



UCLA

Luskin Center for Innovation

Making Justice40 a Reality for Frontline Communities

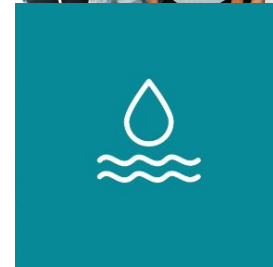
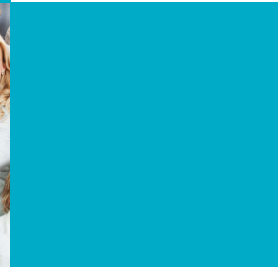
Lessons from States' Climate and Clean Energy Investments





Core Advisors

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Equitable and Just National Climate Platform
- **Helen Chin**, Communities First
- **Cassia Herron**, Kentuckians For The Commonwealth
- **Mark Magaña**, GreenLatinos
- **Jacqueline Patterson**, The Chisholm Legacy Project
- **Dr. Nicky Sheats**, Kean University;
Equitable and Just National Climate Platform
- **Dr. Sacoby Wilson**, University of Maryland;
National Environmental Justice Advisory Council
- **Miya Yoshitani**, Asian Pacific Environmental Network;
White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council



Justice40



Initiative established by President Biden’s executive order on climate action:

A government wide effort to target **40% of the benefits of climate and clean infrastructure investments** to “disadvantaged communities.”

Clear pathway to deliver on Biden-Harris’ top priorities:

- Provide economic relief
- Tackle climate change
- Advance racial equity, civil rights, and environmental justice



Approach



- Sought advice and feedback from environmental justice movement leaders, scholars, philanthropy, and agency staff.
- Analyzed state-level clean energy and climate investments in disadvantaged communities as well as models from the local level.
- Explored in-depth the longest-running Justice40 equivalent at the state-level (California) to identify lessons learned.



Study Scope



Looks back: Identifies lessons, both **dos** and **don'ts**, from states across nation as well as key investment models at the local/municipal level.

Looks ahead: Makes recommendations to assist federal decision-makers in improving upon current and proposed approaches across the country for a transformative and accountable Justice40 Initiative.



1. Why Justice40?

2. Where and for whom to target equitable investments?

3. How to operationalize effectively and equitably?

4. How to fund equitably?

5. What are powerful program models?



NEED:

Address disparities that hinder an equitable, clean energy economy



Pollution & health impacts

Ex: NY



Impacts of climate change

Ex: VA



Limited local government & community capacity

Ex: CA



Impacts on fossil fuel workers

Ex: IL



Uneven costs and benefits in transition to clean energy

Ex: WA

OPPORTUNITY:

Learn from states addressing disparities through their own climate and clean energy investments

State	WA	VA	NY	MD	IL	CA
Year of law or program	2021: Climate Commitment Act	2020: Clean Economy Act & Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act	2019: Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act	2019: Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2019	2016: Future Energy Jobs Bill and 2021: Climate and Equitable Jobs Act	2012: SB 535 and 2016: AB 1550 set EJ investment minimums
Investment minimum % for disadvantaged communities	40% target and 35% min. Plus additional 10% for tribal communities	No	40% target and 35% minimum	Act states intent to prioritize but no specificity	Carve outs for low-income communities	35% investment minimum
Equity benefits / strengths	Package of laws to phase out fossil fuels passed with diverse coalition including tribes	Creates program to reduce energy burden for low-income customers	Most equity centered law as a result of justice advocates	Screening tool and just transition/ worker elements	Strong worker provisions. Led by IL Clean Energy Jobs Coalition	Over \$4 billion invested in and benefiting EJ communities

WHY JUSTICE40?

JUSTICE40 DESIGN: Guiding principles toward a just economy and society for all



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.

WHERE TO TARGET EQUITABLE INVESTMENTS?

Summary of Recommendations for Screening Tools

DO: Allow for multiple screening tools at the agency level that build upon the core Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool.

DO: Develop next generation tools to identify and track the absolute magnitudes of disparities within communities over time to support robust evaluation and accountability.



HOW TO OPERATIONALIZE?

Summary of Recommendations for Guidelines

DON'T: Think of 40% as the ceiling or rely on trickle down “benefits for disadvantaged communities.”

DO: Use a **direct investment approach** to simplify the process of assessing compliance for agencies that are overseeing or administering programs. The straightforward nature of a direct benefit strategy also enhances transparency and accountability to taxpayers.

DO: Set clear guidelines and processes to give frontline communities agency in local investments and ensure that investments do no harm.

DO: Establish strong guardrail to ensure Justice40 objectives are achieved across agencies and states.



WHAT ARE PROGRAM MODELS?

Examined most equity-centered programs of California Climate Investments (CCI), nation's longest-running Justice40 equivalent:

- Transformative Climate Communities (TCC)
- CCI Technical Assistance
- Sustainable Transportation Equity Project Pilot (STEP)
- Partners Advancing Climate Equity Pilot (PACE)
- Clean Cars 4 All
- EmPower (cross-sector partnership)



WHAT ARE PROGRAM MODELS?

Important models of local investments that can be applied to designing and implementing initiatives such as Justice40.

- **ReGenesis: Spartanburg, South Carolina** - model of community-led investments for environmental justice, economic development, and regenerative local revitalization.
- **Portland (OR) Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund** - nation's first climate fund created and led by communities of color.



Summary of Recommendations for Program Investments

DO: Invest in programs that build power for frontline communities through leadership of residents and organizations.

DO: Invest in systematic technical assistance and capacity building as tools to advance social and racial equity.

DO: Take others steps to remove participation/access barriers.

DO: Prioritize multi-sector approaches.



For the full report, fact sheets and more:

thejustice40.com

THANK YOU

