INTRODUCTION AND GOALS OF THE ENERGY DEMOCRACY SCORECARD

The impetus for the "Energy Democracy Scorecard" ("Scorecard") is a book by the same title. Energy Democracy: Advancing Equity in Clean Energy Solutions, gives voice to a growing movement of frontline organizations redefining the clean energy revolution to not only address climate change, but also the legacy of economic and social injustices that are integral to the extractive economy.

The values, principles, policies and strategies of the intersectional work highlighted in the book captured the enthusiasm and imagination of others throughout the country. As we traveled around various communities to spotlight these efforts, however, it was clear that this is still an emergent field of practice. There was an overwhelming demand for answers to "what is energy democracy"? A clearer definition is needed to not only to advance the field, but to also prevent such a powerful and bold idea from being "co-opted" or watered down by the mainstream. This scorecard seeks to minimize a more limited understanding of the scope of the problem and, more importantly, the potential for radical, meaningful change.

The "Energy Democracy Scorecard" offers communities a framework for radical shifts -- if only incrementally. As efforts grow for public investments and comprehensive climate policies, such as a Green New Deal, shifting how our energy infrastructure is controlled, developed, and owned is vitally important. And for communities that have been marginalized and burdened by the current energy system, or have lacked access to healthy energy systems, now is the time for a transition away from an extractive and burdensome energy system to a renewable and collective one. Clearly cities and states are moving towards a clean energy future. But where are they on the spectrum? New technologies are emerging and movements for fossil fuel divestments and 100% renewables abound. This is

good. What is better is even a recognition that these new energy investments must address environmental justice and historical health and income disparities of marginalized communities. Most of these transitional efforts, however, still fail the litmus test for true energy democracy. We must ask if our solutions:

- Recognize the rights of nature, along with human rights?
- Advance a generative economy that recognizes energy for its use vs. monetary value?
- Place renewable energy in public and community trust?
- Promote true democratic governance and local stewardship of our precious energy resources?
- Follow and honor the Jemez Principles of Environmental Justice organizing?
- Recognize humans as part of a larger eco-system that must be respected?
- View our climate change problem as a problem of the economy and not the environment?

None of this is easy. The current energy system is dominated by a concentrated effort to control power and property through profit-making and privilege. These are the same motives that the legacy of racism and the global slave economy was built from. Dismantling the fossil fuel economy will take struggle, not unlike what it took to dismantle the slave economy. But it takes a critical analysis of where we've been, where we are now, and vision of where we want to go. This scorecard helps. It represents the collective thinking and effort of numerous environmental, social and economic justice communities. It is the starting point for our energy democracy future.

ENERGY DEMOCRACY SCORECARD

In the spirit of energy democracy, this tool was developed with intention to be co-created through a participatory process leading to a collectively-owned product. Since its inception in the Spring of 2018, we have undergone a collaborative process working with multiple networks, organizations, and alliances to help shape how we could measure energy democracy. In this process, it became clear that participants wanted more than a static tool, but rather a tool that can be used to organize and build power, as well as give an assessment of where things stand, and the strategies that are needed to move forward.

To that end, "Scorecard" itself is not as straight-forward as a typical scorecard. It is not static, nor does it fully account for tester-bias, which can make it hard to have objective measurements year after year (though there is a possibility to do so, with the matrix). The "Scorecard" is really more of an organizing tool for community leaders to advance policies and projects that sustain the goals of energy democracy in their communities, towns, cities or counties, states, regions, and ultimately the national perspective on our energy system.

The "Scorecard" does not serve as a one-stop shop. This is meant to be a complementary tool to the other resources available for creating the vital political and economic shifts needed in this moment. A few examples (among many) of how this tool can be augmented include the following considerations:

- **Principles and values:** Review Climate Justice Alliance's (CJA) Principles for a Just Transition and Movement Generation's Just Transition Zine.
- **Specific policy language or interventions:** Review the 100% Network's Equitable and Just Building Blocks or the Energy Justice Institute's forthcoming Energy Justice Scorecard would be invaluable companions.
- **Ideas on how to implement projects and strategies:** See the forthcoming Energy Democracy Project's Resource Hub provides a critical space for connecting implementers, organizers and sharing ideas.

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THE "SCORECARD" HAS FOUR PRIMARY GOALS

1. Provide communities with **shared language and analysis** to deepen understanding about the energy system and how it relates to our day to day lives, including a specific focus on environmental justice, racial justice, economic justice, and local governance.

2. Build community power by providing a tool that can help assess where communities are situated on the path towards energy democracy and help identifystrategies needed for shifting power and policy.

3. Act as an **accountability tool** to push policymakers and institutional leaders who fail to meet the demands of our crises, or fail to address climate and energy policy through a race and economic justice lens.

4. Shift resources to frontline leadership. Energy democracy is only successful if we are building and investing in local and regional leadership, community-governed infrastructure, and building the political will for critical change. To this end, we hope that the scorecard is a resource for moving investment towards the brilliant local and regional organizing and movement-building that will make this shift possible.

OVERALL FRAMEWORK OF THE ENERGY DEMOCRACY SCORECARD

Before diving into the "Energy Democracy Scorecard," it is important to create a foundation for learning and understanding so that we are building shared analysis to avoid co-optation and also create consistency in policy and practices. This tool is a starting framework we defer to local frontline leadership to ensure the processes and outcomes are culturally appropriate and that the way of learning is adaptable and responsive. This tool envisions energy for our daily way of life with equitable access to clean energy as a critical component. How we define, use, and need energy is not rooted in a western, dominant culture perspective. While this tool cannot speak to the depth of different culturally-appropriate perspectives, we encourage readers and users to question their assumptions and blindspots to ensure that they are integrating a holistic lens to this work.

As guidance, we offer that people review the following principles, readings, and frameworks to help support some of this grounding, while listening to local frontline leadership to build out the best pathway of analysis.

- The Just Transition Zine by Movement Generation
- The Just Transition and Energy Democracy Platforms by Climate Justice Alliance
- Energy Democracy: Advancing Community Scale Solutions, by Denise Fairchild and Al Weinrub
- What can Abolitionists Teach us about Climate Change by Denise Fairchild
- Examples of Energy Democracy can be found here: https://energydemocracy.us/about/

Additionally, it might be important to understand energy systems, the grid, and the current policies around energy production and distribution. This tool does not fully address this however, we believe that this tool can be an added resource as community demystifies the energy system. Lastly, the Energy Democracy Scorecard is broken into four major issues/criteria:

- **Social Justice** addresses issues of racism, inequity, inequitable access, health, and land rights.
- **Regenerative Energy Systems** addresses the type of energy we use, pollution, energy policy goals, and energy infrastructure.
- **Moral Economy** addresses fair labor and wages, economic ownership, workforce development and training, finance, and just transition.
- **Governance** addresses how decisions are made, who controls the energy and political process, and where ownership ultimately lies.

