

# Equity, Justice, Democracy: A Clean Energy Future that Benefits All

2021-2022 Kleinman Center Visiting Scholar  
Lecture Presentation

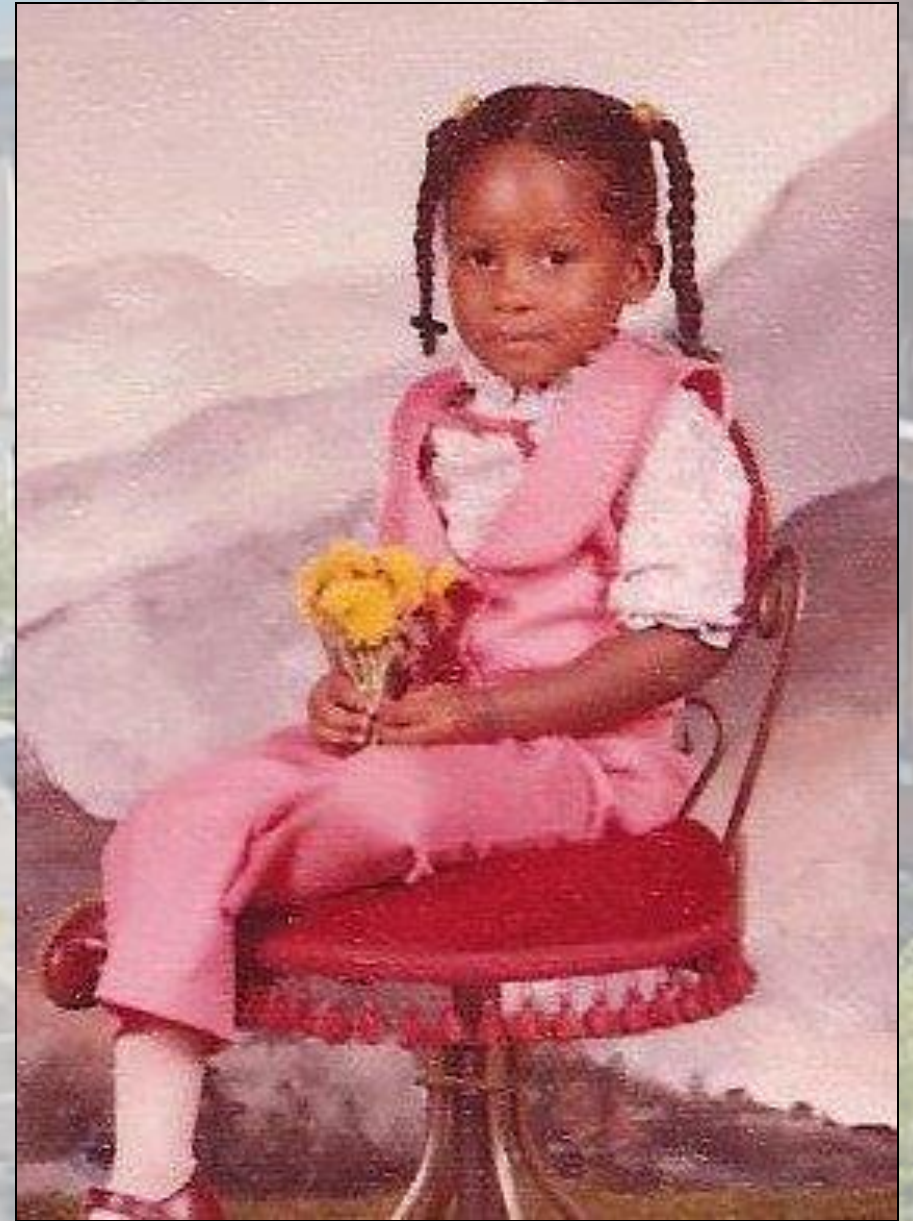
October 21, 2021



Presented By:  
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Founder, [Good Energy Project](#)  
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***Coke cans,  
hairspray and  
dolphins...?***



Equity



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LIBERATION

Who Benefits?  
Why? What?  
When?  
Where? How?

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**STOP RACIST  
VIOLENCE**  
PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION FOR PROGRESS

