



Joint Public Advisory Committee
Commission for Environmental Cooperation
“Resilient Communities in North America”
July 10, 2012

Justice and Equity

In the Face of Climate Change



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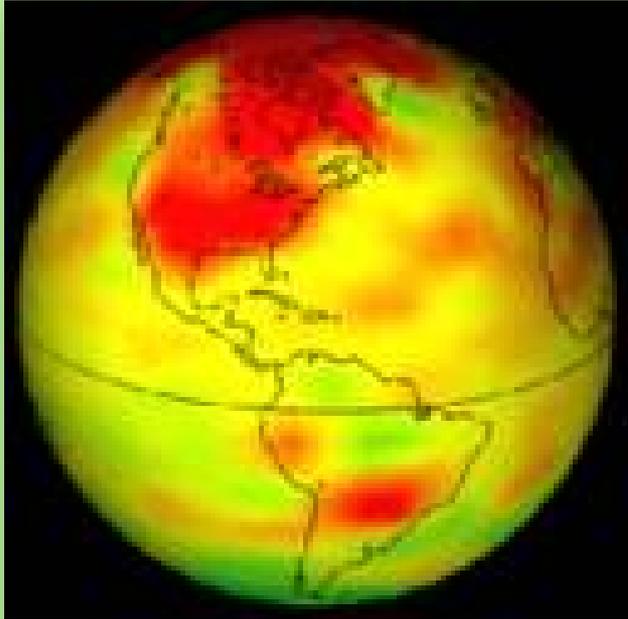
**Deep South Center for
Environmental Justice**

New Orleans, LA



DILLARD
UNIVERSITY

Climate Change is Real...



<http://www.silverbearcafe.com/private/images/...>

- There is now overwhelming scientific evidence that climate change is “real” and that it poses a serious global threat that cannot be ignored.



Global Warming

Global Warming Predictions

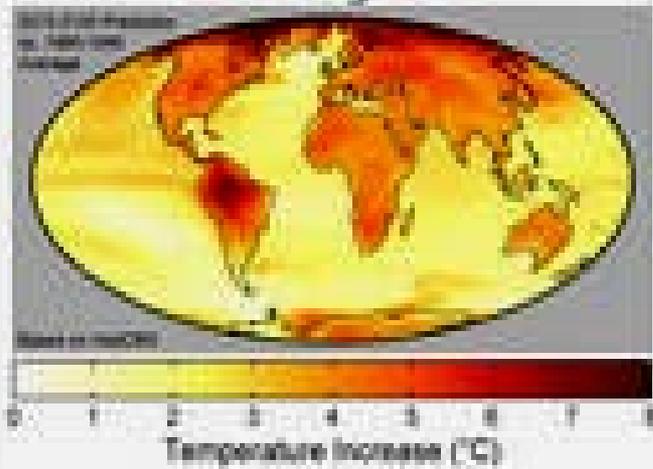
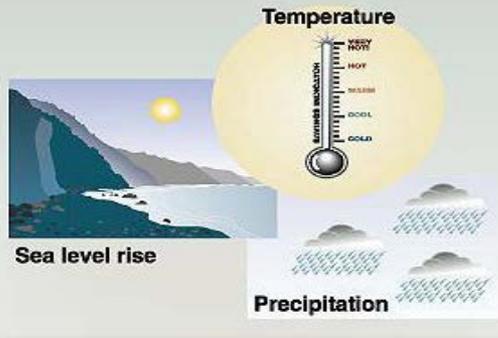


Image Source: Global Warming Art

- The International Panel on Climate Change Plenary XXVII predicts further warming of the climate system which can induce change in the global climate in this century far greater than what has been observed in previous centuries.

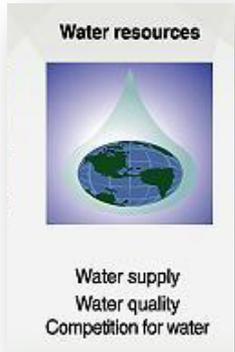


Increase in Impacts



- Increased flooding
- Higher mean atmospheric temperatures
- Higher global mean sea levels
- Increased precipitation
- Increased droughts

We can expect the impacts of climate change to continue even with the current climate change mitigation policies.



