

## DRAFT WORKING DOCUMENT

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE DEFINITIONS

**Climate Justice:** Remediation of the impacts of climate change on poor people and people of color, and compensation for harms suffered by such communities due to climate change. (Initiative for Energy Justice)

**Distributional Equity:** ensures that programs and policies result in fair distributions of benefits and burdens across all segments of a community, prioritizing the highest need. (The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy)

**Energy Burden:** Amount of overall household income spent to cover energy costs. (Initiative for Energy Justice).

**Energy Justice:** 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 disproportionately harmed by the energy system. (Initiative for Energy Justice)

**Environmental Justice:** A concept that embraces the principle that all people and communities are entitled to equal protection under environmental law. It means fair treatment of all people – regardless of race, color, or national origin – and requires stakeholder involvement in the implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2016)

**Equity:** When race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes and outcomes for all groups are improved. (Government Alliance on Race and Equity)

**Fair Treatment:** A concept central to the application of EJ that affirms that no community, group, or people bear an unbalanced share of the burdens of activities that diminish the quality of natural resources or the quality of the environment. Nor should any community, group, or people otherwise be subject to disproportionate risk in citing or development of processes that affect decision making regarding natural resources or the environment. Communities, groups, or people share in the benefit of government policies.

**Vulnerable Populations:** Populations identified using demographic and environmental indicators including exposure to air pollution, water pollution, and waste management. Populations with a historically disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards related to race, income, and/or language access, amongst other criteria. **Meaningful Engagement:** which is that all people with a stake in any action resulting in the use, conservation, development, or exploitation of natural resources affecting the environment are involved in the development, implementation, and enforcement of laws affecting that use, development, and/or exploitation.