



# Equity & Climate Action Plans

Research by the Office of Innovation & Performance  
October 7, 2021

# Research Summary

**80**

Climate Action  
Plans (CAPs)  
reviewed

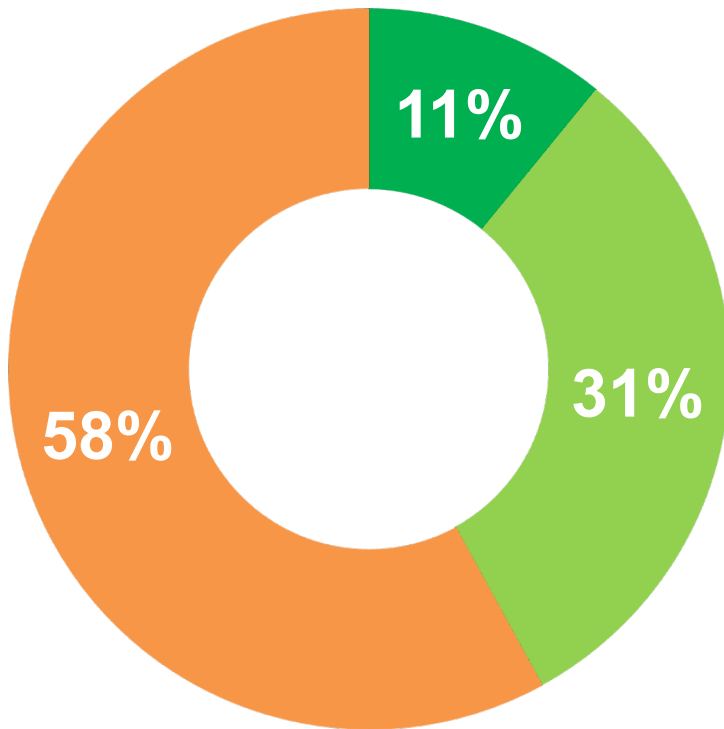
**9**

Interviews with  
other  
Sustainability  
Offices

**25+**

Articles about  
local climate  
equity

# Research Summary



- **80 CAPs**
  - **15 cities (11%) had strong equity components**
  - **43 cities (31%) had weak equity components**

# What is Equity?

*Equity in sustainability and climate change “refers to fair access to resources and opportunities and full participation in the social and cultural life of a community, as a central dimension for promoting livability and viability, now and into the future.”*



*- International City/County  
Management Association*



## Equality



The assumption is that **everyone benefits from the same supports**. This is equal treatment.

## Equity



**Everyone gets the supports they need** (this is the concept of "affirmative action"), thus producing equity.

## Justice



All 3 can see the game without supports or accommodations because **the cause(s) of the inequity was addressed**. The systemic barrier has been removed.

# Wildfires threaten all of the West — and one group more than others

That threat to Latinos has grown in the past decade, and they are twice as likely to live in areas most threatened by wildfires relative to the overall U.S. population.



The Robertson Draw fire burns on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, south of Red Lodge, Mont. | Amy Hyfield/U.S. Forest Service via AP

The U.S. may be facing its worst wildfire season in a century, and a new analysis of census, insurance and wildfire data show **Latino residents in western states face the greatest danger.**

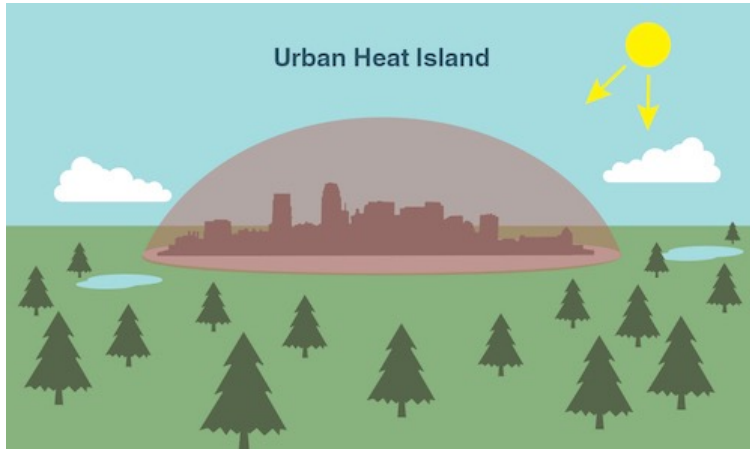
That threat to Latinos has grown in the past decade, and they are **twice as likely to live in areas most threatened by wildfires relative to the overall U.S. population**, according to data compiled by climate services firm risQ, which analyzes financial sector climate risk.