Increased atmospheric moisture-holding capacity

- Increased heat waves
- Increased strength of storms



And the List Goes On...

coastal areas



Erosion of beaches
Inundation of coastal lands
additional costs to protect coastal communities

Species and natural areas



Loss of habitat and species
Cryosphere: diminishing glaciers

Health



Weather-related mortality
Infectious diseases
Air-quality respiratory illnesses

- More energetic waves
- Storm surges that reach further inland
- Under-capacity of urban sewerage and drainage systems
- Increased blight
- Increased vulnerability of port cities
- Disproportionate impacts on disadvantaged population segments



2010 Statistics

- The **2010 Atlantic hurricane season** was the third most active season on record, tying with:
 - [1887 Atlantic hurricane season](#),
 - [1995 Atlantic hurricane season](#)
 - [2011 Atlantic hurricane season](#)
- It had the most number of named storms since the [2005 season](#) and also ties with the:
- [1969 Atlantic hurricane season](#)
- for the second largest number of hurricanes.



Earthquake in Haiti

A massive earthquake struck Haiti on Jan. 12, 2010 killing more than 200,000 people and leveling 38% of the capital of Port-au-Prince. The magnitude 7.0 quake, the most powerful to hit Haiti in a century, was felt strongly in eastern Cuba, more than 200 miles away.

http://articles.cnn.com/2010-01-12/world/haiti.earthquake_1_earthquake-haiti-2010-peacekeeping-mission-president-rene-preval-haiti?_s=PM:WORLD

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/story/2010/02/27/chile-earthquake.html>



Earthquake in Chile

On February 27, 2010 a powerful 8.8-magnitude earthquake one of the largest ever recorded, tore apart houses, bridges and highways in central Chile and sent a tsunami racing halfway around the world.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/story/2010/02/27/chile-earthquake.html>



Flooding in France

- On June 16, 2010, an Atlantic storm that killed at least 47 people on the western coast of France was declared a national disaster.
- According to Meteo France, the national forecaster, the region had not seen such floods since 1827.



The storm also hit the western coasts of Portugal and Spain, then moved towards Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.



