

# Defining Climate Equity

A presentation to the Climate Initiatives Task Force

**PolicyLink**

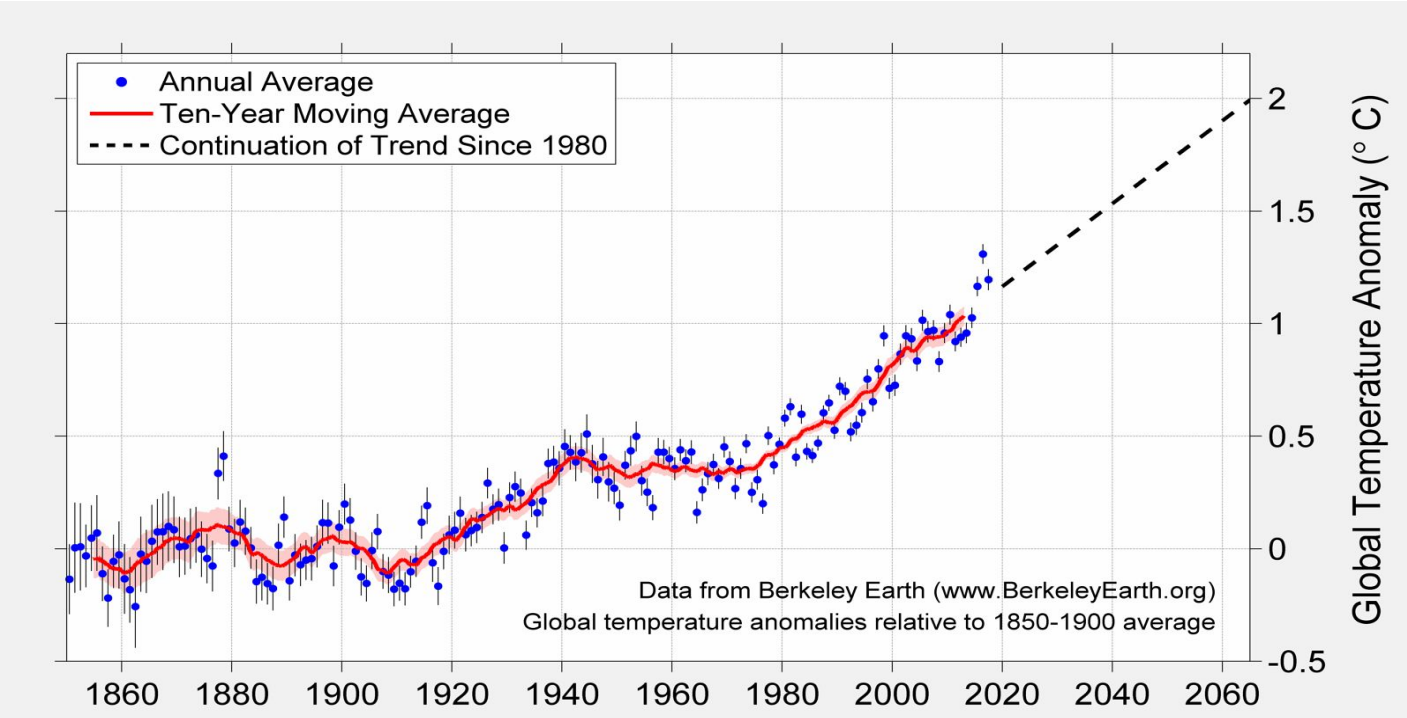


# Disproportionate Impact of Climate Change

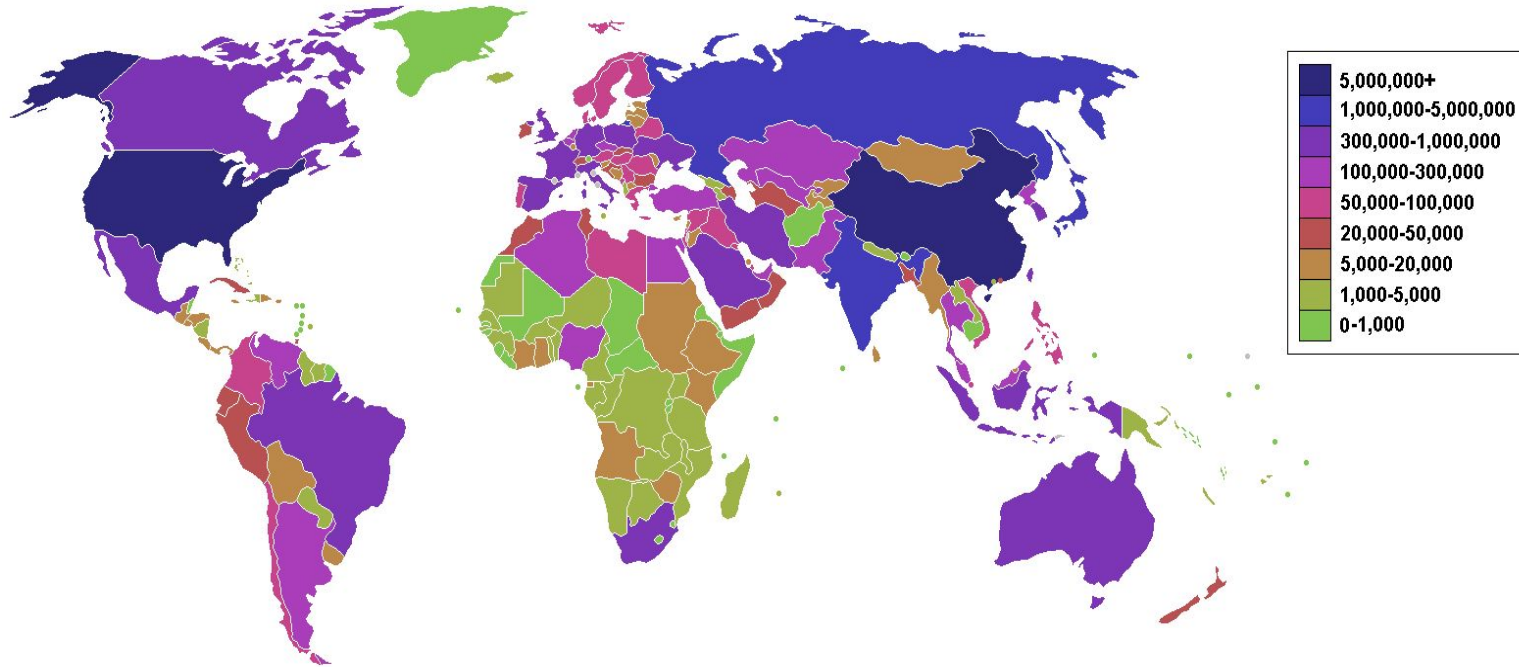
If the global mean temperatures warm by more than 2° Celsius, risks to ecosystems and livelihoods will surpass tolerable levels. Humans will likely no longer be able to inhabit many previously hospitable regions, and will suffer from increasingly variable and extreme weather conditions, resulting in disastrous consequences already occurring in stark preview. With present warming already at 1° Celsius, we are hurtling towards an irreversible climate crisis.