**White residents, meanwhile, have less exposure than their share of the national population** — and their vulnerability actually has fallen in the last decade.

The danger Latinos face from wildfires is the latest evidence to show the **disproportionate threats that communities of color and of low-income face from climate change**. The combination of the shortage of affordable housing and Latino population growth has pushed people with fickle finances deeper into remote locations that are more susceptible to fires, according to experts who have studied the Latino community and settlement trends in the U.S.



# In Glendale...



# Wildfires threaten all of the West — and one group more than others

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**“Affordable housing programs are the No. 1 thing we need to work on,”** [Richelle Winkler, a sociology and demography professor at Michigan Technological University] said. “It’s the root of all environmental justice issues, really, but very specifically in this case.”





# City of Oakland

*“The City of Oakland defines “climate equity” as inclusive of environmental justice and racial and economic equity. Equitable climate actions reduce disparate harms from the effects of climate change by prioritizing frontline communities.”*

- Transportation & Land Use
- Buildings
- Material Consumption & Waste
- Adaptation
- Carbon Removal
- City Leadership

## Vulnerable Groups

Low socio-economic status



People of Color

Lacking services or resources

People with existing health issues or of greater risk

Children

## Ensure Equitable and Clean New Mobility

Lead Agency	Climate Benefit	Cost	Benefits
DOT		\$\$\$\$	
<p><b>Ensure that new mobility platforms</b> and technologies equitably support City carbon reduction goals, including integrated planning for vehicles, public transit, and active transportation networks and amenities. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate that new mobility programs, including ride share programs, align with and support GHG reduction and equity goals in this ECAP.</li> <li>• Apply Greenlining Institute's Mobility Equity Framework and the Racial Equity Impact tool developed by Oakland's Department of Race and Equity to policies and programs related to new mobility.</li> <li>• Increase use of Intelligent Transportation Systems to give priority to transit and clean vehicles.</li> <li>• Provide incentives for walking, biking, carpooling, and ride sharing, and disincentives for fossil fuel-based on demand delivery.</li> <li>• Require carbon emission reduction plans for charging and rebalancing of micromobility fleets.</li> <li>• Facilitate the establishment of Transportation Management Associations to enable distribution of public transit passes and invest in increased public transit and other mobility strategies, such as walking, biking and micromobility that can reduce vehicle miles travelled.</li> <li>• Explore potential for a "mobility wallet" to pay residents to take carbon- and space-efficient travel modes.</li> </ul>			





# City of Oakland

Actions and strategies in this plan have been designed to meet all five of the following criteria:

## ***EQUITABLE***

Strategies are structured to maximize benefits and minimize burdens on frontline communities; prevent displacement; and respond to community priorities and values, addressing disparities in resource allocation and local vulnerability.

## ***REALISTIC***

Strategies are actionable within the City's legal and functional sphere of control; cost effective and fiscally responsible; and measurable over the 10-year period of the plan.

## ***AMBITIOUS***

Strategies are responsive to the climate crisis, recognizing the urgency of immediate and game-changing actions that significantly and sustainably reduce local and/or lifecycle climate emissions, and directly addressing short-lived climate pollutants wherever possible.

## ***BALANCED***

The plan reflects a mixture of climate change mitigation and adaptation; immediate actions and longer-term strategies that demand innovation; and actions addressing both local and lifecycle emissions, responsive to the need to reduce emissions over which we have direct control and ability to measure, but also recognizing the global impact of each and every activity and purchasing decision within Oakland.

## ***ADAPTIVE***

Strategies leave flexibility to accommodate technological, political, and cultural shifts over the Plan's 10-year implementation period.





