An Equitable Energy Future

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What is energy justice?

Energy justice refers to the goal of achieving equity in both the social and economic participation in the energy system, while also remediating social, economic, and health burdens on those historically harmed by the energy system ("frontline communities").

Energy justice explicitly centers the concerns of frontline communities and aims to make energy more accessible, affordable, clean, and democratically managed for all communities.

Tenets of Energy and Environmental Justice

Procedural
- Broad and meaningful participation in the decision-making

Recognition
- Respect and honor of divergent cultural and local knowledge

Distributive
- Equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens

Restorative
- Repair harms done to communities and the environment

Our Energy System Is Inequitable
Our Grand Challenge
How do we transform our energy system while ensuring it becomes more equitable and just?
Justice40 as a Just Energy Transition Framework
What is Justice40?

EO 14008 – Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

Sec 223 – Justice40 – how Federal investments might be made for 40% of the overall benefits to flow to disadvantaged communities
Justice40 Policy Priorities

1. **Decrease** energy burden in disadvantaged communities (DACs).
2. **Decrease** environmental exposure and burdens for DACs.
3. **Increase** parity in clean energy technology (e.g., solar, storage) access and adoption in DACs.
4. **Increase** access to low-cost capital in DACs.
5. **Increase** clean energy enterprise creation and contracting (MBE/DBE) in DACs.
6. **Increase** clean energy jobs, job pipeline, and job training for individuals from DACs.
7. **Increase** energy resiliency in DACs.
8. **Increase** energy democracy in DACs.
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Reducing Environmental Exposures & Burden
Communities near power plants and energy infrastructure are subjected to toxic pollutants that contribute to high rates of asthma, cancer, heart disease.
POLLUTION EXPOSURE BY POPULATION (2003–2015)

Exposed to 63% more pollution than they produce

Latino Americans

Exposed to 17% less pollution than they produce

Black Americans

Non-Hispanic White Americans

Source: Christopher W. Tessum et al., “Inequity in consumption of goods and services adds to racial-ethnic disparities in air pollution exposure.” Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (March 2019).
Increasing Diverse Clean Energy Enterprises & Contracting
• Nuclear Programs at MSIs and HBCUs

• Diverse companies and startups
U.S. CLEAN ENERGY LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS
BY RACE, ETHNICITY, AND GENDER, 2020

OUT OF EVERY 10 U.S. CLEAN ENERGY JOBS

6 jobs are held by non-Hispanic whites

3 Jobs are held by multiracial and nonwhite workers

1 Job is held by white Hispanics or Latinos
BIPOC populations are underrepresented in clean energy workforce.

Latinx workers more likely to hold construction jobs in the industry.

Black workers make up 7% of clean energy employees but are 13% of overall US workforce.

https://www.usenergyjobs.org/
Nuclear Fuels Demographics

Although below national averages in several categories, the nuclear fuels sector is more diverse than the national workforce.

https://www.usenergyjobs.org/
Increasing Energy Democracy
Procedural Justice

- **Procedural justice** is the ability of people to be involved in decision-making procedures around energy system infrastructures and technologies.

- We know how important having a meaningful seat at the table is, and how we must include underserved, overburdened frontline communities as co-creators of the clean energy future.

- We know that energy justice requires this participation, and that a failure to do so will cement inequality within our future energy system.

- We must focus on **energy democracy**, including providing pathways to community ownership and procedural justice in disadvantaged communities.
Thank you!

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