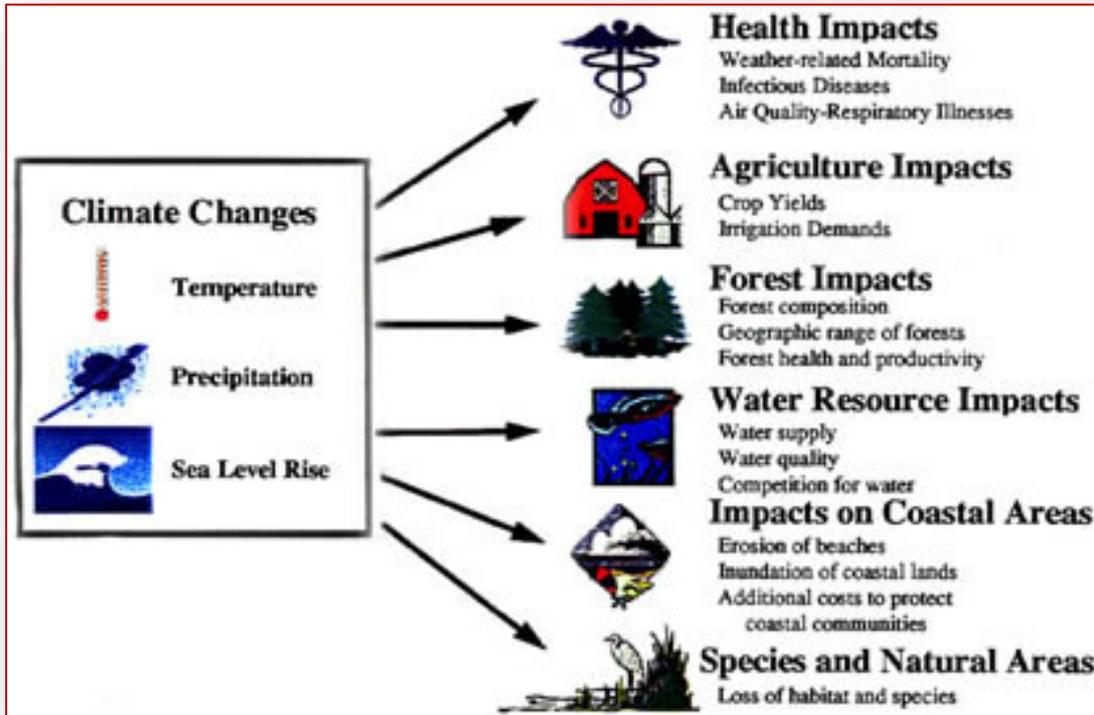
2011 Statistics



- The 2011 Atlantic hurricane season produced a total of 19 tropical storms
 - 7 became hurricanes,
 - Close to the average of 6
 - 4 of which were major hurricanes
 - Above the average of 2
- This level of activity matched NOAA's predictions and continues the trend of active hurricane seasons that began in 1995.
- The 19 tropical storms represent the third-highest total (tied with 1887, 1995, and 2010) since records began in 1851
 - Above the average of 11



Managing Weather Impacts

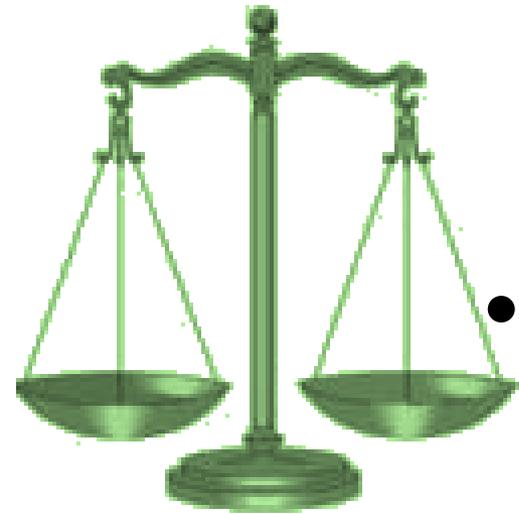


- Societies have always had to manage the impacts of weather and climate related events.



A Question of Equity...

- Disadvantaged populations around the world already bear inequitable environmental burdens
- There is inadequate knowledge of what new disproportionate impacts will emerge under climate change



The Differential Effects of Weather Disasters



The differential effects of catastrophic weather disasters are consistent with a pervasive continuum in which low-income and minority communities suffer from both higher socio-economic stress and greater environmental exposure to toxins, hazardous wastes and other environmental burdens.

Such was the case in New Orleans after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



GIS Analysis: Use of Recovery Dollars for Rebuilding Projects with Implications for Race and Class

- Preliminary analysis of estimated recovery and rebuilding project costs for each of New Orleans' 13 Planning Districts
- Based on information provided in the *Unified New Orleans Plan: Citywide Strategic Recovery and Rebuilding Plan*
- Substantially greater allocation estimated for **Planning Districts 1 and 2**, than for the other Planning Districts



ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS BY PLANNING DISTRICTS

\$200,000,000

\$150,000,000

\$100,000,000

\$50,000,000

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

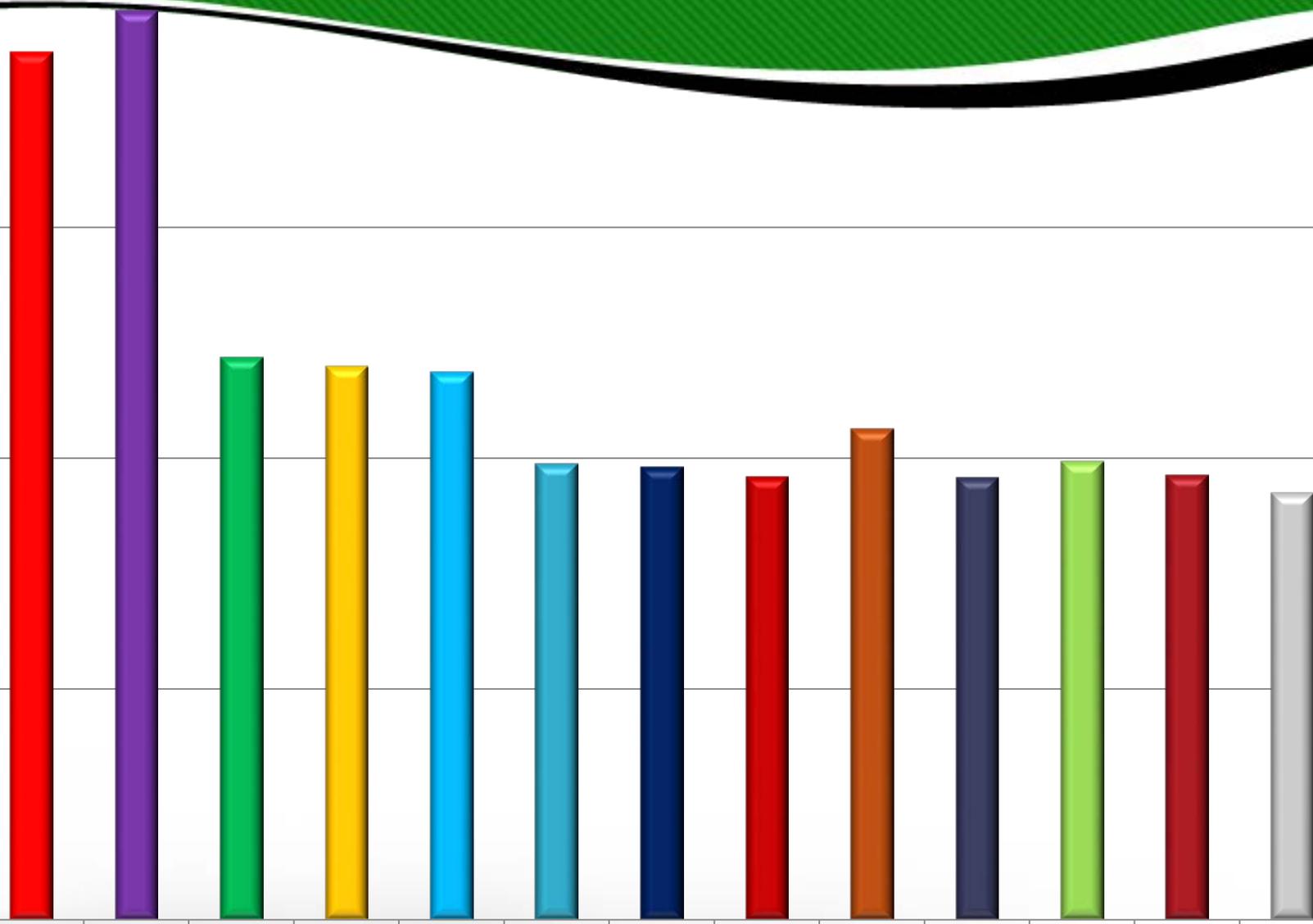
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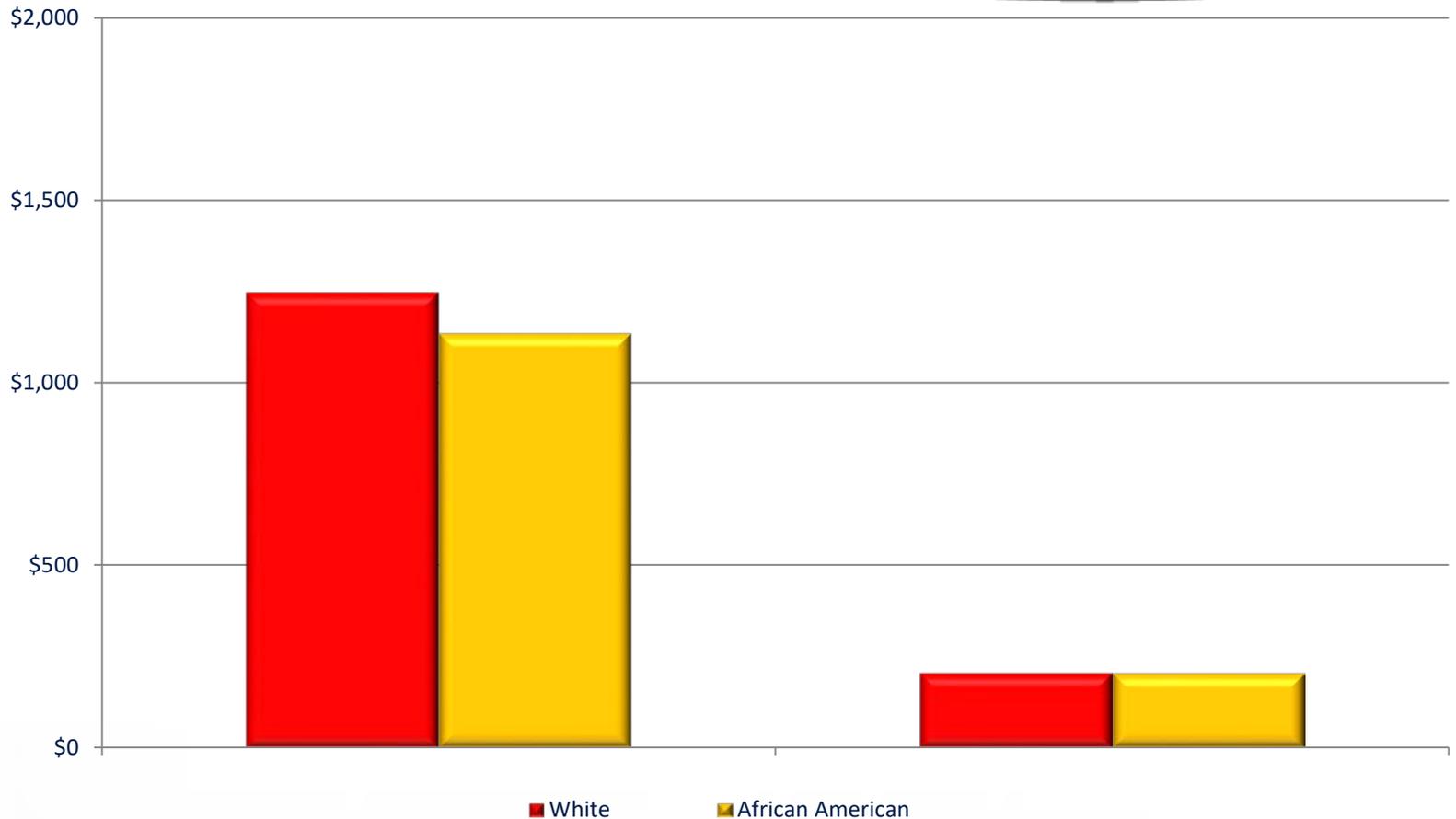
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13