We do not believe energy democracy is possible unless all four themes are addressed. While we encourage people to create modules for learning and look at categories that are applicable to them, we do ask that you continue to hold this holistic lens or approach, otherwise we will miss an opportunity to meet the goals that are collectively held here.

FIVE PLATFORMS OF THE ENERGY DEMOCRACY SCORECARD

The "Scorecard" has five platforms to be used, based on the goals and needs of the community using the tool. Each will have its own set of corresponding directions and print outs. This page briefly identifies these platforms, which can be found as an additional source in the months to come.

A. POPULAR EDUCATION

1. Flip Book: The flip book is geared towards community members and leaders seeking to build power and shared analysis around energy democracy. This is an interactive booklet that can be professionally printed or created through a DIY. The flipbook allows participants to engage with questions around the 4 criteria/issues of Energy Democracy and see how their community is either "extractive" or "Better, But Not Great" or "energy democracy." The flipbook offers visuals as well as descriptive prompts to help users. The flipbook can be used both as an organizing tool as well as an advocacy tool to lawmakers. The flipbook also includes strategy questions that support communities in identifying pathways forward to create change.

2. Playing Deck: The playing deck is geared towards community members and leaders seeking to build power and shared analysis around energy democracy. This is a game that allows participants to engage with questions around the 4 criteria/issues of Energy Democracy as well as dialogue the intersections of our energy system with housing, land, food, health, etc… to support shared learning and analysis. The deck also includes strategy questions that support communities in identifying pathways forward to create change.

B. ASSESSMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND ANALYSIS

1. Matrix: The Matrix is geared towards organizers, activists, policy-wonks, and community leaders who are familiar with energy democracy. This is a subjective scoring template that allows users to identify how well their community (town, city, county, state) is doing to achieve energy democracy. It allows users to see where they are successful and where there are areas for growth at both overaching and issues-specific levels. The matrix provides users with "technical" language and analysis to support community expertise in fighting for energy democracy.

2. Online Quiz: The Online Quiz is geared towards advocates and policymakers who are looking for a "comparative score." The online interactive feature is used to provide users with an interactive digital version of the matrix, but in question format that is more objective and provides a score that can be compared across geography.

C. ADVOCACY

3. Poster: The poster is geared towards communities, organizers, activists, and political leaders who are looking for a pop-ed tool to advance concepts. This is a DIY concept piece that offers strategic questions and ideas for the development of simple 1 page posters that can advance your vision for energy democracy that are uniquely situated to your local community.

THE MATRIX

HOW TO ENGAGE WITH THE MATRIX

Racial equity is both an outcome (the end goal we're seeking to achieve in our communities) and a process (a paradigm shift in the way we approach and do our work). In this vein, we encourage you to think about how the process of using the Energy Democracy Scorecard can help build community power and ownership. This work is iterative; communities should use the Scorecard on an ongoing basis to gauge progress and assess the impact of your strategies.

The steps below are a starting point to help you use the Scorecard in a way that supports your unique local context. Feel free to tailor and adapt the steps to meet your needs.

1. Identify a diverse group of people to help build out your local process for using the Scorecard, keeping in mind the following:

A. Demographic make-up (aiming for a good mix of race, class, gender, sexuality, gender identity, ability, etc.)
B. Organizational affiliation (If you are bringing together multiple groups or organizations, please be sure to center the voice and expertise of grassroots, frontline, and member-based organization within this process)
C. Background and knowledge related to local energy democracy efforts

2. Come to shared understanding around the purpose for utilizing the Scorecard in this moment. Is it for:

A. Community education / base building
B. Advocacy efforts
C. Identifying community solutions
D. Informing strategy and direction of programmatic or coalition efforts

3. Identify what scale you will be focused on. The scorecard is built in a way that can work within a local or statewide context, with some categories requiring some state knowledge.

4. Work through the scorecard starting with the "Social Justice" criteria/issues. Review each category and assess where your community currently is on a scale from "Extractive" to "Better, But Not Great" to "Energy Democracy".

A. There may be some fluidity within these scores, so the scorecard is set up to allow people to assess with some flexibility. For example, within the extractive column one could score a 0 or 1 (0 being fully extractive, 1 being mostly extractive but some elements of shifting towards energy democracy).
B. The five columns of assessment are:

Extractive: This column signifies a level where the dignity of labor, people's health, and the planet's wellbeing are utilized solely for profit, gain, and in violent and polluting ways.

Better, But Not Great: This column signifies some shifting away from fossil-fuel extraction and maybe even creating some community process and green job solutions, but without any racial equity or environmental justice focus (for example: all the solar panels in the city could be on wealthy white households).

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Energy Democracy: This column represents a paradigm shift completely away from an extractive economy, energy, and governance system to one that is regenerative, provides reparations, transforms the power structures, and create new governance and ownership practices.

The 5th Box: This goes beyond our co-created vision into a new future and creates space for the dynamic and changin times. If communities have a vision or idea that goes beyond, we ask that you utilize this 5th box for this idea. This is built from the model of the "4th Box" by the Center for Storybased Strategies (https://www.storybasedstrategy.org/the4thbox).

5. Review the sources to find localized data and information on the various categories in the Scorecard. Pay particular attention to data gaps that exist. Are there ways to use qualitative data to inform your thinking around the scoring?

6. Engage in group discussion about each of the categories, the existing data, and where people rank their community.

A. If you have a large group, you might want to find ways to break people up into smaller groups so that everyone's voice is heard
B. Have a facilitated conversation with the full group to finalize the scores
C. Be sure to capture feedback on why people voted the way they did. This will be helpful information as you move forward in the process

7. Add up the scores for each category and follow the guidelines in red to arrive at your final score for each theme. This will allow us to index the numbers.

8. Now visit the circle graph criteria holds all four criteria collectively. Circle the number on each theme, add up these numbers and divide by 4. This is your total "Energy Democracy Community Assessment Score"

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9. Determine next steps and strategy. A few things to keep in mind:

A. This tool is an iterative process and we encourage communities to continue revisiting the Scorecard over time.
B. Based on where your community lands on the energy spectrum (Extractive, Better, But Not Great, and Energy Democracy), identify some immediate next steps to help move along the spectrum.
C. Some questions to keep in mind:

- Who has decision-making power over energy systems?
- What additional data/information/stories do we need to have a deeper understanding of this type of energy system?
- What stakeholders need to be engaged in order to support our next steps?
- Who's most impacted by this energy system and have they been involved in our process to date? If not, are there ways to engage those communities in determining strategy?
- How can we use the Scorecard to support our advocacy and organizing efforts in this area?

