

# Energy Justice

## Principles, Metrics, and Policy Approaches

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# Environmental Justice



- Intertwined with racial and economic justice and the Civil Rights movement.
- Decades of activism, research, and government action have laid the path for our current understanding of EJ:

***Equal protection from environmental hazards and equal access to environmental benefits for minority and low-income communities that bear a disproportionate burden of environmental hazards associated with economic progress while reaping disproportionately less of the benefits.***

**Disparities  
are multi-  
faceted and  
can create  
compounding  
impacts**



**Pollution & health impacts**



**Impacts of climate change**



**Local government &  
community capacity**



**Impacts on labor, esp.  
fossil fuel workers**



**Costs and benefits in  
transition to clean  
economy**



# Principles for EJ Action



## JUSTICE DRIVEN

Resource and center disadvantaged communities.



## COMMUNITY POWERED

Achieve transformational change from the bottom up.



## ACCOUNTABLE CHANGE

Institutionalize equity and justice into government agency practices, policies, and systems.

Effective environmental justice programs center these principles and maximize their impact by addressing multiple disparities through their design.



# Targeting EJ Investments

- California has led the way in strategizing how to identify disadvantaged and low-income communities for investment.
- Screening tools like CalEnviroScreen are useful for creating an eye-in-the-sky snapshot of overlapping, disparate burdens at scale.
- Specific programs and policy goals call for indicator-level analysis and boots-on-the-ground engagement.



# Energy Justice and LA100

- The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power – the nation's largest municipal utility – plans to utilize 100% renewable energy by 2035.
- The forthcoming LA100 Equity Strategies study – a joint effort by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and UCLA – charts a course for how to do so in a manner that minimizes costs and maximizes benefits for low-income Angelenos already struggling with energy costs.



# Taking Action & Measuring Success

## Key Takeaways for Energy Affordability

- Many energy affordability programs are designed in a manner that prevents or limits participation by low-income households.
- Penetration is critical – knowledge and administrative barriers must be overcome.
- Complementary metrics should measure interim success and long-term impacts.

# Highlights: CAMR/VNEM & Thermal Comfort

- **Problem:** Residential energy efficiency programs have historically excluded renters.
  - **Response:** The Comprehensive Affordable Multifamily Retrofits program and accompanying Virtual Net Energy Metering pilot directly target underserved low-income renters.
- **Problem:** Metrics like enrollment numbers don't necessarily reflect whether policies are improving quality of life.
  - **Response:** Measuring *thermal comfort* – individuals' experience in their own home – provides an outcome-focused measurement that can be compared to external conditions and policy actions.



The background of the slide is a photograph of the UCLA Campanile building, a large, ornate brick structure with two prominent towers and a central entrance. The building is set against a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a paved walkway leads to the building, and several people are seen walking. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

# THANK YOU

Questions?  
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