# Global Temperatures (1860-2060)



# CO2 Emissions by Country (2018)

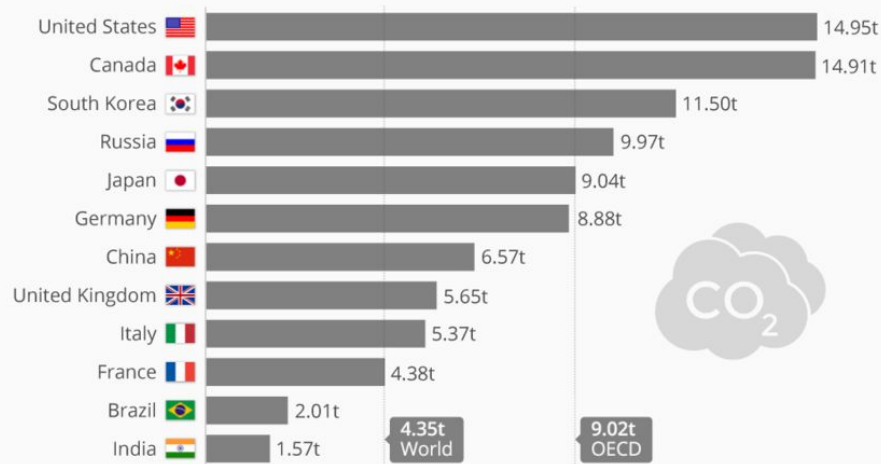


# Equity includes impact on global populations

- The wealthiest 1% of the world's population were responsible for the emission of **more than twice** as much carbon dioxide as the poorer half of the world from 1990 to 2015.
- North Americans consume 18% of the world's energy but constitute only 5% of the world's population.

## The Global Disparity in Carbon Footprints

Per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the world's largest economies in 2016\* (in metric tons)



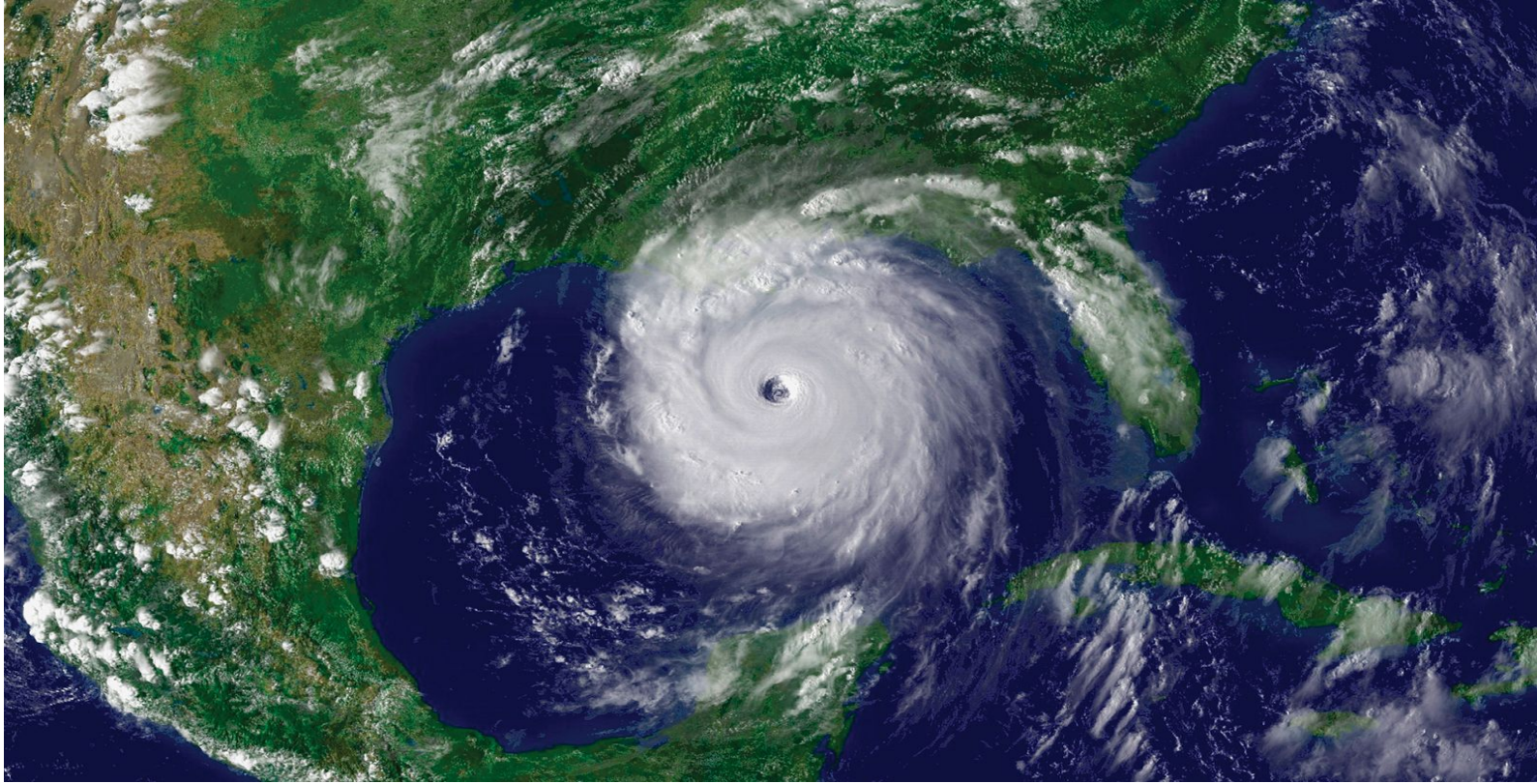
\* countries chosen based on 2017 nominal GDP

