

Definitions

These seven terms and their definitions were discussed in PacifiCorp's Equity Advisory Group (EAG) Meeting #1. Having a shared sense of the definitions of these important terms can support effective communication and dialogue within the Equity Advisory Group (EAG). These are not intended to establish broadly applicable definitions. These were edited with the input of PacifiCorp's Equity Advisory Group, and modifications are included in red text. We are asking for additional input from EAG members based on these updates.

Equity and justice

- **Equity:** The fair and just treatment of people, with the recognition that individuals and communities have vastly different access to opportunities and advancement **based on race, renter status, income, ethnicity, gender, immigration status and sexual orientation**. Achieving equity may require providing individuals and communities with different resources, systems, processes, **access and adjustments to programs**, and support to ensure they have equal opportunities to be successful.
- **Environmental Justice:** The fair and equitable treatment of **historically marginalized and vulnerable populations** ~~all people~~ regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or income level, ~~etc.~~ in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Environmental justice focuses on **the sustainable use of** natural resources, **improving** air quality, **improving** waste management, etc.
- **Energy Justice:** The goal of achieving equity in both the social and economic participation in the energy system, while also remediating social, economic, and health burdens on those historically harmed by the energy system (frontline communities).” **Energy justice considers not only the price of energy but also energy sufficiency, the health and economic impacts of energy production, access to programs, and the fair distribution of energy benefits through communities.**

Energy and climate

- **Energy Burden:** The expense of **all** energy expenditures **(including utility bills, transportation costs, firewood, etc.)** relative to overall household income **and relative distribution compared to different types of customers (e.g., industrial, commercial, residential, high income, etc.)**. Energy burden as defined by the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) is “the share of annual household income used to pay annual home energy bills.”
- **Energy Security:** The **ability to access** uninterrupted energy services at an **equitably** affordable price.

Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) definitions

- **Vulnerable Populations:** Communities that experience a disproportionate cumulative risk from environmental burdens due to: a) Adverse socioeconomic factors, including unemployment, high housing and transportation costs relative to income, linguistic isolation, and access to food, **education**, health care, **capital and credit**; and (b) Sensitivity factors, such as low birth weight and higher rates of hospitalization.

- **Highly-impacted communities:** A community designated with a score of 9 or 10 based on the Washington Department of Health's cumulative impact analyses or a census tract that is fully or partially on sovereign tribal territory. Scores are assigned based on several indicators that express: 1) environmental exposures, 2) environmental effects, 3) sensitive populations, and 4) socioeconomic factors. This information is available on the [Washington Department of Health's Information by Location Environmental Health Disparities \(EHD\) map](#).