**POWER TO THE PEOPLE**  
PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION FOR PROGRESS

**JUSTICE FOR  
GEORGE  
FLOYD**  
PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION FOR PROGRESS

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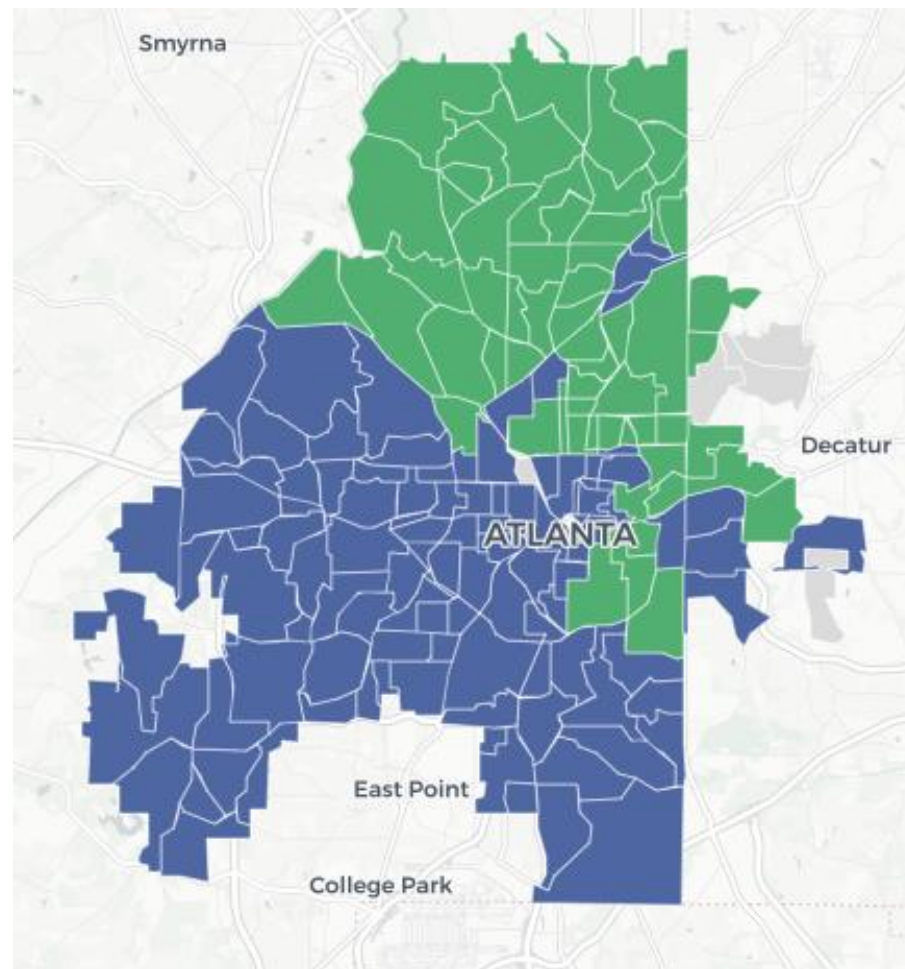
2020  
CORONAVIRUS  
PANDEMIC

# WHAT IS RACIAL EQUITY?

**Racial Equity** refers to what a genuinely non-racist society would look like. In a racially equitable society, the distribution of society's benefits and burdens **would not be skewed by race.**

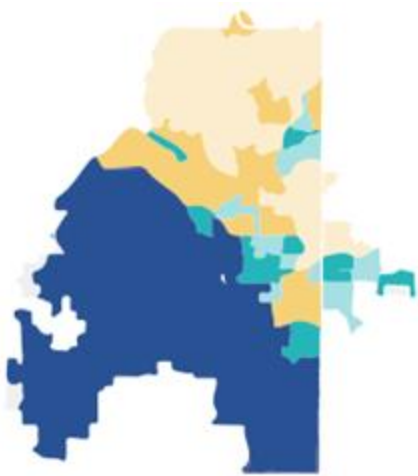
# Atlanta – A Tale of Two Cities

- **Black people represent at least 80% of the population along or below I-20, while more than 60% of the six northern NPU's' populations are white.**
- **Over 90% of job centers are found north of Highway I-20**



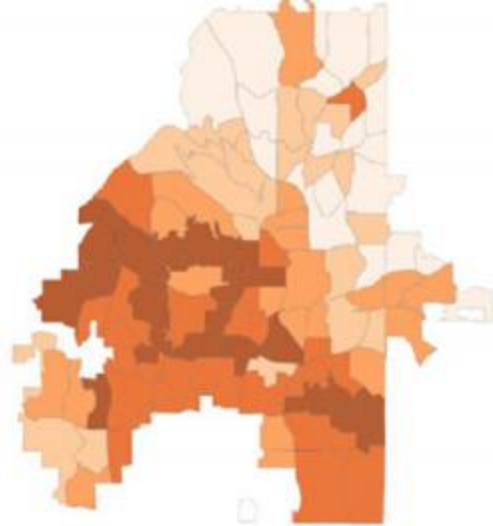
Precinct Map from the [2017 Atlanta Mayor's Race](#) runoff



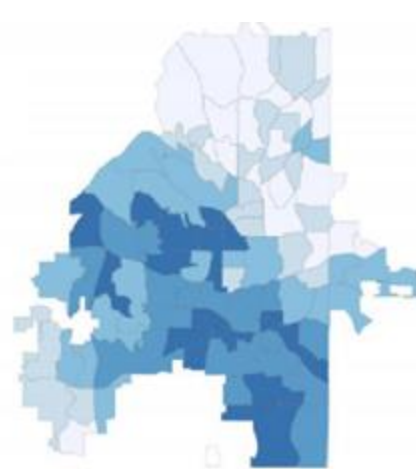
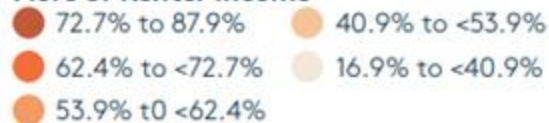


