



Radiant Rights: Unveiling Energy Equity & Justice

One cannot examine energy justice without evaluating where energy *injustices* emerge from, which communities have been sacrificed, and what processes of remediation exist. An energy-just world incorporates the equitable sharing of benefits and burdens involved in both the production and consumption of energy.

Energy justice recognizes the necessity of achieving equity in both the social and economic participation within the energy system, while also remediating social, economic, and health burdens on those historically most vulnerable. **Energy equity** refers to the fair distribution of energy resources, benefits, and burdens of energy production.

Embedding equity within the energy system is intrinsically tied to creating policies and programs that are informed by communities that have been historically neglected. Their needs and voices should be at the forefront of decision-making processes. Energy justice and energy equity recognize communities that have been historically marginalized and overburdened by pollution, have seen underinvestment in energy infrastructure, and lack of access to energy-efficient housing and transportation[1].

Energy Burden

The expense of energy expenditures relative to overall household income.

Energy Poverty

A level of energy consumption that is insufficient to meet certain basic life-sustaining needs.

Energy Insecurity

The economic, physical and behavioral factors that interact to produce an inability to adequately meet basic household energy needs [2]

Energy Sacrifice Zones

Places where acts that cause environmental harm and risk to human health, such as polluted air and water.

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Sources

[1] Barlow, J., Tapio, R., & Tarekegne, B. (2022). Advancing the state of energy equity metrics. *The Electricity Journal*, 35(10), 107208. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tej.2022.107208>. 2] Hernández, Diana. "Understanding 'energy insecurity' and why it matters to health." *Social science & medicine* 167 (2016): 1-10.