@StatistaCharts

Sources: International Energy Agency, International Monetary Fund

statista





# Ripple effects of Climate Change

- Loss of Life
- Displacement- (Internally Displaced Persons (IDP); Climate Refugees).
- Damage to natural systems.
- Damage to food and water systems.
- Damage to property and infrastructure.
- Damage to industrial systems- power plants; refineries; etc.
- High/Long Stress impact (PTSD)
- Disaster Capitalism
- Gentrification
- Continued Oppression

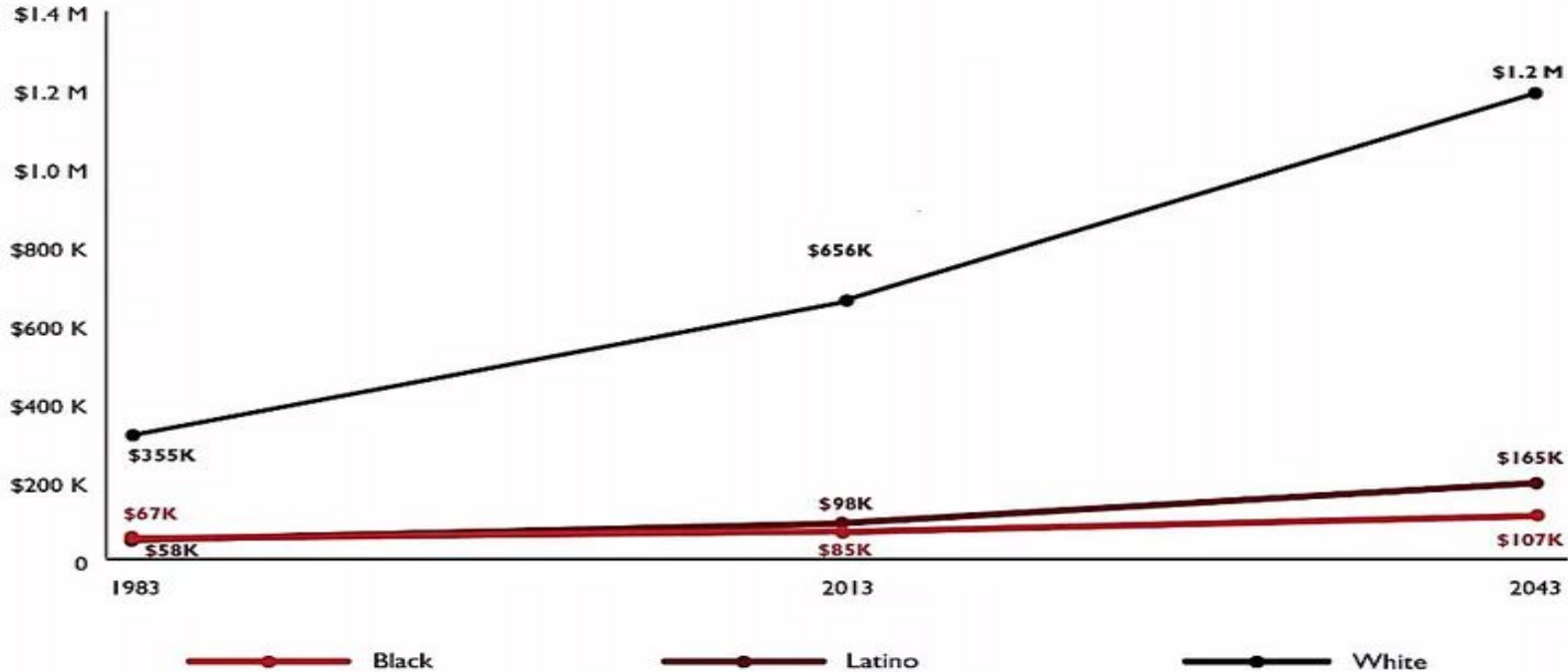


# Equity Centers People





# THE GROWING RACIAL WEALTH DIVIDE



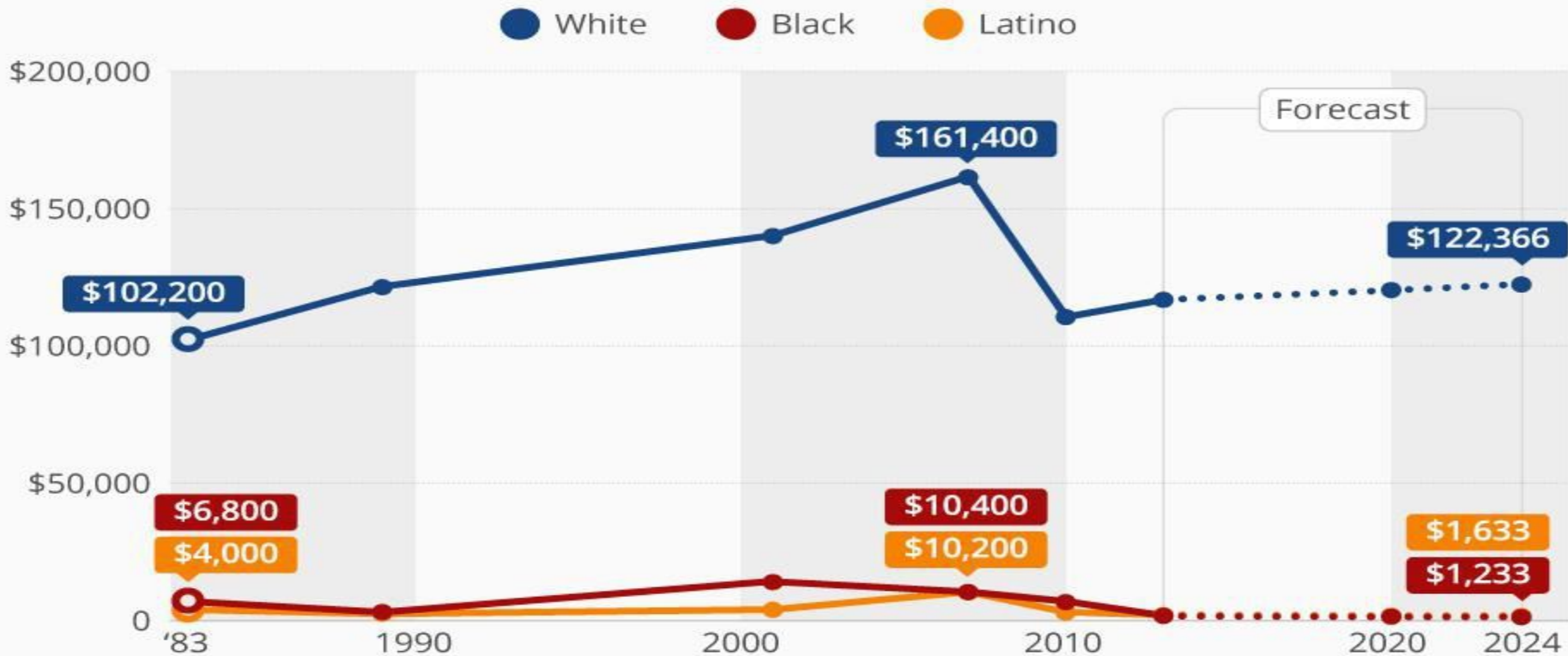
See methodology for more details on these calculations.

August 2016 CFED & Institute for Policy Studies. Researchers found that, as of 2013, the average amount of wealth held by White households was almost seven times that of Latino households and about eight times that of Black households.



