

Advancing Equity in Local Clean Energy Implementation: An Overview of Progress, Opportunities, and Evaluation

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The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) founded in 1980. We act as a catalyst to advance energy efficiency policies, programs, technologies, investments, & behaviors.

Our research explores economic impacts, financing options, behavior changes, program design, and utility planning, as well as US national, state, & local policy. Our work is made possible by foundation funding, contracts, government grants, and conference revenue.

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Procedural Equity

Offer inclusive, accessible, authentic engagement and representation in the process of developing or implementing clean energy programs and policies



Community members have an active leadership role in the planning process and ensure that their needs and concerns inform and drive the development and outcomes of programs, goals, and solutions



Structural Equity

Decisions are made with a recognition of the historical, cultural, and institutional dynamics and structures that have led to clean energy inequities



Decision makers reform policies and programs that perpetuate disparities and work to build policy and program agendas that are fair, just, and equitable for all residents



Distributional Equity

Clean energy policies and programs achieve fair distribution of benefits and burdens across all segments of a community



Policies and programs effectively and equitably reach and benefit all residents, such as lower energy bills, clean energy jobs, clean energy investment dollars, and community wealth



Transgenerational Equity

Clean energy policies and programs consider, address, and mitigate intergenerational impacts

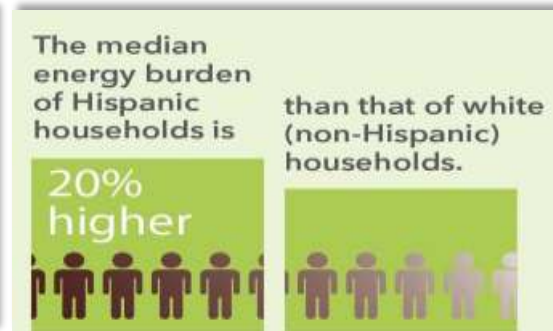
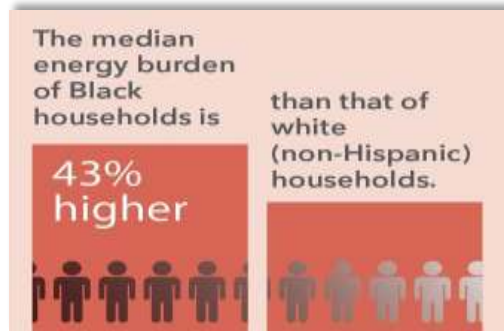
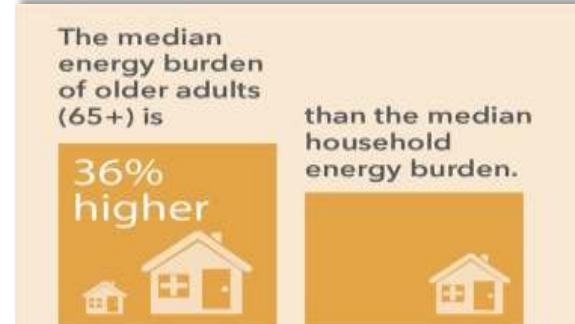
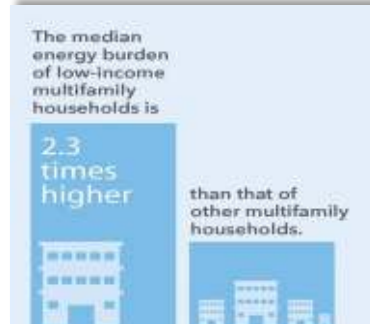


Decision makers create solutions that mitigate potential impacts for future generations and eliminate practices and processes that further deepen transgenerational structural inequities

