

Yasmin Yacoby

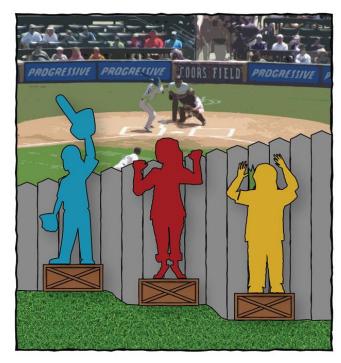
Policy Analyst on Energy Justice and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

Fusion Energy Conference
June 1, 2022

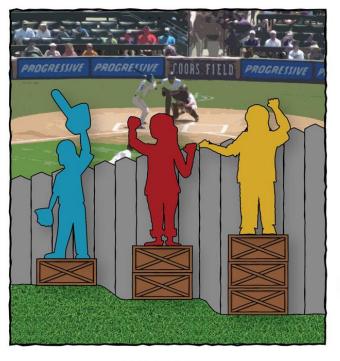


ECONOMIC IMPACT AND DIVERSITY

### Equality vs. Equity







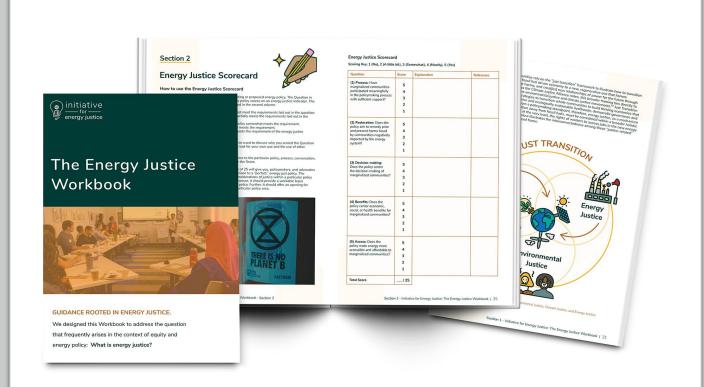
**EQUITY** 



## 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.



Initiative for Energy Justice (2019).



### **Tenets of Energy and Environmental Justice**









Broad and meaningful participation in the decision-making

Respect and honor of divergent cultural and local knowledge

Equitable
distribution of
environmental
benefits and burdens

Repair harms
done to
communities and
the environment

Heffron and McCauley, The Concept of energy Justice Across the Disciplines, 105 Energy Policy 658, 659 (2017)



### Our Energy System Is Inequitable



# Our Grand Challenge How do we transform our energy system while ensuring it becomes more equitable and just?



# Justice 40 as a Just Energy Transition Framework



### What is Justice 40?

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

Federal investments



40% of the overall benefits



**Disadvantaged** communities





### **Justice 40 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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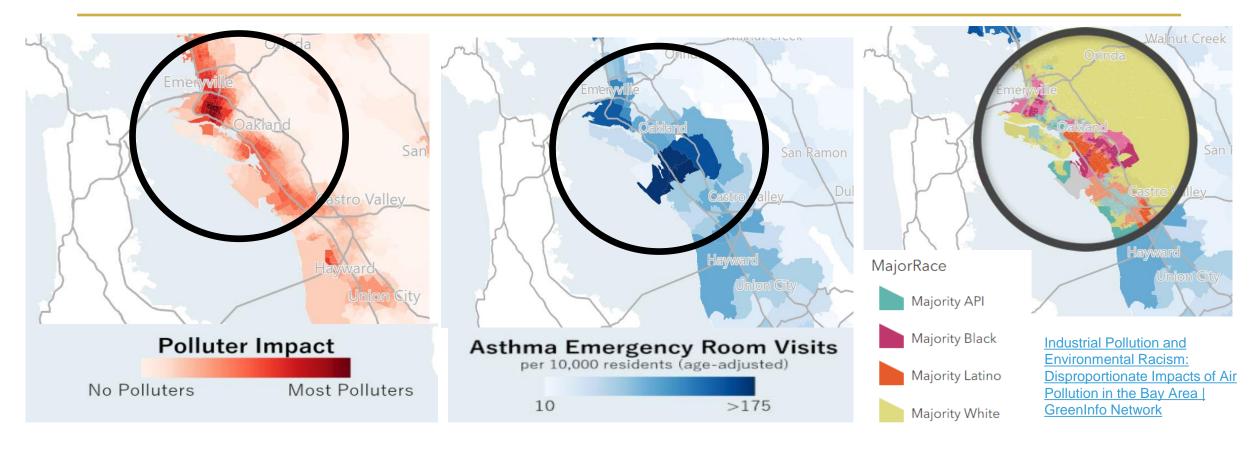