# Racial Wealth Inequality Is Rampant In The U.S.

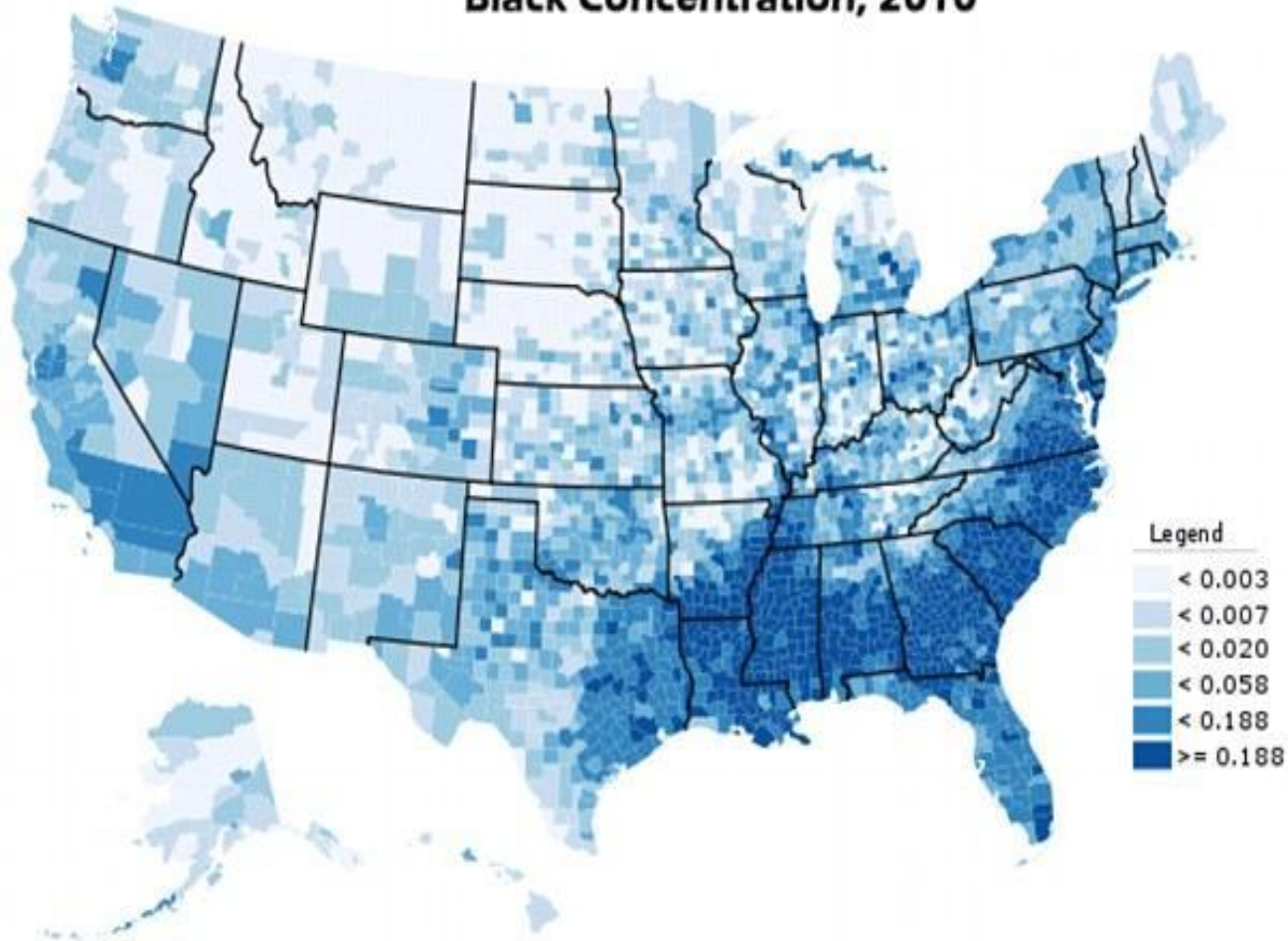
Median household wealth by race/ethnicity in the United States (1983–2024)



@StatistaCharts

Source: Prosperity Now & Institute For Policy Studies

## Black Concentration, 2010



Highest percentages of people living below the poverty level in US

1. Mississippi - 17.9 %
2. Arkansas - 14.8
3. Kentucky - 14.4
4. West Virginia - 13.9
5. New Mexico - 13.6
6. Alabama & Texas - 13.4
- 7. Louisiana - 13.3**
8. Tennessee - 13.1
9. South Carolina - 12.9
10. Georgia - 12.7



# Equity & New Opportunities



**Deep Structural Changes Needed.** The goal of mitigating GHG emissions will require deep structural changes in the state's economy. These changes will affect the conditions under which poor people succeed or fail to escape poverty. Emissions-reduction policies can increase energy use and/or food prices. But these same policies can be designed to protect, and even benefit, poor people—for instance, by using fiscal resources from financial accountability mechanisms to improve social protection.



# Equity Advisory Group

- Colette Pichon Battle, *Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy (Chair)*
- Chief Shirell Parfait-Dardar, *Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw*
- Dr. Kenny Cole, *Ochsner Health Systems*
- Dr. Craig Colten, *Louisiana State University*
- Dr. David Robinson Morris, *formerly of Xavier University*
- Charles Allen, *National Audubon Society*
- Ashleigh Gardere, *PolicyLink*
- Jessica Kemp, *Center for Planning Excellence*
- Steve Cochran, *Environmental Defense Fund*
