



City of San Diego Climate Equity Index

Background

In 2019, the City of San Diego developed the first-of-its-kind Climate Equity Index (CEI), in partnership with several community-based organizations representing communities of concern or advocating for environmental justice policy development. These organizations form the informal Equity Stakeholder Working Group.

The goal of the CEI is to measure the level of access to opportunity residents have within a census tract and assess the degree of potential impact from climate change to these areas. The CEI is the first tool in the country that considers the effects of climate change, environmental pollution, and vulnerable populations.

With the CEI, the City has better identified Communities of Concern to include census tracts with Very Low, Low, and Moderate Access to Opportunity, outlined in the included map.

Climate Equity: *addressing historical inequities suffered by people of color, allowing everyone to fairly share the same benefits and burdens from climate solutions and attain full and equal access to opportunities regardless of one's background and identity.*

Climate Equity Index Indicators *Denotes CalEnviroScreen 3.0 indicators



Environmental

- Flood Risk
- Fire Risk
- Tree Coverage
- Urban Heat Island Index
- Toxic Release from Facilities*
- Clean Up Sites*
- Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities*
- Solid Waste Sites and Facilities*
- Ozone*
- PM2.5*
- Diesel PM*
- Pesticide Use*
- Drinking Water Contaminants*
- Groundwater Threats*
- Impaired Water Bodies*
- Proximity to Community Recreation Areas



Mobility

- Traffic Density*
- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
- Pedestrian Access
- Commute Burden
- Transportation Cost Burden
- Disability
- Street Conditions
- Bikeability
- Access to Public Transit



Health

- Asthma Rates*
- Cancer Fatalities
- Healthy Food Access
- Low Infant Birth Weights*
- Cardiovascular Disease*



Housing

- Housing Cost Burden
- Overcrowdedness



Socioeconomic

- Unemployment*
- Educational Attainment*
- Linguistic Isolation*
- Digital Access
- Median Income
- Poverty Rate*
- Change in Income
- Energy Cost Burden
- Solar Photovoltaic Systems

Recommendations

To advance climate equity in San Diego, the 2019 Climate Equity Index report listed the following recommendations:

- **RECOMMENDATION 1:** Seek grant funding opportunities to support community engagement and invest in Communities of Concern.
- **RECOMMENDATION 2:** Conduct public engagement efforts, in partnership with community-based organizations, in Communities of Concern.
- **RECOMMENDATION 3:** Explore the feasibility of establishing a sustainability ambassador program in Communities of Concern to improve participation in City planning.
- **RECOMMENDATION 4:** Determine mechanisms to incorporate climate equity into City programs and projects.
- **RECOMMENDATION 5:** Regularly refresh the CEI data when major data sets are updated, such as the State's CalEnviroScreen and U.S. Census.

City of San Diego 2021 Climate Equity Index