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Key Principles: Reparations and Reinvestment in energy, environment, and climate.
Social justice is equitable access to rights, opportunities, economic wealth, and social privilege, not pre-determined by race, ethnicity, class, gender, or any other socially-determined oppression.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

	Extractive (0-1)		Better, but NOT Good or Great (2-5)				Energy Democracy (6-7)		Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Environmental Racism: Health Impacts	There is an undue burden on people's lives due to active energy extraction (uranium mining and cancer, fracking and impact on water, pollution and asthma). For example, are asthma rates or cancer prevalence 2 or more times higher than the state and/or national average and catastrophically higher in Black, Brown and Indigenous communities		There remains an undue burden on people's lives due to legacy and some active energy extraction (uranium mining and cancer, fracking and impact on water, pollution and asthma) For example, are asthma rates or cancer prevalence slightly higher than the state and/or national average and catastrophically higher in Black, Brown and Indigenous communities		There remains an undue burden on people's lives due to legacy energy extraction (uranium mining and cancer, fracking and impact on water, pollution and asthma) but there are no more active extractive practices. For example, are asthma rates or cancer prevalence at or near the state and/or national average and but still higher in Black, Brown and Indigenous communities		There is no longer any undue burden on people's lives due to legacy energy extraction as this has been remediated and restored. For example, are asthma rates or cancer prevalence below the state and/or national average and there is no racial disparity.		
Environmental Racism: Siting of Energy Plants	Power Plants exist and are expanded. Combustion exists in low-income communities of color, while natural gas plants are being built in low-income and communities of color. Waste incineration plants remain, and diesel particulate matter is high		No fossil-fuel or waste incineration plants in communities of color, but there remain high concentrations of diesel particulate matter		There are no fossil fuel plants, waste incinerators, or abnormal concentration of diesel particulate matter		Communities of color have self-determination in where renewable energy projects are deployed and situated.		
Indigenous Sovereignty or Recognition	There is no recognition of Indigenous or First Nations land. The principles of Free, Prior, Informed Consent are ignored. There is land is utilized for extractive energy infrastructure		Recognition of Indigenous First Nations land, but principles of Free, Prior, Informed Consent are not applied. There no active extractive energy use for the land, however past pollution		Recognition of Indigenous land. The principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent are respected. Indigenous peoples sit at energy planning decision-making processes		Recognition and reparation to Indigenous peoples for the land, energy systems and planning prioritize Indigenous communities		

Land Justice (Discplacement/ Gentrification)	Renewables and passive housing redline communities; No ordinance guaranteeing benefits for low-income and Black and Brown communities from new "green" development. In rural communities, land is continually extracted, mineral rights are granted to fossil fuel companies for fracking, pipeline development cuts across properties, and petrochemical plants are built on farm land or other land.	Some solar panels are put on affordable housing, but no ordinance guaranteeing benefits for low-income and Black and Brown communities from new "green" development. In rural communities, land is continually extracted, no new fracking, but pipelines are developed across property, and petrochemical plants are built on farm land or other land.	Solar panels and efficiency are priorities for affordable housing. Ordinance exists guaranteeing that new "green" development must provide more than 20% affordable housing and subsidized (or community owned/governed) energy to impacted residents. In rural communities, there is no more fossil fuel extractive practices, however large-scale renewable energy systems without community control are placed on land.	Solar panels and efficiency are priorities for current and new affordable housing units. Ordinance exists guaranteeing that new "green" development must provide more than 50% affordable housing and guarantee impacted residents own the energy generation. Community Land Trusts are in place as a tool to support any green development. In rural communities, selfdetermination on land-use and farming practices are restorative, deforestation does not exist, and renewable energy projects are developed by community-processes and ownership	
Energy Burden	More than 10% of HH budget goes to energy, with Black, Brown and Low-income/ wealth residents having triple the rates of energy burden compared to Whites. There are no state or city policies, or utility programs, that keep cost of energy below 6%	6 - 10% of HH budget goes to energy, with Black, Brown and Low-income/wealth residents having disproportionately higher rates of energy burden. There are limited state and city programs to subsidize energy costs	Less than 6% of HH budget goes to energy, with Black, Brown and Low-income/ wealth residents not having disproportionate higher rates. The city or state has a rate cap of 6%, so that residents pay 6% or less of their income onenergy (which may mean wealthier households pay more)	There are no energy burdens, because energy is seen as a commons and public good – provided equitable across the community.	
Poverty	Poverty is triple the national rate of 12.3% for Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities poverty is 3 – 4 times higher compared to Whites	Poverty is double the national rate of 12.3% for Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities poverty is 2 times higher compared to Whites.	Poverty is equal to the national rate of 12.3% for Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities poverty is at or slightly higher compared to Whites	Poverty is no longer an acceptable economic status or measurable in community	
Community Benefits	No labor/community workforce standards in energy projects	There is minimal supplier diversity. Renewable energy developers or public energy projects meet the WMBE average of other industries	Renewable energy developers develop community benefit agreements with 50% local job guarantees of living wage jobs. Public energy projects are above average in WMBE contracting	Renewable energy developers either co-share ownership of project, or create a transition to community ownership within a community-driven timeframe. 70% of the jobs are local guarantees with living wage jobs	

Right to Energy	Community members lack access to any consistent energy supply. Energy is seen as a commodity that does not respect or hold sacred Indigenous tradition and values. Utilities have a disconnection rate above 5% (shutting-off electricity or heat to residential households who do not pay their energy bill) and families are disconnected multiple times in a year	Community members lack access to any consistent energy supply. Energy is seen as a commodity that does not respect or hold sacred Indigenous tradition and values. Utilities have a disconnection rate between 2 - 5% (shutting-off electricity or heat to residential households who do not pay their energy bill) and families are only disconnected once	Anyone who wants access to consistent energy source, has it (this could mean "off-the grid") and Indigenous tradition and values on energy are recognized and respected. Utilities have a disconnection rate below 2% and families are only disconnected once and receive reconnection for free	Indigenous tradition and values of energy are centered where necessary Everyone has a access to energy – offgrid on on-grid. Utilities cannot disconnect residents and energy payments are handled in a mediated fashion holistically	
Access to Renewables	There are no programs for lowincome or low-wealth people to access solar or other renewable energy technologies	Low-income/Low-wealth people can lease renewable energy systems, but do not own, Tenants have no access to renewables	There are programs like community-solar or renewable energy purchasing cooperatives that allow low-income/lowwealth people, renters and limited home-owners to participate	There are programs like community-solar or renewable energy purchasing cooperatives that allow lowincome/low-wealth people, renters and limited homeowners to participate with dedicated prioritization and non-extracting financing for EJ communities, Black and Brown communities	
Access to Efficiency	Energy Efficiency programs are implemented by utilities and only provide rebates for consumption of new products, but do not support deeper housing or building efficiency improvements (like windows, insulation, etc…)	Energy Efficiency programs are only reward consumption of new products, but do not support deeper housing or building efficiency improvements (like windows, insulation, etc…)	There are programs that provide deeper housing retrofits for tenants and homeowners, however there are no nonextractive funding streams to support participation.	There are public programs that invest in deep retrofits for homeowners and tenants with grants and non-extractive financing for lowincome/low-wealth people to participate with dedicated prioritization of EJ communities and Black and Brown communities	
Transportation System	In urban areas, there is no viable public transit system outside of the urban-center. Rural community are completely disinvested	In urban areas, public transit systems connect the majority of a city and its immediate suburbs, however commute times, effective transit opportunities, and fare prices remain inequitable for people of color, while new transit lines displace communities. Rural communities have some options, but are contracted without any accountability	In urban areas, public transit systems connect the majority of a city and its immediate suburbs, and commute times and transit access is equitable; however transit systems planning lacks community input and voice and could lead to displacement without intention. There are some county or regional transit options that support access for rural communities	In urban areas, public transit systems connect the majority of a city and its suburbs without inequity in commute times, pricing, or access. Communities are engaged in transit planning and decisions in both urban and rural communities, and rural residents have affordable, accessible, reliable, and appropriate public transit options	