### % of Non-White Population

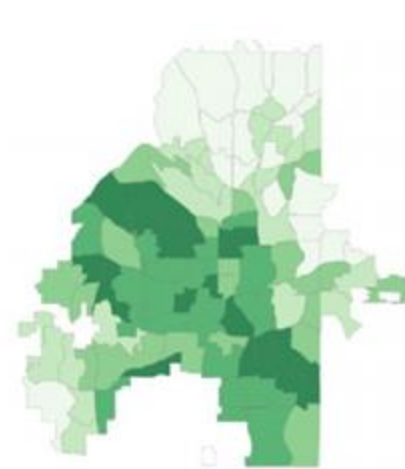
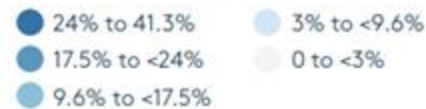
While the city is diverse, it is not spatially diverse. The non-white population is heavily concentrated in the south and west portions of the city. Source: Neighborhood Nexus



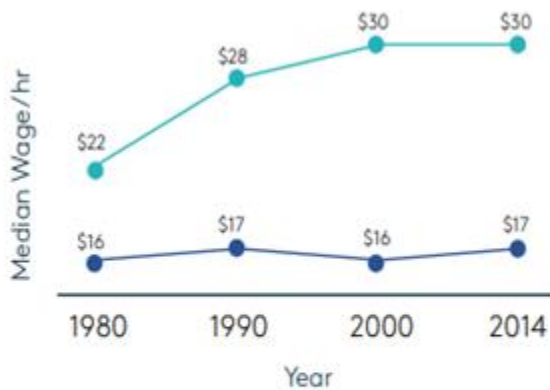
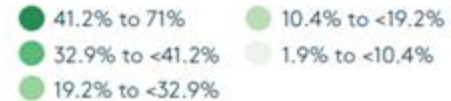
### % of Units Where Cost of Rent is 30% or More of Renter Income



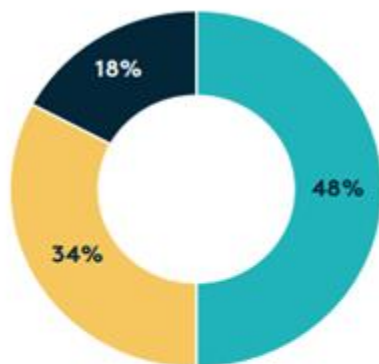
### % Population with Less than a High School



### % of the Population in Poverty



### Wage Gap Between White Workers and Workers of Color

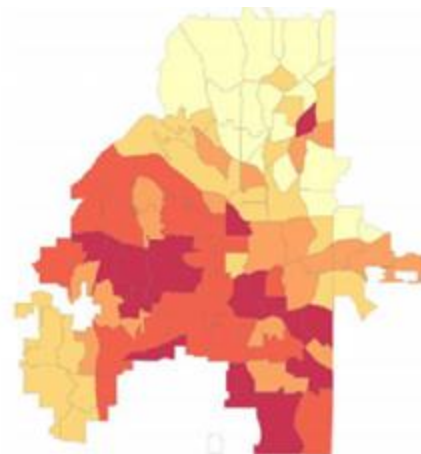


### Housing Occupancy in Atlanta

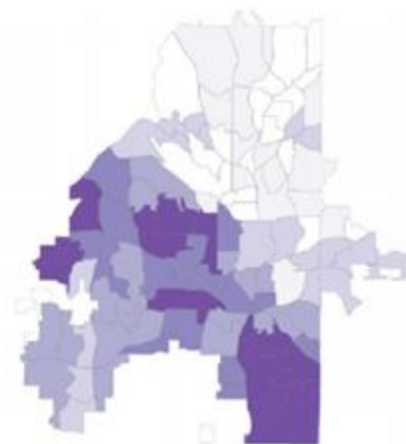
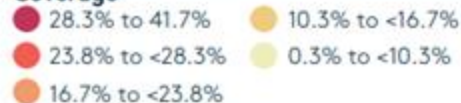
Source: US Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimate



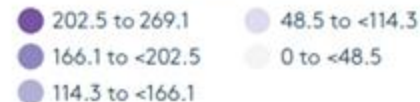
of households that are rent burdened.



