



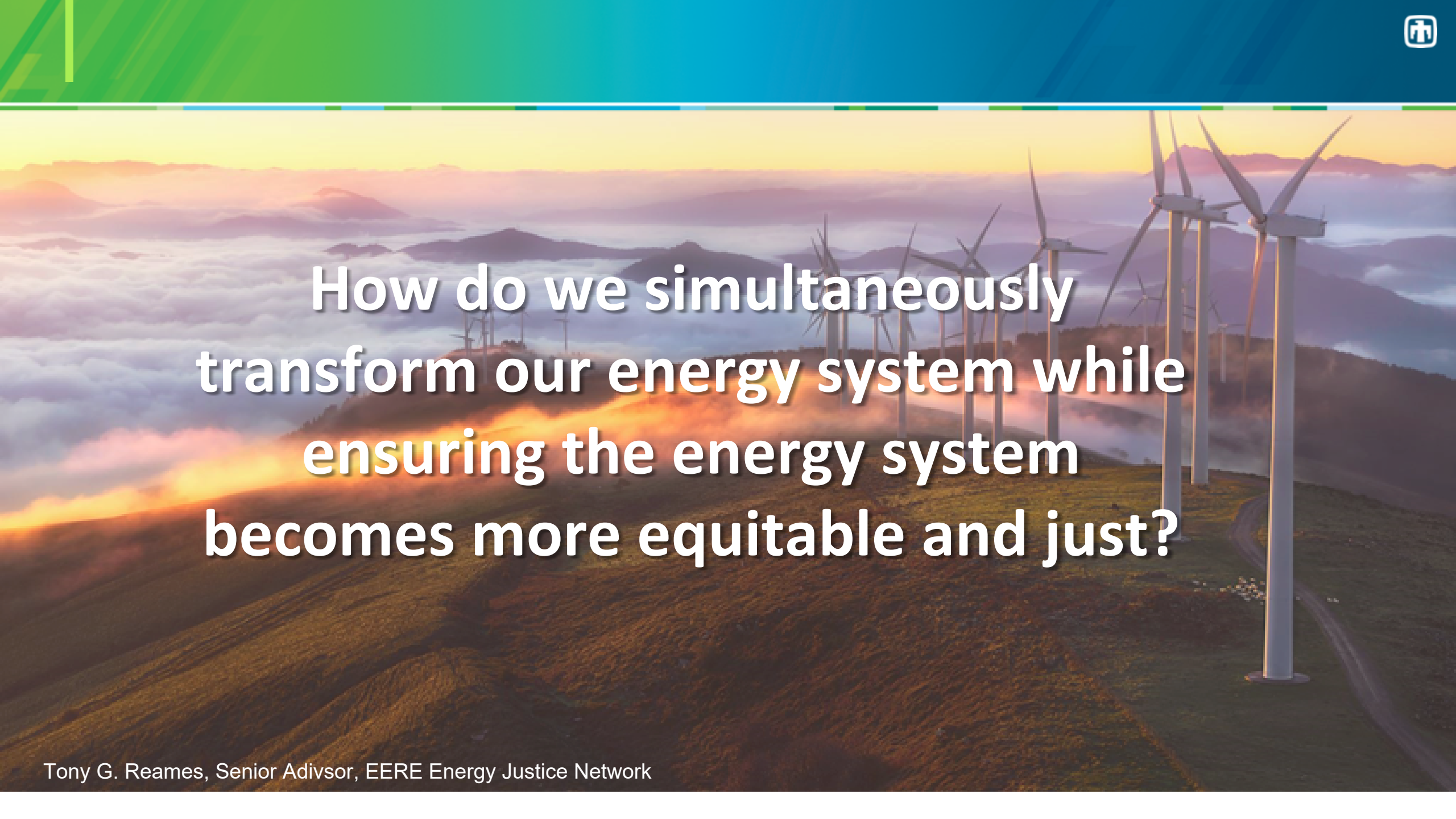
Energy &  
Homeland Security

# Overview : Energy Equity & Environmental Justice

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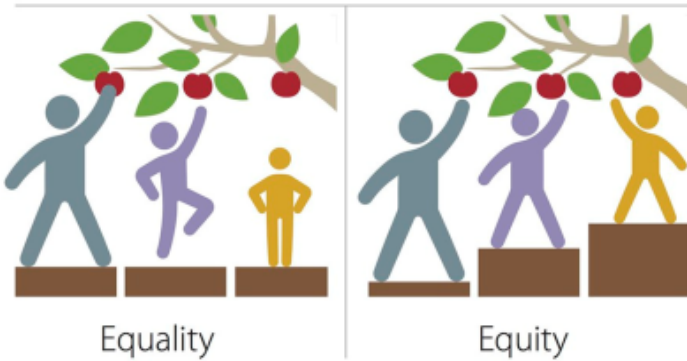
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**How do we simultaneously  
transform our energy system while  
ensuring the energy system  
becomes more equitable and just?**

# DEFINING ENERGY EQUITY

**Equity** implies fair, rather than “equal”, assistance to disadvantaged groups to level the historically unequal playing field.



**Energy Equity** includes policies intended to:

- Ensure that disadvantaged **communities (DACs)** receive the **social and economic benefits** resulting from energy sector activities, and
- Ensure that **DACs do not disproportionately incur social, economic and health burdens** for energy sector activities, particularly those that do not result in direct benefits to their communities.

Put another way...

*Energy Equity refers to the fair distribution of the benefits and burdens across the lifecycle of energy sector activities*



Credit: Shalanda Baker

[https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/Justice-40\\_Baker\\_SEAB%20Berkeley.pdf](https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/Justice-40_Baker_SEAB%20Berkeley.pdf)



# DEFINING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

**Environmental Justice** is 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.

- **Fair treatment** means that no group of people should bear a **disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences** resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.
- **Meaningful involvement** means:
  - ✓ People have an opportunity to **participate in decisions** about activities that may affect their environment and/or health;
  - ✓ The public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision;
  - ✓ **Community concerns will be considered** in the decision making process; and
  - ✓ **Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement** of those potentially affected



A company accumulated about 400 old wind turbine blades near Ellsworth. They were removed starting in late 2021.

(Photo by Jared Strong/Iowa Capital Dispatch)

