



# The Green Justice Coalition

## Steering Committee

Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE)  
Alliance to Develop Power (ADP)  
Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)  
Boston Climate Action Network (BCAN)  
Chelsea Collaborative  
Chinese Progressive Association (CPA)  
Clean Water Action  
Coalition Against Poverty/Coalition for Social Justice (CAP/CSJ)  
Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI)  
MassCOSH  
Neighbor to Neighbor  
New England Council of Carpenters  
Painters & Allied Trades DC35  
Project RIGHT

Adaptive Environments, Boston Workers Alliance, Boston Youth Environmental Network, Greater Boston Labor Council, Greenport, Green Roundtable, Home Energy Efficiency Team, Massachusetts Energy, Massachusetts Green Jobs Coalition, Massachusetts Interfaith Climate Action Network, Sheet Metal Workers Local 17, Urban Ecology Institute, Urban Massachusetts Green Alliance, Youth Build Boston, SEIU Local 615





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## The Problems:

- Global Warming & Overuse of Fossil Fuels
- High Heating Costs
- Environmental Injustice
- Wealth Inequality



# The Fossil Fuel Economy hits Low-Income & Communities of Color hardest



- To pay for rising fuel prices
- **70% of low income households said that they reduced purchases of food and**
- **31% said that they reduced their purchases of medicine and**
- **19% said that they changed plans for their education or their children's**

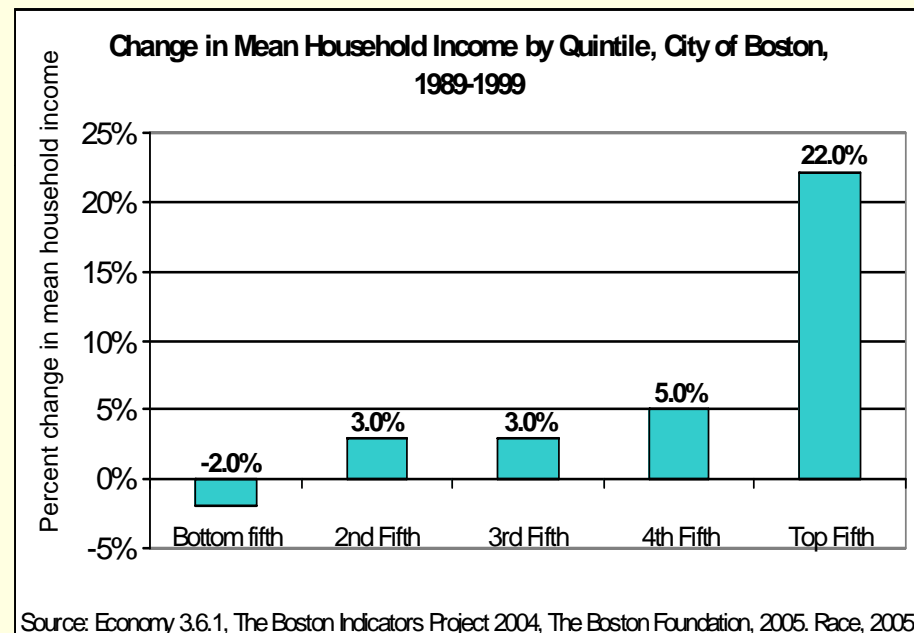
- A Massachusetts resident of color is **39 times** more likely than a white resident to live in an environmentally-burdened community.





# Growing Income and Wealth Inequality

- Boston is now ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> among the nation's largest cities for having the most unequal income distribution.
- Almost half of all adults living in poverty worked full or part-time in 2007
- 90% of African Americans and Latinos as well as 55% of Asians live in "low opportunity neighborhoods" on Massachusetts





# The Green Justice Solution: Sustainable Economic Recovery



- **Create local “green collar” jobs** that pay good wages, offer career opportunities and are accessible to local residents
- **Keep money in the local economy** rather than using it for imported fuels
- **Save money for consumers by reducing heating costs** helping residents to stay in their homes and helping businesses to stay competitive.
- **Reduce Green House Gas Emissions**, with the potential to shrink Greater Boston’s carbon footprint more quickly than any other strategy
- **Improve air quality in our homes and communities**, reducing asthma and other respiratory diseases



# Green Collar Jobs are Good Jobs

- Many use “green job” and “green-collar job” to mean the same thing: a job in energy efficiency, alternative or renewable fuels, or alternative transportation.
- For us, a **green-collar job** is more specific:
  - a **blue-collar job that requires less than a BA**
  - Pays **family sustaining wages (or prevailing wage)**
  - **Safe** working conditions
  - Chances for advancement / **career ladder**
  - Opportunities for **union membership**.
- Van Jones says, “*a green-collar job is a **pathway out of poverty.***”
- Workers who will be negatively impacted by green development have a right to a **just transition, to not bear the costs of greening.**



# Energy Efficiency Jobs

For residential retrofits, every \$1 million invested generates 11 on site jobs plus as many as 5 indirect 'support' jobs.

- Energy Efficiency Upgrades Auditing/Assessment and Construction
- Efficient Building Operations and Maintenance
- Energy Management





# Energy Efficiency with Equity and Justice

- Dramatically expand energy efficiency and weatherization programs in both the public and private sector to reduce Massachusetts's carbon footprint.
- Maximize energy efficiency opportunities for working class communities across the state, especially those that are struggling the most with rising energy bills.
- Create living wage and "high road" jobs for new and incumbent workers via job standards and local hiring requirements, while support entrepreneurial and collective ownership opportunities for green businesses in our communities.
- Establish career ladder training programs to connect new workers from lower income communities and communities of color to green jobs.