REGENERATIVE ENERGY SYSTEMS

Key Principles: Reparations, Reinvestment in energy justice, environmental and climate justice.
Regenerative Energy values a system that replenishes/heals/fortifies our natural and human environments and recognizes them as interdependent. It is renewable, resilient, sustainable and collectively owned.

REGENERATIVE ENERGY SYSTEMS

Category	Extractive (0-1)		Better, but NOT Good or Great (2-5)				Energy Democracy (6-7)		Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Culturally Appropriate Energy Systems	There is an operating assumption by everyone that energy is needed to be taken and harnessed from the earth and/or solar system as a human-centric right, without a deeper understanding of its intersections to the broader ecosystem		There is an operating assumption mostly by elected officials and businesses that energy is needed to be taken and harnessed from the earth and/or solar system as a human-centric right, without a deeper understanding of its intersections to the broader ecosystem		There is openness from community members (but not elected officials) to understand energy through a non-western and non-humanspecific perspective. Access to energy could still be seen as a right, but within a more holistic understanding and relationship to the earth		There is openness from everyone to understand energy through a non-western and nonhuman-specific perspective. Access to energy could still be seen as a right, but within a more holistic understanding and relationship to the earth		
Renewable Energy Goals	A commitment to "80% carbon emissions by 2050" (80x50), but not explicit renewable energy goals exist, nor any carve out for local generation		80x50 commitment and renewable energy procurement or generation goals are less than 50% by 2035, no carve out for local generation		Goals go beyond 80 x 50 to 100% renewables by 2050, with less than 10% carve-out for local renewables		Goals go beyond 80 x 50 to 100% renewables by 2040, with at least 50% carve-out for local renewables with explicit commitment to invest in of Black, Brown, Indigenous and EJ communities		
Renewable Energy Generation and Procurement	Community achieves renewable energy goals by buying and selling renewable energy credits and all external energy generation is held by generating utilities or private third-party entities with no community ownership		80% of renewable energy on grid is through renewable energy credits 20% of energy is locally generated, but controlled by private utilities or third-party providers with no community ownership		50% of renewable energy on grid is through renewable energy credits. 30% is locally generated but controlled by private utilities or third-party providers with no community ownership 20% is communityowned/ governed and locally generated and decentralized energy systems and/ or power purchasing agreements with community-owned/governed projects in the state or region, no racial equity		100% is communityowned/ governed/governed and locally generated and decentralized energy systems and/or power purchasing agreements with community owned/governed projects in the state or region. There is clear investment and prioritization of Black, Brown, Indigenous and EJ led projects.		

Energy Source	Energy is almost all extractive coming from sources such as: natural gas, coal, nuclear, coal waste, oil, and nuclear	Energy efficiency is recognized as first conversation fuel, with deep investments in efficiency, but less than 50% of energy is from renewable resources	Energy efficiency is recognized as first conversation fuel, with deep investments in efficiency, and 50 – 90% of energy is from renewable resources	Energy efficiency is recognized as first conversation fuel, with deep investments in efficiency, and 100% Renewable Energy	
Energy Resilience	The energy system is completely centralized and the region could lose power due to a brown-out, black-out, or climate disasters	The energy system is still centralized, less than 10% of energy system has community microgrids around the region that can provide power in case of disasters or grid failure	30% of the local energy grid is decentralized with communityowned/governed systems and microgrids	Over 50% of the local energy grid is communityowned/ governed systems and microgrids, there is stability and easy access to energy resources in case of any disaster or grid-failure	
Electricity Consumption	Over 12,071 kWh per household each year	Around 10,000 kWH per household each year	Between 5,000 – 10,000 kWh per household each year	Less than 5,000 kWh per household each year	
Transportation Use	Over 75% of urban and 90% of suburban residents rely on single-occupancy vehicles for daily commute, due to lack of quality and accessible public transit. Rural residents do not have options for networked or alternative transit models	Over 50% of urban and 75% of suburban residents rely on single-occupancy vehicles for daily commute, due to lack of quality and accessible public transit. Rural residents do not have options for networked or alternative transit models	Between 25% - 50% of urban and 50%- 75% of suburban residents rely on single-occupancy vehicles for daily commute, with increased commitment to bus, fixed rail, and other public transit models that are more efficient and affordable. Rural residents have options, similar to para-transit models of bus and van combinations, however are often privatized or public/private	Over 67% of urban and residents use public transit that is efficient and affordable. Rural residents have a fully invested and appropriate public transit model that meets community needs	
Transportation Fuels	There is little to no public infrastructure for electric vehicles, public agencies and public transit systems do not have any commitment to electrification (buses, trucks, trolleys, trains, and cars)	There is some infrastructure for electric vehicles at public spaces; public agencies and public transit have committed to 50% electrification (buses, trucks, trolleys, trains, and cars) by 2050	Public spaces offer free electricvehicle infrastructure and Congestion pricing exists Public agencies and public transit system have committed to 75 % electrification (buses, trucks, trolleys, trains, and cars) by 2050	Public transit is first mode of transportation and public spaces offer free electric vehicle infrastructure, including low-income/wealth EV car shares; Congestion pricing exists with revenue support EJ communities. Public agencies and public transit system have committed to 100 % electrification (buses, trucks, trolleys, trains, and cars) by 2050	