Resource Allocations by District

Proposed and actual resource allocations per district (in \$millions) for white majority and African American majority planning districts



Note: There are four (1, 5, 11, and 13) white-majority planning districts whereas there are eight (2,4,6,7,8,9,10,and 12) African American-majority planning districts.



Difficult Policy Changes Ahead

- The United Nations warns that inequitable distribution of the cost of climate change and the benefits of a green transition will be the most difficult policy change.



Green... What Does It Mean?

- As a planet, we are in a stalemate
 - Green vs. Just Development

Green

Denoting:

- Alternative energy sources
- Sustainable buildings
- Resource efficiency

does not necessarily mean **Just**.

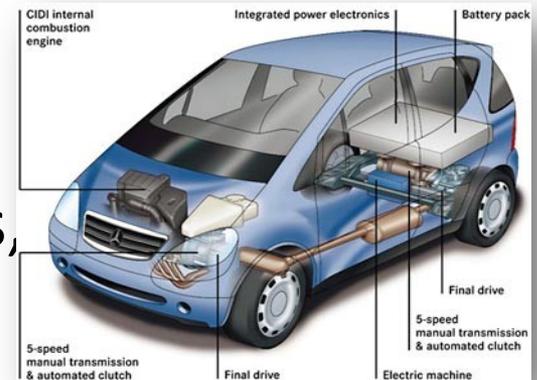


Transition to a Greener Economy Needed

- Climate change discourse recommends transitioning to a greener economy:

- clean energy,
- hybrid cars,
- energy efficient buildings,
- green jobs

as a solution to the dual realities of climate change and economic stagnation.



The Transition Has Already Begun...

- In 2010, more than \$211 billion was invested in renewable energies
 - More than was invested in fossil fuels
 - More solar was installed, up 130% from 2009
 - Photovoltaic (PV) installations are expected to rise taking global capacity to 50GW, the equivalent of nearly 15 nuclear reactors.



