



*Join us for a lunch & learn webinar...*

# POWERING COMMUNITIES

through

# COVID-19

September 11 | Noon Eastern



**THE CLEO**  
INSTITUTE

IT'S TIME FOR A CLIMATE CHANGE OF MIND



**CATALYST**  
**MIAMI**



**Olivia Nedd**  
Policy Director, Access & Equity Program



**VOTE SOLAR**

# Intro for audience: Who are you?

- » **Name**
- » **Organization**
- » **Where you're zooming in from**



NONPROFIT

NONPARTISAN

EDUCATIONAL



SCIENCE

IMPACTS

SOLUTIONS

**Salome Garcia**

**Policy and  
Campaigns  
Manager**

**The CLEO  
Institute**



# SCIENCE

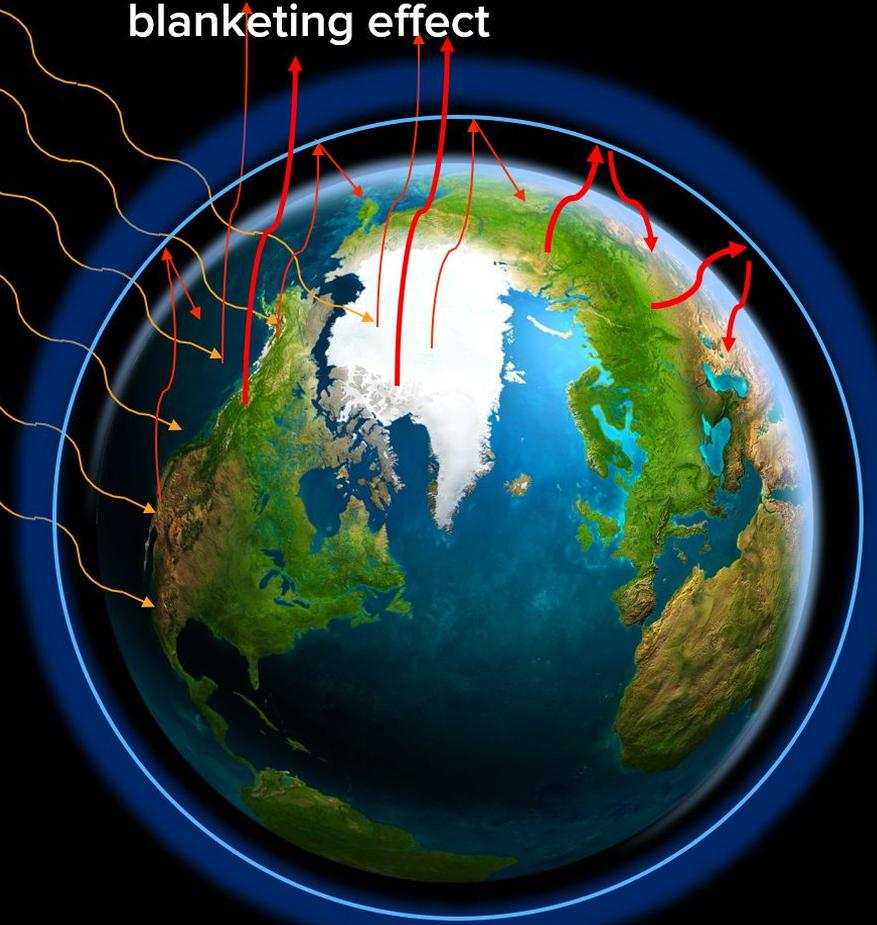
# Greenhouse Gas Effect

**Incoming energy**, mostly in the form of light, enters the atmosphere and is absorbed by the Earth



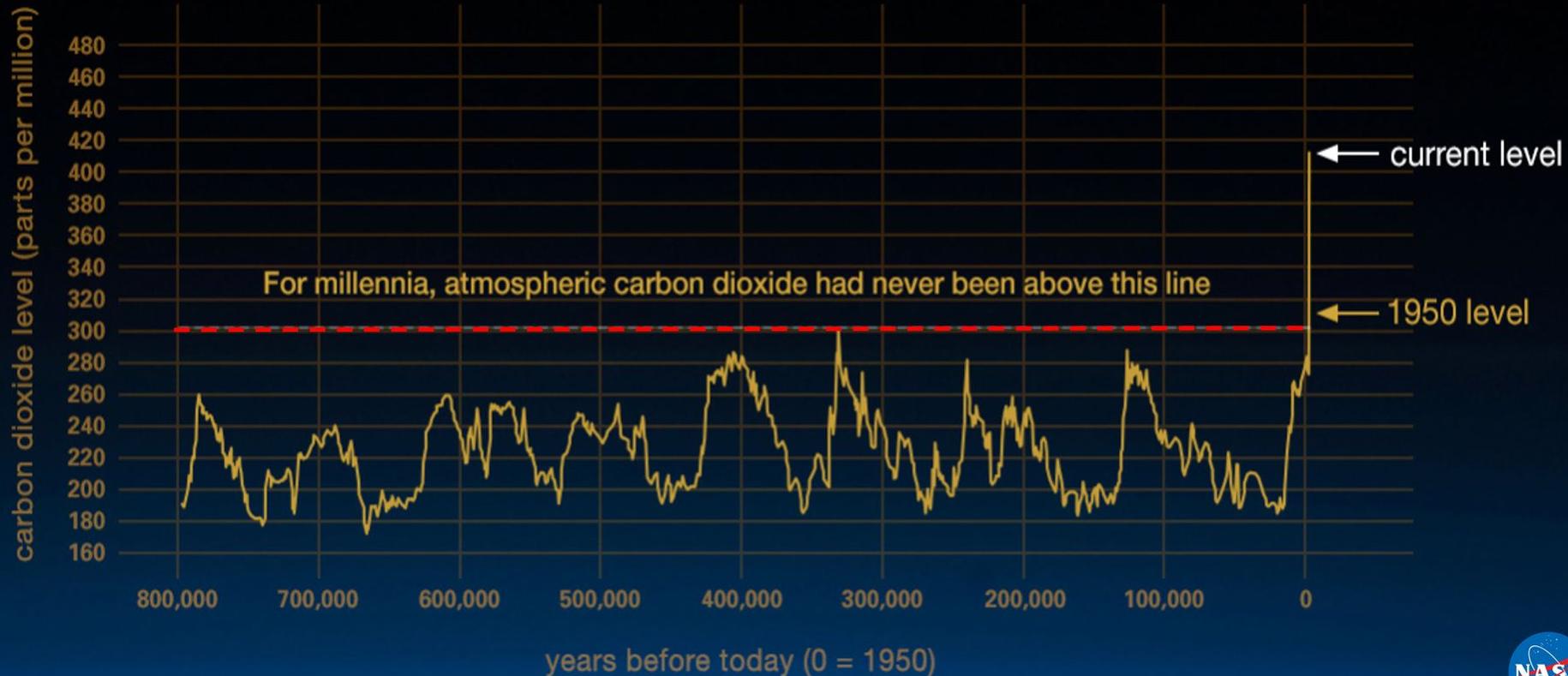
**Outgoing energy**, mostly in the form of heat or infrared waves, is trapped by Greenhouse Gases