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### Relative Access to Opportunity



## City of San Diego Climate Equity Index



### In 2019, San Diego established the nation's first-of-its-kind Climate Equity Index (CEI).

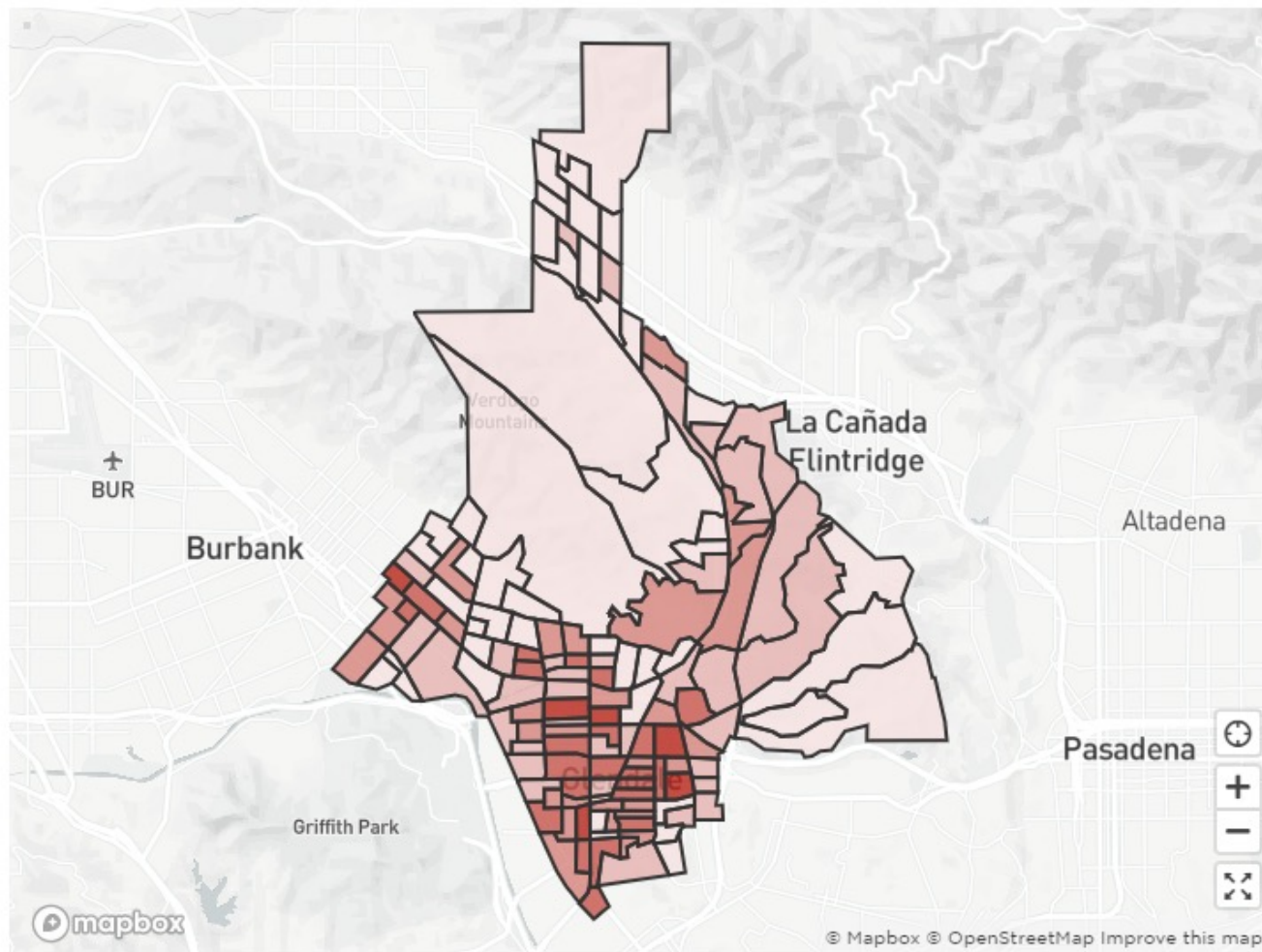
Using 35 indicators, including environmental and socioeconomic factors, the CEI developed a score for all census tracts within the City of San Diego, identifying areas that have lower access to opportunity and will need more attention when addressing climate equity. This community-based tool enables the City to measure the equity impacts of the Climate Action Plan.