# Reducing Environmental Exposures & Burden



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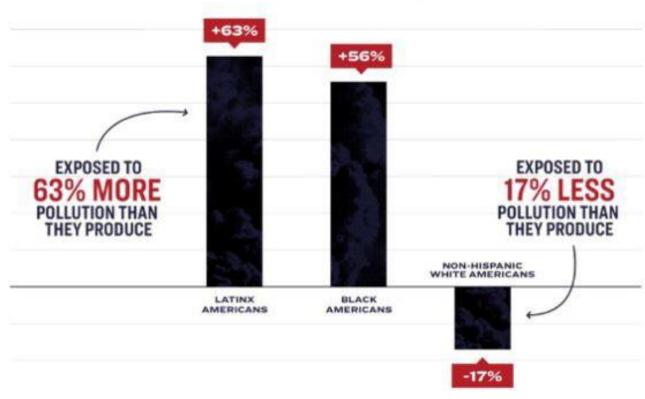
### A legacy of mining, energy drilling and pollution



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)





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



# Increasing Clean Energy Jobs



ECONOMIC IMPACT AND DIVERSITY

## U.S. CLEAN ENERGY LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

BY RACE, ETHNICITY, AND GENDER, 2020





## Fuel Sector Demographics

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/

#### Fuels Sector - Demographics, Q4 2019

Demographic	Employees	Percent of Sector	National Workforce Averages <sup>4</sup>
Male	859,684	75%	53%
Female	289,209	25%	47%
Hispanic or Latino	133,376	12%	18%
Not Hispanic or Latino	1,015,517	88%	82%
American Indian or Alaska Native	18,937	2%	>1%
Asian	60,606	5%	6%
Black or African American	77,487	7%	12%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	8,425	1%	>1%
White	889,130	77%	78%
Two or more races⁵	94,308	8%	2%
Veterans	114,279	10%	6%
55 and over	242,575	21%	23%
Union	35,352	3%	6%



### 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/

#### Nuclear Fuels - Demographics, Q4 2019

Demographic	Employees	Percent of Sector	National Workforce Averages
Male	6,547	70%	53%
Female	2,859	30%	47%
Hispanic or Latino	1,330	14%	18%
Not Hispanic or Latino	8,076	86%	82%
American Indian or Alaska Native	97	1%	>1%
Asian	806	9%	6%
Black or African American	603	6%	12%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	85	1%	>1%
White	6,452	69%	78%
Two or more races	1,364	15%	2%
Veterans	863	9%	6%
55 and over	1,458	16%	23%
Union	542	6%	6%



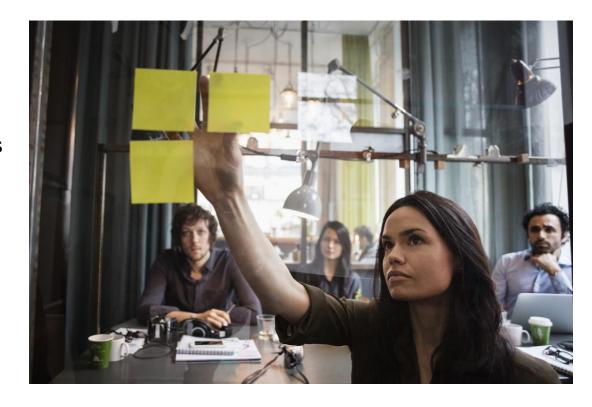
# Increasing Energy Democracy



ECONOMIC IMPACT AND DIVERSITY

### **Procedural Justice**

- <u>Procedural justice</u> 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 <u>energy democracy</u>, including providing pathways to community ownership and procedural justice in disadvantaged communities.





### Thank you!

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