Expanding the Conversation

working for environmental justice

EPA National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call

December 7, 2021

1

2

Housekeeping

- Please join by phone or computer, not both
- You are on mute, please enter questions and comments into the Q&A pod
- If selected to speak during dialogue, please limit comment to 1 minute
- Recording and transcript will be available online in the near future

3

En Español

Tenemos interpretación en español disponible para aquellos que prefieren escuchar en español.

- Cómo cambiar el canal de audio en español
- Las personas pueden agregar preguntas en español al módulo de preguntas y respuestas
- Los materiales de la reunión estarán disponibles en español.

Interpretation

Spanish-language interpretation is available for those who prefer to listen in Spanish.

- ❑ *How to switch to Spanish language audio channel*
- ❑ *Individuals can add questions in Spanish to the Q&A Pod*
- ❑ *Meeting materials will be made available in Spanish.*

4

Agenda

- Welcome
  Mindfulness Moment
- *EPA Leadership Updates*
- *Focus on Justice40:*
  - *HHS*
  - *DOE*
- Listening Session and Dialogue
- Upcoming Engagement Opportunities
- Closing Remarks

5

MINDFULNESS MOMENT

mindful EPA

6

Leadership Updates

Matthew Tejada
DIRECTOR, EPA OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

7

What Is – and Isn't – Justice40 (J40)

- **Justice40 is the Biden-Harris Administration's goal to deliver at least 40% of overall benefits from certain federal investments to disadvantaged communities (Section 223 of EO 14008).**
- **There is no specific Justice40 funding and it is not a grant. The goal is on the benefits from certain federal investments.**
- **The goal of 40% is not for any one agency or program.**
- **This interagency initiative is collectively led by the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council (IAC). The IAC is convened by the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).**
- **CEQ and USDS are developing the CEJS Tool. We haven't received the tool, so we don't know how it will work yet.**
- **Answers to J40 questions may be found in the OMB Interim Guidance.**

8

HHS and Justice40 Implementation

Dr. Sharunda Buchanan

December 7, 2021

OASH | Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

9

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What is Justice40?

- **Justice40** is a whole-of-government effort to ensure that Federal agencies work with states and local communities to make good on President Biden's promise to deliver at least 40 percent of the overall benefits from Federal investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities.
- This interim guidance includes a set of actions required of *agencies* that manage covered **Justice40** programs.
- This interim guidance provides implementation direction to an initial set of *covered programs* under the **Justice40**.

10

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Mission

The mission of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is to enhance the health and well-being of Americans, by providing for effective health and human services and by fostering sound, sustained advances in the sciences underlying medicine, public health, and social services.

11

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Rationale for Environmental Justice

- HHS recognizes that people of color, disadvantaged, vulnerable, low-income, marginalized, and indigenous peoples, are disproportionately burdened by environmental hazards.
- These populations and communities are exposed to environmental threats that drive health disparities, underserved, and surrounded by social inequities.
- The combination of environmental risks and social inequities create a cumulative, disproportionate impact that hinders optimal health and environmental justice for these populations.

12

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Executive Order 12898

Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations,* directs federal agencies to "make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority, low-income, and indigenous populations (1994).

13

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Executive Order 14008

President Biden further directed HHS to make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by developing programs, policies, and activities to address the disproportionately high and adverse human health, environmental and climate-related and other cumulative impacts on disadvantaged communities (2021).

14

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Justice40 Guidance and Implementation

- Engaging Stakeholders
- Interim Definition of Disadvantaged Communities
- Covered Programs
- HHS Pilot Covered Programs
- Benefits of HHS Pilot Covered Programs
- Metrics and Maximizing Benefits
- Applying Lessons Learned

15

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Engaging Stakeholders

- Keeping with the principles of Environmental Justice, community partnership and engagement is key.
- We want to hear and understand community perspectives and incorporate feedback into the work we do to meet the goals of the J40 initiative.
  - **Virtual National Webinars**
  - **Regional Virtual Townhalls**
  - **Grantee Meetings**
  - **National and Regional Conferences**
  - **Social Media Engagement**

16

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Disadvantaged Communities

- Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and Renewal Communities
  - **Federally designated geographic areas characterized by high levels of unemployment, poverty, and economic distress**
  - **Businesses and local governments may be eligible to receive federal grants and tax incentives**
- Opportunity Zones and Historically Underserved Communities
  - **Zones designed to spur economic development and job creation in low-income communities**
  - **Population sites that are members of disadvantaged groups who live in areas near hazardous waste or in communities at risk of exposure to contaminated properties**
- Low-income and Socially Vulnerable Communities
  - **Households in communities categorized by Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG)**

17

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Covered Programs

- Covered programs provide overall benefits from Federal investments in the following areas to disadvantaged communities:
  - **Climate change**
  - **Clean energy and energy efficiency**
  - **Clean transportation**
  - **Affordable and sustainable housing**
  - **Remediation and reduction of legacy pollution**
  - **Critical clean water and waste infrastructure**
  - **Training and workforce development (related to climate, natural disasters, environment, clean energy, clean transportation, housing, water and wastewater infrastructure, and legacy pollution reduction, including in energy communities)**