### % Population without Health Insurance Coverage



### Teen Birthrate per 1,000 Births (2008-2012)

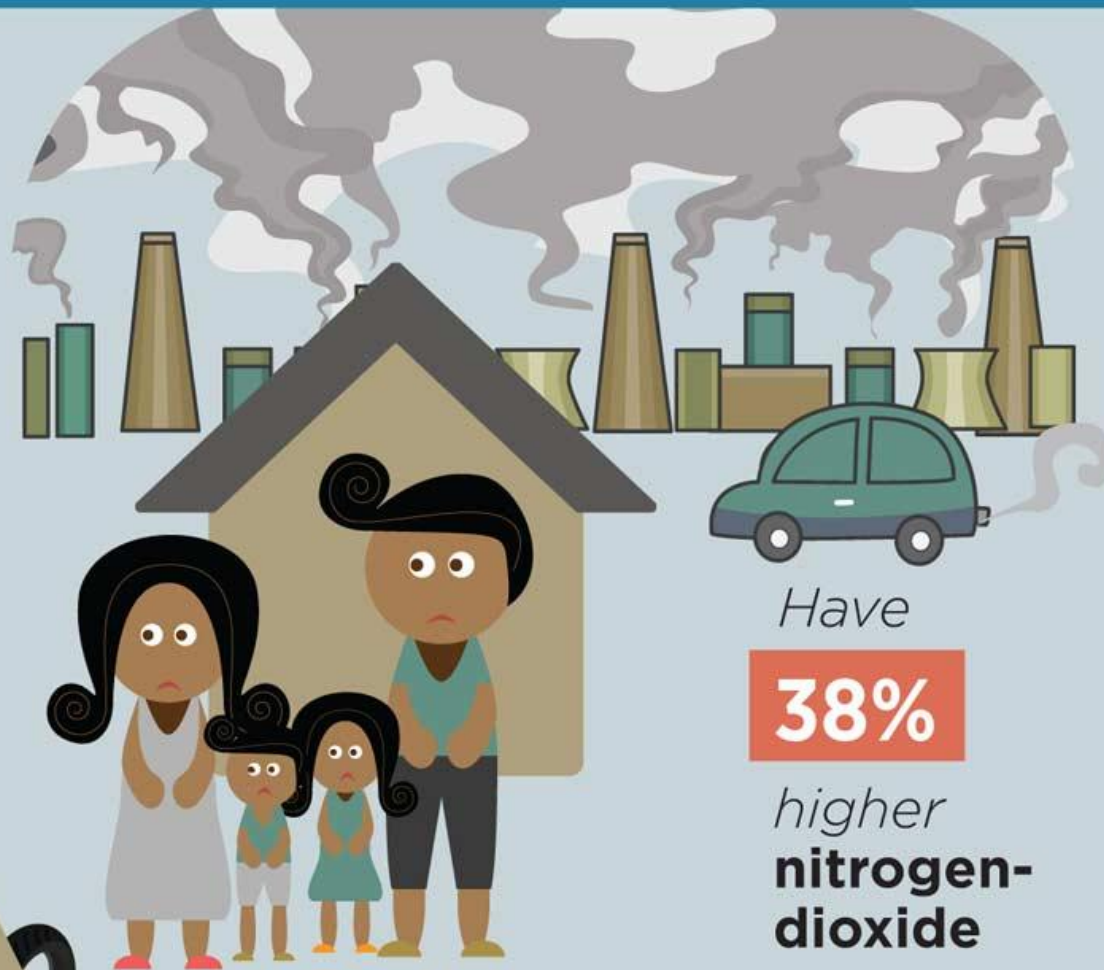


# Environmental Racism Is Nothing New

Race is the most significant predictor of a person living near contaminated air, water, or soil.