Four Dimensions of Equity

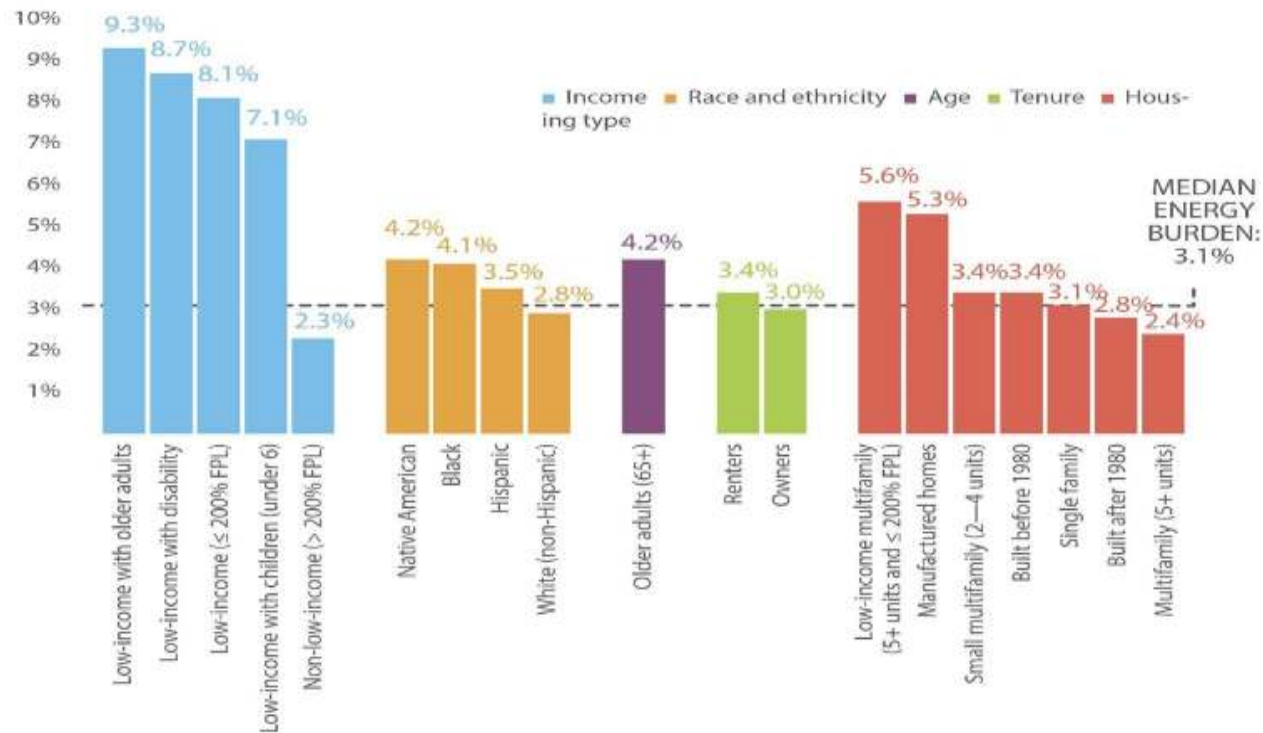
Adapted from 2014 Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) Report:
Equity in Sustainability: An Equity Scan of Local Government Sustainability Programs:
[usdn.org/usdn/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/equity_scan_report_2014_final.pdf](https://www.usdn.org/usdn/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/equity_scan_report_2014_final.pdf)





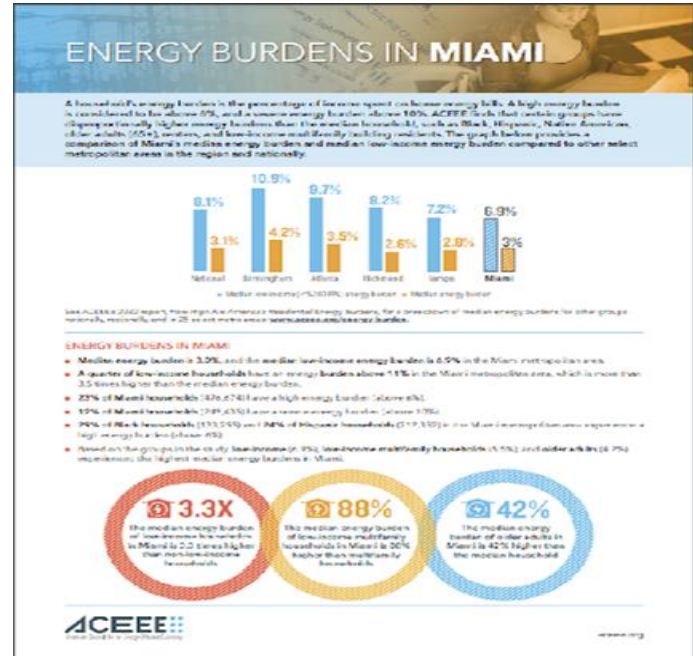
Energy Burden Disparities

National Energy Burdens



Energy Burden Report and Factsheets

- aceee.org/energy-burden
- Report and short video
- Fact sheets: 1 national/regional and 25 metro areas
 - Atlanta, Baltimore, Birmingham, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New York city, Oklahoma City, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Richmond, Riverside, Rochester, San Antonio, San Francisco, San Jose, Seattle, Tampa, Washington DC