18

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HHS Pilot Covered Programs

- HHS manages two **Justice40** pilot programs:
  - **Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**
  - **National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP)**
- HHS' EJ Unit provides technical assistance to ACF and NIEHS to ensure that the objectives of Justice40 are met.
  - **Will apply "lessons learned" to other potential covered programs.**

19

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NIEHS Environmental Career Worker Training Program

- HHS' NIEHS Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP)
  - **Implements training and workforce development that builds careers related to climate, natural disasters, environment, clean energy, clean transportation, housing, water and wastewater infrastructure, and legacy pollution reduction.**
  - **Provides grant funding to nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education that enables delivery of both pre-employment and life skills training.**

20

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ACF Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

- Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
  - **The LIHEAP provides federally funded aid in managing costs associated with home energy bills, energy crises, weatherization, and energy-related minor home repairs.**
  - **LIHEAP assists individuals and families through interventions that reduce the risk of health and safety problems that arise from unsafe heating and cooling practices. The LIHEAP does not provide direct grants to individuals, but instead funds state, tribal, and territorial governments.**

21

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Benefits of HHS Covered Programs

- Collective benefits of HHS covered programs resulting from Federal investments include, but are not limited to the following:
  - **Households served with heating/cooling assistance**
  - **Weatherization/weather proofing**
  - **Reduced energy consumption/energy efficiency**
  - **Students/workers trained**
  - **Student placement into jobs**
  - **Technical skills and certifications gained**
  - **Life skills gained**
  - **Hiring earnings and long-term financial stability**
  - **Reduced recidivism and reduced reliance on public benefits**
  - **Use of skills to support communities in terms of environmental remediation, construction and building trades, health education, and other fields**

22

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Metrics and Maximizing Benefits – NIEHS ECWTP

- ECWTP meets the threshold of **100% benefits** flowing into disadvantaged communities as defined in the interim guidance:
  - **PROMOTE wrap-around/supportive services which includes receiving life skills training, food, housing, transportation, legal support, child and elder care, career and other counseling.**
  - **FACILITATE program sustainability technical assistance by leveraging support from other federal, state, local foundations and using advisory boards.**
  - **HIGHLIGHT program evaluations and assessments including accomplishments reports, sharing of best practices, economic impacts or return on investments.**
  - **CONNECT to apprenticeship programs – ECWTP is designated as a pre-apprenticeship program (graduates get direct entry into formal apprenticeships).**
  - **EXPAND training into niche and growing industries, including green jobs (wind, solar, geothermal, utilities, hazmat transportation).**

23

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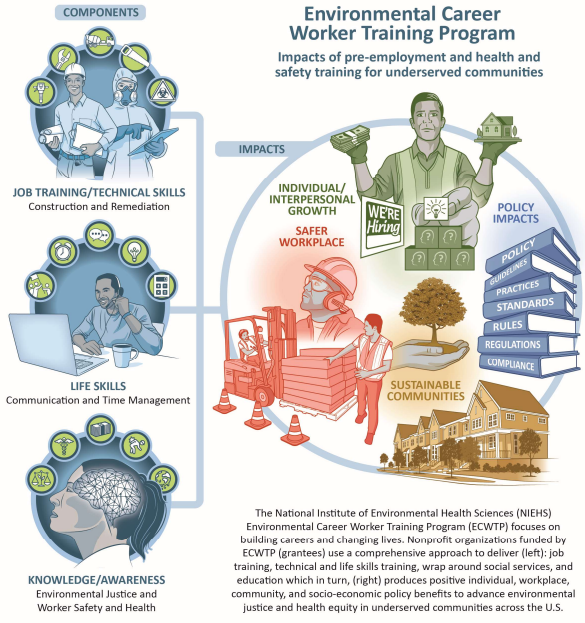
NIEHS Career Working Training Program (ECWTP)

Accomplishments: Trained over 13,000 people in more than 30 communities across 25 states with nearly 70% employment since 1995.

Focus: Changes lives and builds careers through job and life skills training, mentoring, and social support.

Environmental Justice (EJ): Develops skilled workers and leaders from EJ communities to help with cleanup and recovery efforts.

ECWTP 25th Anniversary page:
https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2595
ECWTP Fact sheet:
https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/assets/docs/ecwtp_factsheet1.pdf



24

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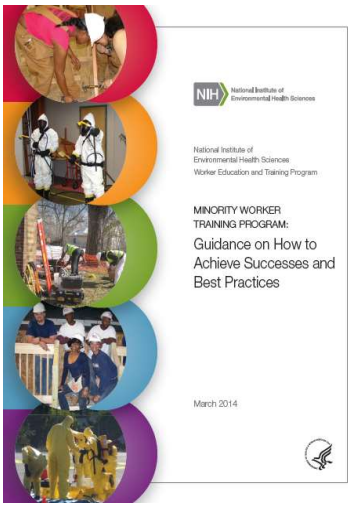
ECWTP: Success and Best Practices Report

- Increases sustainable employment opportunities, addresses health disparities, and advance environmental justice.
- Transforms the lives of trainees, families, and communities.
- Provides significant contributions to environmental justice by providing training and increasing job opportunities.
- The ECWTP -- serves a model intervention in classic public health.

