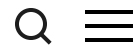




Tishman Environment
and Design Center



TISHMAN CENTER · AUGUST 23, 2019

Read the Equitable & Just National Climate Platform

Over 70 groups including the Tishman Center signed on to a historic national climate policy agenda. You can read the entire platform below:

EQUITABLE & JUST NATIONAL CLIMATE PLATFORM

This platform lays out a bold national climate policy agenda that advances the goals of economic, racial, climate, and environmental justice. The platform identifies areas where the underserved environmental justice (EJ) and national groups are aligned on desired outcomes for the national climate policy agenda. The platform also lays the foundation for our organizations to vary improve the way we work together to advance ambitious and equitable national climate policies and to work through remaining differences.

VISION FOR AN INCLUSIVE JUST CLIMATE AGENDA

United States needs bold new leadership that will prioritize tackling the pressing environmental and social problems. To do this, our country leadership that is committed to implementing an ambitious national climate policy agenda. This agenda should be centered on innovative and solutions with racial and economic justice as core goals and match the scale and urgency of the challenges we face. We must put our nation on an ambitious emissions reduction path in order to contribute equitably to global efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. To be successful, we must firmly be on this path by 2030. This agenda must seize the opportunity and imperative to rebuild and rebalance the economy so that it works for all people.

In order to achieve these goals, we must mobilize all of our assets—communities, all levels of government, science and research, and businesses and industry—toward the development of just, equitable, and sustainable long-term comprehensive solutions. We must challenge ourselves to advance solutions in ways that meaningfully involve and value the voices and positions of EJ frontline and fence-line communities. To do this, bold new leadership must develop inclusive strategies that acknowledge and repair the legacy of environmental harms on communities inflicted by fossil fuel and other industrial pollution. Our vision is that all people and all communities have the right to breathe clean air, live free of dangerous levels of toxic pollution, access healthy food, and share the benefits of a prosperous and vibrant clean economy.

By building a just, inclusive, and climate-sustainable economy, this agenda will create millions of high-quality, safe, and family-sustaining jobs while improving the health, physical environment, prosperity, and well-being of all U.S. communities. This agenda will drive big and sustained government and private investments to curb carbon and toxic pollution; create diverse and inclusive economic opportunities; and address the legacy pollution that has burdened tribal communities, communities of color, and low-income communities. This agenda will also ensure that the transition to a clean economy does not negatively affect community livelihoods.

We understand that the problem of climate change is the result of decades of operations of a carbon-based economy, including highly energy-intensive buildings as well as industrial and transportation infrastructure. Because of the continued delay to act at the scale needed to curb carbon pollution, the risks to communities at home and around the globe are increasing at unprecedented levels, including more intense heat waves, more powerful storms and floods, more deadly wildfires, and more devastating droughts. To achieve our goals, we will need to overcome past failures that have led us to the crisis conditions we face today. These past failures include the perpetuation of systemic inequalities that have left communities of color, tribal communities, and low-income communities exposed to the highest levels of toxic pollution and the most burdened and affected by climate change. The defining environmental crisis of our time now demands an urgency to act. Yet this urgency must not displace or abandon the fundamental principles of democracy and justice.

To effectively address climate change, the national climate policy agenda must drive actions that result in real benefits at the local and community level, including pollution reduction, affordable and quality housing, good jobs, sustainable livelihoods, and community infrastructure. This will require a realignment of public dollars at all levels toward policy structures that rely heavily on holistic, non-market-based regulatory mechanisms that explicitly account for local impacts. We understand that progress will be needed on multiple fronts and require the use of a combination of policy tools. We favor policy tools that help achieve both local and national emissions reductions of carbon and other forms of pollution. The shift to a non-greenhouse gas future will require substantial new forms of capital investment by both the public and private sectors to build a new national infrastructure as well as democratic community participation to help set infrastructure investment priorities. Unless justice and equity are central components of our climate agenda, the inequality of the carbon-based economy will be replicated in the new economy.

We understand that there are EJ concerns about carbon trading and other market-based policies. These concerns include the fact that these policies do not guarantee emissions reduction in EJ communities and can even allow increased emissions in communities that are already disproportionately burdened with pollution and substandard infrastructure. In order to ensure climate solutions are equitable, support for climate research that assesses how policies affect overburdened and vulnerable communities is essential.

AN EQUITABLE AND JUST NATIONAL CLIMATE AGENDA

To effectively build an inclusive, just, and clean-energy economy, climate agenda must achieve the following:

NO COMMUNITY LEFT BEHIND

All communities have a right to live free from exposure to dust in their soil as well as in the air they breathe, the food they drink. Yet persistent racial and economic inequalities—cause them—embedded throughout our society have concentrated and within communities of color, tribal communities. These underlying social forces, including persistent racial discrimination and economic inequality, have created high environmental and public health risks in these areas of vulnerable neighborhoods. The national climate policy agenda in environmental justice head-on centers that also reduce pollution in a significantly improve their public build the U.S. Environmental Protection the nation's health and the environment regulations for all communities.

A HEALTHY CLIMATE AND

The devastating and costly consequences safety, and livelihoods of people as social injustice have put communities. The national climate policy agenda must have as its foundation reduce greenhouse gas emissions and locally harmful air pollution scale and speed needed to avoid the worst and most especially for the most vulnerable communities and communities the legacy pollution from the present economy. This include in low-income areas and communities of color—EJ communities of policies, including climate mitigation policy. The age vast new resources to reduce carbon pollution, curb locally h and build resilience to improve the health, safety, and livability in a climate-changed world.

REDUCTION IN CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

History shows that environmental regulation does not necessarily healthy environments for all communities. Many communities the cumulative effect of multiple pollution sources. A national agenda that addresses climate pollution must not abandon important goal of reducing toxic pollution in all its forms.

