



# *An Environmental Justice Climate Change Policy*

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# Environmental Justice:

**concerned with the disproportionate burden of pollution inflicted upon communities Of Color and poor neighborhoods.**



# Impacts of Global Warming on Residents in Urban Areas:

- Increased number of deaths due to heat.
- Increased amount of air pollution.
- Detrimental impacts of extreme weather events that are not mitigated due to a lack of resources.



# Environmental Justice Climate Change Policy:

- Emphasize strategies that reduce emissions of fine particulate matter and its gaseous precursors along with emissions of global warming gases.
- Ensure that reductions of emissions are fairly distributed.
- Use renewable energy sources and energy conservation extensively in urban areas.
- If carbon trading is utilized, carbon allowances should be sold annually and the resulting money used to support global warming initiatives in urban areas.
- Formulate climate change mitigation strategies specifically for people Of Color and poor people.
- Create an Environmental Justice Committee to oversee the environmental justice aspects of climate change policy in New Jersey.

The gaseous precursors of fine particulate matter are sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>).

# Environmental Justice Climate Change Policy Recommendation:

- **Emphasize strategies that reduce emissions of fine particulate matter and its gaseous precursors along with emissions of global warming gases.**



## ***Fine particulate matter:***

- Airborne solid or liquid particles that are less than 2.5 microns in diameter. Also known as PM2.5 or soot.

## ***It Kills!!***

- 50,000 deaths in the U.S. annually!!
- Disproportionately in cities.

The gaseous precursors of fine particulate matter are sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>).

# Environmental Justice Climate Change Policy Recommendation:

- **Ensure that reductions of emissions are fairly distributed.**



# **The Potential EJ Problem With Carbon Trading:**

- **No reduction in EJ neighborhoods**
- **Fewer reductions**
- **Hot spots**

**When emissions reduction goal is modest (how about acid rain program).**

# Environmental Justice Climate Change Policy Recommendation:

- Use renewable energy sources and energy conservation extensively in urban areas.



## **Vision For Our Urban Areas:**

- **Cities become centers of innovation for renewable energy and energy conservation.**
- **Cities are redeveloped through use of renewable energy and energy conservation.**
- **High Schools and colleges linked to this effort.**
- **Jump start process by building Abbott Schools equipped with solar power and retrofitting urban churches.**
- **Basketball players and renewable energy experts.**

# Environmental Justice Climate Change Policy Recommendation:

- If carbon trading is utilized, carbon allowances should be sold annually and the resulting money used to support global warming initiatives in urban areas.



## **A Unique Partnership:**

**New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance,  
Center for the Urban Environment, Urban Mayors  
Association, New Jersey Work Environment  
Council, GreenFaith, Environmental Research  
Foundation, New Jersey Environmental  
Federation, Redefining Progress, Communities  
For A Better Environment, Utilities.**

# Environmental Justice Climate Change Policy Recommendation:

- **Formulate climate change mitigation strategies specifically for people Of Color and poor people.**



# Think Katrina!!

- **University of Rhode Island project: gather information from people Of Color on disaster preparedness.**



# **Environmental Justice Climate Change Policy Recommendation:**

- **Create an environmental justice committee to oversee the EJ aspects of climate change policy in New Jersey.**

## **California Committees:**

- **Global Warming Legislation created an EJ Committee.**
- **NO<sub>x</sub> trading program created one in response To Title VI administrative complaint.**

## **Final Thoughts:**

- **Imperative that RGGI address equity issue.**
- **National EJ efforts**
- **American Association For The Advancement Of Science & Union of Concerned Scientists**
- **Color scheme**



***END??***