



# JUST ENERGY POLICIES: REDUCING POLLUTION AND CREATING JOBS

Highlights from NAACP's June 2013 Report

Full Report  
<http://wp.me/a5WT9H-oS>

# Highlights

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## Key Learnings

- This compendium provides outstanding background information on the disproportionate impacts of our historic and current energy sector borne by communities of color.
- It profiles Renewable Portfolio Standards, Energy Efficiency Resource Standards, and Net Metering Standards and how to access rebates/loan/grants by state.
- It also highlights equity in energy enterprise policies and financial incentives for EE and RE. Useful charts and graphics convey the tremendous energy potential across the country from renewables.
- It highlights enterprise and jobs potential from EE and RE, and provides an overview of the types of renewables being implemented in the U.S.
- Local hire and minority business enterprise are held up as strategies to ensure community benefit and jobs creation from RE.
- MA and VT held up as most advanced in EE policies and planning
- Approximately 68% of African Americans live within 30 miles of a coal-fired power plant
- An African American child is three times as likely to be admitted to the hospital and twice more likely to die from an asthma attack than a white American child.
- Properties in close proximity to toxic facilities average 15% lower property values.
- While African Americans spent \$41 billion on energy in 2009, they only held 1.1% of energy jobs and only gained .01% of the revenue from energy sector profits.
- The south has the greatest absolute EE potential, more than twice the northeast, with greatest opportunities for equity specifically around residential electronics and residential cooling.
- As of 2012, the average household making more than \$50,000 spends approximately 9% of its income on energy bills, whereas households that earn less than \$50,000 a year spends 21%, and lower-income families ranging from \$10,000 to \$30,000 spends 24% of their income.
- Sick Building Syndrome (SBS) costs the nation approximately \$60 billion annually in sick days, medical costs and overall reduced productivity. Improved air quality can increase worker productivity by as much as 5% and due to this increased productivity lead to an extra \$37 billion to \$210 billion added to the American economy annually.
- Improved air quality can reduce symptoms of Sick Building Syndrome by 20% to 50%, asthma by 8% to 25% and other respiratory illnesses by 26% to 75%
- EE measures like sealing leaky ducts can help to prevent asthma triggers, such as mold, dust and termites, from disrupting air quality. African Americans are 30% more likely to have asthma than non-white Hispanics.

## Contact

Jacqui Patterson, 410-580-5794, [ecjp@naacpnet.org](mailto:ecjp@naacpnet.org)

