



**CNCA**  
CARBON NEUTRAL CITIES ALLIANCE

## CLIMATE JUSTICE STATEMENT

CNCA is committed to embedding climate justice in our work to support members in taking climate action at the scale needed to protect the planet and in ways aligned with our values of fairness and justice. We will continue to deepen our understanding of the issues and opportunities in fostering a just transition to a clean and carbon neutral future to improve the way we work as well as the language we use, and therefore consider this Statement as a work in progress.

The statement is intended to guide CNCA in centering climate justice in our support to members and to inspire members to increasingly advance a just carbon neutral future.

### CNCA CLIMATE JUSTICE STATEMENT

CNCA is committed to a just carbon neutral future that recognizes and redresses the disproportionate burdens and the disproportionate benefits of the fossil fuel economy by prioritizing climate action that advances the well-being of low-income people, Indigenous Peoples, communities of color, immigrants and refugees and other historically marginalized communities.

#### We recognize that:

- Our collective global history of colonization and slavery have deeply impacted government policies and practices and continue to perpetuate inequities in the present.
- The benefits, such as wealth creation, and burdens, such as pollution, of our fossil fuel-based economy and the impacts of climate change affect people across our communities differently, typically based on income, citizenship status, race, gender, age, ability, or ethnicity.
- The causes of disproportionate negative outcomes for people of color, Indigenous Peoples, immigrants and refugees, low-income people, and other marginalized people (priority communities) and the climate crisis are both rooted in interlocking and extractive systems in our governments, economies, and societies that exploit natural resources at unsustainable levels and perpetuate the oppression of priority communities.
- There is a growing sense of xenophobia, nationalism, and related increasing oppression of recent immigrants and refugees as well as citizens from certain countries.
- Through their connection to the land, traditions, and perspectives rooted in their history and culture, Indigenous Peoples have unique knowledge vital to creating a more sustainable future.
- Carbon neutrality requires that climate solutions work for everyone and will be most effective if designed first to work for those who experience the greatest barriers to meeting their needs and thriving.

- A just transition to carbon-neutrality will require strategies to support priority communities as the energy, manufacturing, and agricultural sectors (among others) are restructured and workforce needs shift, as well as strategies to address increased costs of clean energy policies when they result.
- Priority communities are severely under-represented in positions of power generally, and specifically in climate action planning positions.
- Our fossil fuel-based economy and the institutional systems which perpetuate inequities are fundamentally broken and must be repaired to restore the well-being of our planet, communities and people.
- Science is a necessary foundation of our understanding of climate change and the resulting disproportionate burdens, and the design of effective climate action.

We will strive to:

- Implement just climate action that is designed first to work for those who experience the greatest barriers to meeting their needs and thriving, and who are often at the greatest risk from the impacts of climate change.
- Work in collaboration with priority communities to define the challenges and design and implement climate solutions, including fostering a just transition that addresses job losses and cost increases.
- Allocate the time and resources to collaborate with priority communities and resource their robust participation.
- Value the insights of people, especially priority communities, as much or more than traditional data sources.
- Be people-centered, including understanding the lived experiences and every-day challenges of people from priority communities and how climate action can improve quality of life and avoid or mitigate negative impacts such as increasing costs for low income people.
- Increase the representation of priority communities in the climate and sustainability field by supporting professional development and capacity building.
- Take a systems-based and reparative approach to climate action to advance health and economic and social well-being by collaborating with priority communities and across city departments, different levels of government, and sectoral boundaries.