#### EQUITY STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP:

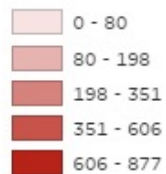
Consisting of 34 community organizations, this informal working group shares input with City staff on best practices and discusses opportunities for addressing equity.



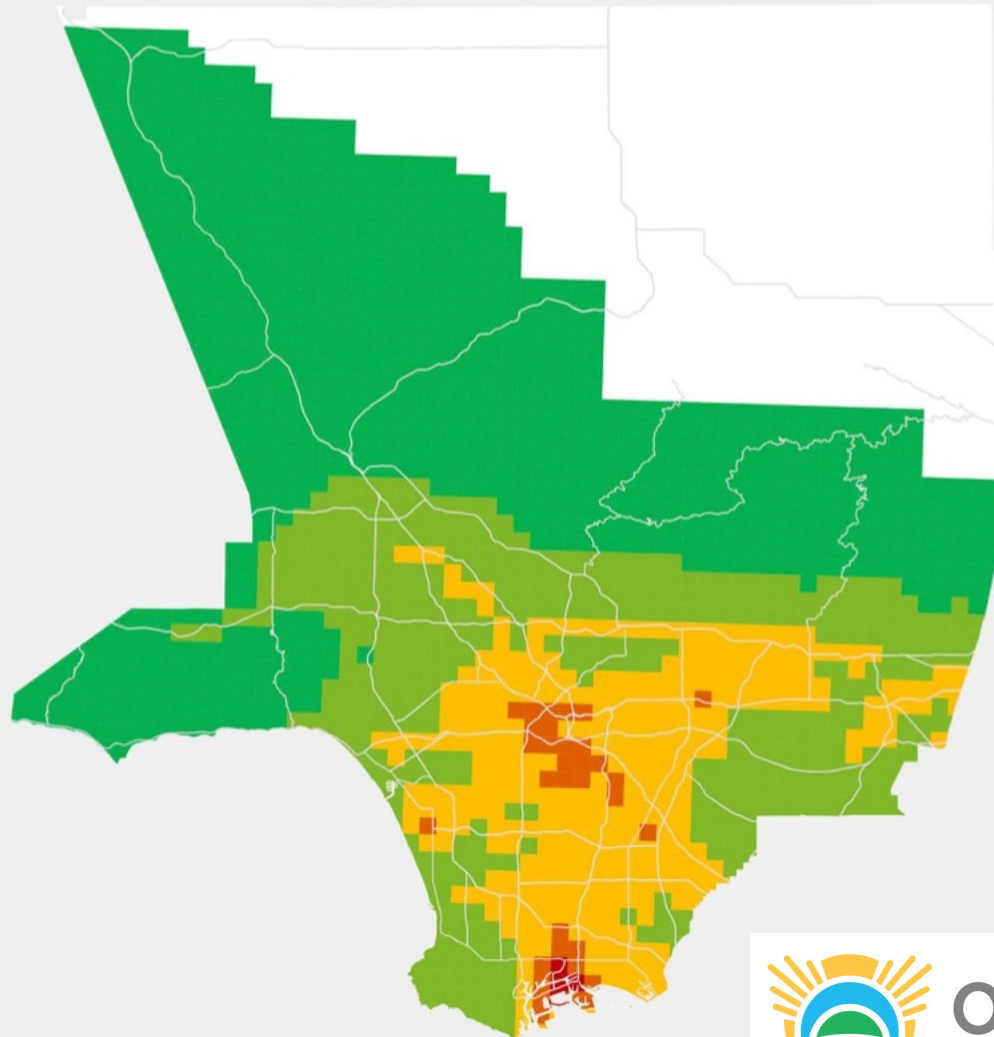
# Poverty Level



**People Below Poverty Level**



Sources: US Census ACS 5-year 2015-2019



OurCounty

Monitoring Air Toxics Risk

# Timeframe

**OCT  
21**

Complete RFP

**NOV – DEC  
21**

Release RFP

**DEC 21 –  
JAN 22**

Select Contractor

# Thank you.







*#MyGlendale*

