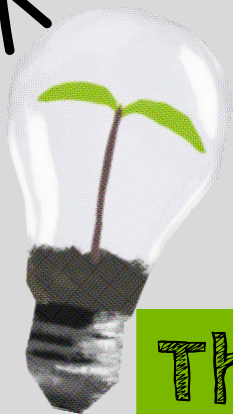
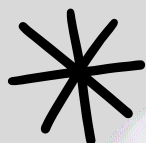
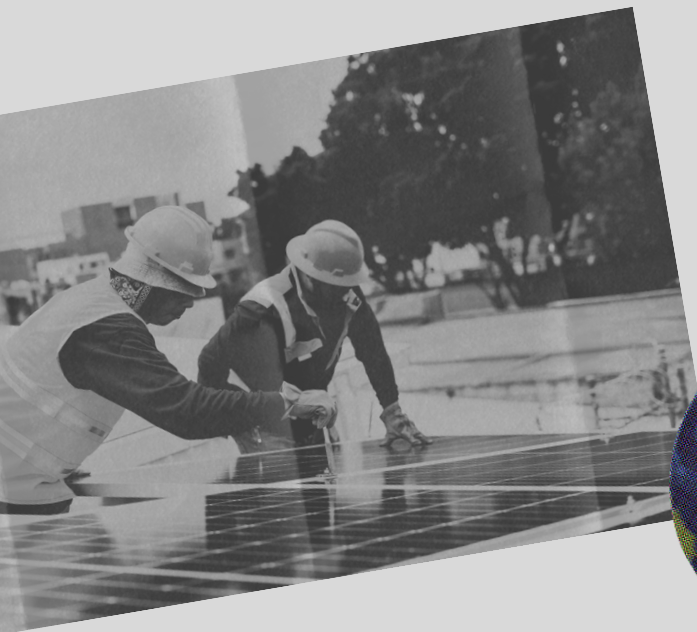


The People's JUSTICE40+ Community Benefit Playbook

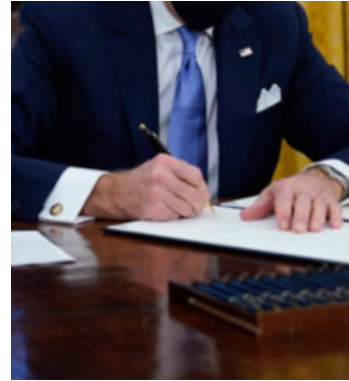


The Justice40 Initiative



The Justice40 Initiative

JUSTICE40 GOAL: 40% of overall Benefits of certain Federal Investments benefit Disadvantaged Communities.



On January 27, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (Exec. Order 14008) establishing the Justice40 Initiative. This Initiative created a goal for federal agencies to ensure that 40% of the overall benefits of their federal investments—specifically, investments in climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transit, affordable and sustainable housing, workforce development, remediation and reduction of legacy pollution, and critical clean water infrastructure—benefit disadvantaged communities.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE JUSTICE40 INITIATIVE?



Exec. Order 14008 recognizes the enduring impacts of environmental harms that plague low-income and communities of color. It seeks to mitigate environmental and climate hazards by remedying the health and environmental impacts of dirty air and water, sick and deteriorating buildings, and inadequate and toxic infrastructure. Exec. Order 14008 directs federal agencies to be intentional about reversing a legacy of environmental racism and economic exclusion and dismantling systemic barriers to accessing major public investments.

HOW IS JUSTICE40 BEING IMPLEMENTED?



1.3

After the Administration established the Justice40 Initiative, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released [Interim Implementation Guidance](#) detailing how federal agencies should begin to implement Justice40. This guidance required federal agencies to identify agency programs that are covered under the Justice40 Initiative, define the program benefits for each of the Justice40 programs, and establish a system to measure and track the program benefits to ensure the Justice40 programs are benefiting disadvantaged communities.

Since the Interim Implementation Guidance was released, the White House has published a list of [Justice40 covered programs](#) and federal agencies are releasing program guidance identifying how Justice40 will be incorporated into their programs. Some federal agencies, such as the Department of Energy, have released general guidance on how Justice40 can, and will, be incorporated into their funding opportunities.

To track how federal agencies are complying with the Justice40 Initiative, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) released the [Environmental Justice Scorecard](#).

Exec. Order 14008 also established the [White House Environmental Justice Advisory Committee](#) (WHEJAC) to provide administration-wide recommendations and guidance on ways to implement the Justice40 Initiative. This committee is composed of environmental and climate justice organizations and has set a precedent for frontline and fence-line community engagement.

Similar community advisory committees at the state and local level could help ensure government entities are centering environmental justice in their decision making. Find out if similar advisory committees exist in your community. If not, advocate for their establishment.

HOW ARE JUSTICE40 BENEFITS DEFINED?



While Exec. Order 14008 was silent on how federal agencies should define benefits within the meaning of the Justice40 Initiative, OMB's Interim Implementation Guidance for the Justice40 Initiative defined program benefits broadly to include direct and indirect investments (and program outcomes) that positively impact disadvantaged communities and provided examples of the types of benefits programs could provide.

To understand the specific benefits of each Justice40 covered program, communities can review the program guidance or frequently asked questions related to the Justice40 covered program.



HOW IS THE ADMINISTRATION DEFINING DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

In addition to establishing the Justice40 Initiative, Exec. Order 14008 also required the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to create the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). This tool uses interactive maps to help Federal agencies define and identify disadvantaged communities for the purpose of meeting the Justice40 goal and for programs where a statute (such as the Inflation Reduction Act) directs resources to disadvantaged communities.

CEJST stipulates that “communities identified as disadvantaged...are those that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution” and identifies these communities using eight categories of potential burdens: climate change, energy, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, water and wastewater, and workforce development. Details on each category of burden can be found under the Methodology section on the CEJST webpage.

A community (geographically identified using census tracts from the 2010 U.S. Census) will be considered disadvantaged if:

- the community is at or above the threshold for one or more of the eight categories of burden AND the community is at or above the threshold for an associated socioeconomic burden (income level); OR
- the community falls within the boundaries of a Federally recognized Tribe (including Alaska Native Villages).

CEJST ranks each category of burden using percentiles (the higher the percentile, the higher the burden) or with a simple yes or no.

The People's JUSTICE40+ Community Benefit Playbook



1.6

When developing a Community Benefit Plan, you should start by defining your community. You can use the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool to determine whether your community will be targeted for Justice40 benefits.

If, after exploring CEJST, you feel the CEJST data doesn't accurately reflect your lived experiences, you can let CEQ know by providing feedback on specific census tracts, giving general feedback, or contacting CEQ using this email address.



JUSTICE40 RESOURCES

- [Exec. Order 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#)
- [Interim Implementation Guidance for the Justice40 Initiative](#)
- [Addendum to the Interim Implementation Guidance for the Justice40 Initiative on using the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#)
- [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#)
- [Environmental Justice Scorecard](#)
- [Justice40 Covered Programs](#)
- [White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council](#)
- [White House Fact sheet: Exec. Order 14008](#)
- [White House Blog Post: The Path to Achieving Justice40](#)
- [White House: Environmental Justice](#)
- [Department of Energy: Justice40](#)
- [Department of Transportation: Justice40](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency: Justice40](#)