- Elizabeth Williams Russell, *Foundation for Louisiana*
- Jasmine Brown, *Greater New Orleans, Inc.*
- Larry Sorapuru Jr., *St. John the Baptist*
- Rodney Wallis, *International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers*



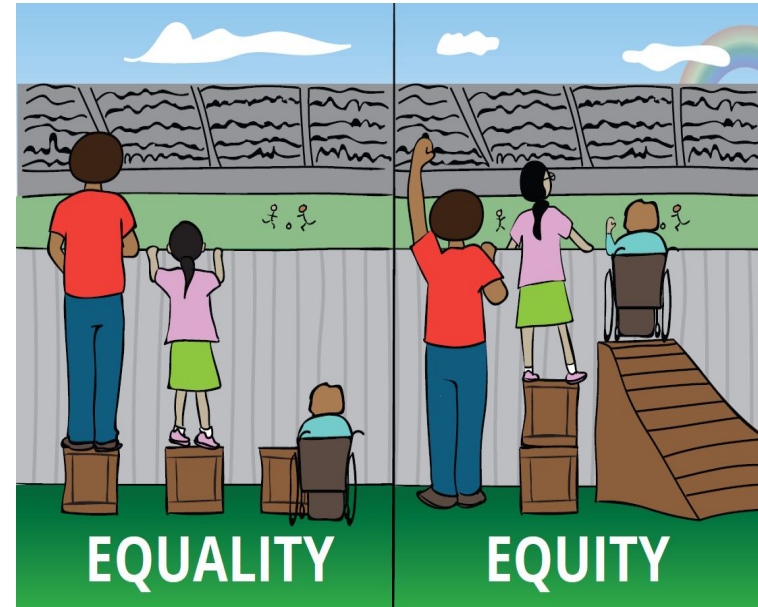
# Our Role: Equity Advisory Group

1. **Define climate equity** in the context of Louisiana, climate change, and emissions reduction
2. **Anticipate opportunities to increase equity** and identify systems that reduce or prevent equity so that they are considered in the design and implementation of greenhouse gas reduction strategies
3. **Advise committees and the Task Force** by identifying how proposed strategies to reduce emissions may mitigate or exacerbate historic or systemic inequalities
4. **Assist communities in the development and structure of strategies** and mechanisms to ensure equitable measures that **offer new opportunities for marginalized communities** and increase equity in our society



# What is Equity? *(from the Advisory Group)*

- Equity is **accountability & responsibility** for those benefiting from the root causes that drive climate change.
- Equity is **just & fair inclusion** into a society in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential. To unlock the promise of Louisiana, we must unleash the promise in us all.
- Equity means **equality of outcomes NOT equality of opportunity**. Starting from different places requires different mechanisms to reach that equality.
- To achieve equitable outcomes, we have to **acknowledge and account for the legacy and current impacts of past harm & exclusion**.