ECWTP: Guidance on How to Achieve Successes and Best Practices Report: <http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/public/hasl_get_blob.cfm?ID=10040>



25

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Metrics and Maximizing Benefits -- LIHEAP

- Home energy program whose purpose is to assist households with low incomes, in meeting their immediate home energy needs.
- The federal LIHEAP grant is awarded to the same entities each year for the most part. The amount of the grant is determined through a statutory formula that involves estimated data related state expenditures on heating and cooling costs by low-income households.
- There are no federal requirements for how each grantee (state/tribe/territory) must allocate the funding across communities, counties, etc. The closest federal statutory requirement is that the grantee must provide the highest amount of benefits to the households with the greatest home energy burden.

26

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Metrics and Maximizing Benefits (LIHEAP)

- LIHEAP aggregates grantee-reported data across service areas
  - **Performance data – shut-offs avoided; service restorations; repaired home energy equipment**
  - **Household services – heating/cooling assistance; crisis assistance; weatherization**
- Plans to Maximize Benefits
  - **Provide technical assistance, data, and funding from the American Rescue Plan Act**
  - **Address barriers or constraints to maximizing benefits**
    - ✓ Digital divide and lack of access to IT resources by target communities
    - ✓ Lack of awareness/understanding about the program and how to apply
    - ✓ Lack of staffing and IT resources in remote intake areas
  - **Conduct a national social media campaign with Facebook, Twitter and web postings related to extreme weather events, such as winter storms, heat waves/heat stress**
  - **Gather information, analyze and visualize data about LIHEAP activities and their relationships within our internal and external environments**

27

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Thank you for your time!

- **Sharunda Buchanan (HHS/OASH)** sdb4@cdc.gov **(presenter)**
- **LaToria Whitehead (HHS/OASH)** ceq6@cdc.gov
- **Janesa Licorish (HHS/OASH)** Janesa.Licorish@hhs.gov
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- **Sharon Beard (HHS/NIH/NIEHS)** Beard1@niehs.nih.gov

28

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A Collaborative, Data-driven, Place-based Approach to an **EQUITABLE & JUST** Energy Future

EPA National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Calls
December 7, 2021

29

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Office of Economic Impact and Diversity

Agenda

- What is Energy Justice and Why Does it Matter?
- What Does DOE Do?
- What is Justice40?
- How is DOE Implementing Justice40?
- What Challenges Have we Faced in Implementing Justice40?
- Path Forward

30

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Speakers

Dr. Tony Reames

Senior Advisor on
Energy Justice
Office of Economic
Impact and Diversity
Department of Energy

Monisha Shah

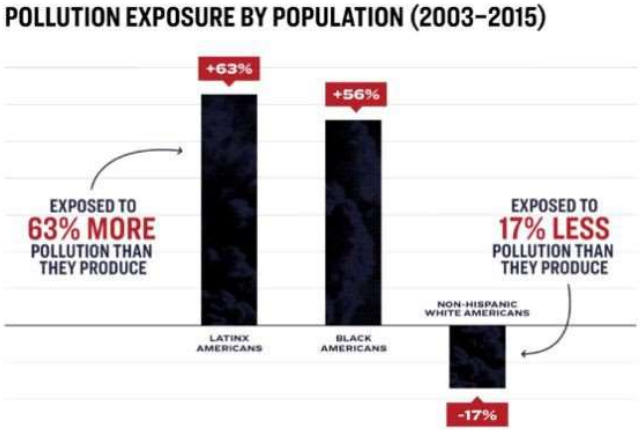
Justice40 Fellow
Office of Economic
Impact and Diversity
Department of Energy