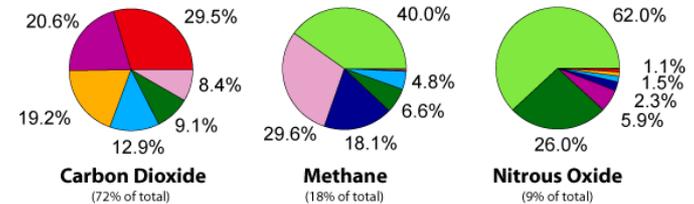
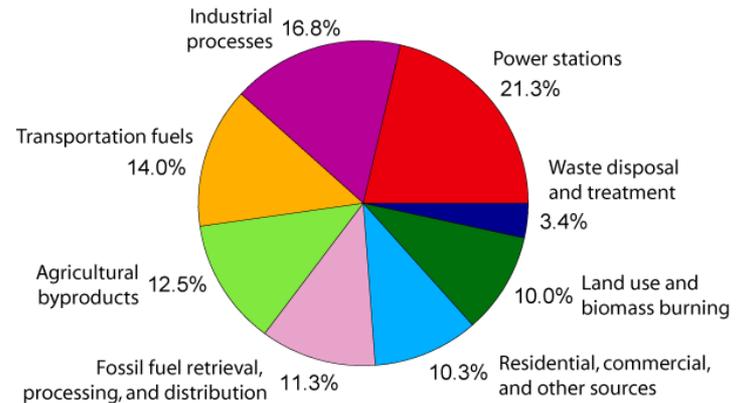
Achim Steiner, "Toward a Green Economy,"

The Mercury November 28, 2011

Reducing Greenhouse Gases

- Currently, there are 60 regional and local governments taking significant action in reducing greenhouse gases
 - For example
 - Quebec, Canada
 - Sao Paulo, Brazil
- are attempting cuts of 20% below 1990 levels by the year 2020.

Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector



Achim Steiner, "Toward a Green Economy," *The Mercury* November 28, 2011



Renewable Energy: A Job Creator

Green Economy Map

Industries and Sectors within the Green Economy



- The transition to renewable energy will create green economy jobs:
 - There are 1.3 billion unemployed and underemployed people worldwide
 - ½ billion young people will join the workforce over the next decade.

<http://greenbydesignhawaii.wordpress.com/2011/01/04/state-ends-year-optimistic-about-green-job-growth/>



For Example...



- Employment from renewable energy jobs in Germany is predicted to rise to between 500 and 600 thousand jobs
- China's renewable energy job target for 2020 is to create 800 thousand in the field of solar energy alone.



One Solution: Job Creation

- Utilizing the transition to a green economy for job training and placement in minority and poor communities to minimize the impacts of climate change and level the playing field for opportunities is one way to ensure that the transition is equitable.



The DSCEJ Minority Worker Training Program

PREVIOUS TRAINING SITES

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

West Dallas and Houston, Texas

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

CURRENT TRAINING SITES

Detroit, MI
Training Site

New Orleans, LA
Training Site

Houston, TX
Training Site

Savannah, GA
Training Site



DSCEJ Minority Worker Training Partnerships

• New Orleans, LA

• Baton Rouge, LA

• Houston, TX

• New Orleans, LA

• Atlanta, GA



HBCU

Partnerships

Over the past 17 years, the DSCEJ has effected partnerships with HBCU's in the region to implement its Worker Training Programs

Dillard University

Southern University

Texas Southern University

Xavier University

Clark Atlanta University

In Conclusion...

- The worldwide transition to a low carbon resource efficient green economy must be the goal of humanity for sustainability.
- We must however, ensure that with progress toward a green economy, a major priority of the transition are the previously “Forgotten Communities” to which we strive to bring equity.



***Learn More
About the Work of
The Deep South Center
for Environmental
Justice***



A Must Read
from Westview Press

RACE, PLACE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA

Struggles to Reclaim, Rebuild, and Revitalize New Orleans and the Gulf Coast



FOREWORD BY MARC H. MORIAL

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AND BEVERLY WRIGHT**

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THE WRONG COMPLEXION FOR PROTECTION

*HOW THE GOVERNMENT
RESPONSE TO DISASTER*

Coming Soon...

*ENDANGERS
AFRICAN AMERICAN
COMMUNITIES*



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