Source: <https://iowacapitaldispatch.com/2022/08/17/utility-regulators-might-close-investigation-into-wind-turbine-disposal/>



Source:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/learn-about-environmental-justice>

**Executive Order 13985** (January 2021) – Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government

- Ensure that Federal agencies missions advance racial equity and support for underserved communities
- Identify **gaps** and establish **action plans** to address unequal barriers to opportunity in policies and programs

OMB Guidance on the implementation of EO 13985, December 2021

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/M-22-03.pdf>

**Executive Order 14008** (January 2021) – Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

- Whole-of-government approach to addressing climate change
- **Energy Communities** – “to revitalize the economies of coal, oil and gas, and power plant communities”
- **Justice40 initiative** (Section 223) – “to ensure that 40% of the benefits flow to disadvantaged communities”
- Created the WH Environmental Justice Interagency Council (WHEJIC) and WH Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC)

WHEJAC Interim Final Recommendations for the implementation of the Justice40 Initiative, July 2021

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf>

# FEDERAL POLICY FRAMEWORK – DEFINITIONS

A **Community** is defined as...



a group of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another, or ...



a geographically dispersed set of individuals ...

where either type of group experiences *common conditions*.

A **Disadvantaged Community** is one that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Low income, high poverty; unemployment or underemployment; jobs lost due to energy transition
- High cost burden or low access to: energy, transp., water, sanitation, healthcare, housing
- Disproportionate or high cumulative impacts due to pollution or climate change
- Racial & ethnic residential segregation
- Linguistic isolation



# FEDERAL POLICY FRAMEWORK – SCOPE

## Programs covered

- ✓ Climate change
- ✓ Clean energy and energy efficiency
- ✓ Clean transportation
- ✓ Affordable and sustainable housing
- ✓ Remediation of legacy pollution
- ✓ Clean water and waste infrastructure
- ✓ Training and workforce development related to the above

