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# RESOURCE GUIDE

A UTILITY GUIDE  
REGARDING NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATIONS AND  
ORGANIZATIONS



DATE

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## Statements on Energy Equity and Environmental Justice: A Utility Guide Regarding National Associations and Organizations

The U.S. energy sector is undergoing a significant transition. Renewable resource costs have been falling for several decades and there is a political appetite for the installation of solar photovoltaic panels on millions of residential rooftops. “Smart energy” in all its dimensions has become well accepted but access to technologies and programs is not universal. Electrification is occurring with the growth in sales of electric vehicles and new technologies for homes and buildings but not everyone can afford to electrify. The grid requires upgrades and investments with costs spread to all users. Taken together, these pressures—to address climate change, invest in renewable resources, make the energy system smarter, and increase electrification—will place additional costs on consumers.

A consistent theme amid all these changes is the impact of investment costs on utility bills. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased risk for everyone, and it has afforded some people the luxury of rethinking priorities. However, millions of Americans are simply focused on survival and the next utility bill. People are simultaneously facing a public health crisis, an unemployment crisis, and a debt crisis. Racial and economic equity issues have risen in importance because of the disparate impacts of COVID-19 coupled with a history of social problems. There seems to be a political will to address equity and justice issues head on but addressing fairness and equitable access is not simple or easy.

This guide provides information about organizations, associations, and governmental agencies and their stated positions on equity and justice. How do organizations talk about energy equity and environmental justice? A few organizations have a focus on equity and justice. Some are included because they are prominent in the energy sector as stakeholder representatives. We searched for formally adopted positions, mission statements, vision statements, or research related to equity and justice. In a few instances, we have cited relevant reports. A separate resource guide includes resources on related issues: energy affordability, electrification, grid modernization, renewable resources, and strategies to address environmental issues, climate and decarbonization. As we uncover new position statements or mission statements, we will update this document.

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## **NATIONAL ENERGY-SECTOR TRADE ASSOCIATIONS**

### **American Clean Power**

ACP represents companies from across the clean power sector. Its member companies provide cost-effective solutions to the climate crisis, create jobs, spur investment in the U.S. economy, and drive high-tech innovation across the nation (<https://cleanpower.org/about/>). The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA, <http://www.awea.org>) has been incorporated into ACP. AWEA offers a vision statement that addresses the US role in the world, economic growth, capital investment and leaseholder payments for rural America, and the creation of high-quality, middle-class jobs in cities and towns ([VISION FOR REVITALIZING THE US ENERGY SECTOR & GROWING THE ECONOMY](#), Washington, DC, 2020). The vision statement emphasizes jobs and investments in rural areas which implies an effort to address certain inequities.

### **American Gas Association**

AGA represents more than 200 local natural gas delivery companies throughout the United States. (<https://www.aga.org/about/>) The AGA mission is to provide clear value to its membership and serve as the indispensable, leading voice and facilitator on its behalf in promoting the safe, reliable, and efficient delivery of natural gas to homes and businesses across the nation.

### **American Petroleum Institute**

API's mission is to promote safety across the industry globally and to influence public policy in support of a strong, viable U.S. oil and natural gas industry. (<https://www.api.org/about>).

### **American Public Gas Association**

APGA is a not-for-profit trade organization representing America's municipally owned natural gas local distribution companies (LDCs) (<https://www.apga.org/aboutus>). APGA submitted testimony to a Congressional committee on energy equity in October 2020 (<https://www.apga.org/blogs/stuart-saulters/2020/10/08/apga-submits-testimony-regarding-ec-hearing-on-ene>).

### **American Public Power Association**

APPA represents 2,000 not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities. The APPA prepared an environmental issues brief ([Federal Efforts to Address Climate Change](#), Washington, DC, 2020). The document summarizes the US Supreme Court decision in 2007, and subsequent administrative actions and legislative initiatives, and sets forth the APPA / public power position in favor of congressional action to address climate change that is economy-wide, contains clear targets, and offers maximum flexibility to affected entities. APPA issued a statement on racial justice from the president and CEO (<https://www.publicpower.org/publication/statement-justice-and-equal-opportunity-appa-president-ceo-joy-ditto>) in June 2020.