31

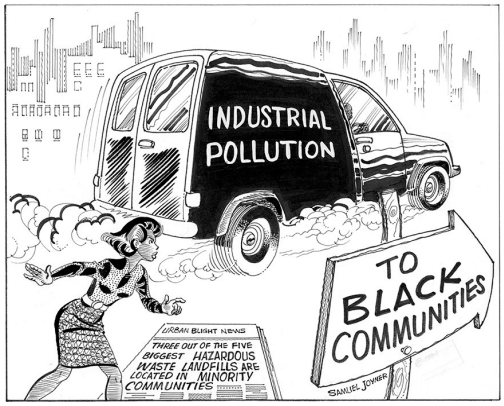
Our Energy System Is Inequitable

32

Black and Latino Communities are Exposed to More Pollution Than They Produce

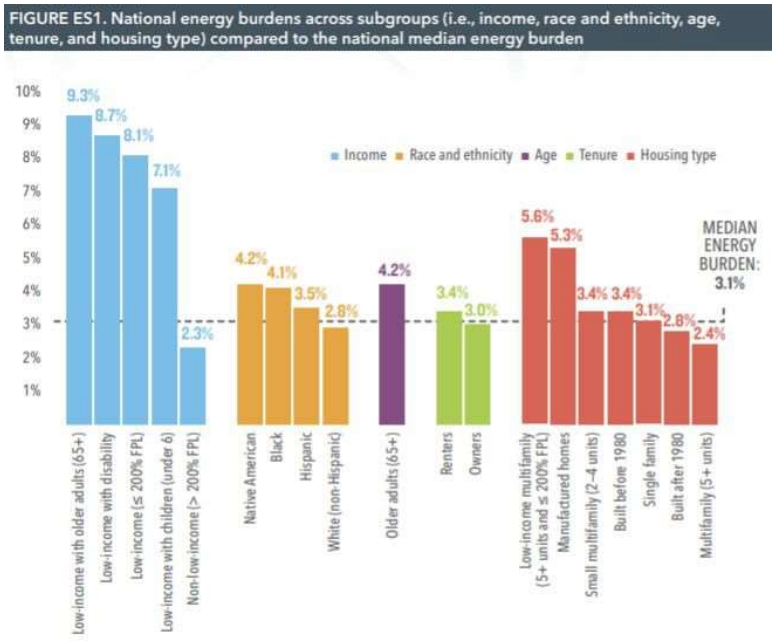


Source: Christopher W. Tessum et al., "Inequity in consumption of goods and services adds to racial-ethnic disparities in air pollution exposure," Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (March 2019).



33

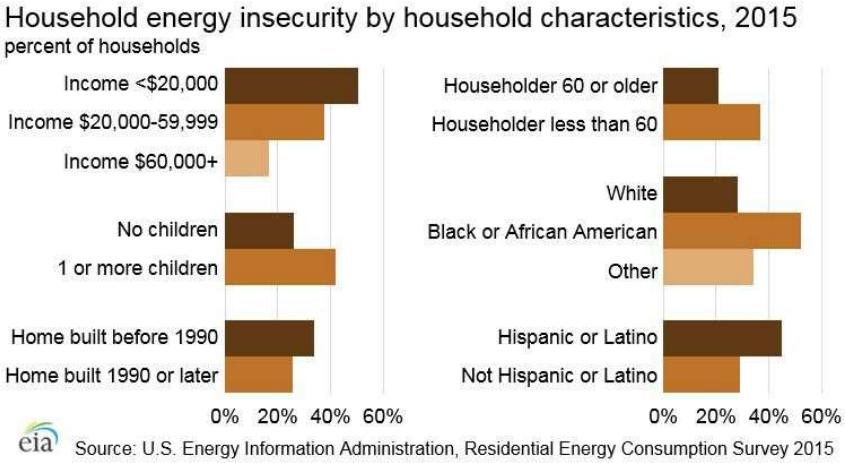
Energy is Also a Financial Burden on People of Color



Source: "How High are Household Energy Burdens?" (Sep. 2020) - American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy

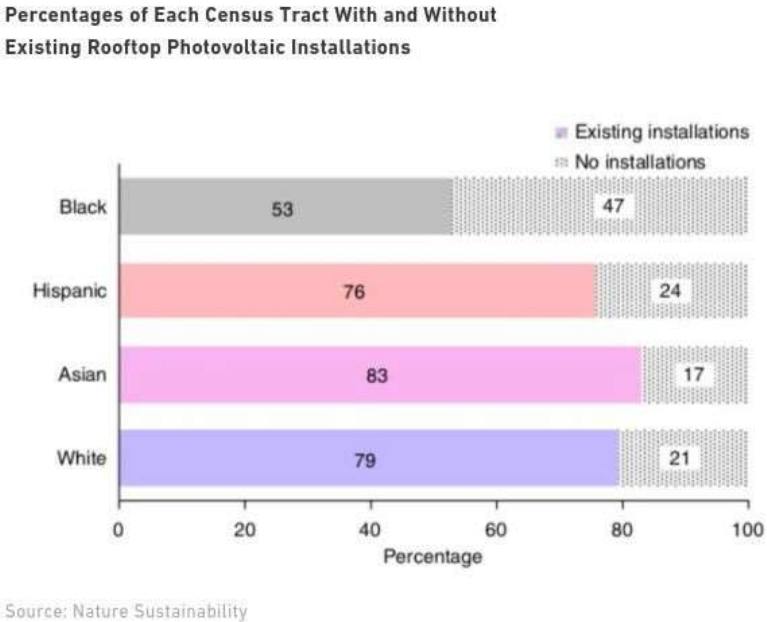
34

Which Households are Energy Insecure?



35

Means of Secure, Clean Energy are Inaccessible



Source: Nature Sustainability

Source: Deborah, S; Castellanos, S. Kamen, D. M. "Disparities in rooftop photovoltaics deployment in the United States by race and ethnicity" (Jan. 2019)

