



Justice 40 and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act- Community Benefits Plans Hold The Key

Select Committee on Regulatory and Industry Diversity

Panelists:

Hon. Davante Lewis, Louisiana

Camille Moore, Senior Vice President External Affairs, American Association of Black in Energy

Leroy Nix, Vice President Strategic Policy and Stakeholder Engagement



Agenda for Today's Panel

- **Overview and the Regulatory Lens(Lewis)**
 - Why is this important?
 - Where does the money come from?
 - IIJA and the Louisiana PSC
- **Justice 40 and the Community Benefits Plan (Moore)**
 - Components of a successful CBP
 - Environmental Justice
 - Lessons Learned
- **A Utility Perspective (Nix)**
 - Holistic approach-Working as a team across departments
 - Working with the Community-*"Make your friends before you need them"*
- **Request for Best Practices from Commissioners and Q&A**

Why is the BIL/IIJA Important?

- The Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (BIL also called IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) represent nearly \$2 trillion of investment by the Federal government in infrastructure, jobs, communities, access to broadband internet, and greenhouse gas reduction.

Federal Funding Sources

Department	Department
Agriculture	Commerce
Defense (Army Corps of Engineers)	Energy
Homeland Security	Interior
Transportation	Environmental Protection Agency
Federal Communications Commission	General Services Agency

What is Justice40?

Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

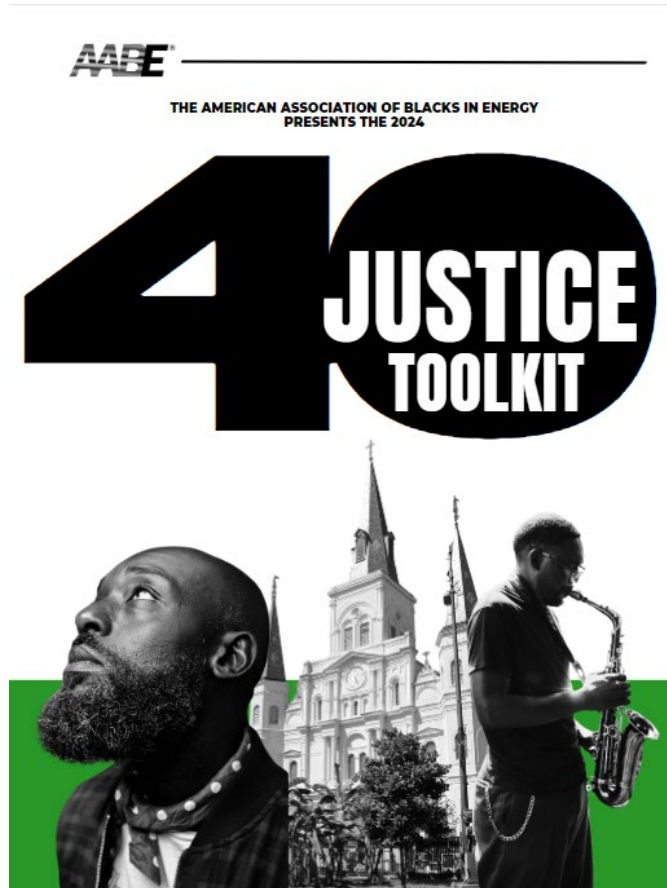
Established

- White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council (chaired by CEQ)
- White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC) (run by EPA)

Mandates

- CEQ, OMB & National Climate Advisor publish J40 recommendations
- CEQ create Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)
- Annual Environmental Justice Scorecard beginning February 2022

“40 Of What?”



- 40% of benefit overall
- Community Benefit Plans: 20% of technical review
 - investing in America's workforce
 - engaging communities and labor
 - advancing diversity, equity, inclusion
 - implementing Justice 40




Justice 40 Objectives

(The CBP cites how each of these will be impacted)

- ↓ 1. **Decrease energy burden** in disadvantaged communities
- ↓ 2. **Decrease environmental exposure and burdens** for disadvantaged communities
- ↑ 3. **Increase parity in clean energy technology access and adoption** in disadvantaged communities
- ↑ 4. **Increase access to low-cost capital** in disadvantaged communities
- ↑ 5. **Increase clean energy enterprise creation and contracting (MBE/DBE)** in disadvantaged communities
- ↑ 6. **Increase clean energy jobs, job pipeline, and job training** for individuals from disadvantaged communities
- ↑ 7. **Increase energy resiliency** in disadvantaged communities
- ↑ 8. **Increase energy democracy** in disadvantaged communities



