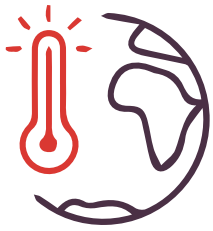


The Community Builders of Color Coalition led by the African American Alliance of CDFI CEOs, is a 18-member national network of financial institutions and social advocacy organizations led by people of color who are dedicated to ensuring that Black, Brown and Indigenous communities benefit equally from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GHGRF). The Coalition is committed to helping eradicate the disproportionate impact of climate change on Justice40 communities by providing resources to BIPOC-led organizations that are rooted in and serve those who are marginalized and disadvantaged.



Longstanding systemic injustices have contributed to the racial wealth gap and pressing issues like climate change. As temperatures rise, glaciers melt and natural disasters become more frequent, communities of color from the rural South to tribal lands are left in increasingly vulnerable positions with little resources to protect themselves from mounting climate and energy woes.

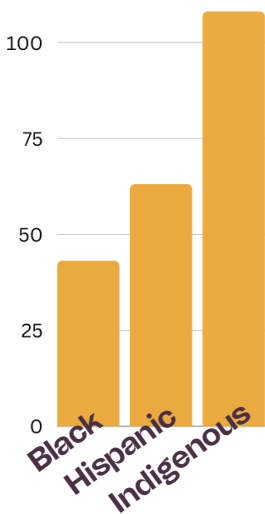
Low-income households spend three times more of their income on energy costs than non-low-income households.



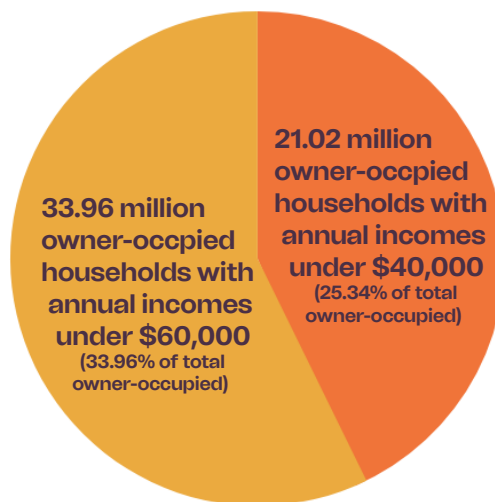
29%

of the United States' greenhouse gas emissions can be traced back to the buildings sector, including affordable housing.

Fenceline communities (those that live close to gas and oil refineries), for which BIPOC communities disproportionately account for, are more likely to breathe in pollutants resulting in a number of health issues such as asthma, heart disease and chronic pulmonary disorder (COPD).



Black households spend **43 percent more** of their income on energy costs, while Hispanic households spend **20 percent more** and Indigenous households spend **45 percent more** than white non-Hispanic households.



Communities of color continue to face energy insecurity due to longstanding systemic barriers such as lower incomes, a lack of access to credit, and lower numbers of home ownership.

Communities of color are on the frontlines of the climate crisis. When it comes to implementing solutions, they must be prioritized. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GHGRF) can serve as a unique and critical tool used to address the decades-long racial wealth gaps and empower communities of color to protect themselves from the climate crisis. By employing a racial and economic equity lens with the implementation of the GHGRF, the EPA will empower historically-neglected communities and deliver much-needed green energy solutions to communities who continue to lack access to such needed resources.



The time to act is now. The Coalition calls for the EPA to:

- **Lead with equity** in all aspects of the Fund’s operations and ensure equity and justice are embedded in all processes related to engaging/leveraging public and private financial resources.
- **Lead with energy efficiency as a strategy** to maximize greenhouse gas reductions in low-income and disadvantaged communities while also helping to reduce energy burden
- **Direct funds to community lenders** like certified CDFIs, FDIC-insured Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs) and credit union MDIs who specialize in serving low-income and marginalized communities and borrowers.

Members of the Community Builders of Color Coalition are financial institutions and social advocacy groups who are uniquely positioned to deploy resources from the GHGRF to serve marginalized BIPOC communities in need of support. With respective long and proud legacies of leading in community and economic development, Coalition members are knowledgeable in the use of forgivable loans for low-income households, especially for those who qualify for weatherization assistance funding but can’t receive it due to housing-related issues. Coalition members can also lead in the support of developing and providing language access resources, financial counseling, and education on the benefits of energy-saving appliances and the environmental impact of local minority-owned business.

Members of the Coalition can also use their expertise to guide local developers in utilizing the tax incentives provided in the Inflation Reduction Act to incorporate renewable energy into a number of housing initiatives, including affordable housing.

The Coalition is comprised of the following organizations:

