

# Designing an Equitable Cap and Invest Policy for Transportation

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# **A PROGRAM OF THE DREAMCORPS**

## **About Green For All**

**Green For All works to build an inclusive green economy strong enough to lift people out of poverty.**

**Our goal is to make sure people of color have a place and a voice in the climate movement. That our neighborhoods are strong, resilient, and healthy. That as the clean energy economy grows, it brings jobs and opportunities to our communities.**



**GREEN FOR ALL**

# Transportation and Climate Initiative

Green For All is working to develop a clean, equitable, modern transportation system in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions of the United States.

Our goal is to make polluters pay for their pollution and invest in clean transportation solutions in low-income communities and communities of color most impacted.



Maine  
New Hampshire  
Vermont  
Massachusetts  
New York  
Rhode Island  
Connecticut  
Pennsylvania  
New Jersey  
Maryland  
Delaware  
Washington D.C.  
Virginia



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# What's at stake

- ★ Transportation is causing climate change.
- ★ Tailpipe pollution is deadly.
- ★ Communities of color bear the biggest burden.
- ★ Low-income families spend a higher proportion of their income on transportation costs.
- ★ People of color have longer commute times
- ★ Lack of diversity and good jobs in the clean transportation workforce



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# The opportunity

- ★ Set a strict limit on emissions
- ★ Make polluters pay
- ★ Raise funds
- ★ Invest in solutions
- ★ Communities benefit

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# What's cap and invest?

**CAP  
POLLUTION**



**RAISE  
MONEY**



**INVEST IN  
SOLUTIONS**



**COMMUNITIES  
BENEFIT**



**Equality assumes everyone needs the same thing. Equity meets everyone's needs.**

### Equality



### Equity



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# **What are some concerns?**

- ★ **Market ‘flexibilities’ mean cap isn’t a guarantee**
- ★ **Price gets passed onto consumers, creating a regressive burden on low-income**
- ★ **Benefits of investments (tax credits, etc) go towards whiter, wealthier communities**
- ★ **Local air quality in overburdened areas are not guaranteed, could be exacerbated**







“

Carbon pricing must be intentionally crafted to rectify environmental injustice. It's not enough to say, there's the potential that you'll benefit. We have to, in the actual policy, write criteria that is going to ensure real benefits.”

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GREEN FOR ALL  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR  
MICHELLE ROMERO

**#GREEN** FOR ALL

# EQUITY TOOLKIT FOR TCI



## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

### FOR AN EQUITABLE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

**1**

Don't let polluters off the hook.

**2**

Conduct an equity analysis.

**3**

Ensure communities are at the table.

**4**

Dedicate investments for disadvantaged communities.

**5**

Set funding criteria to maximize co-benefits.

**6**

Protect against discrimination.

**7**

Guarantee emission reductions in frontline communities.

**8**

Ensure fairness for workers and communities.

**9**

Recover value for public good.

**10**

Protect against displacement.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATION

# Don't let polluters off the hook

- Set a strong cap
- No free allowances
- Set a 'floor' price
- Limit credit banking
- Strictly limit offsets - no offsets for projects outside of the region



## **POLICY RECOMMENDATION**

# **Conduct an equity analysis**

To achieve equitable outcomes, states must define goals and metrics for:

- Localized environmental benefits for climate-vulnerable communities
- Localized air quality benefits for overburdened communities
- Economic benefits for low-income brackets
- Access and mobility to isolated
- Workforce development



## **POLICY RECOMMENDATION**

# **Ensure communities are at the table**

- **Establish an advisory committee with diverse stakeholder groups, including community residents**
- **Require project proposals be developed alongside community partners**
- **Dedicate 20% of funds to capacity for community groups**



## **POLICY RECOMMENDATION**

# **Dedicate investments to benefit disadvantaged communities**

- **Advisory groups help define 'disadvantaged communities' in each state.**
- **Designate minimum of 50% proceeds go to direct benefits in those communities.**
- **Track and report**



## POLICY RECOMMENDATION

# Set criteria to maximize co-benefits

Use 'Best-Value' analysis to maximize co-benefits of ghg reductions, human health, good jobs, cost savings, and mobility.

- Advisory groups help define co-benefits and metrics in each state.
- Co-benefits should be weighed and evaluated when making investment decisions.





## **POLICY RECOMMENDATION**

# **Protect against discrimination**

**Prohibit discrimination, directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, citizenship status, or criminal background in any use of the funds, including contractors, vendors, and companies receiving rebates or tax credits.**





## **POLICY RECOMMENDATION**

# **Guaranteed emission reductions in fenceline communities**

- Overburdened communities immediately receive air quality monitoring resources
- Establish complementary policies to ensure emission reductions in fenceline communities
- Enact air quality protections before the start of the program



# **POLICY RECOMMENDATION**

## **Ensure fairness for workers and communities**

Funding for projects should be tied to:

- enforcing fair labor standards
- diversifying the workforce
- supporting women, minority, and veteran-owned businesses.

20% of proceeds should go to  
workforce development



## **POLICY RECOMMENDATION**

# **Recover value for public good**

- Don't privatize public transportation services
- Investments should not undermine public transportation where it's available
- Ride-hailing data should be shared, and policies to manage ride-hailing impacts should be considered



## **POLICY RECOMMENDATION**

# **Protect against displacement**



- Pass renter protections
- Invest in affordable housing near transit
- Require new large developments include affordable housing units
- Commercial developments help fund nearby affordable housing
- When expanding transit, engage the community.

# AN EQUITY TOOLKIT FOR TCI

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



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# FULL TOOLKIT

**[www.greenforall.org/tcitoolkit](http://www.greenforall.org/tcitoolkit)**

**Provides case studies and specific policy recommendations for states to include in a regional MOU.**

**TEXT “TCI” to 97483**

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