

California Air Resources Board (CARB) Vision for Environmental Justice and Racial Equity

This vision will guide CARB as we address environmental justice and advance racial equity in our ongoing work.

Developing CARB's environmental justice and racial equity practices, internally and externally, is iterative and not instantaneous. We acknowledge that this is an ongoing process and we will continue to evaluate CARB as an organization to support accountability and identify what more will need to be done.

VISION

CARB commits to just social change by working at all levels within the organization and externally to address environmental injustices and advance racial equity in the achievement of its mission. CARB works toward a future where all Californians breathe healthy and clean air, benefit from actions to address climate change, and where race is no longer a predictor of life outcomes.

WHAT WE DO

Create and implement policies, regulations, and programs that address environmental justice (EJ), advance racial equity, including in our own workforce, and provide tangible and immediate gains for historically oppressed people, consistent with state and federal law.

Convene and partner with community-based organizations, non-profits, government agencies, business and industry, and others to support the movement for environmental justice and racial equity.

Continue to daylight disparities, reduce barriers, and avoid negative outcomes through strategies and tools that work towards a future when race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes.

Develop mechanisms to facilitate accountability for CARB's activities, within the organization and externally, to ensure feedback is shared and addressed at all levels in the organization.

Act as a resource and model for other states and government agencies working toward a just and equitable future.

APPROACH

CARB has developed a Racial Equity Framework (Framework) that provides a shared foundation for an anti-racist organization. The Framework is not an action plan, policy, or regulation and does not impose any specific internal or external procedures or requirements—rather it communicates a model of organizational change and a few key ideas to guide action planning to advance racial equity at all levels of the organization. This Framework describes racial equity as both:

- An outcome—achieving racial equity means race will no longer predict life outcomes and outcomes for all groups are improved, and
- A process—ensuring those impacted by structural racial inequities are meaningfully involved in the creation and implementation of CARB’s policies, programs and practices that impact their lives.

CARB commits to using existing authorities and resources to address environmental injustice, the root cause of which is structural racism, including by incorporating the 17 EJ principles that were adopted in the 1991 First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit and by using a racial equity lens, which is a set of questions to center equity through an assessment, in all CARB’s programs, policies, and regulations. This framework includes:

- As an outcome, achieving environmental justice, which pursuant to Government Code § 65040.12 means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.
- As a process, engaging with communities in an intentional and meaningful way—proactively seeking input and ensuring that such input has the ability to affect decision making. Empowering community members with the best possible information about the air they breathe and how CARB partners with communities to reduce unhealthy air pollution and the impacts of climate change.