

DOCKETED

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Climate Impacts on Disadvantaged Communities: Role of Energy Sector

*Community Perspectives: Best
Practices and Remaining Needs*

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Asian Pacific Environmental Network



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APEN CORE STRATEGIES

COMMUNITY BASED LEADERSHIP

APEN Academy – Leadership Steering Committee – Leaders Retreat

Chevron Campaign – Solar Demonstration Projects – Transit Oriented Development –
Richmond Our Power Convening



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APEN CORE STRATEGIES

BUILDING POLITICAL POWER STATEWIDE

API Voter Registration – Candidates Forums – Voter Engagement Program

AAPIs for Civic Empowerment – API Progressive Base



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APEN CORE STRATEGIES

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS IN STATE POLICY

SB 350 Barriers Study

AB 693: Multifamily Affordable Housing Solar Program

AB 2722: Transformative Climate Communities

AB 523: Equity in Clean Energy Funds



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Three Key Trends

- Economic Inequality
- Environmental and Climate Crisis
- Emerging Innovations in Clean Energy

In understanding their interconnectedness, we can use the opportunities from clean energy technologies to spur a new kind of economy that is both based on low carbon energy and addresses the widening gap



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Energy Needs in EJ Communities

- Low-Income Californians:
 - 70% Renters
 - 47% Multifamily Affordable Housing
 - 54% Linguistically Isolated
- Energy Burden & Insecurity
- Vulnerable to Utility Disconnections
- High Need Communities
 - Homeless
 - Dependent on Medical Equipment
 - Large Families
 - Proximity to Risky Energy Infrastructure



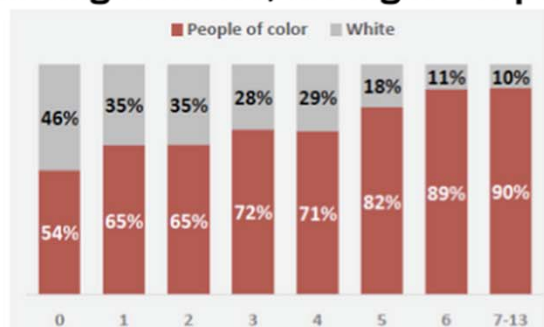
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Low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately impacted by climate polluters.

Communities within 2.5 miles of a greenhouse gas facility have:

22% higher proportion of people of color
21% higher proportion of low-income people

The more emitting facilities, the higher % people of color:



Number of GHG facilities within 2.5 miles

Climate solutions must start with most impacted communities!

Cushing, L. J., Wander, M., Morello-Frosch, R., Pastor, M., Zhu, A., & Sadd, J. (2016). A Preliminary Environmental Equity Assessment of California's Cap-and-Trade Program. *Report. Program for Environmental and Regional Equity, University of Southern California Dornsife.*



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Climate Justice & Resilience

Adaptation is the process of responding to the impending or inevitable consequences of the climate disruption already set in motion that cannot be avoided or reversed.

- Physical Threats and Infrastructure

Resilience describes the capacity of a system (whether a community or an economy) to maintain an intact core identity in the face of change

- Land Use & Community Development
- Social Cohesion
- Public Health



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Climate Resilience & Energy

- Distinct vulnerability of EJ communities to surges and power outages
- Risks posed by proximity to fossil fuel infrastructure
- Rising costs of utility bills and other economic impacts



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RICHMOND JUST TRANSITION STRATEGIES

THE EXTRACTIVE ECONOMY



ORGANIZE TO END THE BAD

- Stop crude-by-rail
- Stop tar sands & cut refinery emissions
- Stop health care cuts
- Stop petcoke and coal-by-rail

DRAW DOWN MONEY AND POWER

ORGANIZE A MOVEMENT OF MOVEMENTS

- Reach voters in every election
- Educate people about just transition
- Strengthen the REJC
- Partner with c4s

