



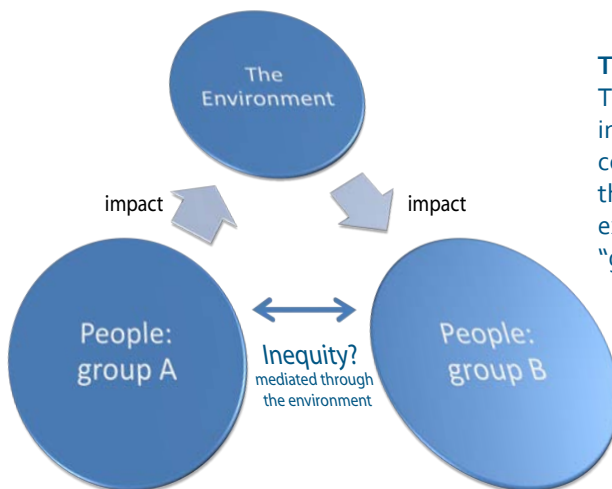
SUEMoT

A Fairer Place?

Assessing urban environmental equity

SUE-MOT, a consortia of academic, industrial, government and community partners has developed a framework to help urban decision-makers examine the environmental equity implications of proposed urban developments in the UK.

WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY? Greater equity both amongst people alive today and between the current and future generations is critical for sustainable development. Environmental equity relates to how environmental impacts are distributed among different groups of people with the concern that it is already disadvantaged communities who repeatedly suffer the environmental burdens, such as noise and poor air quality, associated with developments such as factories and new roads. It is argued that this results from those burdened being effectively excluded from the decision-making process.

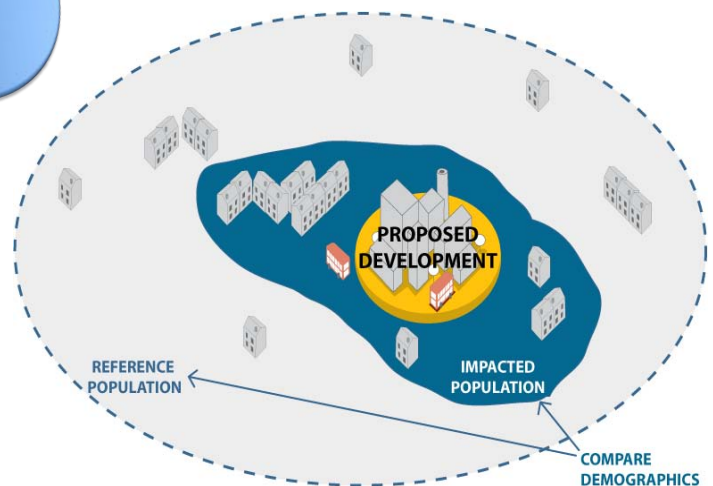


THE DYNAMICS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY

Traditionally, environmentalism's focus has been on the impact that people have on the environment while the concept of environmental equity goes on to explore how the impacted environment then affects other people. For example "group A" receives the benefit of a new road but "group B" is most affected by the noise.

ASSESSING ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY

Environmental equity is assessed by comparing the characteristics of those communities living within the "footprint" of actual or predicted environmental impacts with the characteristics of a wider "reference" population.

