

OUR CLIMATE

SCIENCE- BASED, EQUITABLE POLICY PRINCIPLES

PURPOSE

Our Climate believes in empowering youth to analyze and advocate for science-based and equitable climate policies that secure a livable planet. The following is our best attempt to define what we mean by science-based and equitable and apply those definitions to common categories of climate policies we analyze.



DEFINING “SCIENCE-BASED” AND “EQUITABLE”

To be science-based, a policy needs to reduce the extraction, transport, emissions and pollution from fossil fuels and phase in renewable energy in a way that achieves a stable, sustainable, healthy climate for future generations.

To be equitable in content, a policy must reverse the way environmental hazards are disproportionately passed on to environmental justice communities. Lastly, to be equitable in process, a policy must be actively written, shaped, supported and executed by transparent, diverse coalitions from impacted communities.



APPLYING OUR DEFINITIONS TO POLICY

While there is no single way for a policy to meet these definitions, Our Climate often analyzes and advocates for three common categories of policy:

1. Precisely vetted and enforced renewable energy targets;
2. Strong, specific corporate polluter fees to equitably fund a just transition;
3. Environmental Justice legislation that provide specific protections and resources for environmental justice communities.



ADDRESSING THE INTERSECTIONS OF POLICY

Our Climate is dedicated to listening deeply to our environmental justice partners and holding up their solutions. We know that climate justice, racial justice, and economic justice are all fundamentally intertwined, which is why we fight for comprehensive, intersectional policies.

We also acknowledge that as a climate organization, we are not experts in every field, instead we are committed to endorsing and centering the platforms and demands of the movements we stand in solidarity with. The first platform we'd like to formally endorse as an organization is the Movement for Black Lives and their demands to defund the police and invest in Black communities. Read more about their demands here. Stay tuned here for future platforms that we will endorse.



WHAT WE LOOK FOR IN POLICY

While there is no single way for a policy to meet these definitions, Our Climate often analyzes and advocates for three common categories of policy. When we evaluate these legislation types, here is what we look for:



1. RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGETS

that are precisely vetted and enforced, setting aggressive greenhouse gas reductions that get us zero greenhouse gas emissions economy-wide by 2045 and net negative emissions thereafter



2. CORPORATE POLLUTER FEES

that are strong, specific, and equitably fund a just transition. Revenue collected should be returned to frontline communities as a rebate and invested in green infrastructure.



3. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE LEGISLATION

that provide specific protections, supports and resources for environmental justice communities. This legislation must serve to dismantle and defund oppressive systems that create or enforce climate and social justice crises.



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