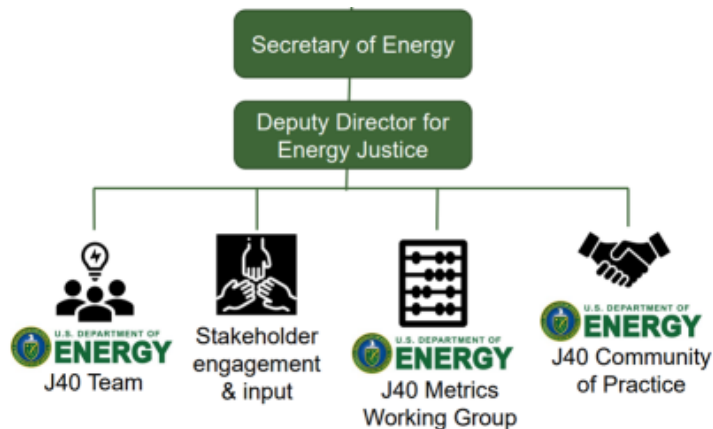
## Investments covered

- ✓ Federal financial assistance, including Grants and other financial assistance (loans, credit, guarantees, direct spending/benefits;
- ✓ Direct payments or benefits to individuals
- ✓ Procurement
- ✓ Staffing costs
- ✓ Other as determined by OMB



## Priorities

- Decrease **energy burden** in DACs
- Decrease **exposure to pollutants and environmental burdens** in DACs
- Create **solar parity** and increase **clean energy access** in DACs
- Increase **access to low-cost capital** in DACs
- Increase **enterprise creation** in the clean energy sector in DACs
- Increase clean energy **job pipeline and job training** for individuals from DACs
- Increase **energy resiliency** in DACs
- Increase **energy democracy** in DACs

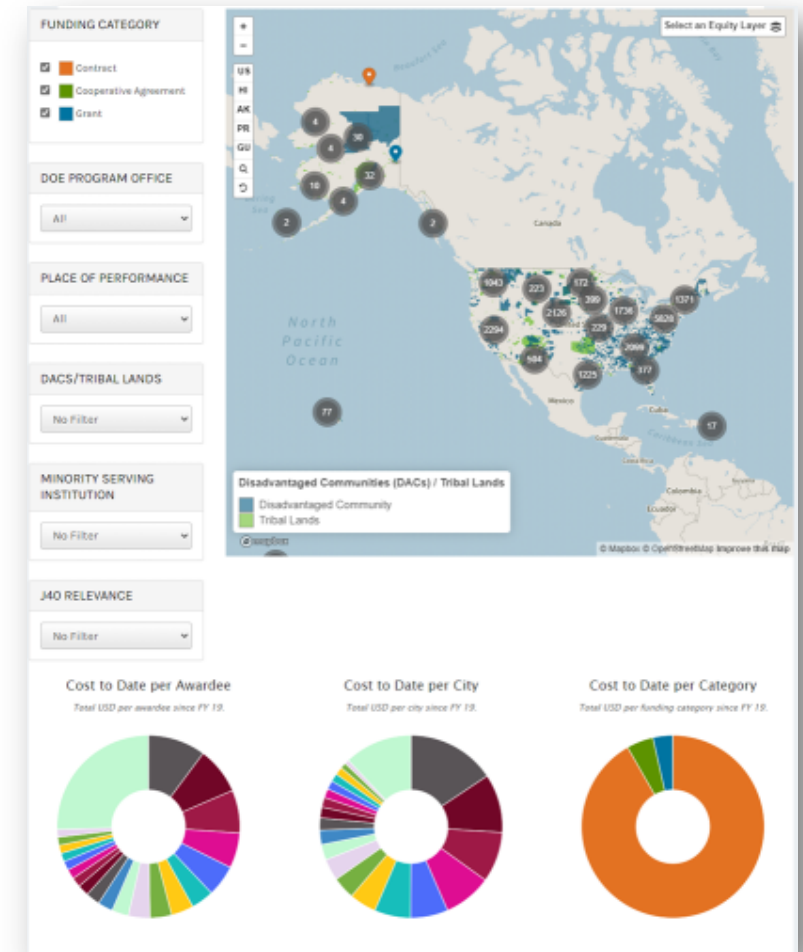


DOE's efforts led by the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity

Credit: Shalanda Baker

[https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/Justice-40\\_Baker\\_SEAB%20Berkeley.pdf](https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/Justice-40_Baker_SEAB%20Berkeley.pdf)

## DOE Energy Justice Dashboard



<https://energyjustice.egs.anl.gov/>