Valuation of Extractive Energy Systems	Market-based cap and trade system – only on carbon emissions, failing to account for natural gas, waste incineration, nuclear, and other extractive and polluting energy systems	Market-based cap and dividend program that gives everyone equal share of carbon payout. System fails to account for natural gas, waste incineration, nuclear and other extractive and polluting energy systems	Market-based, publicly implemented polluter fee on extractive industries with a targeted commitment to phasing out all nuclear and fossil fuels by 2030. Funds used to reinvest money into frontline communities for just transition, reparation, and energy democracy projects	Regulatory ban on all extractive energy systems by 2030, with phaseout and decommissioning governed by public control and workers and communities given control of new renewable energy systems coming online to replace extractive industries
Water Systems	Water is used as a process for fossil fuel generation, fracking extraction, cooling of nuclear power plants. Access to clean water is not made available due to contamination from extraction or from pollution. Indigenous treaties on water rights are ignored	Water is used for cooling fossil fuel or nuclear power plants, but not for fracking. Access to clean water is not made available due to contamination from extraction or from pollution. Indigenous treaties on water rights are ignored	Water is no longer used to support fossil-fuel or nuclear energy systems. However, water is still deeply commodified and not a human right. Indigenous treaties on water rights are honored	Water is seen as a human right and not commodified. Water systems provide healthy and clean water to all. Natural water ecosystems are restored as are indigenous rights

MORAL ECONOMY

Key Principles: Renewable (source), De-commodified (use v. exchange), Sustainable (eco-focused), Resilient (distributed), Shared (commons/ownership)

A moral economy recognizes and respects the dignity of all workers, provides equal opportunity for everyone to support themselves and their families and creates a level playing field for all.

MORAL ECONOMY

	Extractive (0-1)		Better, but NOT Good or Great (2-5)				Energy Democracy (6-7)		Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Wages	Federal minimum wage green jobs, right-to-work legislation, no ordinances or laws guaranteeing prevailing wage		Higher than federal minimum wage green jobs guaranteed by ordinance, but not prevailing wage		Prevailing wage and high-road labor standards		Prevailing wage and high-road labor standards, with emphasis on inclusionary hiring practices that prioritize low-income/wealth and Black and Brown communities		
Workforce Training	No workforce training programs in green jobs or apprentice programs with on-road to actual jobs		Workforce training program for green jobs, but no job guarantees; no priorities for low-income, Black and Brown communities		Workforce training program for green jobs with funding and prioritization for apprenticeships for low-income, Black and Brown communities, but not job guarantees		Workforce training program for green jobs with funding and prioritization for apprenticeships for lowincome, Black and Brown communities, with job guarantees		
Local Hiring	Bids prioritize lowest cost development only		Bid focus on lowest-cost development but include a local hire consideration, no WMBE provisions		Bid prioritizes local hire commitment, with 10% WMBE over lowest cost		Bid prioritizes local hire commitment, with WMBE over lowest cost		
Worker Transition	There is no just-transition plan for workers in fossil-fuel or related industries; corporate bottom-line is prioritized over labor		Worker re-training programs are available, but under-funded, no pension guarantees for workers, Labor is forced to take cuts to save corporate bottom line		Worker re-training programs are available and funded. Pension guarantees for workers exist. Labor informs plans in advisory capacity		Worker re-training programs are available and funded. Pension guarantees for workers exist. Labor and community shape transition plans, which are funded by fossil-fuel industry		

Worker Cooperatives	There are no worker cooperatives leading or developing renewable energy/zero-waste projects	Less than 10% of renewable energy/zero-waste developers are worker cooperatives	Less than 40% of renewable energy/zero-waste developers are worker cooperatives	More than 60 % of renewable energy/zero-waste developers are worker cooperatives	
Labor Stance	Labor Unions are not engaged in energy democracy efforts; Industry is pitting laborers against each other to advance extractive systems	Labor Unions are engaged climate change issues, but are not in partnership with communities, nor advancing just transition efforts	Community and Labor are working together in partnership to advance community control and ownership of energy systems and ensure a just transition from extractive to renewable energy	Community and Labor have successfully achieved community control and ownership of energy systems and are implementing a just transition from extractive to renewable energy	
Inclusive Finance	There are no public funds or nonextractive capital available for community-scale projects	25% of community-scale renewable energy projects are developed and supported through non-extractive capital (less than 2% or 0% ROI), public funds, or through communitycontrolled funds	50% of community-scale renewable energy projects are developed and supported through non-extractive capital (less than 2% or 0% ROI), public funds, or through community-controlled funds	All community-scale renewable energy projects are developed and supported through non-extractive capital (less than 2% or 0% ROI), public funds, or through community-controlled funds	
Divestment	Public, nonprofit, and institutional funding is invested in fossil-fuel industry	Public, nonprofit, and institutional funding have divested from fossil-fuel industry, but are invested in corporate renewables, private prisons, militarization, and projects like waste incineration, biofuels, nuclear, and petrochemicals	Public, nonprofit, and institutional funding have divested from fossil-fuel industry, private prisons, militarization, and projects like waste incineration, biofuels, nuclear, and petrochemicals. Investments have been made into corporate renewables	All investments are leveraged for communityowned/ governed/governed or publicly controlled projects	
Community Wealth	Energy utilities/producers extract over millions of dollars each year from ratepayers and communities and receive subsidies or bailouts from public funds	There are municipal, county, or statewide renewable energy projects that create revenue or tax-savings for residents, but public still subsidizes or bails out energy utilities/producers	There is public investment and procurement of communityowned/governed renewable energy projects that create revenue for residents. There are minimal public **subsidizes or bails out** energy utilities/producers	If energy utilities exist, they are public and there is investment and procurement of communityowned/ governed renewable energy projects that create revenue for residents, with prioritization of low-income, EJ, Black, Brown and Indigenous communtieis	

CO-GOVERNANCE

Key Principles: inclusive & participatory, cooperative/shared economics, regenerative and sustainable
Co-Governance addresses how decisions are made, who controls the energy and political process, and where ownership ultimately lies.

CO-GOVERNANCE

Energy Ownership Structure	Extractive (0-1)		Better, but NOT Good or Great (2-5)				Energy Democracy (6-7)		Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

| Energy Ownership Structure | Utilities are either regulated monopolies or oligopolies in a deregulated state. In this case: Investor-Owned Utilities (IOU) either own both generation and distribution and/or megacorporations control energy generation and sell to local IOU or community.

Third-party companies funded by private capital own renewables and offer predatory services to provide energy to lowincome/wealth communities. | Utilities are deregulated, but still dominated by IOUs, however have commitment to procuring renewable energy from local and in-state generation projects. There are less mega-corporate controlled energy generating plants.