36

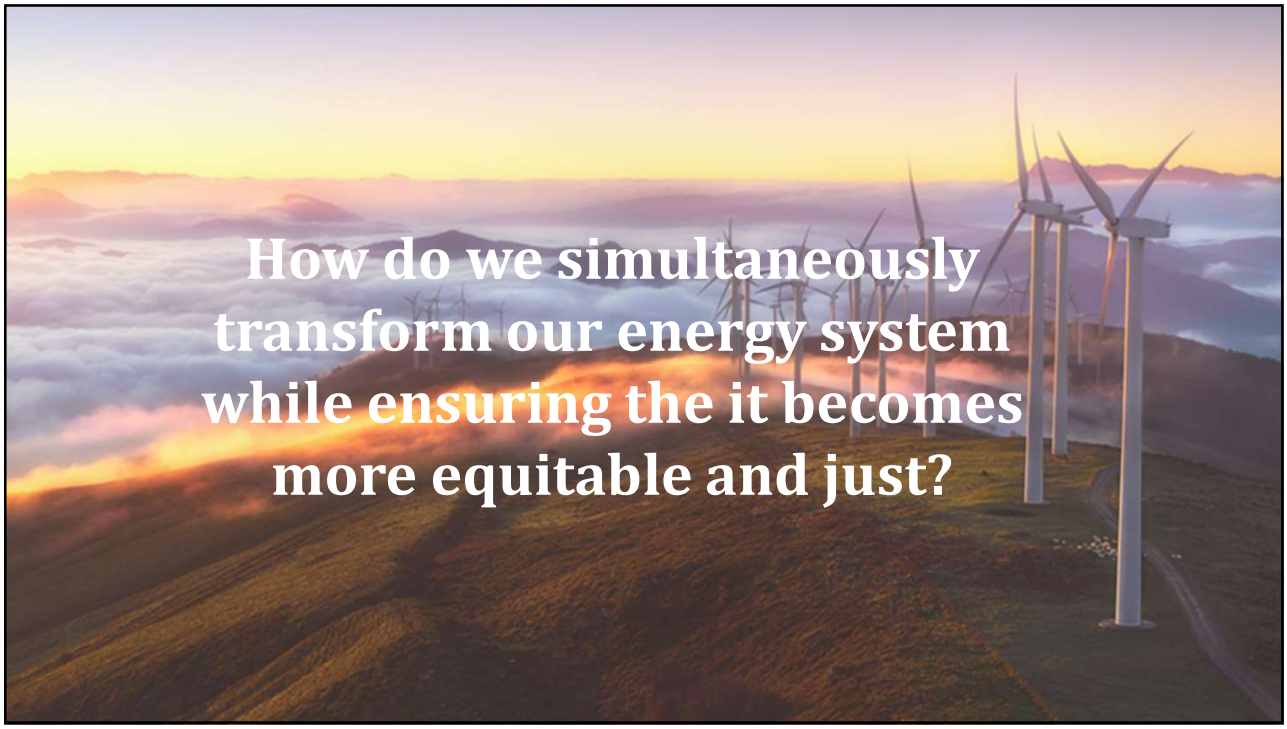
What is Energy Justice?

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).

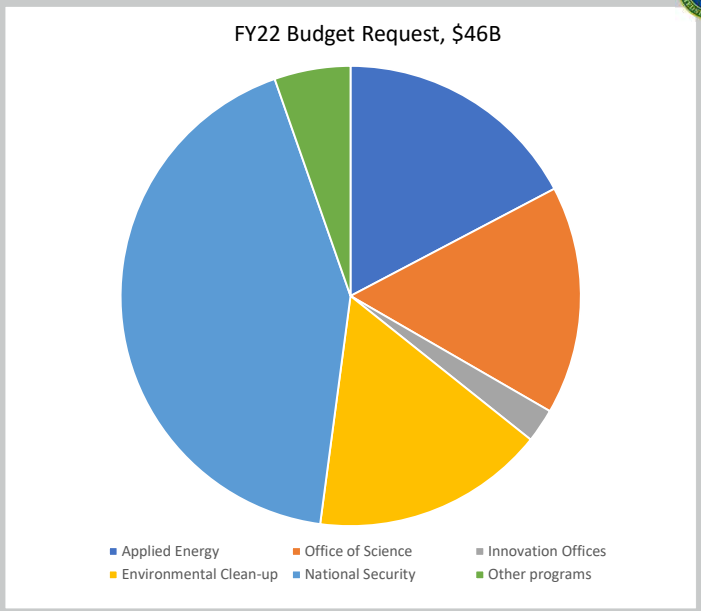
37



38

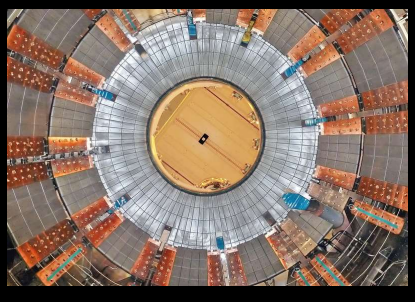
Department of Energy (DOE)

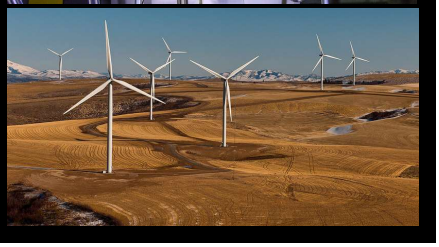
- Applied Energy
- Progressing Scientific Research
- Innovation Offices
- Sustaining Investment in Environmental Clean-up
- Ensuring the Nation's Nuclear Safety



