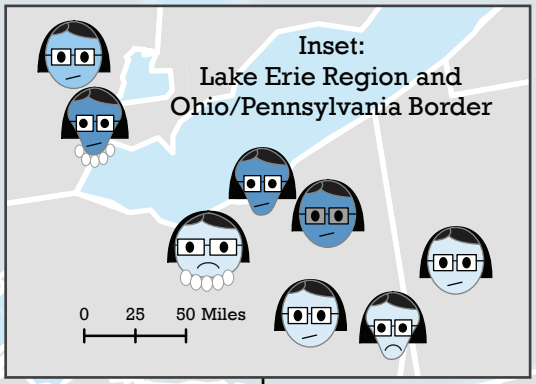
# facing waste:
## United States hazardous waste imports from Canada and Mexico, 2010 - 2012




See Inset

This map opens up a series of questions about transboundary hazardous waste movement.

**Why do some U.S. facilities import hazardous waste?** Economics are part of the story, but the whys and hows are open questions. Distance to a border seems to be another part of the answer, but exceptions are numerous.

Additionally, **are hazardous waste imports an environmental justice issue?** Some, but not all, facilities seem to cluster in areas with high percentages of people in poverty and people of color. As environmental justice scholar-activists have long recognized (Bullard 1996), hazardous waste facilities vary greatly. Recycling facilities, for example, are sometimes lauded but can pollute local environments. And demographic data -- based on census tracts -- might not capture neighborhood characters and challenges.

**Country of Origin**
- Canada
- CA and MX
- Mexico

**Percent Minority**
Based on a national average of 35.8%
- High: 53.7 - 95.3%
- Medium: 17.9 - 53.7%
- Low: 1.6 - 17.9%

**Poverty Rate**
Based on a national average of 14.3%
- High: 21.45 - 62.5%
- Medium: 7.15 - 21.45%
- Low: 2.7 - 7.15%

**Processing**
- Recycling (of at least some of the waste)
- Disposal
- (no mouth) Not specified

**Economic Rationale for Transboundary Movement**
Did the site record explicitly reference financial reasons for processing waste in the U.S.?
- Yes
- (no necklace) Not specified

N

0 100 200 Miles

Data Sources: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request to US EPA; United States Census American Community Survey 2007-2011
Projection Information: USA Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic, Central Meridian: 96.0, Latitude of Origin: 37.5 | Cartographer: Heather Rosenfeld