**56%**

*of the population near **toxic waste** sites are people of color.*



*People of color:*

*Have*

**38%**

*higher **nitrogen-dioxide** exposure.*

*Have seen*

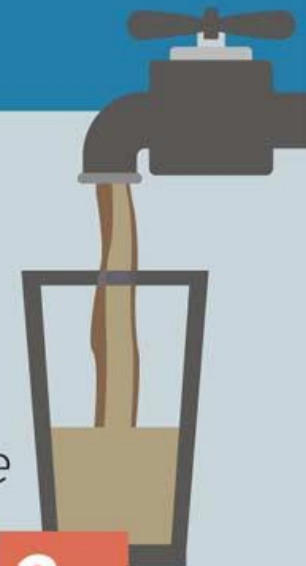
**95%**

*of their claims against polluters **denied by the EPA.***

*Are*

**2x**

*more likely to live without **potable water** and **modern sanitation.***

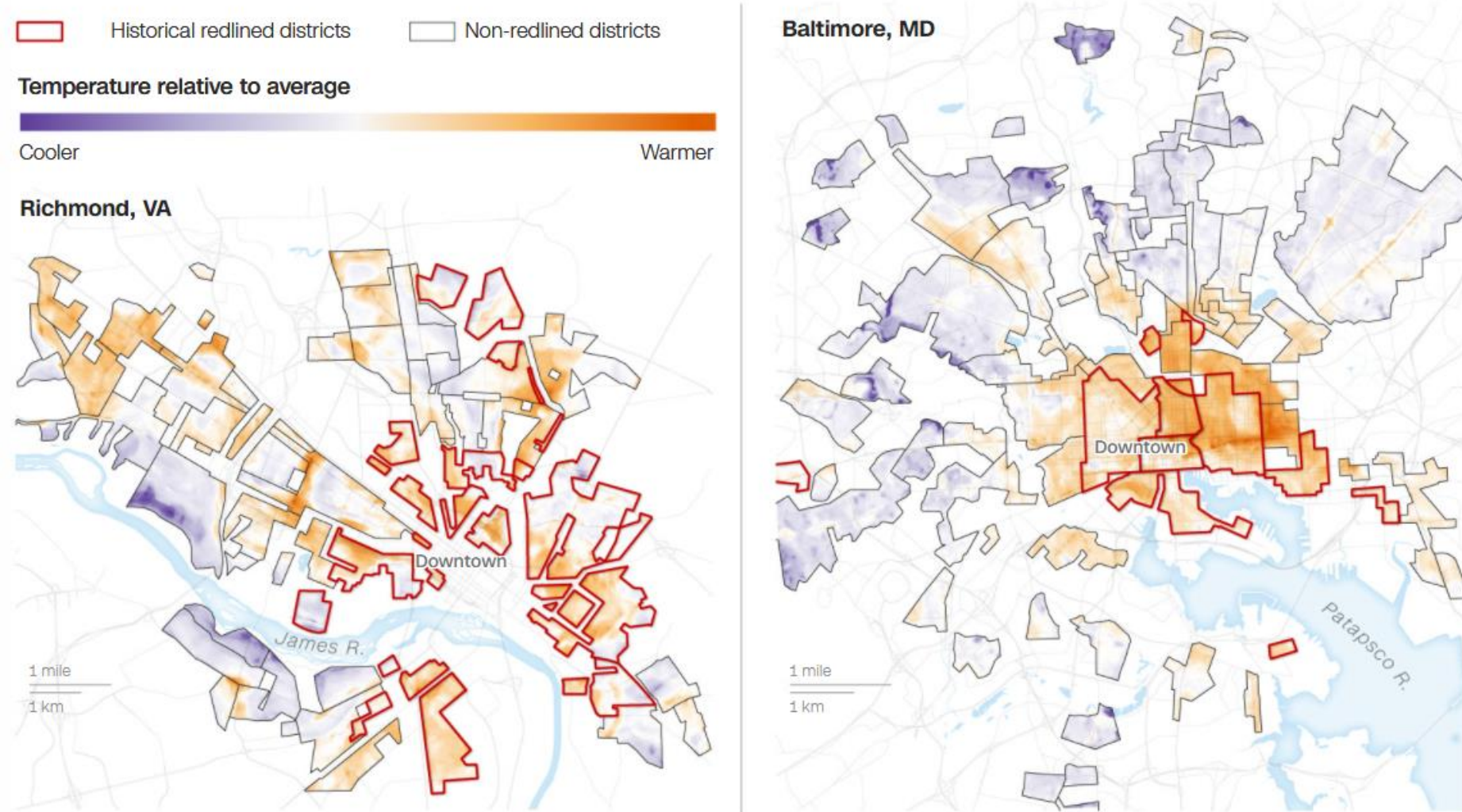


# STRUCTURAL RACISM: THE ENEMY OF EQUITY

*Structural racism is the racial bias across institutions and society. It describes the cumulative and compounding effects of an array of factors that systematically privilege white people and disadvantage people of color.*

# Hotter temperatures disproportionately affect redlined districts

In many urban areas, the hottest parts of the city tend to be in areas that were historically “redlined,” meaning banks and mortgage lenders considered it risky to invest in those neighborhoods. Two examples are Richmond, VA, and Baltimore.



Source: Robert K. Nelson, LaDale Winling, Richard Marciano, Nathan Connolly, et al., “Mapping Inequality,” *American Panorama*, ed. Robert K. Nelson and Edward L. Ayers (historical districts); NOAA, via the US Urban Heat Island Mapping Campaigns Storymap (temperature data)  
Graphic: Renée Rigdon, CNN



Photo by TracieMichelle/iStock

## **From Redlining to Restorative Justice** **Anti-Black racism and energy insecurity go hand in hand in America**

By Sharonda Williams-Tack | Feb 21 2021



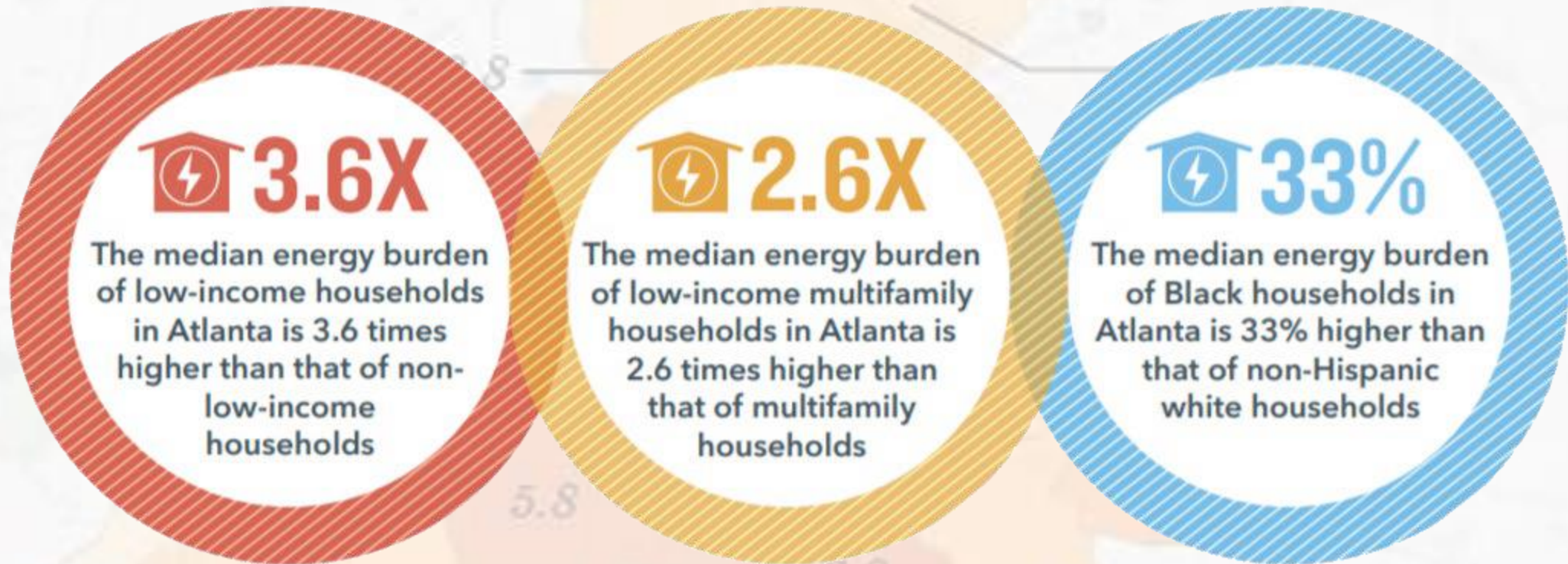
# WHY EQUITY MATTERS

Equity is a proactive, **strategic approach that accounts for differences in opportunities and burdens, as well as needs**, in order to achieve true equality for all.

