



Policy Innovation Coordination Group Equity Workstream #2

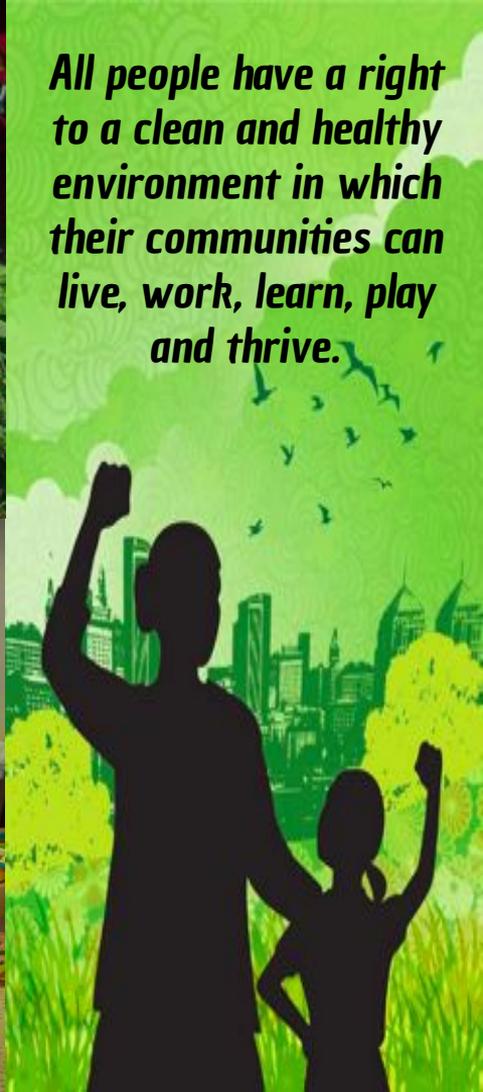
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Asian Pacific Environmental Network



All people have a right to a clean and healthy environment in which their communities can live, work, learn, play and thrive.



EJ Communities Have Unique Energy Needs

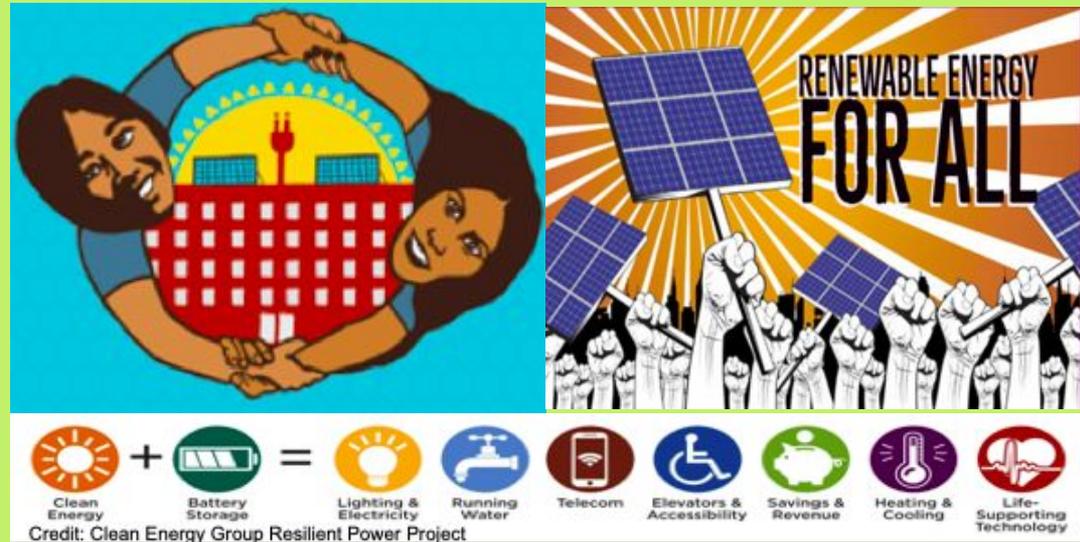
- **Health burdens from dirty energy infrastructure**
- **Energy insecurity**
- **Utility disconnections**
- **Distinct vulnerability to climate disasters (e.g., extreme heat, wildfires, power outages)**
- **Low-Income Californians:**
 - *Renters*
 - *Multifamily Affordable Housing*
 - *Linguistically Isolated*



Source: NAACP Environmental & Climate Justice Program

Projects Should Be Designed to Meet Community-Identified Needs

- Local Control and Ownership
- Local Distributed Generation
- Community Health Benefits
- Good Jobs
- Strong Partnerships
- Educational Opportunities
- Improved Air Quality
- Economic Benefits
- Community Wealth-Building
- Climate Resilience



Current EPIC Project: Advanced Energy Community in Richmond



RYSE Commons will be a hub for healing, personal development, play, expression, incubating ideas, performances, art, launching businesses, exploring technology, connecting with universities and partners. Source: RYSE Center, Richmond



Community Engagement is an Authentic Process, Not a Checkbox

- **Early engagement** is key prior to identifying key parameters
- **Co-creation** of project goals, vision, and scope
- Move away from transactional to **transformational** partnerships
- Build **authentic** and **trusting** relationships
- Unlearn **extractivist mindset** rooted in white supremacy
- **Listen** and make space for community voices
- Center **racial justice** values in all project phases
- Be open to **adapting** and iterating based on **critical feedback**
- Avoid **unintended harms** such as administrative burdens



CBOs Can Play a Multitude of Roles in Project Development

- **Stakeholder outreach**
- **Popular education and trainings**
- **Facilitation of workshops and meetings**
- **Leadership development trainings**
- **Survey administration for visioning and ID'ing needs**
- **Project siting and coordination**
- **Relationship-building across diverse stakeholders**
- **Toolkits and in-language communications materials**
- **Visibility through organization networks, social media, interviews, and earned media**
- **Advisory committee participation**
- **Design community governance models**
- **Policy advocacy based on lessons learned in project implementation**



