

Communities of Color for **Climate Justice**



Moving equity to the heart of a climate policy
that **WINS** in Washington State

Communities of Color for Climate Justice is...

OneAmerica Puget Sound Sage Got Green
Latino Community Fund Asian Pacific Islander
Coalition El Centro de la Raza Washington
Community Action Network Community-to-
Community...*and hundreds of thousands of people of color for whom the
impact of climate change could hold the most harmful consequences*

Communities of Color for Climate Justice: c/o Latino Community Fund
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About Communities of Color for Climate Justice

Communities of Color for Climate Justice is an action coalition of racial and economic justice organizations which strives to elevate the voices and interests of communities of color to the center of public policy, community-based education and organizing, and impact investments addressing climate change.

Formed in 2014, the Coalition comprises the State's leading racial justice organizations which together, have a reach that spans thousands of families and individuals for whom the impacts of climate change hold the most harmful and lasting consequences.

In just the past few months, the Coalition has initiated, and begun implementing, a collaborative workplan that features the following areas of impact:

- **Coordinated Advocacy and Engagement:** Building and coordinating leadership organizations within communities of color to elevate and catalyze efforts for equitable climate action in our state.
- **Policy Development and Civic Action:** Providing research, analysis and policy development built around equity as a driving force in policies addressing climate change.
- **Outreach and Mobilization:** Engaging, informing and mobilizing people of color around climate justice via community education, listening sessions and social media platforms.
- **Sharing the story:** Implementing a media strategy elevating leaders from communities of color to speak their truths about the ways in which climate change is already making an impact in their lives and wellbeing.



A frontline response

ADVOCACY, OUTREACH,
MOBILIZATION, POLICY AND ACTION

Coalition Members

ONEAMERICA
GOT GREEN
PUGET SOUND SAGE
ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER COALITION
LATINO COMMUNITY FUND
WASHINGTON COMMUNITY ACTION
NETWORK
COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY
EL CENTRO DE LA RAZA

Why this Coalition Matters

First and foremost, the Communities of Color for Climate Justice is building the vanguard of an environmental movement in which equity and justice are driving principles. Not only is this the right thing to do, it is also the politically smart thing to do. Because in order to gain a policy win on climate change in 2016, the environmental community will need to go beyond its traditional base of support to build a broader, more diverse constituency of environmental voters.

This means mobilizing and engaging communities of color, low-income and working class people...people who likely have the most at stake when it comes to climate change. And there is no one better at grassroots organizing and mobilization than the groups that comprise the Communities of Color Climate Justice Coalition. Indeed, our Coalition members have the experience, the credibility and the on-the-ground relationships needed to mobilize and engage large numbers of people who have traditionally been excluded and marginalized on environmental issues.

Now, and in the months ahead, we seek to shape the debate to include equity by convening a series of town hall meetings and creating a space for people to tell their stories and see how they can participate.

For the tribal fisherman whose river has dried...for the immigrant mother whose toddler is having trouble breathing....for the elderly couple whose apartment has inadequate ventilation...for the migrant farm family whose crops have already come and gone...for all people whose lives are irrevocably changed, these are the stories that simply **MUST BE TOLD**.

This is our chance to implement a thoughtful and coordinated campaign...to fully engage people and to provide a powerful platform for people to tell their own stories and to influence decisions and actions around climate change.



Disparity of impact

TELLING THE STORY AND
BUILDING PUBLIC WILL

At a Critical Juncture

Washington is on the verge of joining British Columbia, Oregon, and California in leading on a climate policy that sweeps the nation – but without communities of color and low income people, this may never come to pass. California set an example for shaping climate policy on equity, but the California model needs an early adopter or it will risk becoming a climate policy that is designed regressively, and fail to gain momentum.

Meanwhile, job loss, homelessness and displacement, devastating chronic illness, degraded living conditions... for communities of color and low-income people, these are not just abstract concepts. In fact, these are the real and immediate ways in which climate change is already affecting thousands of families, children, seniors and others. We know that if we do not act now, these consequences will only become more severe and more devastating.

Which is why this Coalition, this movement and this moment are so important.

Here's our Call to Action

Even as our Coalition members are taking their work to the next level by including the climate justice agenda, we also recognize that we will need to ramp up the philanthropic support and leadership that makes this work possible.

Communities of Color for Climate Justice is working right now to create partnerships with the philanthropic community in order to build our capacity to play a substantive role in ensuring that equity is a central element of the climate change policy agenda. Now and in the days ahead, we look forward to the opportunity to meet and to talk about our scope of impact on climate change.

To learn more, please contact Aiko Schaefer at (206) 941-4817, or via email at aikoshaefer@gmail.com.



Putting Equity Up Front

COALITION MEMBER
MAURICIO AYAN
TESTIFYING AT LEGISLATIVE
HEARING