GRIP Program Community Benefits Plan Priority Areas

1. Support meaningful community and labor engagement
 2. Invest in the American workforce
 3. Advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility
 4. Contribute to the goal that 40% of the overall benefits flow to disadvantaged communities.
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AABE J40 Earth Day Toolkit



The cover page features the AABE logo at the top left. Below it, the text reads "THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN ENERGY PRESENTS THE 2024". The central graphic is a large "40" with "JUSTICE TOOLKIT" written inside the zero. Below the graphic is a photograph of a man with a beard looking up, and another man playing a saxophone in front of a church. On the right side, there is a quote from Deidre Sanders, Ph.D. and a small circular portrait of her.

AABE

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IMPLEMENTING THE JUSTICE40 INITIATIVE
WHAT IS THE JUSTICE40 INITIATIVE?

The Justice40 Initiative signifies a federal commitment aimed at ensuring that 40% of the overall benefits of Federal investments reach disadvantaged communities. This commitment specifically targets several key areas, including climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transportation, affordable and sustainable housing, training and workforce development, remediation and water and waste infrastructure. President Biden initiated this in Executive Order 14008, marking the beginning of a new era in environmental justice. See the [initial guidance](#) issued July 20th, 2021.

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THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN ENERGY PRESENTS THE 2024

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toric ing to address marginalized estments and so initiative seeks more for all.

"Justice 40 investments can be catalysts in building the wealth and protecting the health of community members. Communities have the opportunity to not only welcome investments offered to them, but to seek out investments they prefer. The self-determination realized through meaningful community engagement is core to American values of equal opportunity resulting from communities' ability to first utilize foundational infrastructure resources."

DEIDRE SANDERS, PH.D

A MESSAGE FROM AABE PRESIDENT RALPH CLEVELAND:

"Justice40 marks a historic commitment to equity in the midst of unprecedented trillion dollar investments. If we do this right, no community will be left behind in our pursuit of a more secure, resilient and wealthy future. The real test is in whether we treat the 40 percent like a target or a call to greater action."



Energy and Environmental Justice Working Group

- When:
 - Formed in August 2021
 - Added “Energy” in Q1 2022
- Why:
 - Track evolving external conversation and stakeholder expectations related to energy equity and environmental justice
- How:
 - Initial efforts included outreach to peer utilities and the US EPA to discuss experiences and best practices
 - Group became platform to foster and strengthen internal coordination between teams with related focus areas
 - As federal agencies began to more fully integrate the Justice40 Initiative into their missions, group became a platform to coordinate and align with agency expectations
 - Example: Development of CBPs for DOE funding applications
 - Group continues to meet at least quarterly to share information across our organization



Community Benefits Plans

Approach

- Local operating company engagement, alignment, and approval of CBP plan elements is key
- Utilize disadvantaged community mapping tools (e.g., the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool) to inform project selection and identify community needs
- Identify existing community partners in project area and any potential “gaps” in existing relationships
- Conduct outreach to and seek feedback from to existing and potential community partners before and during CBP development
- Leverage strengths of existing internal teams (Diverse Workforce Strategies, Supply Chain Diversity, Corporate Social Responsibility, etc.)
- Focus stakeholder engagement approach to foster 2-way meaningful dialogue with community representatives and members

Lessons Learned

- DOE and other federal agencies continue to iterate toward best practices
 - Pay attention to specific requirements/expectations of each funding application
 - Be prepared to adjust approach to each project and each community
- Don't let “perfect” be the enemy of “good”

Resources

- [Build.gov](#) – The White House website on IIJA/BIL
- [Department of Energy Clean Energy Infrastructure website](#)
- [Guidebook to the BIL](#)
- Program Search – Excel Document of all the guidebook data (attached as a handout)
- [Advancing Equitable Workforce Development for Infrastructure Jobs](#)
- [AABE Justice40 Earth Day Toolkit](#)
- [Justice40 Initiative-Department of Energy Office of Economic Impact and Diversity website](#)
- [White House Justice40 Initiative Website](#)
- [Justice40 Implementation Guidance](#)
- Article: [*Perspectives from Environmental Justice Communities: A National Survey*](#)

Access Resources File