### **American Wind Energy Association**

See American Clean Power.

**Edison Electric Institute**

EI offers a clean energy vision that shows recent progress and commits to clean energy as fast as possible without compromising on reliability or affordability ([Clean Energy](#), Washington, DC, 2020). EI's member companies will reduce carbon emissions in its sector and help the transportation and industrial sectors to transition to clean, efficient electric energy.

**National Rural Electric Cooperative Association**

NRECA represents 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, public power districts, and public utility districts across America. NRECA has issued a statement on social justice that focused on diversity and nondiscrimination (<https://www.electric.coop/our-mission>).

**Solar Energy Industries Association**

SEIA provides a brief that outlines four ways to build a better economy after COVID ([Rebuilding America With a Clean Energy Economy](#), Washington, DC, 2020). SEIA would: (1) creating jobs, (2) build a modern grid, (3) address climate change, and (4) lower bills for consumers. Equity is addressed through specific policies to use Federal grant programs for installing distributed solar energy systems, including small community solar projects, and expand federal funding for rural energy projects, including modernization and investment on tribal lands.

## **OTHER NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES**

### **NAACP**

The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) was founded in 1909 in response to the ongoing violence against Black people around the country. It is the largest and most pre-eminent civil rights organization in the nation (<https://naacp.org/about-us/>). It has a focus on environmental injustice, including the proliferation of climate change, which has a disproportionate impact on communities of color and low-income communities. The “Environmental and Climate Justice Program” was created to support community leadership in addressing this human and civil rights issue (<https://naacp.org/environmental-climate-justice-about/>). The program has three goals: 1) reduce harmful emissions, particularly greenhouse gases, 2) advance energy efficiency and clean energy, and 3) strengthen community resilience and livability.

### **National Association of Clean Air Agencies**

NACAA is the national, non-partisan, non-profit association of air pollution control agencies in 35 states, the District of Columbia, four territories and 116 metropolitan area. NACAA offered the Biden transition team a statement on racial justice ([http://www.4cleanair.org/NACAA\\_Statement\\_and\\_Direction\\_For\\_Racial\\_Justice](http://www.4cleanair.org/NACAA_Statement_and_Direction_For_Racial_Justice)). NACAA offered the Biden transition team recommendations related to clean air and climate programs. Key among them was environmental justice, with a recommendation that, "EPA should make the consideration of racial justice and protection of overburdened communities from the impacts of pollution and climate change a central focus across all its activities ..."  
([http://www.4cleanair.org/Transition\\_Document\\_For\\_the\\_Biden-Harris\\_Administration](http://www.4cleanair.org/Transition_Document_For_the_Biden-Harris_Administration)).

### **National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners**

NARUC is the national association for state and federal regulators of utilities. NARUC committees have recently explored equity through a focus on, “Developing Diversity, Energizing Equity, and Transforming Inclusion.” There was a panel in Nov. 2020 on “Recovery and Rebuilding with Equity in Mind” (<https://www.naruc.org/meetings-and-events/naruc-annual-meetings/2020-annual-meeting/agenda/>).

### **National Association of State Community Services Programs**

NASCSP’s mission is to increase capacity in States to achieve economic security and energy efficiency in low income communities. NASCSP keeps its members, the federal government, and other interested parties informed about issues related to Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) through its publications and training. It provide resources that focus on weatherization and health (<https://nascsp.org/wap/waptac/wap-resources/weatherization-plus-health/wx-plus-health-research-resources/>).

### **National Association of State Energy Officials**

NASEO is a national non-profit association for the governor-designated energy officials from each of the 56 states and territories. NASEO facilitates peer learning among state energy officials and advocates the interests of the state energy offices to Congress and federal agencies