# Defining Equity in Climate Mitigation

- **Prioritize People Over Profit-making.** Climate equity is about **more than emissions**. We have to prioritize **human beings**. Marginalized communities must benefit in climate solutions & opportunities.
- **Address Root Causes.** Equity means acknowledging disproportionate impacts from climate change and how those are rooted in the historic and systemic oppression of Black, Indigenous and Poor communities.
- **Inclusion of the Whole.** Equity is not just economics or jobs. Equitable solutions address the interconnected impact of discrimination in land use, housing, transportation, access to health care and education. Our process must be equitable and (the entire process from beginning to end) must be inclusive.
- **Shared Values.** We need a clearly defined values-based approach incorporated into the work of all committees and advisory groups.





# Curb Cut Effect: Who benefits from equity?



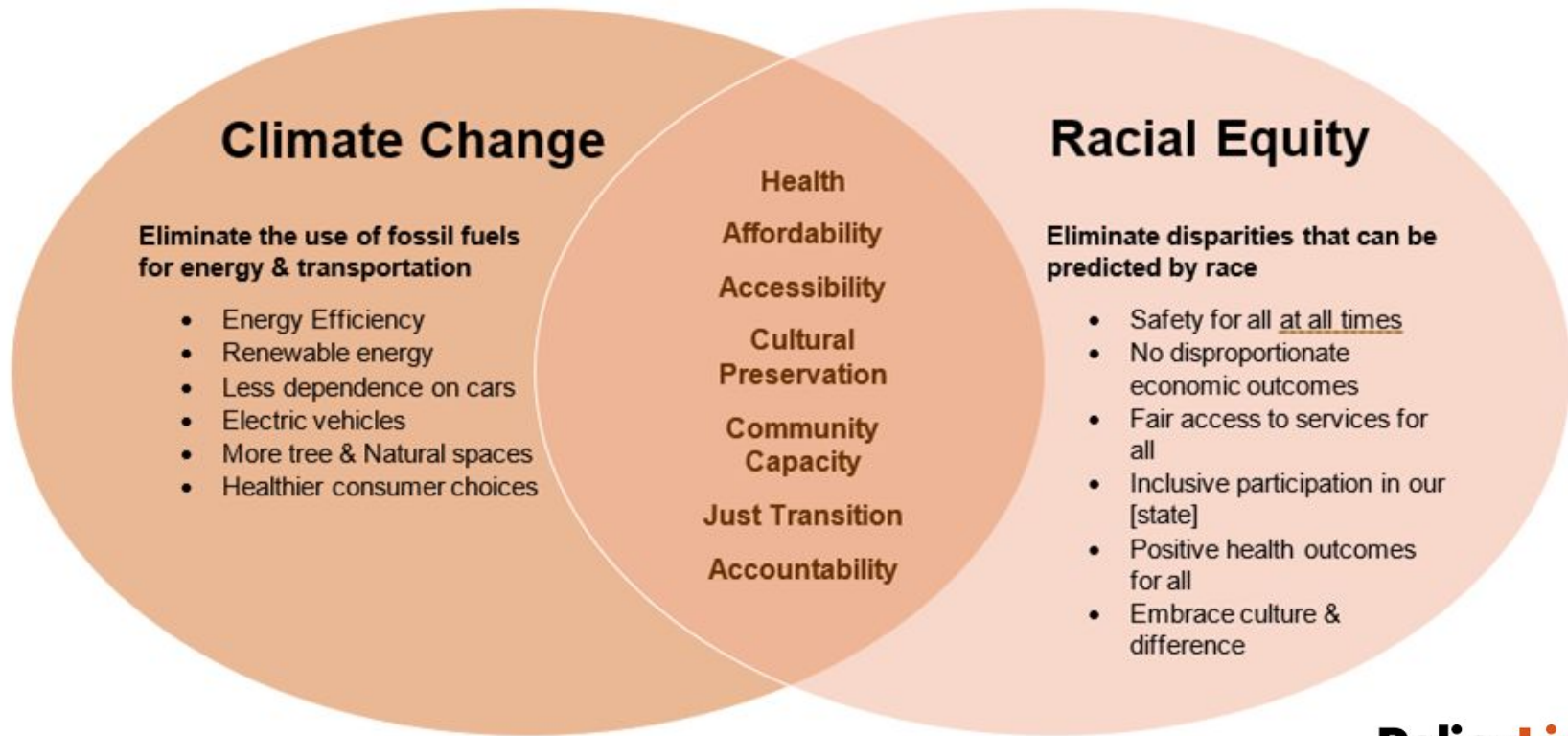
# Equity's effect on Louisiana's economy

- **GDP gains:** In 2015, Louisiana's gross state product (GSP) would have been 8% (**\$45.1 billion**) larger if there had been no racial gaps in income.
  - In 2015, the state was confronting a \$1.6 billion gap between revenues and expenses.
- **Increased economic output:** With full employment for all, Louisiana's economy would be **\$3.5 billion** stronger every year.
- By 2050, Louisiana's economic output would increase by \$43 billion, a projected 10% increase in Louisiana's GSP.
- These additional earnings would be fueled by the economic growth that a more productive workforce brings to meet growing demand, and the growth that families of color support with greater spending power and more financial security.