Deadly air pollutant 'disproportionately and systematically' harms Americans of color, study finds

Black, Latino and Asian Americans face higher levels of exposure to fine particulate matter from traffic, construction and other sources

By Juliet Eilperin and Darryl Fears

April 28, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. EDT

Add to list



People of color are three times as likely to live in most polluted places, new report says

By Leah Annenlosh, CNN

Updated 9:03 AM ET, Thu April 22, 2021



(CNN) — Climate change has continued to exacerbate inequality in the United States, and a new report has found that more than 40% of Americans live in areas with

Texas Blackouts Hit Minority Neighborhoods Especially Hard

As the freak winter storm raged, historically marginalized communities were among the first to face power outages, experts say.



<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/16/climate/texas-blackout-storm-minorities.html>

Additional Examples of Energy Sector Inequities

Barriers to Building Wealth

Black communities 68% more likely than white communities to live within 30 miles of a coal-fired power plant, and properties near toxic facilities (i.e., power plants) have 15% lower value

Source: National Research Council, 2010: [Hidden Costs of Energy](#)

Lack of Access to Energy-Saving Technologies

Energy-efficient light bulbs more expensive and less available in low-income communities in Detroit

Source: University of Michigan's [Urban Energy Justice Lab](#)

Unjust Health Burdens

Black children are also three times as likely to be admitted to hospital for asthma attacks than white children

Source: NAACP, 2014: [Just Energy Policies](#)

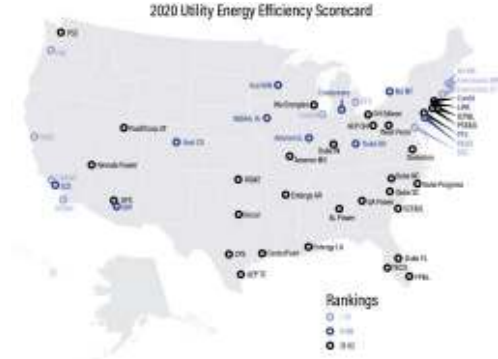
Exclusion from Workforce

High paying jobs in clean energy production and energy efficiency are dominated by white men—20% are women and less than 10% are Black workers

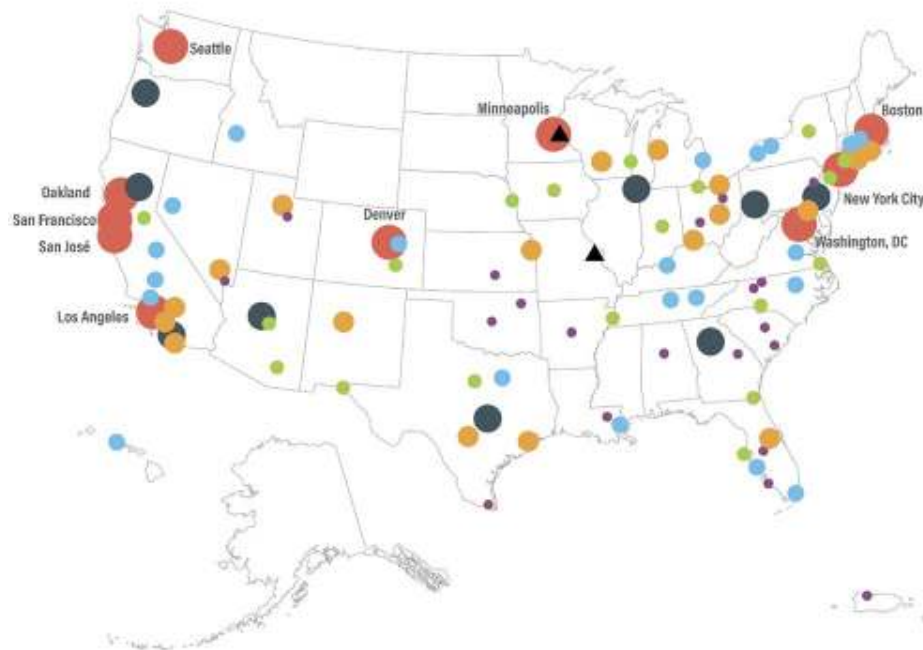
Source: Brookings Institution, 2019: [Clean Energy Jobs](#)