(<https://www.naseo.org/about-naseo>). NASEO has a committee on equity that works with energy and climate equity experts to expand the understanding of income, racial, geographic, and other inequities and their impacts, and to apply equity principles to their work. Key priorities for the Committee include elevating the value of equity in policy making, equitable community engagement, and applying an equity lens to programs and policies (<https://www.naseo.org/issues/equity/committee>). The committee statement of purpose and value (<https://www.naseo.org/issues/equity/purpose>). There is a NASEO Board of Directors resolution: "Commitment to Equity, Access, and Inclusion" (<https://www.naseo.org/Data/Sites/1/naseo-commitment-to-equity,-access,-and-inclusion.pdf>). There is a document on equitable community engagement: "Designing Equity-Focused Stakeholder Engagement to Inform State Energy Office Programs and Policies" in July 2020 ([https://naseo.org/data/sites/1/documents/publications/13-0376\\_0549\\_000208-KOEHLER%20FINAL%20cover.pdf](https://naseo.org/data/sites/1/documents/publications/13-0376_0549_000208-KOEHLER%20FINAL%20cover.pdf)).

### **National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates**

NASUCA is an association of 55 consumer advocates "designated by the laws of their respective jurisdictions to represent the interests of utility consumers before state and federal regulators and in the courts" in 43 states and other places in the US (<https://www.nasuca.org/about-us/>.) The NASUCA Constitution states, "the purpose of NASUCA shall be to improve communication among members, to enhance their impact on public policy at the state and federal levels, provide a forum for exchange of information and ideas between members and other organizations, provide education and training opportunities for members, to protect the public interest, and otherwise to assist them in the representation of utility consumer interests."

### **National Conference of State Legislatures**

NCSL's mission is to advance the effectiveness, independence and integrity of legislatures, foster interstate cooperation, and facilitate the exchange of information. A July 2015 report on environmental justice (80 pp.) by the National Institute of Environmental Health Science (NIEHS) provides a history of environmental justice in the US and highlight significant projects to address environmental justice ([https://www.ncsl.org/documents/summit/summit2015/onlineresources/Advancing Environmental Justice NIEHS.pdf](https://www.ncsl.org/documents/summit/summit2015/onlineresources/Advancing_Environmental_Justice_NIEHS.pdf)). In July 2020, NCSL convened a webinar on energy equity. It included presentations on energy burden and energy efficiency, including side-by-side comparison of "PAYS" (pay-as-you-save), on-bill financing, and "PACE" (property assessed clean energy) (<https://www.ncsl.org/research/energy/energy-equity-and-affordability-state-policy-action.aspx>).

### **National Council on Electricity Policy**

NCEP is a project or affiliate of NARUC, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. NCEP is a platform for all state-level electricity decision-makers to share and learn from diverse perspectives on the evolving electricity sector (<http://electricitypolicy.org/>).

### **National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition**

NEUAC was formed in 2013 through the merger of the National Fuel Funds Network (NFFN) and the National Low Income Energy Consortium (NLIEC) (<https://neuac.org/>). NEUAC's mission is to heighten

awareness, foster public-private partnerships, address energy needs. While there is no explicit mention of energy equity or environmental justice in NEUAC statements, the focus of NEUAC is equity and justice through service to assist low-income consumers and communities with energy-related needs.

### **National Energy Assistance Directors Association**

NEADA represent state governments, facilitate sharing of state practices, demonstrate the effectiveness of energy assistance, research and provide information to states (<https://neada.org/about-us/>).

### **National Governors Association**

NGA is the voice of the leaders of 55 states, territories, and commonwealths. (<https://www.nga.org/about/>). The NGA has conducted webinars that touch on issues of energy equity and environmental justice/

### **National Regulatory Research Institute**

NRRI is the research arm of NARUC, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. Its mission is to serve state utility regulators by producing and disseminating relevant, high-quality research that provides the analytical framework and practical tools necessary to improve their public interest decision-making (<https://www.naruc.org/nrri/>).

### **US Department of Energy**

In August 2020, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced “Equity in Energy Ambassadors and Champions,” a key feature of the agency’s push for an energy economy for everyone. The booklet, “Equity in Energy: An Energy Economy for Everyone” (January 21, 2021). It outlines seven “energy pillars” that set forth the scope of the effort: 1) STEM Enhancement, 2) Workforce Development, 3) Technical Assistance (workshops and seminars), 4) Energy Affordability, 5) Supplier Diversity, 6) Energy Innovation and Alternative Fuels, and 7) USDOE National Laboratories (research) (<https://www.energy.gov/diversity/downloads/equity-energy-economy-everyone>).