Rural Electric Cooperatives and energy cooperatives exist, but **invest in fossil-fuels and** often reward dividends to white and wealthy members, locking out Black, Brown and Indigenous members.

Municipal controlled energy exists, however there is no accountability or commitment to **local renewable energy production, rather focus is on lowest cost energy.** | Any investor-owned utilities that exist are purely distribution utilities and procure renewable energy from local and in-state generation projects, with prioritization from communityowned/governed projects that support EJ, Black, Brown and Indigenous communities.

Rural Electric Cooperatives and energy cooperatives exist and have **committed to investing in renewables.**

Municipal energy utility exists and there is a **commitment to renewabe energy production.**

Community Choice Aggregation energy procurement is not fully renewable. | All investor-owned utilities have been transitioned to labor and community control and full commitment to procuring renewable energy from local and in-state generation projects, with prioritization from communityowned/governed projects that support EJ, Black, Brown and Indigenous communities.

Rural Electric Cooperatives and energy **cooperatives are committed to 100% local renewable energy that its members fully benefit and own.**

Municipal energy utility **is a commitment to local renewable energy production, with prioritization from** EJ, Black, Brown and Indigenous communities.

Community Choice Aggregation energy procurement is renewable and invests in local renewable generation, particularly from community-owned/governed projects that support EJ, Black, Brown and Indigenous communities. | |

Public Governance Structure	Public Utilities Commission that is staffed by appointees that come from extractive energy industries	Public Utilities Commission that is staffed by political appointees that do have some representation of environmental justice and civil rights. Rural Electric Cooperatives and energy cooperatives governance decisions are made with no public engagement or real participatory processes in decision-making	Public Utilities Commissions are elected and have representation of environmental justice and civil rights communities. Community Choice Aggregation lacks grassroots control or community advisory.Rural Electric Cooperatives and energy cooperatives governance structures make decisions made with some public engagement and support of most impacted members in the decision-making processes. REC elections are more transparent and fair	Public Utilities Commissions are elected and have majority representation of environmental justice and civil rights communities. Community Choice Aggregation has grassroots control community advisory process. Rural Electric Cooperatives and energy cooperatives governance structures center the most impacted members in the decision-making processes. REC elections are transparent and fair
Tribal Sovereignty	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent is not respected, and treaties are disregarded	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent is are recognized but only after multiple interventions	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent are primary in decisionmaking. Rights and Treaties are considered	Tribal Communities have right to self-determination and respected as nations
Grid Structure	A centralized grid that is controlled by an independent service operator with no real public accountability and utilities are continuing to build new substations to deliver centralized energy resources	A centralized grid that is controlled by an independent service operator with public accountability and utilities are not building new substations and investing in demand-responsesystems to deliver and monitorcentralized energy resources	Increased development of community renewable microgrids and storage with a public board that oversees the grid management	Majority decentralized grid
Bailouts and Bankruptcy	State, regional, or local entities ignore malfeasance and neglect by energy utility or generator grant bankruptcy protections and/or provide rate- or tax-payer funded bailouts	State, regional, or local entities hold energy utility or generator financially and economically accountable for neglect and malfeasance, refuse bankruptcy protections and rate- or taxpayer funded bailouts are tied to a phaseout of corporate control	Any energy utility or generator that seeks bailouts are put into a state, regional, or local public receivership and the profits are put into a public fund for the decommissioning of extractive plant or to spur a transition to a community-owned/governed utility	All utilities and energy generators are publicly controlled with clear equitable and accountable processes that center Black, Brown, Indigenous, and EJ communities

Transparency/ Accountability	Routine public meetings in central government office – unadvertised inaccessible, without public feedback	Routine public meetings at different times of day, with opportunity for written comments and some transparent feedback	Intentional outreach by agency officials, open process for public comments and feedback, receptive to in-person meetings to discuss ideas	Agency officials work in partnership with communities to shape programs and provide clear information and feedback on programs	
Community Engagement	Limited or no public engagement hearings Top-down Info Sharing	Public Hearings Community Meetings	Advisory Committees Collaborative Planning Models	Resources for community-led training and organizing Representation on energy governance	

5TH BOX

This column represents beyond our co-created vision into a new future and creates space for the dynamic and changin times. If communities have a vision or idea that goes beyond, we ask that you utilize this 5th box for this idea.

Social Justice	
Regenerative Energy Systems	
Moral Economy	
Co-Governance	

Overall Score

Theme	Raw Score	Number of Categories	Adjusted Score (Raw score/ # of Categories)
Social Justice		11	
Moral Economy		9	
Regenerative Energy		10	
Co-Governance		7	
Total		37	

What is your synopsis observation of the score and would you want see based on the 5th Box?

EXAMPLE: Overall Score

Theme	Raw Score	Number of Categories	Adjusted Score (Raw score/ # of Categories)
Social Justice	28	11	2.5
Moral Economy	18	9	2
Regenerative Energy	50	10	5
Co-Governance	18	7	2.5
Total	114	37	3

EXAMPLE: What is your synopsis observation of the score and would you want see based on the 5th Box?

Based on the score, we are at 3 which is a little better than extractive, but still not good. We realize that this is highest because we are far along on renewables, but lag regarding environmental racism, lack of good wage and union jobs. We have little or no transparency in government – which makes it hard to shift some of these situations. All electricity is done at utility-scale owned by an IOU. We noticed that there is no regard for tribal sovereignty in our state. Based on the 5th Box, we would want to see deeper investments in ant-racist practices that prioritize and investment in Black, Brown and Indigenous communities in part of any policy process and energy project. We would want to see energy burden eliminated and we would like to see our IOU be turned into a regional publicly-owned utility. We want more resilient energy infrastructure and want to see large-scale investment in this to create living wage jobs.

SOURCES/REFERENCES FOR RESEARCH

This scorecard is intended to build upon community expertise and knowledge in a participatory way. As you engage with this scorecard, identify what sources of information the collective community holds and knows and prioritize this in the assessment. Afterwards, identify what the resource gaps are. The following are sources are meant to act as a supplement to this process.