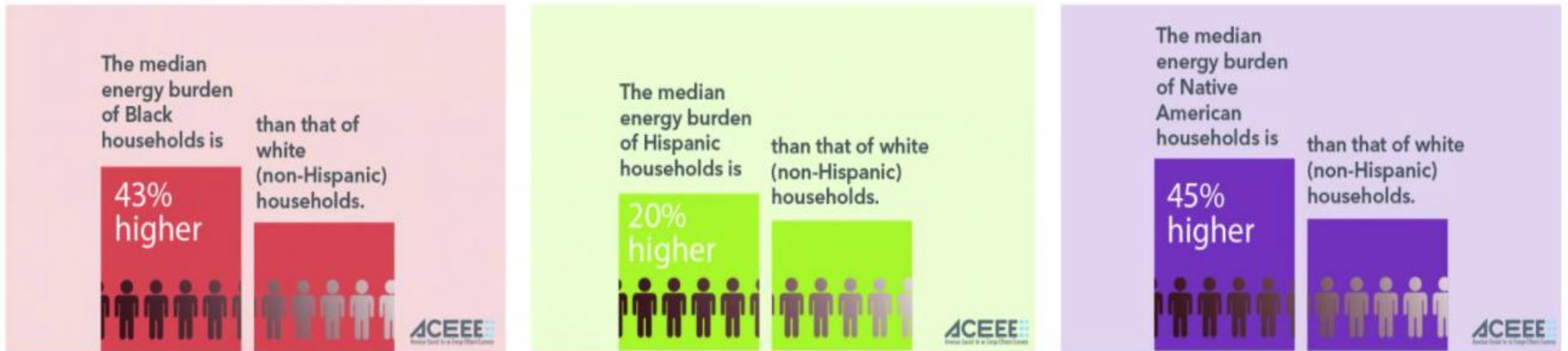
*OpenSource Leadership Strategies*

# ***Racial Equity in energy is top of mind for a reason***

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# ***Low-income, Black, Hispanic, and Native American households all face dramatically higher energy burdens***



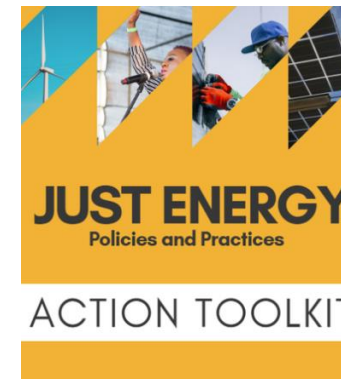


# What is Just Energy?

*Just Energy is the frame to advance **energy equity** - the fair distribution of the benefits and burdens of our energy production and consumption.*

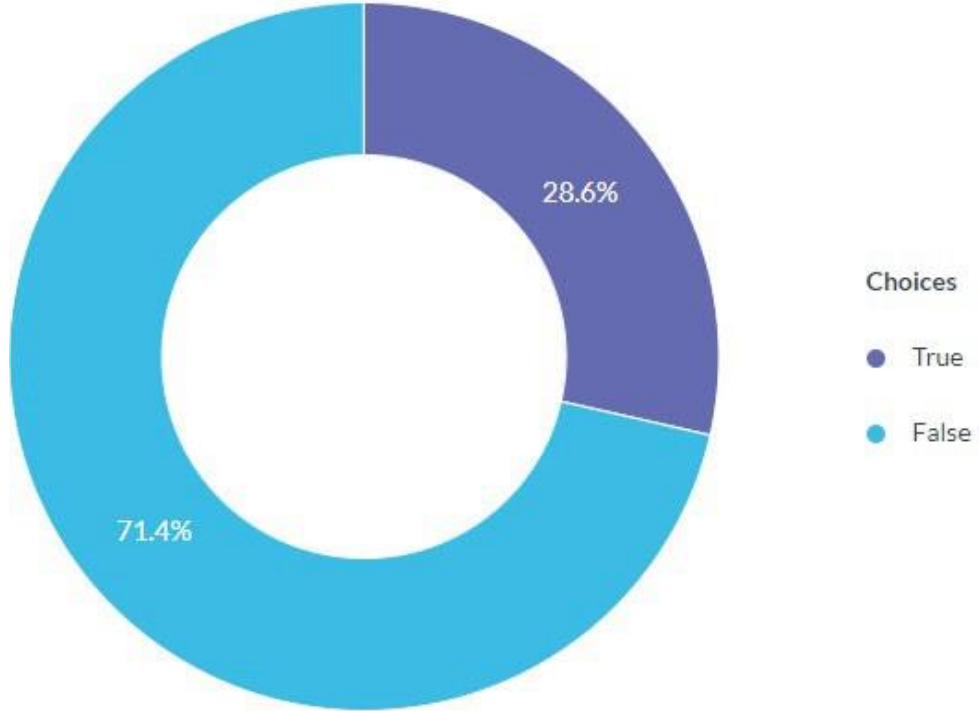


*Be stewards of God's creation: Work with companies and governments for clean, renewable energy through a just and equitable transition.*



# Why Energy Justice?

Energy decisions are made with marginalized communities in mind.