# Inequity hurts us all

- Inequity is not only bad for those at the bottom of the income spectrum, but places everyone's economic future at risk.
- The state and our businesses are **leaving money on the table** by operating in an economic environment that leaves so many people out.
- Reducing poverty and economic insecurity would lower the amount the government must spend on the safety net.

# What does Equity have to do with Climate Change?



# Climate Equity

## What is it?

Climate equity ensures the **just distribution of the benefits** of climate protection efforts and **alleviates unequal burdens** created by climate change.

## What is required?

This requires **intentional policies and projects** that simultaneously address the effects of and the systems that perpetuate both climate change and inequity.

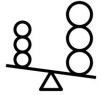
# Climate Equity in Action

## *(Setting a Strong Foundation)*

	<b>Traditional Approach</b>	<b>Equitable Approach</b>
<b>Governance</b>	Appoint representatives to boards and commissions, including public officials, scientists, and well-resourced environmental groups.	Establish goals for inclusive governance. Establish systems of engagement. Resource participation. Staff agencies for strong community liaison. Appoint representatives to boards and commissions, including trusted community partners, labor and EJ representatives. Consider who benefits? Who pays? Who decides? Translate input into results
<b>Data</b>	Use data to prove that climate change is real and make the case for climate action	<p>Use data to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prove climate change is real and make case for climate action</li> <li>• Identify the most vulnerable communities (disaggregate by race, income, housing tenure, unemployment, disability, transit dependence)</li> <li>• Target resources to the most vulnerable communities</li> </ul> <p>Create an inclusive process for analysis and deliberation. Set concrete goals. Measure progress</p>
<b>Engagement</b>	Host public meetings to engage interested constituents	<p>Engage communities, especially impacted underrepresented and underserved population, in the development and implementation of climate change-related policies and programs</p> <p>Ensure engagement through trusted community partners (CBOs, faith orgs, cultural orgs, housing and food systems). Ensure participation from labor and EJ representatives in all climate policy arenas</p>
<b>Investments</b>	Preserve existing or create new economic opportunities as a result of climate action	Consider the distribution of resources across race, class, age, geography, and industry, present disaggregated investment and outcomes data on emissions reduction and equity goals, make adjustments when disparate outcomes are likely or evident

# Basic Equity Assessment

*Guidance for Task Force Committees*



**Disproportionate Impacts:** Does the proposed action generate burdens (including costs), either directly or indirectly, to communities of color or low-income populations? If yes, are there opportunities to mitigate these impacts?



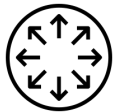
**Shared benefits:** Can the benefits of the proposed action be targeted in progressive ways to reduce historical or current disparities?



**Accessibility:** Are the benefits of the proposed action broadly accessible to households and businesses throughout the community — particularly communities of color, low-income populations, and minority, women and emerging small businesses?



**Engagement:** Does the proposed action engage and empower communities of color and low-income populations in a meaningful, authentic and culturally appropriate manner?



**Capacity building:** Does the proposed action help build community capacity through funding, an expanded knowledge base or other resources?

**PolicyLink**

# Basic Equity Assessment

*Guidance for Task Force Committees*



**Alignment and partnership:** Does the proposed action align with and support existing communities of color and low-income population priorities, creating an opportunity to leverage resources and build collaborative partnerships?



**Relationship building:** Does the proposed action help foster the building of effective, long-term relationships and trust between diverse communities and local government?



**Economic opportunity and staff diversity:** Does the proposed action support communities of color and low income populations through workforce development, contracting opportunities or the increased diversity of city and county staff?



**Accountability:** Does the proposed action have appropriate accountability mechanisms to ensure that communities of color, low-income populations, or other vulnerable communities will equitably benefit and not be disproportionately harmed?



# Equity in Task Force Committee Work

*By Committee*

Committee	Charge	Traditional Approach	Equitable Approach
Finance	Evaluate the economic impacts of proposed policy changes, including the potential for growth or development of new economic opportunities related to the adoption of certain policies or technologies	Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of proposed strategies and prioritize solutions (with least resistance) that show economic return	<p>Create a process to receive and review community-driven solutions</p> <p>Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of proposed strategies through an equity lens. Consider who benefits? Who pays? Who decides?</p> <p>Choose projects that maximize job opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Target jobs and projects to the people and communities most in need of jobs</li><li>• Partner with schools of train youth in underserved communities in resiliency jobs of the future (based on data)</li><li>• Create opportunities for local and minority-owned businesses</li></ul>
Legal	Anticipate legal hurdles that may arise in the design, implementation, and effect of GHG emission reduction strategies	Eliminate strategies that target vulnerable populations due to legal hurdles	Assist committees in development and modification of effective mechanisms to implement just, equitable emission reduction strategies

# Equity in Action

*Finance: Good Jobs for Target Populations*

## NEW ORLEANS, LA

City of New Orleans implemented a First Source requirement for the North Terminal construction project at **Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport**, employing over 2,000 workers

- Contractors and subs use the City of New Orleans as its first source for recruitment, referral and placement
- Community agencies recruit candidates and provide workforce readiness training with a one-year period of proactive post-placement support
- Community college and building trades provide technical training
- City sets **Targeted and Disadvantaged Worker goals** and employs Workforce Coordinators to monitor hiring participation goals
- **Workers were paid no less than \$14.68** in accordance with Davis Bacon wage rate