Social Justice	
Environmental Racism: Health Impacts	National and State Level Data for Asthma and Cancer can be found at the CDC: (https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dcpc/data/index.htm)&(https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/most_recent_national_asthma_data.htm) Local Data will depend on your community. Some cities or counties have data available in their Office of Health. Other communities have a nonprofit data site, like Chicago's Health Atlas(https://www.chicagohealthatlas.org/indicators/)
Environmental Racism: Sitting of Energy Plants	The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) EJ Screening Tool: https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/
Indigenous Sovereignty or Recognition	This will vary by state. The NCSL has a list of federal and state recognized tribes http://www.ncsl.org/research/state-tribal-institute/listof-federal-and-state-recognized-tribes.aspx But it is critical to note that not all tribes are recognized for political and economic reasons – be sure to learn and understand the different indigenous communities both recognized and not recognized.
Land Justice (Displacement/ Gentrification)	Check out your city, county or state's land-use policies.These can often be found at the planning office.
Poverty Data	Visit the US Census American Factfinder data by geography.
Energy Burden	The Low-Income Energy Affordability Data site hascounty-leveldata(https://openei.org/doeopendata/dataset/celica-data). ACEEE offers metrolevel and rural-county data: https://aceee.org/research-report/u1806) Some states or cities may offer zip-code level data, such as Atlanta (https://aceee.org/research-report/u1602 & https://aceee.org/research-report/u1806) Some states or cities may offer zip-code level data, such as Atlanta

Access to Renewables	Please check your state's department of energy resources for data on renewable energy adoption (For example, MD and NY collect data by income and zipcode).
Access to Efficiency	Please check your state's department of energy resources for data weatherization programs. Your local government may also track this through former ARRA funding.
Community Benefits	Please check your local planning department if there arenany requirements around community-benefits in new development

Regenerative Energy Systems	
Renewable Energy Goals	Refer to your state's Renewable Portfolio or Alternative Energy Standard. At your local level, look at the Office of Sustainability/Energy or your local governing council for any resolutions towards renewables.
Renewable Energy Generation and Procurement	Refer to your state's Renewable Portfolio or Alternative Energy Standard. At your local level, look at the Office of Sustainability/Energy or your local elected body for any resolutions towards renewables.
Energy Source	Energy Information Authority State Electricity Profiles: https://www.eia.gov/electricity/state/unitedstates/
Energy Resilience	This data may be more difficult to ascertain and may require conversation with local universities who study the energy grid. You can also seek information from the Independent System Operator of the grid in your region (for example: PJM, NYISO, CalISO, ERCOT, etc..).
Electricity Consumption	The Energy Information Authority has data by distribution region: https://www.eia.gov/electricity/sales_revenue_price/index.php Check your local ISO, universities for deeper data analysis.
Transportation Fuels and Use	The Energy Information Authority has data by distribution region: https://www.eia.gov/electricity/sales_revenue_price/index.php. Also check your local regional transit authority (eg- SEPTA, MTA, CTA, MARTA, BART, etc) or your City/State Department of Transportation. For transportation use, please visit the US Census Bureau.
Valuation of Extractive Energy systems	What state policies exist regarding carbon?

Moral Economy	
Wages	National Conference of State Legislators: http://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-andemployment/state-minimum-wage-chart.aspx
Workforce Training	Check with your local elected officials, local Department of Commerce or Small Business Administration *Ask: what regulations, laws and funding opportunities are in-place for training to job placement in renewables?*
Local Hire	Check with your local elected officials, local Department of Commerce or Small Business Administration. *Ask: what regulations or laws are in-place for local-hire on development projects?*
Worker Transition	Check with your local elected officials, local Department of Commerce or Small Business Administration *Ask: what regulations or laws are in-place for pension guarantees, job-training, and other provisions for workers who lose their jobs due to technological changes or other transitions?*
Worker Cooperatives	Check with your local elected officials, local Department of Commerce or Small Business Administration *Ask: what regulations, laws and funding opportunities are in-place for worker-owned cooperatives?*
Labor Stance	Check with your local elected officials, local Department of Commerce or Small Business Administration *Ask: what regulations or laws are in-place for labor-force hiring? Are you a right to work state or not?*
Inclusive Finance	Check with your local elected officials, local Department of Commerce or Small BusinessAdministration *Ask: what public funds are available for renewable energy projects?*
Community Wealth	Check with your local elected officials, local Department of Commerce or Small Business Administration *Ask: what provisions are in place for assessment of community-wellbeing in development projects?*
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Co-Governance	
Wages	National Conference of State Legislators: http://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-andemployment/state-minimum-wage-chart.aspx
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DEFINITION OF TERMS

100% ENERGY TRANSITION

A transition to 100% renewable and clean energy in all systems and sectors, primarily electric, heating and cooling, and transportation.

CENTRALIZED ENERGY SYSTEMS

EPA: "This refers to the large-scale generation of electricity at centralized facilities. These facilities are usually located away from end-users and connected to a network of high-voltage transmission lines. The electricity generated by centralized generation is distributed through the electric power grid to multiple end-users. Centralized generation facilities include fossil-fuel-fired power plants, nuclear power plants, hydroelectric dams, wind farms, and more."

CLIMATE JUSTICE

Climate Justice focuses on the root causes of climate chaos through an intersectional lens of racism, classism, economic injustice and environmental harm. A working definition by Alternatives for Community and the Environment in Boston captures it this way: "Climate Justice focuses on the root causes of climate change - making systemic changes that are required to address unequal burdens to our communities and realign our economy with our natural systems. As a form of environmental justice, climate justice means that all species have the right to access and obtain the resources needed to have an equal chance of survival and freedom from discrimination. As a movement, climate justice advocates are working from the grassroots up to create solutions to our climate

and energy problems that ensure the right of all people to live, learn, work, play and pray in safe, healthy and clean environments

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) definition: "capacity of social, economic, and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event or trend or disturbance, responding or reorganizing in ways that maintain their essential function, identity, and structure, while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning, and transformation." Additionally, resilience should not be seen as a return to what was before, but building forward a new structure rooted in justice and equity. For more information on community driven Climate Resilient Planning, please visit the National Association of Climate Resilient Planning https://www.nacrp.org/

Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) or Municipal Utilities

Community Choice Aggregation, also known as Community Choice Energy (CCE), municipal aggregation, governmental aggregation, electricity aggregation, and community aggregation, is an alternative to the investor owned utility energy supply system in which local entities in the United States aggregate the buying power of individual customers within a defined jurisdiction in order to secure alternative energy supply contracts.[1] The CCA chooses the power generation source on behalf of the consumers. By aggregating purchasing power, they are able to create large contracts with generators, something individual buyers may be unable to do. The main goals of CCAs have been to either lower costs for consumers or to allow consumers greater control of their energy mix, mainly by offering "greener" generation portfolios than local utilities. Currently CCAS

are possible in Massachusetts, Ohio, California, Illinois,New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island, and served nearly 5% ofAmericans in over 1300 municipalities as of 2014.[2]

ENERGY BURDEN

ACEEE: Energy burden means the percentage of household income that goes toward energy costs, and we looked specifically at utility energy bills (transportation energy costs are also a significant household expense, but it was outside the scope of the analysis). We found that low-income, Black and Brown residents, andand renters pay up to three times more than the average household on home energy costs.

