

DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES ADVISORY GROUP

EQUITY FRAMEWORK

The impact of climate change on low-income and disadvantaged communities can exacerbate existing inequities but can also be an opportunity to level the playing field through intentional interventions that address climate impacts on these communities directly.

The Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group would like the State to adopt an Equity Framework to work in conjunction with the Guiding Principles of the Advisory Group set forth in the Charter of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group. The Equity Framework can be applied across all climate related policies, bills, proceedings, requests for proposals, etc. to ensure that equity is front and center when considering any climate investment/intervention in the State.

This Equity Framework is intended to guide the Advisory Group as it moves forward in discussing and commenting on various proceedings and programs before the CPUC and CEC ensuring that access and adequate resources reach the implementation stage and benefit communities in a meaningful and measurable way. This is the second draft of this document that incorporates all comments made at the August 21 Advisory Group meeting.

DEFINITION OF DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

As defined in the Energy Equity Indicators tool, the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DAC AG) will adopt as the definition and advocate for equitable programming to reach all of the following communities (including community residents, workers, and businesses):

- ◆ CalEnviroScreen, as defined by Cal EPA,
- ◆ Tribal Lands,
- ◆ Census tracts with area median household income/state median income, less than 80%, and
- ◆ Households with median household income less than 80% of Area Median Income (AMI).

FRAMEWORK

1. Health & Safety

Energy policies and programs should be observed through the lens of public health to identify impacts and utilize findings to optimize the health and well-being of California's most vulnerable communities, as well as, advance health interventions related to climate change by educating Disadvantaged Communities about disproportionate health impacts related to climate

change and providing ways to value health benefits and impacts, build resiliency, mitigate climate related illnesses, injury and deaths and reduce climate related healthcare costs.

2. Access & Education

Access and Education are key to ensuring that Disadvantaged Communities benefit from clean energy technologies, energy efficiency, and other environmental investments by 1. focusing on special outreach efforts, 2. ensuring that these interventions are applicable and that the communities' interests and needs are represented, and 3. communities receive culturally relevant and sensitive education to prepare for climate resilience. The Advisory Group strives to remove barriers to participation, as identified in the SB 350 Barriers Report and other barriers, through means such as training, funding and support for CBO and educational institutions rooted in disadvantaged communities, ensuring community based businesses are competitive in solicitations, adequate information is disseminated regarding careers and education, and tracking and evaluating progress of such efforts is necessary for these interventions to be successful.

3. Financial Benefits

All investments in clean energy technologies, energy efficiency, and other environmental investments, should benefit all disadvantaged communities directly providing financial benefits, incentives and cost savings while also considering affordability and rate impacts.

4. Economic Development

Climate policies and programs should invest in a clean energy workforce by ensuring California has a trained and ready workforce prepared to improve our infrastructure and built environment as well as bring green technologies to market by: 1. promoting and funding workforce development pathways to high-quality careers in the construction and clean energy industries, including pre-apprenticeship and other training programs, 2. Setting and tracking hiring targets for low-income, disadvantaged, and underrepresented populations (including women, re-entry, etc.) to enter these industries, 3. ensuring that these careers are high-road, with a career-ladder, family-sustaining wages and with benefits, 4. training the next generation of climate leaders and workers for the clean energy economy, and 5. supporting small and diverse business development and contracting.

5. Consumer Protection

Climate related policies and programs should not create incentives for predatory lending or exploitation of communities for financial gain. Programs should have adequate consumer protection measures, disclosures, and accountability measures to ensure that financially vulnerable customers are not taken advantage of or otherwise compromised.