39

A Snapshot of DOE





40

DOE History on Environmental Justice

1994
Executive Order (EO) 12898 was established:, *Federal Action to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*

1995
First DOE EJ Strategy and Taskforce and joined the Intergovernmental Working Group on EJ

2007
Reestablished DOE EJ Taskforce, Published the 2nd EJ Strategy, 1st 5-Yr Implementation Plan, 1st National Environmental Justice Conference

2007
After the EJ Strategy, DOE developed the 1st EJ training for all federal and contractor employee

2011
DOE signed the Memorandum on Environmental Justice with 16 cabinet officials

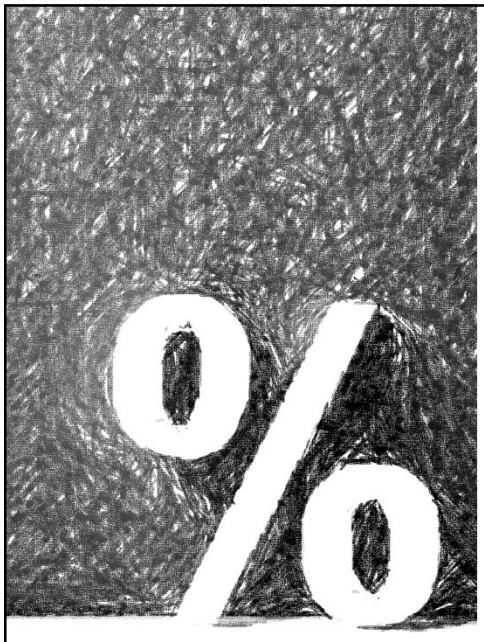
2017
3rd DOE EJ Strategy

2019
2nd DOE 5-Yr Implementation Plan

From 2009-2020, DOE has issued an *Annual DOE Environmental Justice Implementation Progress Report*.

41

41



What is Justice40?

40% of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments—including **investments in clean energy and energy efficiency; clean transit; affordable and sustainable housing; training and workforce development; the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution; and the development of clean water infrastructure**—must flow to disadvantaged communities.

42

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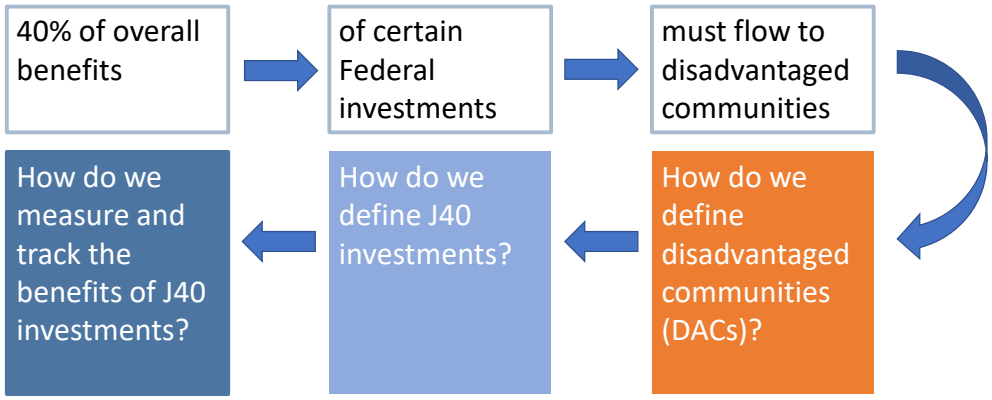
Primary Elements of DOE Justice40



Interim Implementation Guidance for the Justice40 Initiative. https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf

43

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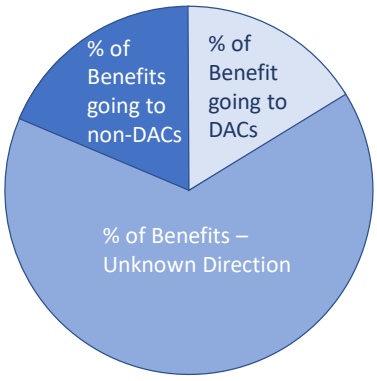
Justice40 Interim Guidance



By December 17th, DOE must report benefits methods and calculations of:

- % of benefits received by DACs, % received by non-DACs or the % unknown direction
- For programs that do not target benefits geographically, the data provided should reflect the common characteristics of communities receiving benefits at the narrowest level that does not raise privacy concerns
- Amount of Program Funding Received in Disadvantaged Communities

44

WHAT IS A DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY?

Community:

- Group of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another, or
- a geographically dispersed set of individuals (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions.

Disadvantaged:

- Low income, high and/or persistent poverty;
- High unemployment and underemployment;
- Racial and ethnic segregation;
- Linguistic isolation;
- High housing cost burden and substandard housing;
- Distressed neighborhoods;
- High transportation cost burden and/or low transportation access;
- Disproportionate environmental stressor burden and high cumulative impacts;
- Limited water and sanitation access and affordability;
- Disproportionate impacts from climate change;
- High energy cost burden and low energy access.;
- Jobs lost through the energy transition ; or
- Access to healthcare.