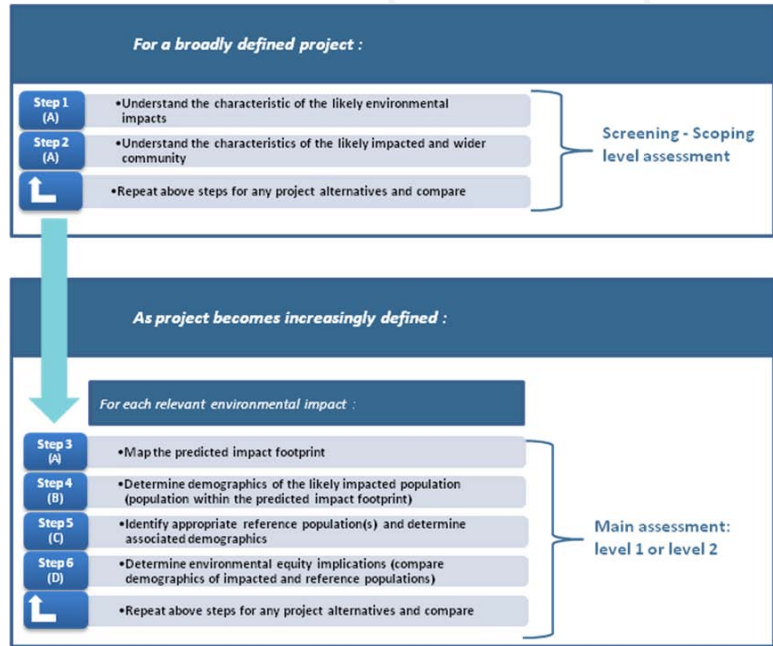
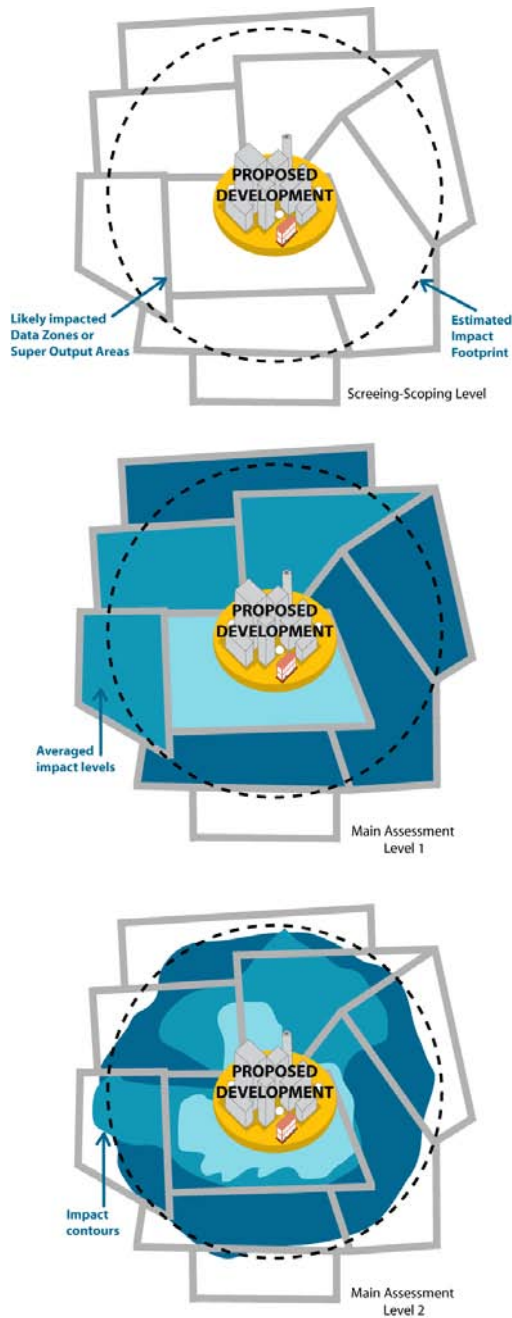




SUE MoT

THE FRAMEWORK

Within the framework the assessment process outlined on the previous page is captured in six generic steps. These steps are interpreted at three levels of complexity (screening-scoping, simple and detailed level assessments) for five key environmental equity issues (equity in the distribution of: noise impacts, air-quality impacts, visual impacts, community severance impacts, and property and community facility impacts).



It is anticipated that the framework will be of particular interest to local planning authorities, developers, impact assessors and community representatives.

For more information visit the SUE-MOT website:

WWW.SUE-MOT.ORG

