

Justice and New York's Landmark Climate Law: the Climate and Community Protection Act

IPPNY 35th Annual Fall Conference, September 15, 2020
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STATE OF HAWAII



Topics for Today

1. **Advocacy terms and concepts.**
2. **Climate and Environmental Justice in New York State- the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.**
3. **Implementation: Making the Law a Reality**

Advocacy Terms and Concepts



People's Climate March, NYC 2014

Advocacy Terms and Concepts

Environmental Justice

- Embraces the principle that “all people and communities have a right to equal protection and equal enforcement of environmental laws and regulations.”*
- Requires the just and equitable distribution of environmental benefits and harms (including cumulative impacts over time).

*Dr. Robert Bullard

Advocacy Terms and Concepts

Climate Justice

- Those who have done the **LEAST** to contribute to climate crisis will experience its most devastating impacts **FIRST**
- Those that have contributed the **MOST** have an elevated responsibility to address the root causes of climate crisis
- Built upon and came after EJ

Advocacy Terms and Concepts

Energy Justice: energy systems must be

- **Available, affordable and sustainable.**
- **Developed with due process, transparency, accountability and responsibility.**
- **Fair and equitable among and for generations over time.***

*Sovacool and Dworkin (2013); Salter, Gonzales and Kronk-Warner (2018)

Advocacy Terms and Concepts

- **“Just Transition”- ensuring that fundamental systems change powers a move to new economic systems (for example, from an extractive to a regenerative economy)**
 - **Is a longer held movement philosophy**
 - **has roots in the labor movement and is often used in that context**

Advocacy Terms and Concepts

- **“Green New Deal”**- a specific resolution in congress that has grown into a broader idea that a clean energy transition can also create a more just society. Causes confusion because it
 - has been appropriated widely
 - Is also used to describe neoliberal “clean energy economy” ideas that may or may not be justice focused

Links

Online Resources

- Links, videos and tools from Dr. Robert Bullard
<https://drrobertbullard.com/learn-about-environmental-justice/>
- Climate Justice Alliance
<https://climatejusticealliance.org>
- WeAct for Environmental Justice
<https://www.weact.org>
- New York City Environmental Justice Alliance
<https://www.nyc-eja.org>

Energy, Environmental and Climate Justice in New York State



NY Renews Rally at the NY State Capitol, June 2019

Energy Justice in New York State

The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (2019)

- The nation's most ambitious state climate law (100 percent net-zero economy wide by 2050).
- Includes the nation's most robust energy justice provisions.

<https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2019/s6599>

Energy Justice in New York State

Climate Justice

- Includes a goal that 40% of state spending to fight climate crisis and create a clean energy economy be directed to disadvantaged communities (no less than 35%).

Energy Justice in New York State

Environmental Justice

- Requires that State contracts do not disproportionately burden disadvantaged communities.
- Requires that emissions and co-pollutant reductions are prioritized in disadvantaged communities.
- Creates a community air monitoring program to develop a measurable baseline for air quality improvement.

Energy Justice in New York State

Process

- **Creates a Climate Action Council to develop a scoping plan.**
- **Creates a Just Transition Working Group and a Climate Justice working group to advise the Council.**
- **Utilizes an Environmental Justice Working Group.**
- **Creates six additional expert advisory groups in specialty areas.**

CLCPA Implementation

Making the Law a Reality

- **The Climate Action Council appointed the Climate Justice Working Group and empaneled over 90 stakeholders for the related panels.**
- **Focus now: ensuring that the programs and processes designed to reach the State's energy goals live up to the promise of justice and the CLCPA.**

THANK YOU!

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**Book available on Amazon and
EdwardElgar.com**