**GHG's** absorb Earth's **outgoing heat** and radiate it back, creating a **blanketing effect**



# Carbon Dioxide Levels

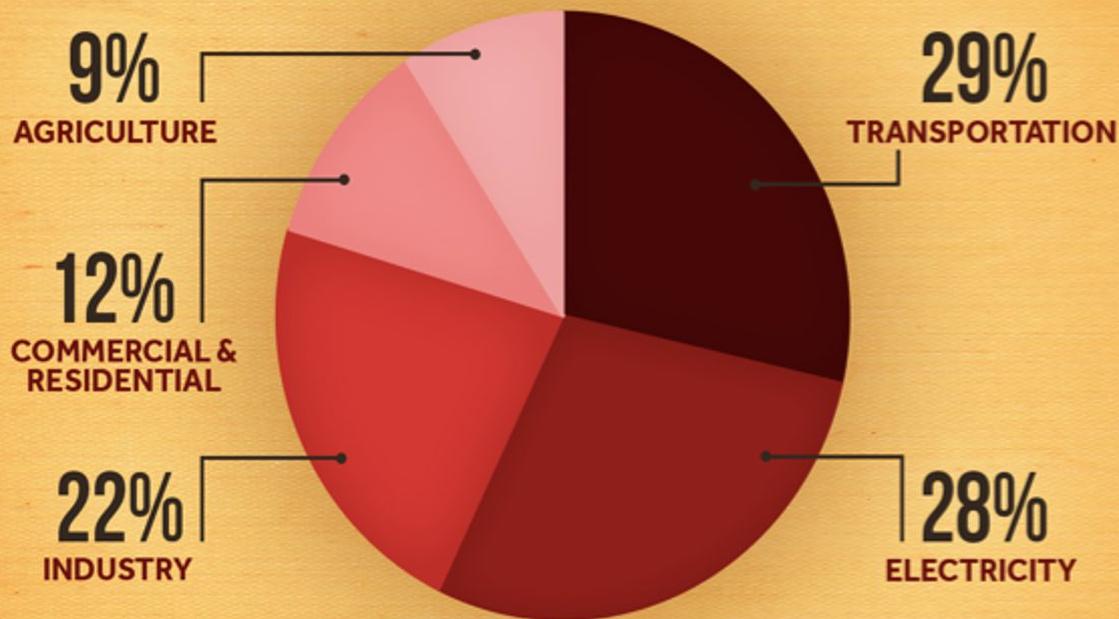
May 2020: **414ppm**



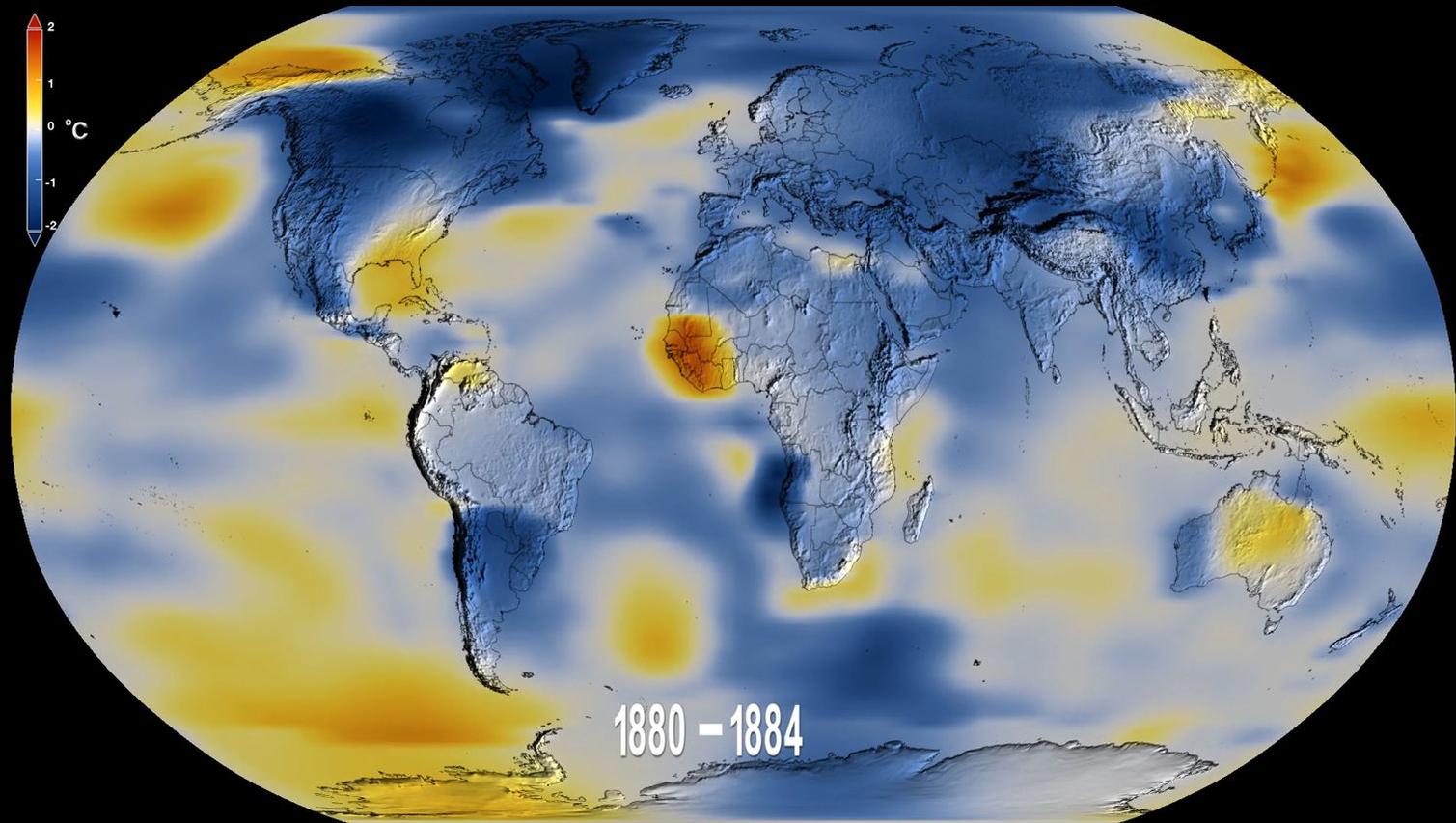
Human activities are responsible for almost all of the **increase in greenhouse gases** in the atmosphere over the last 150 years.<sup>1</sup>  
*IPCC*