45

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The DOE definition of disadvantaged communities

ENERGY BURDEN (4)

Transportation Burden
Energy Burden
Power outages
Duration of outages

FOSSIL DEPENDENCE (3)

Jobs in oil/gas/mining
IWG coal community ranking
IWG fossil energy community ranking

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS (20)

Housing burden
Food desert
Job access (-)
Park access (-)
Commutes > 30 mins*
No vehicle*
Racial Segregation*
Low Income*
No GED*
Linguistic Isolation*
Renters*
No internet
Uninsured
Disability
Incomplete plumbing
Single parents
Mobile homes
Unhoused
Age over 65*
Unemployed

ENVIRONMENTAL/ CLIMATE HAZARDS (10)

Lead paint
Diesel particulates
Cancer
Traffic volume
Water discharge
NPL sites
RMP facilities
TSD facilities
FEMA climate risk
PM 2.5

* Denotes that these variables are not inherently negative, but increase the vulnerability of the population to climate, environmental, and energy hazards

46

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What is covered in Justice40?

Covered Program

A Federal Government program that makes investments in one or more of the following seven areas:

- ✓ Climate change
- ✓ Clean energy and energy efficiency
- ✓ Clean transportation
- ✓ Affordable and sustainable housing
- ✓ Training and workforce development (related to climate, environment, clean energy, clean transportation, housing, water and wastewater infrastructure, and legacy pollution reduction, including in energy communities)
- ✓ Remediation and reduction of legacy pollution
- ✓ Critical clean water and waste infrastructure

Covered Investment

A Federal investment in one or more of the following categories:

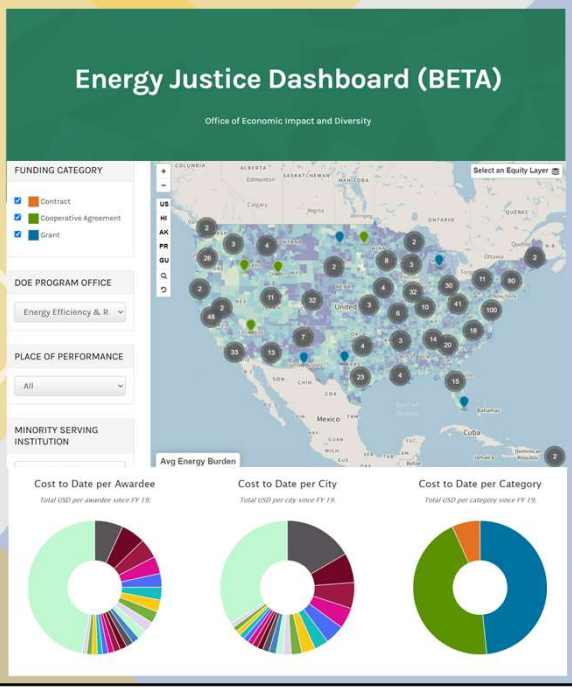
- ✓ Federal grant and procurement spending (including discretionary budget authority, direct/mandatory spending, and formula funding);
- ✓ Financing (including credit, loans, and guarantees);
- ✓ Programmatic Federal staffing costs (e.g. federal pay for staff that provide technical assistance)
- ✓ Direct financial benefits (including provision of goods and services); and
- ✓ Additional federal investments under covered programs as determined by OMB.

47

<u>Accountability & Transparency</u>

Energy Justice Dashboard (BETA)

A tool to measure and track DOE progress toward Justice40 and see investments in real time.



https://www.energy.gov/diversity/energy-justice-dashboard-beta

48

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DOE Pilot Programs

OFFICE	PROGRAM
Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)	Weatherization Assistance Program
EERE's Solar Technologies Office	National Community Solar Partnership
EERE's Vehicle Technologies Office	Technology Integration (Clean Cities)
EERE's Advanced Manufacturing Office	Industrial Assessment Centers
Environmental Management	Los Alamos