ENERGY DEMOCRACY

Energy democracy is a way to frame the struggle of working people, lowincome communities, and communities of color, and their allies, to take control of energy resources and decision-making from the corporate energy establishment and use those resources to empower their communities. It means a decentralized energy system, one characterized by social and community-based control and ownership of energy resources, a shared resource developed in harmony with the Earth ecosystems. Democratizing energy is a central aspect of just transition from a fossil-fuel economy to a new renewable energy economy grounded in economic and social justice. (energydemocracy.us).

ENERGY EQUITY

Ensuring that all have affordable and fair access to energy efficiency programs, renewables energy consumption and production, live in community free of pollution, and are not unfairly burdened by energy insecurity on the basis of class or race.

ENERGY INSECURITY

When basic energy needs are out of reach or unaffordable. Individuals or families are struggling to pay high energy bills are also faced with high housing costs forcing them to make difficult tradeoffs between utilities and rent, food and health care. They live in substandard housing with faulty heating or cooling and poor insulation that is unhealthy and unsafe and demands higher utility bills. They are forced to tolerate unsafe temperatures or alternative heating or lighting like stoves or candles to live without light, heat or cooling. Energy insecurity also threatens the health and safety of low-income families, seniors, especially children and people who are medically vulnerable.

ENERGY RESILIENCE

According to the DOE: "The ability to prepare for and adapt to changing conditions and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions. Resilience includes the ability to withstand and recover from deliberate attacks, accidents, or naturally occurring threats or incidents"

ENERGY SOVEREIGNTY

Energy sovereignty is the right of conscious individuals, communities and peoples to make their own decisions on energy generation, distribution and consumption in a way that is appropriate within their ecological, social, economic and cultural circumstances, provided that these do not affect others negatively." https://www.odg.cat/sites/default/files/energy_sovereignty_0.pdf

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

As defined by community, refer to the Jemez Principles. Additionally, the EPA: "The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies."

ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

Describes the racial disparities that exist due to action (or inactions) and processes that expose Black and Brown residents to environmental hazards more so than White residents. This includes things such as:

- Disproportionate negative impacts from environmental processes;
- Negative impacts of the rate of clean-up from toxics;
- Deliberate targeting and siting of polluting facilities in communities of color;
- Forcing workers to choose between their health and their jobs;
- Forcing and segregation of the dirtiest and unhealthy jobs to Black and Brown workers;
- Lack of accesses to healthy spaces, food, and land-use;
- Inequity in services such as transportation, sanitation, healthy water systems, and lead paint removal.

DECENTRALIZED ENERGY SYSTEMS

"Decentralized energy is not yet a widely understood term, but broadly refers to energy that is generated off the main grid, including microrenewables, heating and cooling. It can refer to energy from waste plants, combined heat and power, district heating and cooling, as well as geothermal, biomass or solar energy. Schemes can serve a single building or a whole community, even being built out across entire cities."

EX: Having multiple solar panels on homes throughout a neighborhood and not connected to the main grid would be a decentralized system.

DISTRIBUTED ENERGY SYSTEMS

Energy that is not centralized or distributed through the transmission lines that flow from a large generating station to a substation to our homes. Rather, a distributed energy system are smaller systems less than 10 MW of energy spread throughout connected to on or off the main grid.

EX: Having multiple solar panels on homes throughout a neighborhood, but connected to the grid would be a distributed system.

GREEN JOBS AND LABOR

As defined by Labor Network for Sustainability: "Green jobs can be applied to new and existing jobs that contribute to reducing the emission of carbon and other greenhouse gasses (GHGs). And only when combined with union, fair labor."

PASSIVE HOUSING

(from Wikipedia): A rigorous, voluntary standard for energy efficiency in a building, which reduces the building's ecological footprint.It results in ultra-low energy buildings that require little energy for space heating or cooling.

JUST TRANSITION

As defined by the Climate Justice Alliance "Just Transition is a vision-led, unifying and place-based set of principles, processes and practices that build economic and political power to shift from an extractive economy to a regenerative economy. This means approaching production and consumption cycles holistically and waste free. The transition itself must be just and equitable; redressing past harms and creating new relationships of power for the future through reparations. If the process of transition is not just, the outcome will never be. Just Transition describes both where we are going and how we get there."

PUBLIC CHARGE

On October 10, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) posted a proposed public charge regulation (a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking) in the federal register, asking the public to submit comments by December 10, 2018, before it becomes final. If the regulation is finalized in its proposed form, it would mark a significant and harmful departure from the current policy. For over a hundred years, the government has recognized that work supports like health care, nutrition and housing assistance help families thrive and remain productive. And decades ago, the government clarified that immigrant families can seek health care, nutrition and housing assistance without fear that doing so will harm their immigration

cases. If this rule is finalized, we can no longer offer that assurance. The proposal weighs a range of factors in deciding whether a person is likely to use certain public benefits in the future, and would make it much more difficult for low and moderate-income immigrants to get a green card, extend or change their temporary status in the US. The proposed test would weigh each of the following negatively in public charge decisions: earning less than 125% of the federal poverty level (FPL), being a child or a senior, having certain health conditions, limited English ability, less than a high school education, a poor credit history, and other factors.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISION

State Public Utilities Commissions (PUCs, sometimes known as public service commissions) are state agencies that serve to regulate utilities, including telecommunications, electric, natural gas, water, railroad, rail transit, and passenger transportation, in addition to authorizing video franchises. Public Utilities Commissions are responsible for assuring that utility customers have safe, reliable utility service at reasonable rates, protecting utility customers from fraud and promoting their states' economies. Most PUCs engage in public comment, though each state's process varies.

RACIAL EQUITY

According to CSI: Racial Equity is a process and an outcome. As an outcome, we achieve racial equity when race no longer determines one's socioeconomic outcomes; when everyone has what they need to thrive, no matter where they live. As a process, we apply racial equity when those most impacted by structural racial inequity are meaningfully involved in the creation and implementation of the institutional policies and practices that impact their lives.
When we achieve racial equity:

- People, including people of color, are owners, planners, and decision-makers in the systems that govern their lives;
- We acknowledge and account for past and current inequities, and provide all people, particularly those most impacted by racial inequities, the infrastructure needed to thrive. Everyone benefits from a more just, equitable system.

RACIAL JUSTICE

As defined by Race Forward: "racial justice is the systematic fair treatment of people of all races, resulting in equitable opportunities and outcomes for all."

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Non-fossil fuel energy that is often abundant and regenerative, with zero emissions and pollution impacts.
- Most commonly accepted forms are: wind, solar, ocean/tidal, and geothermal energy.
- Often Accepted, but questioned: hydropower, anaerobic digestion using food waste to create a gas
- Sometimes defined as renewable or "clean", but usually considered dirty or massively problematic by EJ or Indigenous communities: Biomass, Nuclear.