First Source requirement became model for New Orleans Local Hire policy



# Equity in Task Force Committee Work

*By Committee*

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Traditional Approach</b>	<b>Equitable Approach</b>
Science	Coordinate and interact with experts from the Sector Committees to develop GHG emission reduction strategies and offsets that collectively achieve the net GHG emission reduction goals	Focus analyses, recommendations, and interventions on big, industrial projects	<p>Design programs to incentivize low-carbon investments that are delinked from ownership of individual assets like homes or vehicles</p> <p>Support energy efficiency improvements to small commercial buildings, especially in underserved communities</p>
Agriculture, Forestry, Conservation, and Waste	Examine opportunities to reduce GHG emissions and increase carbon storage capacity through agriculture and forestry practices, conservation measures that promote natural carbon sinks, blue carbon opportunities, and waste management	<p>Invest in and incentivize tree planting, preservation and maintenance programs</p> <p>Incentivize waste reduction</p>	<p>Take into consideration equitable distribution of tree related benefits across neighborhoods and communities</p> <p>Aggressively pursue waste reduction, organics composting and recycling to achieve a new overall zero waste goal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote reuse</li><li>• Create eco-hubs</li><li>• Create a workforce program for the circular economy</li><li>• Offer incentives for products with lower environmental and social impact</li></ul>

# Equity in Action

*Science & Conservation: Low-Carbon Investments, Targeted Contracting, Community Power*

## **NORTHEAST PORTLAND, OR**

A **collaboration of four community organizations**--Habitat for Humanity, Hacienda CDC, NAYA and Verde--developed Living Cully a long-term, community-based and collaborative strategy to combat poverty by building economic, social and environmental assets for low-income Cully residents.

- Cully Park, 25 acres in size, is on the site of a former landfill in the Cully neighborhood, located in **Northeast Portland** directly south of the airport
- **70% of all wages paid for the park's construction went to businesses owned by people of color and women**
- "Cully Park is ... about a community claiming it's rightful share of economic, educational and environmental benefits." Former Director of Verde

**Transforms a brownfield into open space** that restores habitat, supports cultural expression, educates youth, provides economic opportunity, and establishes a community-based model for green infrastructure development



# Equity in Task Force Committee Work

*By Committee*

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Traditional Approach</b>	<b>Equitable Approach</b>
Land Use, Buildings, and Housing	Identify opportunities for state agencies to guide land use towards smarter growth patterns that not only reduce emissions but also provide multiple community benefits in the areas of transportation, housing, risk reduction, adaptation, public health and economic development	Amend building codes, land use and housing development plans to reduce GHG emissions	<p>Use regulatory and voluntary tools to promote affordable housing and accessible housing development along transit routes and in opportunity areas.</p> <p>Target home repair and retrofits to low-income households</p> <p>Offer competitive grants to pilot projects in underserved communities</p>
Manufacturing and Industry  Mining, Oil and Gas  Power Production, Distribution and Use	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Deploy cleaner sources of energy.	<p>Reduce emissions by state utilities to advance statewide climate goals</p> <p>Capture and sequester or reuse emissions. Offset emissions</p> <p>Encourage growth of renewable energy adoption by state utilities and end-use consumers</p>	<p>Ensure that any further energy-related price increases are offset by direct consumer rebates that effectively and efficiently reach these LMI households and workers</p> <p>Expand access to goods and services arising from clean, low-carbon development (e.g., renewable energy, low-carbon mobility).</p>

# Equity in Task Force Committee Work

*By Committee*

Committee	Charge	Traditional Approach	Equitable Approach
<p>Manufacturing and Industry</p> <p>Mining, Oil and Gas</p> <p>Power Production, Distribution and Use</p>	<p>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Deploy cleaner sources of energy</p>	<p>Reduce emissions by state utilities to advance statewide climate goals</p> <p>Capture and sequester or reuse emissions. Offset emissions</p> <p>Encourage growth of renewable energy adoption by state utilities and end-use consumers</p>	<p>Develop robust evaluation and collect data to monitor exposure, with a trigger to respond if cap and trade exacerbates pollution hotspots, particularly in disadvantaged communities</p> <p>Implement an Emissions Mapping Tool. Publicly report cap-and-trade transactions by facility. Place restrictions on facility-level trading and offset purchases at facilities in prioritized disadvantaged communities when necessary</p> <p>Source: UC Berkeley, Advancing Equity in California Climate Policy</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Examine opportunities to lower greenhouse gas emissions from highway and non-highway mobile emission sources</p>	<p>Transition public transit to low-emission technologies</p>	<p>Offer financial incentives to residents, businesses, and public agencies for purchasing and leasing zero- and near-zero emission vehicles</p> <p>Pilot commercial deployment of advanced clean trucks, buses, and equipment</p> <p>Demonstrate emerging zero and low-emission transportation technologies</p>

# Equity in Action

## *Transportation: Targeted Access to Good & Services*

### STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CA Governor Brown set a goal for 1.5 million zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) on California's roads by 2025.

SB 1275 created the Charge Ahead California Initiative, which will establish a variety of alternative transportation programs targeted at disadvantaged communities, including:

- EV car-sharing programs;
- Low-income financing options for EVs
- Rebates for replacing gas-guzzling “clunkers” with new or used hybrid, plug-in hybrid, or electric vehicles
- Vouchers for transit and car sharing

All of these initiatives aim to help meet Governor Brown's goal and will do so in a more equitable fashion than past programs.



# We don't have any more time to lose.



**PolicyLink**

