



## 2016 – 2018 CLIMATE JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) is leading the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transform the climate equity landscape of California's second largest city and the sixth largest city in the nation. Policy decisions that San Diego leaders are making now will shape the region for decades to come. San Diego is on the cusp of change and EHC has built the power to secure policies that create long-term benefits for low-income communities and models for regions throughout the country.

EHC is the foremost climate justice voice for low-income communities in the San Diego/Tijuana region. EHC has worked directly on energy and climate issues for over a decade and on air pollution issues for more than 30 years. In 2008 we launched our Climate Justice Campaign as a core program. EHC seeks to secure integrated local, regional and state policies that protect the most impacted communities and the region from the effects of climate change. EHC is the only binational environmental justice organization in the region and is in a unique position to advance climate issues in a cross border region with a population of nearly 5 million.

### LOCAL IMPACTS AND POLICIES

EHC has deep roots working alongside residents of local communities, where more than 30% of families live in poverty compared to 14% in San Diego County, and more than 90% of residents are people of color compared to the county's 52%. EHC's target neighborhoods are ranked as the highest vulnerability areas in the San Diego area, according to Pacific Institute's climate impacts analysis and the State of California's CalEnviroScreen assessment. As the result of EHC's strategic organizing, advocacy, and leadership development efforts, the San Diego region is advancing climate policies that promote renewable energy instead of dirty energy sources and transportation policies that increase transit and active transportation. Our achievements include:

- **2016 - City of San Diego Climate Action Plan adopted.** San Diego's CAP is the first in the nation to incorporate an equity element that requires benefits to be directed to the most impacted neighborhoods defined by CalEnviroScreen.
- **2015 - \$99 million for low-income community transit benefits.** San Diego's regional planning agency's allocation will create a transit stop in Sherman Heights/Golden Hill and a Bus-on-Shoulder Pilot Program.
- **2014 - Pollution reduced at Port of San Diego.** Shore powering installed at the Tenth Avenue Maritime Terminal Dole berth will reduce diesel emissions impacting the Barrio Logan community by 94% as well as lower the region's carbon footprint.
- **2013 - Port of San Diego Climate Action Plan adopted.** The Port CAP incorporates environmental justice concerns, reduces GHGs, and promotes community priorities for sustainability.
- **2013 - Aging Power Plant demolished.** The polluting South Bay Power Plant was finally decommissioned and torn down after a 15-year EHC campaign.



## LOCAL TO REGIONAL POLICY INFLUENCE

EHC has built a clear pipeline that moves local needs to state policies. As a founding member and core partner in the California Environmental Justice Alliance, a coalition of the most effective environmental justice organizations in the state, we have become a powerful force in the capital. EHC's role is to advance state policies and to bring the benefits to underserved and impacted communities in the San Diego region. Examples include:

- **2016 – Appointment to California Air Resources Board.** EHC's Executive Director is appointed to the powerful California Air Resources Board by the Assembly Speaker as a result of a bill adopted in 2015 adding two environmental justice seats to the board. This historic action ensures that environmental justice communities are represented at the state's key regulatory agency with authority over climate policy and air quality.
- **2015 - Largest low-income solar energy program in U.S. adopted.** The California legislature adopts AB 693, creating the nation's largest solar energy program for low-income tenants. AB 693 provides \$1 billion in dedicated funding to install 300 megawatts of solar over ten years and reduce GHG emissions by up to 3 million tons. AB 693 is the first program to direct utility savings back to renters, reducing energy bills for 210,000 low-income apartments.
- **2015 – Cap and trade funds for affordable housing.** National City's Paradise Creek Affordable Housing Project wins \$9 million in funds from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, created by AB 535, legislation that EHC was instrumental in securing in 2012. AB 535 requires 25% of cap and trade funds be used to benefit disadvantaged communities with GHG-cutting programs, including affordable housing.
- **2012 - Green jobs and clean energy for all Californians.** Prop 39, which creates green jobs and clean energy throughout California, is approved by 76% in EHC target communities, compared to 56 % of voters county-wide.
- **2010 – Dirty energy and green job killer bill stopped.** EHC led the effort to stop Prop 23 in San Diego County, where it was defeated by a 55% to 44% vote.

## EHC'S ORGANIZING, ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP MODEL GETS RESULTS

EHC is building on our highly successful work at the grassroots, local, regional and statewide levels to achieve policies that address inequities, bring tangible benefits to communities, and offer models for other municipalities to adopt and enhance their climate justice efforts. EHC is focused on achieving effective implementation of three major regional policies: the City of San Diego Climate Action Plan, the San Diego Regional Transportation Plan, and the Port of San Diego Climate Action Plan. We project that the following outcomes derived from these policies will reduce GHG pollution by 50% by 2035:

- Alternative transportation (walk, bike, transit) utilized for 50% of all commutes
- Job creation for solar installation estimated to be 14,400 direct job years and 23,040 indirect job years.
- Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) reduced by over 956 million miles
- 100% of electrical energy delivered by local renewables by adding 1126 MW of solar.
- Energy use reduced by 15% in 50% of homes
- An estimated 16% drop in asthma ER visit rates from low-income adults,

EHC's model strives to move beyond incremental change, beyond fighting for what we can get, to building the power to fight for what we truly need -- Clean air, healthy kids, good jobs and sustainable transportation.