ACEEE Policy Scorecards

- Three Scorecards
 - City: www.aceee.org/local-policy/city-scorecard
 - State: www.aceee.org/state-policy/scorecard
 - Utility: www.aceee.org/utility-scorecard
- Goal to benchmark and drive clean energy actions, identify best practices, set high bar for clean energy leaders
- Accountability and transparency
 - Data from City and State Scorecards: database.aceee.org/
 - Data from Utility Scorecard: public.tableau.com/profile/aceee#!/vizhome/energyefficiencydashboard_updated/Story1



2020 City Clean Energy Scorecard



1-10 11-20

1. New York, NY
2. Boston, MA
3. Seattle, WA
4. Minneapolis, MN
5. San Francisco, CA
6. Washington, DC
7. Denver, CO
8. Los Angeles, CA
9. San José, CA
10. Oakland, CA
11. Portland, OR
12. Austin, TX
13. Chicago, IL
14. Atlanta, GA
15. Philadelphia, PA
16. St. Paul, MN
17. Sacramento, CA
18. San Diego, CA
19. Phoenix, AZ
20. Pittsburgh, PA

Most Improved Cities:
St. Paul, St. Louis

21-40

21. Orlando, FL
22. Chula Vista, CA
23. Hartford, CT
24. Providence, RI
25. Kansas City, MO
26. Long Beach, CA
27. Salt Lake City, UT
28. St. Louis, MO
29. Cleveland, OH
30. Columbus, OH
31. San Antonio, TX
32. Baltimore, MD
33. Grand Rapids, MI
34. Houston, TX
35. Riverside, CA
36. Cincinnati, OH
37. Las Vegas, NV
38. Milwaukee, WI
39. New Haven, CT
40. Albuquerque, NM

41-60

61. Des Moines, IA
62. Indianapolis, IN
63. Madison, WI
64. Charlotte, NC
65. Fort Worth, TX
66. Stockton, CA
67. Bridgeport, CT
68. Tucson, AZ
69. Memphis, TN
70. Syracuse, NY
71. Colorado Springs, CO
72. Virginia Beach, VA
73. Jacksonville, FL
74. Tampa, FL
75. Mesa, AZ
76. Newark, NJ
77. Omaha, NE
78. Toledo, OH
79. El Paso, TX

61-80

81. Honolulu, HI
82. Boise, ID
83. Aurora, CO
84. Buffalo, NY
85. Richmond, VA
86. Rochester, NY
87. Springfield, MA
88. Dallas, TX
89. Louisville, KY
90. Worcester, MA
91. Knoxville, TN
92. Miami, FL
93. New Orleans, LA
94. St. Petersburg, FL
95. Detroit, MI
96. Oakland, CA
97. Raleigh, NC
98. Nashville, TN
99. Reno, NV
100. Bakersfield, CA
101. Fresno, CA

