



KEY A FRAMEWORK ROOTED IN JUSTICE

To be transformational, the Justice40 Initiative must have clear objectives, foundational principles that are **rooted in equity**, and implementation that goes beyond investments by providing tools and building blocks to achieve systems change.

To transcend beyond investments, Justice40 should strive for the following goals:

- The design and implementation of Justice40 should help **institutionalize environmental, climate, racial, and economic justice** into federal decision-making, process, and practices.
- Justice40 should establish **an investment framework whose objectives clearly target disparities** in pollution exposure, climate change, occupational opportunities, community capacity, and costs and benefits of environmental programs.

STATE-LEVEL CLIMATE AND CLEAN ENERGY INVESTMENTS

STATE	WASHINGTON	VIRGINIA	NEW YORK	MARYLAND	ILLINOIS	CALIFORNIA
Year of law or program that authorizes/establishes climate investment.	2021: Climate Commitment Act	2020: Clean Economy Act & Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act	2019: Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act	2019: Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2019	2016: Future Energy Jobs Bill	2012: SB 535 and later AB 1550 in 2016 set EJ investment minimums for California Climate Investments
Minimum investment % for disadvantaged communities	40% target and 35% minimum; 10% earmarked for tribal communities	No	40% target and 35% minimum	Act states intent to prioritize but no specificity	Carve outs for low-income communities.	35% investment minimum for dis-advantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households
Equity benefits / strengths	Package of laws to phase out fossil fuels passed with diverse coalition including tribes	Creates program to reduce energy burden for low-income customers	Most equity centered law as a result of justice advocates	Screening tool and just transition/worker elements	Led by EJ organizations and allies in IL Clean Energy Jobs Coalition now driving even more worker provisions	Over \$4 billion invested in and benefiting priority populations as of 2020

We cannot expect investments alone to achieve climate, racial, economic, and environmental justice. We also must develop and implement new systems that address and ameliorate historic harms.



JUSTICE40 has the following major opportunities:

1. Maximize restorative investments in underserved communities.

- a. For too long, federal funding has disproportionately under-resourced communities of color and low-income areas. We must **eliminate racial, ethnic, gender, ability and other biases** that exacerbate disparities in access to funding.
- b. **At least 40% of relevant funding** must go directly to disadvantaged communities or low-income households. Focusing on direct investments, instead of trickle-down “benefits,” should be part of the Justice40 framework.
- c. Investments in **human infrastructure** must become a priority to ensure that disadvantaged communities can access funding opportunities, including through technical assistance, capacity building, partnership development, and removing funding barriers.

2. Achieve transformational change with bottom-up decision making.

- a. **Resourcing is the first step** to uplift frontline communities.
- b. Beyond targeting investments to under-resourced communities and populations, federal agencies also must **enable communities to participate** in decision-making and policy implementation.
- c. We must acknowledge that members of disadvantaged communities have a **wealth of knowledge** we can tap to help effectively and equitably meet their needs.
- d. **Justice40 can be the guide** for implementing best practices and new standards in community-driven investments.

3. Help institutionalize equity and justice from the inside.

- a. To empower communities, the federal government will have to **invest in new approaches that intentionally push back** on its own existing practices, traditions, and rules that perpetuate inequities.
- b. **Robust accountability mechanisms** will be essential to create positive change.
- c. **Justice40 can serve as a catalyst** to help institutionalize environmental, climate, racial, and economic justice into specific funding approaches and federal practices, policies, and systems more broadly.