# *What is Energy Justice?*

Summary: **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 marginalized communities and aims to make energy more accessible, affordable, clean, and democratically managed for all communities. The practitioner and academic approaches to energy justice emphasize these process-related and distributive justice concerns.

The Initiative for Energy Justice provides law and policy resources to advocates and policymakers to advance local and state shifts to equitable clean energy.

Initiative for Energy Justice | [iejusa.org](http://iejusa.org)



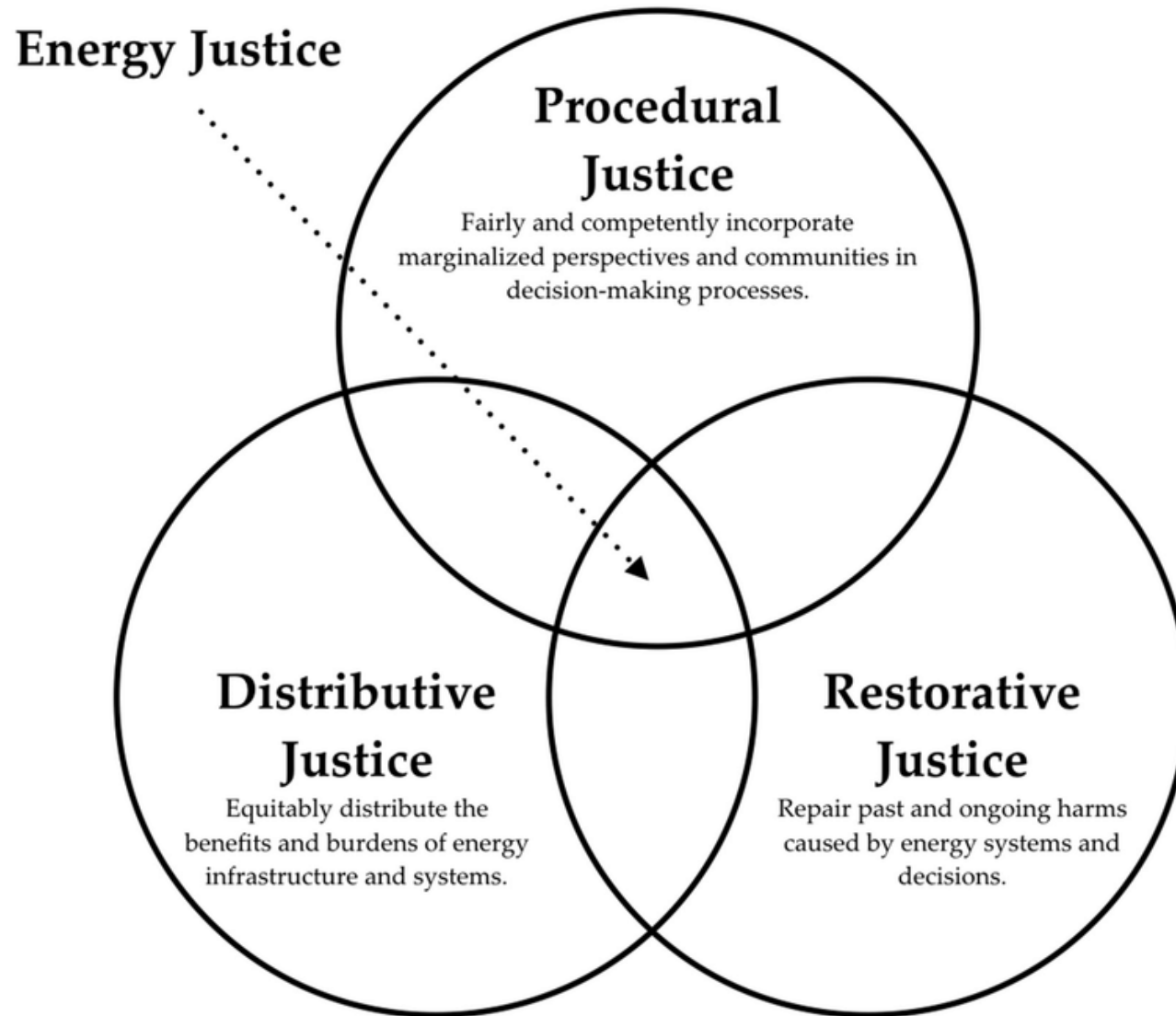


Figure 1 - The Emerging Potential of Microgrids in the Transition to 100% Renewable Energy Systems

# ***Building Power***

**Engage:** bring together community-based organizations and public institutions to demonstrate a process of collaboration with first and most impacted populations.