## GREENHOUSE GAS SOURCES

### UNITED STATES EMISSIONS BY SECTOR



Source: U.S. EPA 2017 (released 2019)



# EARTH IS GETTING **HOTTER**

The last 5 years have been the **hottest on record.**



# IMPACTS

# Sea Level Rise in FL

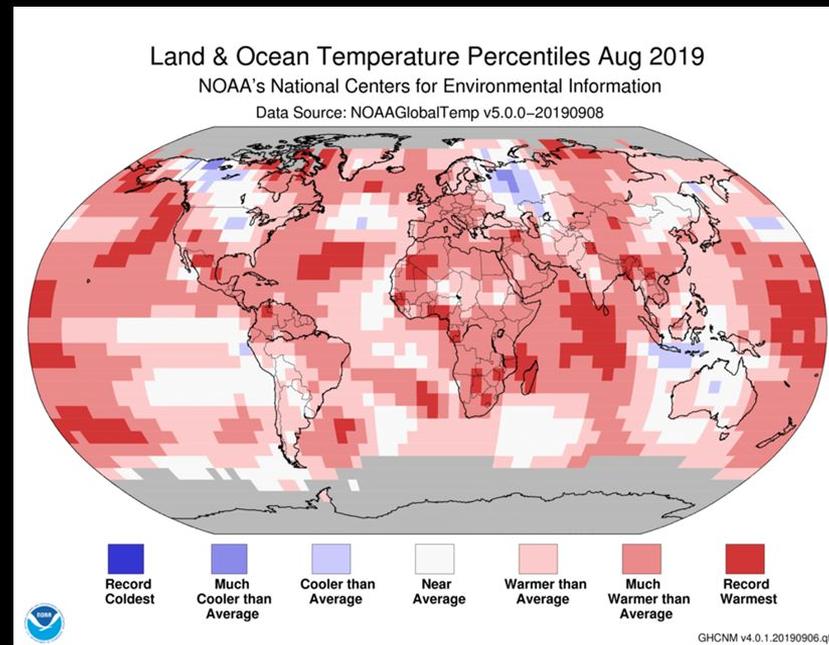
Main Drivers: Thermal Expansion & Land Ice Melt

