National Toxicology Program's 13th Report on Carcinogens Substance Profile: 1,3-Butadiene \(PDF\)](#) (3pp, 205KB, [About PDF](#)) [EPA](#)
- [Acute Exposure Guideline Levels \(AEGs\) for 1,3-Butadiene](#)
- [CalEPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's 1,3-Butadiene Reference Exposure Levels \(PDF\)](#) (102pp, 1.36 MB, [About PDF](#)) [EPA](#)

Exposure and Risk Reduction Options

- [Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry's ToxFACs: How can families reduce risk of exposure to 1,3-Butadiene?](#) [EPA](#)

Strategies Implemented By Other Communities

- [New York: Center of Environmental Information](#)
- [Community-Based Air Toxics Projects Addressing Butadiene](#)

Sections of the Environmental Issue Profile Include:

- General Information
- Sources
- Environmental Concentrations, Human Exposures, and Health Risks*
- Exposure and Risk Reduction Options
- Strategies Implemented by Other Communities

**including data in maps and pie charts in pop-ups when available for hazardous outdoor air pollutants.*

Plan Your Project

How to Access Community Guides from the C-FERST Home page

Click the **Community Guides** link on the Home page or click one of the guides.

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Compare Your Community

Use C-FERST to Compare Your Community with County and State Estimates

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Questions and Answers

- What is C-FERST?
- Who can or should use C-FERST?
- What can I use C-FERST for?

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- [Additional Tools](#)
- [Citizen Science](#)
- [Environmental Measurement Methods](#)

Related EPA Tools

- [EnviroAtlas](#)
- [Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool](#)

Under Development:

- [Community-LINE Source Model \(C-LINE\)](#)
- [Tribal-Focused Environmental Risk and Sustainability Tool](#)

[Contact Us](#) to ask a question, provide feedback, or report a problem.

Basic Features of the Community Guides

Using the CARE Roadmap as an example:

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C-FERST Contact Us Share

You are here: EPA Home » C-FERST » Use C-FERST with EPA's Community Action for a Renewed Environment Roadmap

Use C-FERST with EPA's Community Action for a Renewed Environment Roadmap

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Citizen Science

Environmental Measurements

What is the CARE Roadmap?

The EPA CARE Roadmap provides a structured process to

- Learn about local environmental and environmental health risks and impacts
- Build the community partnership to take action to reduce impacts and risks
- Mobilize a community within your community to understand and reduce environmental impacts and risks
- Build long-term capacity within your community to understand and reduce environmental impacts and risks

The EPA CARE Resource Guide, a key resource developed by EPA's former CARE program, helps users find online resources that can help communities through every step of the process as they move from getting organized to becoming stewards of their own environment.

Use C-FERST with the EPA's CARE Roadmap

C-FERST has tools and information that can help you with some steps of the CARE Roadmap. EPA's former CARE Program was a key partner in the development of C-FERST.

CARE Roadmap Steps

The Roadmap: Ten Steps to a Healthier Community and Environment

Click on the steps to see how C-FERST features and resources can help with these steps.

10 Steps of the CARE Roadmap

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Step 1: Build a Partnership

"Build a collaborative partnership representing a broad range of interest that is able to identify environmental risks and impacts, build consensus and mobilize all the resources necessary to achieve community goals."

C-FERST Resources for this step:

- [Partners Table](#)
Use the Partners Table to enter and save information on the people and organizations involved in your partnership.

[Contact Us](#) to ask a question, provide feedback, or report a problem.