**Educate:** host community conversations to discuss where energy comes from, why choices matter, how to save \$\$

**Organize:** build power with impacted communities and resident leaders

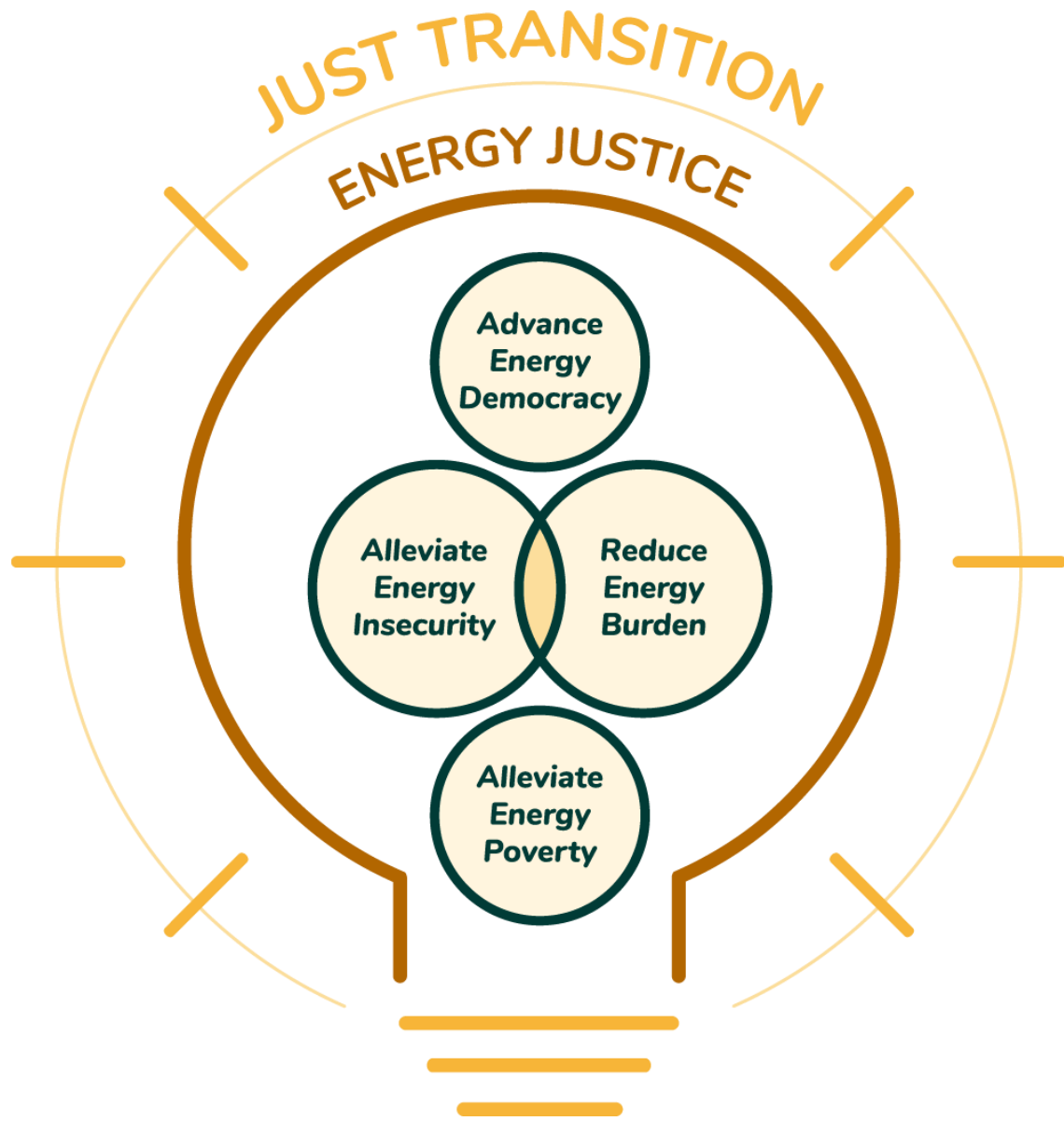
**Act:** mobilize advocates and community to take their seat at the table with utilities and elected officials to make energy and utility programs and policy more equitable!

# Advancing Equity in Utility Regulation

Future Electric Utility Regulation  
Report No. 12

**October 2021**

Chandra Farley, Partnership for Southern Equity  
John Howat and Jenifer Bosco, National Consumer Law Center  
Nidhi Thakar and Jake Wise, Portland General Electric  
Jean Su, Center for Biological Diversity  
Project Manager and Technical Editor:  
Lisa Schwartz, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory



**Diagram 2:** The Goals of Energy Justice



**Energy Democracy** is a way to frame the struggle of working people, low-income communities, and communities of color, and their allies, to take control of energy resources and decision-making from the corporate energy establishment and use those resources to empower their communities.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# Solar with Justice

Strategies for Powering Up Under-Resourced Communities and Growing an Inclusive Solar Market



Clean Energy States Alliance • Jackson State University Department of Urban and Regional Planning  
Partnership for Southern Equity • PaulosAnalysis • University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability  
The Nathan Cummings Foundation • The Solutions Project



Paulos Analysis



THE SOLUTIONS PROJECT

# Atlanta community resilience project seeks to become model for energy equity

By [Sophia Wu](#)

October 11, 2021



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**Partnership for Southern Equity**

TOGETHER WE PROSPER



**SOLAR ENERGY  
INNOVATION  
NETWORK**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



THE

# GOOD ENERGY PROJECT



**The Good Energy Project is connecting the transformational power of Black women to the movement for clean energy.**

[www.goodenergyproject.org](http://www.goodenergyproject.org)

 [@goodenergy\\_project](https://www.instagram.com/goodenergy_project)

Energy Equity . . .

Energy Justice . . .

Energy Democracy . . .

*is a way, not a what.*



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*Thank You!*



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