81-100

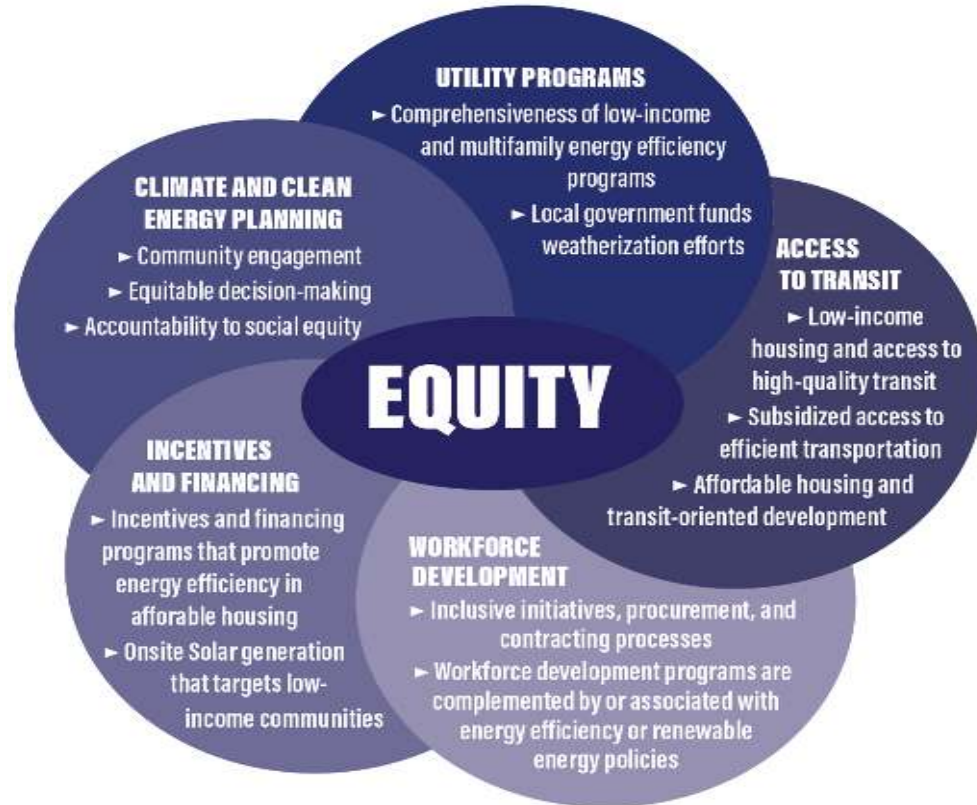
101. Dayton, OH
102. Lakeland, FL
103. Akron, OH
104. Winston-Salem, NC
105. Tulsa, OK
106. Allentown, PA
107. Henderson, NV
108. Birmingham, AL
109. Charleston, SC
110. Greenville, NC
111. Columbia, SC
112. Little Rock, AR
113. Cape Coral, FL
114. Provo, UT
115. Tulsa, OK
116. San Juan, PR
117. Boston Rouge, LA
118. Oklahoma City, OK
119. Wichita, KS
120. Augusta, GA

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Equity in Local Clean Energy Policies

- Equity metrics included in 2020 City Scorecard across each chapter
- One Pager with more information on ACEEE's Local Equity metrics:
 - [aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/fostering_equity_in_local_clean_energy_policy.pdf](https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/fostering_equity_in_local_clean_energy_policy.pdf)
- New metrics in 2021: Utility/CBO/city partnerships, equitable approach to DER deployment (~20% of points)



Prelim insights from *2021 City Clean Energy Scorecard*

- Emerging efforts exist among cities
- In a growing number of cities, community members play a larger role in the design and implementation of key climate and energy actions
 - More cities undertaking engagement strategies to better reach marginalized groups, offering these groups a role on a formal decision-making body, and/or setting practices for accountability to energy and social equity outcomes.
- Most progress around (utility programs, connecting communities/affordable housing to existing transit, workforce development)

City-Led Policies to Address Energy Equity and Justice

- **Providence** – Racial and Environmental Justice Committee leading Providence's climate planning and engagement process
- **Los Angeles** – Green New Deal includes environmental justice goals to improve CalEnviroScreen scores for top 10% most polluted communities by 25% by 2025 and 50% by 2035
- **Richmond** – Frontline communities will have formal roles in RVAgreen 2050 planning process
- **Minneapolis** – Climate Action Plan prioritizes high energy burden neighborhoods and includes energy burden as an equity indicator
- **Pittsburgh** – energy equity indicator report to measure metrics towards more equitable energy outcomes
- **Saint Paul** – Goal to lower energy burdens in 10 years so all households have burden of 4%
- Some cities are establishing Racial Equity Offices to assess equity impacts of legislation (e.g., Washington DC, San Antonio, Seattle)

Research Gaps and Opportunities

- Affordable housing and electrification and other decarbonization efforts (e.g., BEPS, emission caps, etc.)
 - Distributional benefits, feasibility, impacts, etc.
- Best practices for equitable local EE strategies
- Effectiveness of inclusive workforce development strategies
- Opportunities:
 - Ensure “EE first approach” in deployment of clean energy
 - Best practice for equitable utility program design, delivery, and evaluation
 - Increase engagement with frontline CBOs to further structural and distributional equity.
 - Guidance for rural policymakers on addressing energy equity

ACEEE's New *Leading with Equity* Initiative

- New initiative to incorporate more equity-centered metrics into our City, State, and Utility Scorecards
- Goal to move the needle so that Scorecard leaders need to be doing more on equity
- Project will convene community-based organizations, advocates, and utilities to jointly define success for equitable decarbonization and data needed to track progress

- **More information:**

www.aceee.org/energy-equity-initiative

- **Sign up for updates and ways to participate:**

survey.alchemer.com/s3/6168745/ACEEE-LWE-Interest-Form

LEADING WITH
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