49

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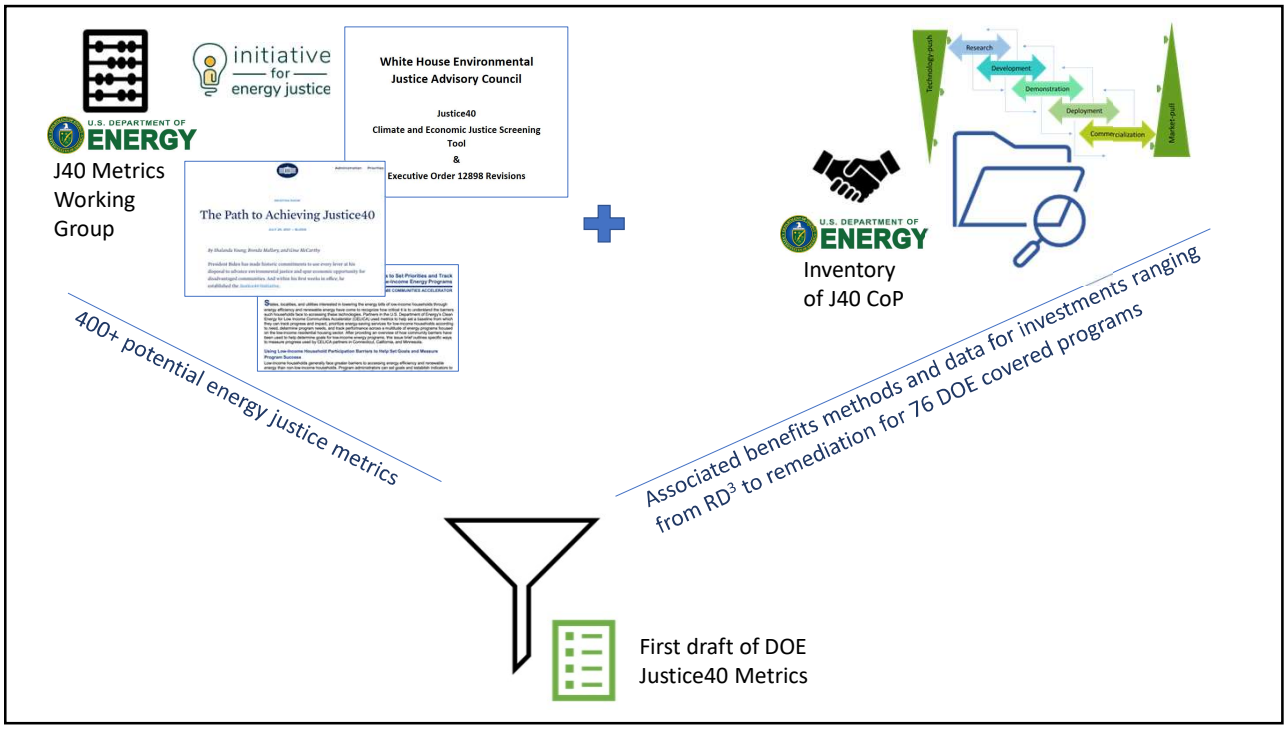
DOE Justice40 Policy Priorities

(1) Decrease **energy burden** in 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** (MBE/DBE) in DACs.
(6) Increase the **clean energy job pipeline and job training** for individuals from DACs.
(7) Increase **energy resiliency** in DACs.
(8) Increase **energy democracy** in DACs.

50



51

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Challenges and Considerations

- Characterize R&D Benefits for DACs
- Are non-localizable benefits relevant for Justice40, e.g., GHGs?
- Consider the supply chain and lifecycle impacts of clean energy development on communities
- Acknowledge historic burdens
- Assess the negative impacts of energy transitions and R&D,D,D
- Collect qualitative information and feedback from communities
- Tracking benefits requires resources and data
- Ground truth data and impacts with communities

52

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Justice40 Path Forward

- Submit benefits estimates for 70+ covered programs by mid-December
- Determine how to use geographic definitions of disadvantaged communities in DOE program design and execution
- Continue to engage with the public and disadvantaged communities on DOE Justice40 efforts
- Institutionalize Justice40 into DOE programs and practices, especially with FY22-23 and BIL

53

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Thank you!

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54

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Economic Impact and Diversity

55

Listening Session & Dialogue

WRITE	RAISE	LIMIT
WRITE ANY COMMENTS/QUESTIONS IN THE Q&A POD	WHEN PROMPTED, RAISE YOUR HAND TO ASK A QUESTION OR PROVIDE INPUT • USING A PHONE? PRESS *9 TO RAISE YOUR HAND	PLEASE LIMIT QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS TO 1 MINUTE

56

Upcoming Engagement and Training Opportunities

57

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

EPA Tools and Resources Webinar
Community and Citizen Science – Making Your Data Count

- **December 15, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.:** learn about the tools and practices used in these exciting community and citizen science projects and how EPA, states, and tribal governments can better support these efforts
- **Register here:** https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_synLsFAeSKCXcLPecuI5jQ

NEJAC Public Meeting

- **January 5 at 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern:** The meeting will focus on the business of environmental justice and civil rights compliance elements in EPA's next multiyear strategic plan draft, as well as other aligned efforts and plans of the agency. Individual registration is REQUIRED.
- **Register here:** https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_0D0qXKXJRlCCRpBZ2X2-og

58

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

Superfund Redevelopment Mapper Tool and Training Webinar

- **January 26, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern:** EPA is launching a new GIS-based tool to help local, state and tribal governments, community development organizations, developers and community members explore reusing and redeveloping land on or near Superfund sites.
- **Register here:** https://clu-in.org/conf/tio/superfund-redevelopment/

EPA Webinar Series
National PFAS Roadmap – Update for Tribes & Indigenous Peoples

- **January 18, 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Eastern.** This session will include information about the sources of PFAS and how tribal and indigenous communities may be impacted.
- **Register Here**: https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_DOaSGEL9SD2AFcLwyz42xA

59

Closing

- Next National EJ Community Engagement call:
  - January 25, 2022, at 2 p.m. Eastern
  - https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls
- Subscribe to EPA's Environmental Justice listserv for up-to-date information about EJ funding opportunities, events, and webinars:
  - Send a blank email to: join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov
- Follow us on Twitter:
  - @EPAEnvJustice
- Send follow-up questions or comments to:
  - Environmental-Justice@epa.gov

60