C-FERST User Forum

How to Access the User Forum from the C-FERST Home page

1) Click the **C-FERST User Forum** link on the Home page

<h3>Plan Your Project</h3>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Guides <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CARE Roadmap PACE-EH Guidebook 	<h3>C-FERST Users</h3>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About C-FERST C-FERST User Forum 	<h3>Resources</h3>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional Tools Citizen Science Environmental Measurement Methods 	<h3>Related EPA Tools</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EnviroAtlas Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool <p>Under Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community-LINE Source Model (C-LINE) Tribal-Focused Environmental Risk and Sustainability Tool
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2) Click **C-FERST User Forum** inside the green box on the right called **Ready to join the Conversation?**

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You are here: [EPA Home](#) » [C-FERST](#) » [C-FERST User Forum](#)

C-FERST User Forum

Are you a C-FERST user? Get involved and contribute to discussions by asking questions or by sharing your experiences on the User Forum!

What is a User Forum?

This forum is a digital space for tool users to communicate with other users. Anyone can ask new questions or submit answers to other questions. We are very excited to host this opportunity for C-FERST communities to interact, learn from others and get help.

What can I do?

Join in on the excitement! Read through responses, add helpful tips for others and post your questions.

What are the guidelines for using it?

We encourage you to share your thoughts as they relate to the topic being discussed. We review and post comments according to the policy below. Please note that the views expressed in comments on the forum reflect those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the federal government.

Ready to join the Conversation?

[C-FERST User Forum](#)

Basic Features of the C-FERST User Forum

Once you have reached the User Forum page, you can explore existing topics or create a new topic



COMMUNITY-FOCUSED EXPOSURE AND RISK SCREENING TOOL (C-FERST)

Home > Forums > Applications > Community-Focused Exposure and Risk Screening Tool (C-FERST)

This forum contains 1 topic and 2 replies, and was last updated by [Jim Quackenboss](#) 4 months, 4 weeks ago.

Viewing 2 topics - 1 through 2 (of 2 total)

Topic	Voices	Posts	Freshness
Forum Policy Started by: avuen in: Applications	1	1	8 months ago avuen
Use on cellphone? Started by: Susan Cannon	2	3	4 months, 4 weeks ago Jim Quackenboss

Click the title of the topic you would like to read or to post a response.

Viewing 2 topics - 1 through 2 (of 2 total)

Create New Topic in "Community-Focused Exposure and Risk Screening Tool (C-FERST)"

Your information:

Name (required):

Mail (will not be published) (required):

Website:

Topic Title (Maximum Length: 80):

Type the text

Create a new topic by entering your name, email, topic title, and description.

Prove you are a human by typing the text. Click submit.

Resources

How to Access Environmental Measurements from the C-FERST Home page

Click the **Environmental Measurement Methods** link on the Home page under Resources

Plan Your Project



- [Community Guides](#)
 - [CARE Roadmap](#)
 - [PACE-EH Guidebook](#)

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Related EPA Tools

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Under Development:

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Basic Features of Environmental Measurement Methods in C-FERST

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Environmental Measurement Methods in C-FERST

Environmental Measurement Methods

Below are several types of methods for measuring the level of pollutants in different environments. These methods are organized from more basic, commercially available techniques to more advanced, technical methods. The tests are broken into different levels of analysis & different mediums (Air/Water/Soil). The most appropriate method will depend on the issue of concern and the quality of the data needed to meet the goal. The inclusion of these tools in C-FERST does not imply endorsement of their use.

The tests are broken into different levels of analysis & different mediums (Air/Water/Soil).

More Information

- [How were these Environmental Measurement Methods Chosen?](#)
- [EPA Environmental Measurements](#)
- [Additional Tools for Communities](#)

Commercially Available "Do-It-Yourself" Test Kits

- [Screening Level Methods for Air](#)
- [Screening Level Methods for Surfaces](#)
- [Screening Level Methods for Water](#)

Commercially Available Kits that Require Laboratory Analysis

- [Quantitative Screening Methods for Air](#)
- [Quantitative Screening Methods for Surfaces](#)
- [Quantitative Screening Methods for Water](#)

Refined Quantitative Methods for Technical Users

- [EPA and Other Federal Methods for Air](#)
- [EPA and Other Federal Methods for Soil](#)
- [EPA and Other Federal Methods for Water](#)

[View a PDF Version of the information contained in tables.](#)