## **OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN THE ENERGY SECTOR**

### **American Association of Retired Persons**

AARP prepared a report in 2012 on equitable access to transportation alternatives for all people (<https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/learn/transportation-mobility/info-12-2012/policy-webinar-transportation-social-equity.html>). The AARP Public Policy Institute provides a six-topic policy issues (<https://www.aarp.org/ppi/issues/>).

### **American Council for an Energy Efficiency Economy**

ACEEE is a catalyst to advance energy efficiency, build a vibrant and equitable economy. ACEEE prepares a state energy efficiency scorecard and has publications on access in rural areas and on energy efficiency programs to serve low income customers. The "2020 Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Buildings VIRTUAL" August 17-21, 2020, had a track and panel on Energy Efficiency and Equity. This is a continuation of the effort in 2018 (<https://www.aceee.org/2020-buildings-summer-study-virtual>).

### **American Council on Renewable Energy**

ACORE is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit organization that unites finance, policy, and technology to accelerate the transition to a renewable energy economy. It focuses on collaborative advocacy across the renewable energy sector (<https://acore.org/mission-history/>). ACORE tracks clean energy sector employment in its monthly "Clean Energy Employment Initial Impacts from the COVID-19 Economic Crisis" series (<https://acore.org/clean-energy-covid-19-economic-crisis/>).

### **Asian Americans in Energy, the Environment and Commerce**

AE2C vision is to be the leading Asian American organization at the intersection of energy, environment and commerce matters in the US and abroad, bridging the values, business practices and cultures of Asia and the US (<https://www.ae2c.org/AboutAE2C>).

### **Catholic Charities USA**

The Mission of Catholic Charities is to provide service to people in need, to advocate for justice in social structures, and to call the entire church and other people of good will to do the same. <https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/>

### **Center for Human Rights and Environment**

CHRE is a non-profit organization aiming to build a more harmonious relationship between the environment and people. Its work centers on promoting greater access to justice and to guarantee human rights for victims of environmental degradation, or due to the non-sustainable management of natural resources, and to prevent future violations. (<https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/partners/center-human-rights-and-environment-cedha>)

## Coalition for Community Solar Access

CCSA is a national coalition of businesses and non-profits working to expand customer choice and access to solar for all American households and businesses through community solar (<http://www.communitysolaraccess.org/about-us/>). CCSA provides its core principles (<http://www.communitysolaraccess.org/about-us/ccsa-core-principles/>). CCSA believe that community solar improves energy equity using a model known as “solar for all” to removes barriers that have made it difficult for overburdened communities to participate in clean energy revolution. CCSAA is tracking a bill in New Jersey ([https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/S2500/2484\\_11.PDF](https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/S2500/2484_11.PDF)) that addresses clean energy and energy efficiency programs for overburdened communities. The NJ state regulator maintains information here (<https://njcleanenergy.com/renewable-energy/programs/community-solar>) about a Community Solar Energy Pilot Program.

## Energy Foundation

The Energy Foundation makes grants to support education and analysis to promote non-partisan policy solutions that advance renewable energy and energy efficiency while opening doors to greater innovation and productivity -- growing the economy with dramatically less pollution. The mission of the Energy Foundation is to secure a clean and equitable future to tackle the climate crisis. It offers statements on racial equity and diversity (<https://www.ef.org/about-us/>).

## Food and Water Watch

Food and Water Watch adopted a mission to mobilize people to reclaim their political power, hold our elected officials accountable, and resist corporate control to ensure we all have the essential resources we need to thrive. (<https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/about>). Food and Water Watch considered the patterns of the energy industry in committing what is considers environmental injustice (<https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/insight/take-wild-guess-which-communities-power-plants-have-ended>).

## Greenlining Institute

The Greenlining Institute envisions a nation where communities of color thrive and race is never a barrier to economic opportunity. Because people of color will be a majority of the population by 2044, America will prosper only if communities of color prosper. Greenlining advances economic opportunity and empowerment for people of color through advocacy, community and coalition building, research, and leadership development. In a 2019 report, “Equitable Building Electrification: A Framework for Powering Resilient Communities,” the Greenlining Institute addressed equitable electrification of buildings. It addresses challenges that electrification presents for low-income communities, including the large percentage of whom are renters ([https://greenlining.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Greenlining\\_EquitableElectrification\\_Report\\_2019\\_WEB.pdf](https://greenlining.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Greenlining_EquitableElectrification_Report_2019_WEB.pdf)).