CHANGE THE RULES

City Initiatives

- Establish a city renewable energy & efficiency standard
- Create municipal clean energy bonds
- Develop MCE target of locally generated renewable energy
- Create procurement agreements prioritize cooperatives & just transition projects
- Require local sourcing of food
- Community ownership of public lands
- Support job training programs
- Connect to state & national policy and advocacy

CHANGE THE STORY

- Host annual Our Power Solutions Festival
- Develop leadership & provide political education
- Community-led media and storytelling

STARVE AND STOP DIVEST FROM THEIR POWER

MOVE MONEY & RESOURCES

- Connect UC Divestment Campaign with Richmond work
- Implement SB 535 GHG Reduction Fund
- Create national reinvestment cooperative
- Support Richmond's Revolving Loan Fund

FEED AND GROW INVEST IN OUR POWER

BUILD THE NEW

- Develop local just transition projects (e.g. energy coop, regional food hub)
- Establish Green Zones
- Develop Richmond Cooperative Incubator
- Ensure community governance & local jobs in MCE's Chevron Solar Project
- Create community-owned infrastructure



Building Resilience: Emergency Management

- Laotian Organizing Project (LOP) in Richmond
- Historic Campaign: Multilingual Warning System (2001)



March 25, 1999 Chevron oil refinery accident



LOP youth and seniors rally for a multilingual emergency phone alert system outside an apartment complex near Chevron's refinery

Campaign involved activating

LOP staff made presentations to churches, adult education classes, Laotian ethnic associations, and maintained lists

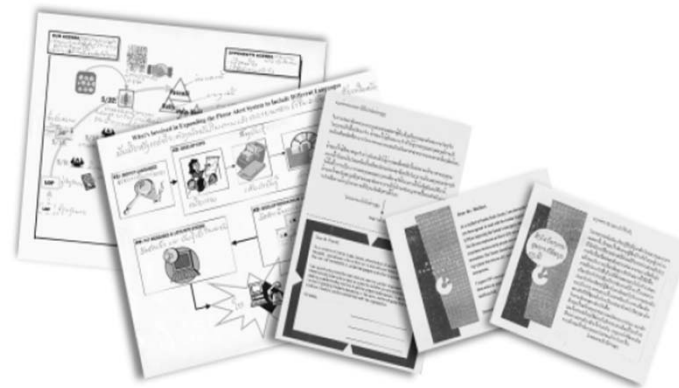


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Building Resilience: Emergency Management

- Key Lessons
 - Development of emergency warning systems
 - Targeted outreach to vulnerable communities
 - Identify threats from energy infrastructure in light of extreme weather events



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Building Resilience: Energy Efficiency

- EJ communities live in older buildings and use inefficient appliances
- Contributes to higher energy use
- High-performance buildings more likely to maintain temperatures
- Vulnerable communities include elderly and those with medical conditions
- Energy efficient buildings can:
 - Allows residents/tenants to shelter in place longer
 - Reduces annual energy spending
 - Reduces overall net emissions



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Building Resilience: Microgrids

- Bridging 'green divide'
- Prioritize critical facilities that serve vulnerable communities
- Allows communities to disconnect from grid during power outage and maintain power supply
- Allows facilities receiving backup power to double as shelter for displaced residents
- Increases cost savings



Remaining Needs

- Analyze economic and health impacts of changes in the energy sector from climate change
- Build the evidence base to connect climate resilience:
 - High energy burden, energy insecurity, and utility disconnections
 - Access to energy upgrades, clean energy technologies, and workforce opportunities
- Strengthen metrics to track multiple benefits i.e. energy affordability, reliability, health and safety
- Improve coordination and leveraged funding for energy upgrades and climate resilience efforts
- Continue to strengthen community engagement



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Guidance for State Agencies

- Support EJ community needs through data, research, and accessible information
- Extend participation to all stages of decision-making
- Prioritize the protection of essential facilities that provide health care, food, and emergency shelter
- Center anti-displacement and housing affordability
- Ensure climate and energy projects promote health and avoid harms



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Thank You!



**TRANSFORMATIVE
CLIMATE COMMUNITY**

Building Neighborhood-led Climate Equity



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