

Climate change and racial equity are defining crises of this moment.

The Community Climate Shift project endeavors to address both.

Challenge

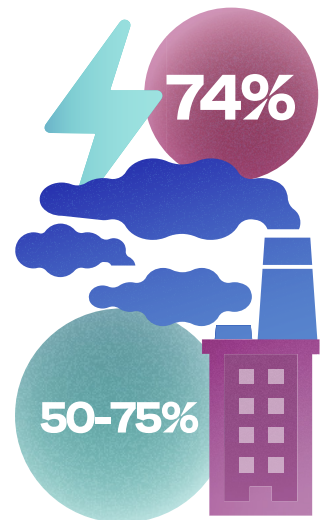
Buildings are where we live, work, learn and play. They shape our cities, our health, and our opportunities. Decades of policy and business practices have separated us by race and income into unequally resourced communities and buildings. Frontline communities who already bear the brunt of these systems now also experience the increasing burden of higher energy bills, dirtier air, extreme heat, increased vulnerability to power outages, and other climate-related disasters.

Poorly planned and operated buildings disproportionately contribute to these life-threatening issues. Despite this, buildings are not being renovated at the pace we need to protect us in a changing climate, or to address their climate impact.

Opportunity

New federal funding presents an unprecedented opportunity to make our built environment more equitable and energy efficient. Building performance standards, an emerging policy approach, can catalyze retrofits at scale. They are so promising that President Biden announced a National Building Performance Standards Coalition, and the Department of Energy awarded Institute for Market Transformation (IMT) a \$5 million grant to help local and state governments with implementation. However, frontline communities need to be at the forefront of funding and policy decisions in order to ensure climate solutions address historic injustices and provide future opportunities.

Community Climate Shift offers a scalable solution. Led by the Institute for Market Transformation and the People's Center for Climate Innovation, this coalition of local community-based organizations and national environmental nonprofits is working to ensure residents have the resources and connections to drive their own solutions.



Buildings in the U.S. are responsible for 74% of U.S. electricity consumption and a third of national greenhouse gas emissions. In most cities, buildings account for 50%-75% of emissions. Most of the buildings we have today will still be here in 2050 or beyond.



Shattering Policymaking Silos

Community Climate Shift aims to rectify traditional, siloed policy processes by working alongside Community Based Organizations (CBOs) already deeply engaged with their communities. Our purpose is to ensure their perspectives and expertise are not only listened to but are the driving force in the policy design and implementation process, honoring their expertise and experiences.

Centering Community-Driven Solutions

Our approach gives community leaders direct access to policymakers, and guides policymakers in specific actions they can take to make building decarbonization strategies more inclusive and just.

We are specifically focused on the role buildings play in climate and communities, and the unique opportunity to leverage climate action toward better buildings in a way that also sets precedent for better policymaking that is rooted in community priorities.

Leveraging the Power of Partnerships

We seek to unlock the transformative solutions that emerge when communities have real input and co-governance of priorities and resources. Our goal is to activate and support a network of partners to collectively center climate justice and create processes that enhance community power and produce community-owned resources and policymaking.

Take Action

Community Climate Shift is fundraising to match and exceed the Department of Energy grant so that community-based organizations have the time and resources to direct state and local building performance policymaking. Our network of partners in race and gender equity and environmental justice, building decarbonization, and philanthropy is prepared to activate in key locations across the country to prove the efficacy of this model. Contact Ashawnda Fleming (ashawnda@imt.org) to learn more.