## GRID Alternatives

The mission of Grid Alternatives is to build community-powered solutions to advance economic and environmental justice through renewable energy. There is a page on “Commitment to Equity” (<https://gridalternatives.org/who-we-are/commitment-to-equity>).

## Hispanics in Energy

HIE is a public benefit non-profit corporation designed to facilitate Hispanic inclusion in America's energy industry (<https://www.hispanicsinenergy.com/about-us.html>).

## Initiative for Energy Justice

IEJ is composed of lawyers entrenched in the policy debates concerning the nation's transition away from fossil fuels and an extractive economy towards an equitable and renewable energy future, with direct connections to communities working on that transition (<https://iejusa.org/about/>). IEJ aims to: contribute to a bottom-up movement of energy justice, providing frontline communities well-supported policy research and workable transactional models and provide city and state policymakers with concrete energy policy frameworks and best-practice tools that foreground equity.

## Just and Equitable Transition

JET is a website (<https://www.justandequitable.org/>) that provides resources. It is described as "Tools to Help Plan for and Fund a Just & Equitable Transition from Fossil Fuel Power Plants and Mining."

## National Association of Minority Contractors

NAMC provides access, advocacy and development for members in collaboration with strategic alliances." NAMC is the oldest minority construction trade association in the United States. The association represents the interests of millions of skilled minority workers across the country (<https://namcnational.org/>).

## National Consumer Law Center

NCLC maintains expertise in consumer law and energy policy to work for consumer justice and economic security for low-income and other disadvantaged people, including older adults, in the U.S. (<https://www.nclc.org/about-us/about-us.html>). NCLC works with nonprofit and legal services organizations, private attorneys, policymakers, and federal and state government and courts across the nation to stop exploitative practices, help financially stressed families build and retain wealth, and advance economic fairness. NCLC has recently released a guide for state policymakers on smart communities (<https://www.ncsl.org/research/energy/ncsl-report-examines-rewards-realities-of-smart-communities-magazine2021.aspx>). NCLC tracks state policies through a database (<https://www.ncsl.org/research/energy/energy-equity-and-affordability-state-policy-action.aspx>).

## NRDC

NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council) works to safeguard the earth—its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends (<https://www.nrdc.org/about#mission>). In a 2019 blog, NRDC explained the link between equity and environmental law (<https://www.nrdc.org/experts/sharon-buccino/e-equity>).

## RMI

RMI (formerly known as the Rocky Mountain Institute, <https://rmi.org/about/>), is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organization of experts across disciplines working to accelerate the clean energy

transition and improve lives (<https://rmi.org/about/>). A May 2018 blog on [Social Equity, Affordable Housing, and the Net-Zero Energy Opportunity](#) addresses the ways in which highly efficient homes can help families with a high energy burden. RMI states that "access to energy, and especially clean, reliable, and equitable energy, is crucial for economic development (<https://rmi.org/impact/energy-access/>).

### **Sierra Club**

The Sierra Club is the most enduring and influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States. It maintains information related to activities on equity (<https://www.sierraclub.org/topics/equity>) and environmental justice (<https://www.sierraclub.org/topics/environmental-justice>).

### **Salvation Army**

Salvation Army, an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church, focuses on meeting human needs without discrimination (<https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/about/>). It provides local services that match local needs, as well as services for the aging, for Veterans, and the homeless.

### **Urban Institute**

The Urban Institute is trusted source for unbiased, authoritative insights that inform consequential choices about the well-being of people and places in the United States (<https://www.urban.org/>). The Urban Institute conducted a forum on "Equity Imperative: Leveraging Technology to Advance Inclusion" in June 2020 (<https://www.urban.org/equity-imperative>). "Choosing Equity" was the focus of an August 28, 2020 letter on the impacts of COVID (<https://www.urban.org/evidence-and-ideas-change/choosing-equity>).



EQUITY IN A  
CLEAN ENERGY  
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