By 2050

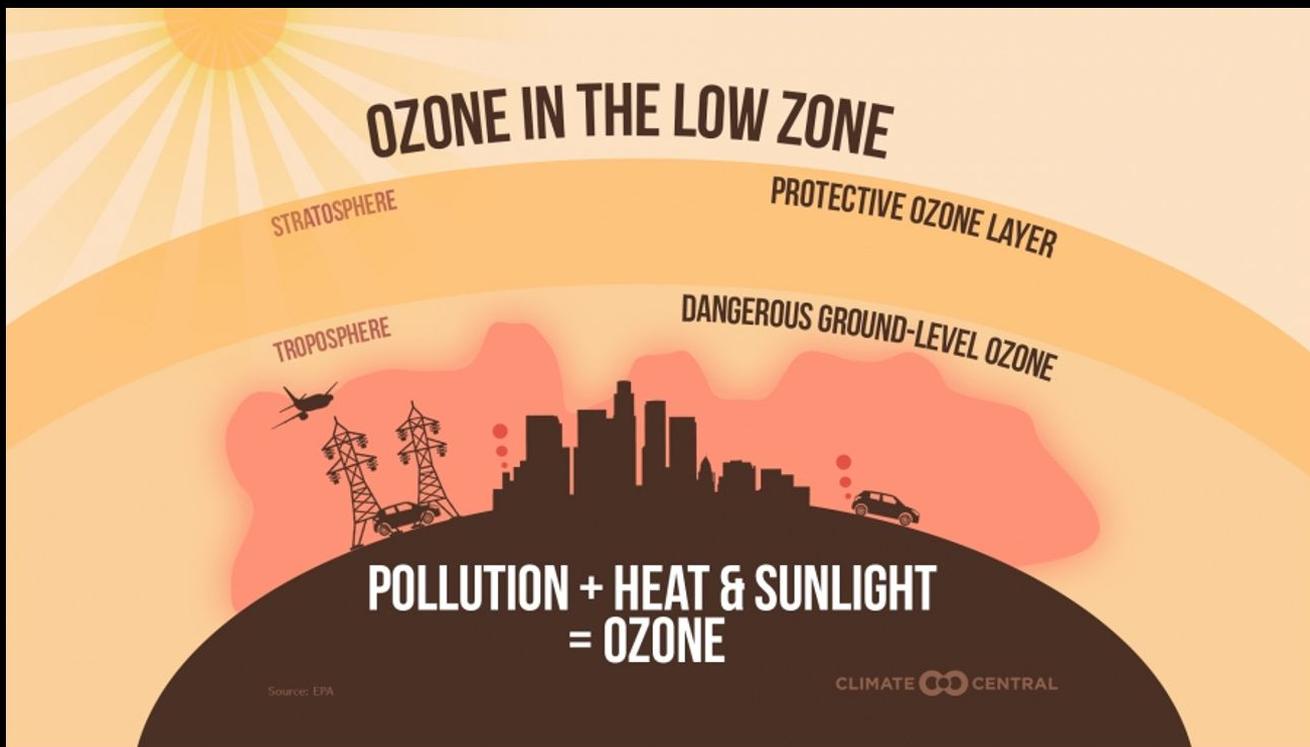
2+ feet of sea level rise

By 2100

A rise of as much or more than 8-10 feet cannot be ruled out.<sup>1</sup>



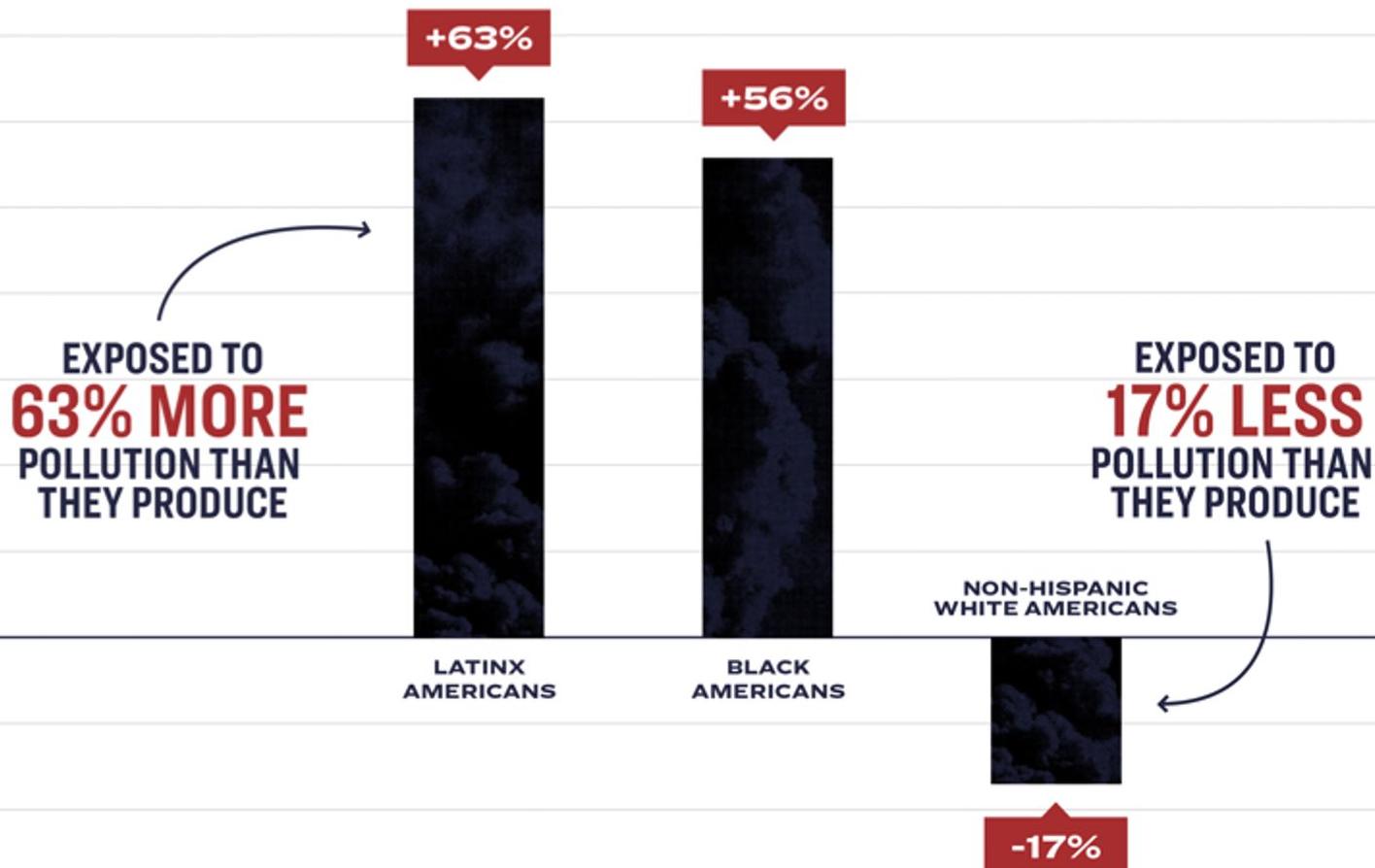
# Decrease in Air Quality



# Minorities Bare Disproportionate Burden From Air Pollution



# ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

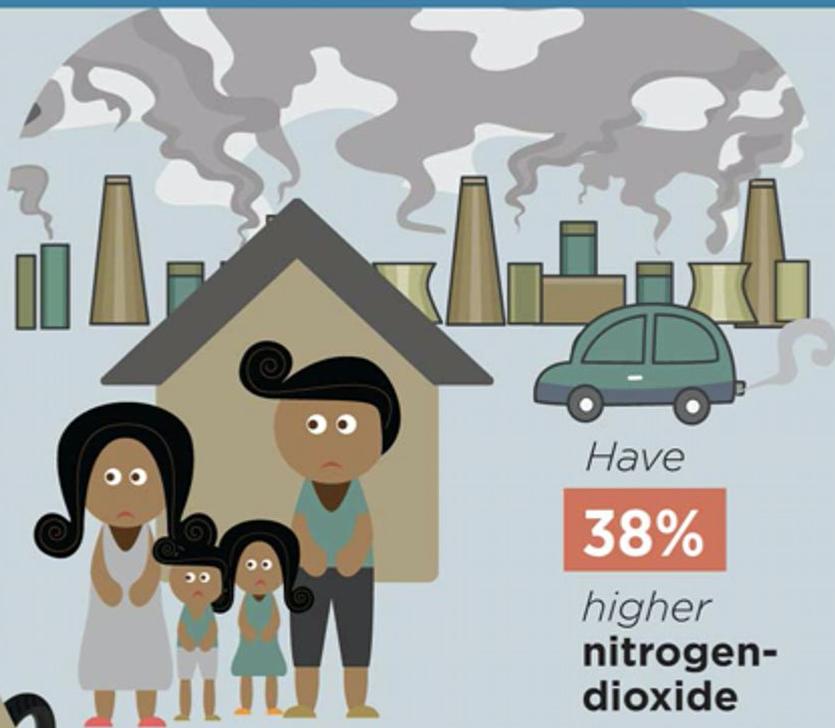


# Environmental Racism Is Nothing New

Race is the most significant predictor of a person living near contaminated air, water, or soil.

**56%**

*of the population near **toxic waste** sites are people of color.*



*People of color:*

*Have seen*

**95%**

*of their claims against polluters **denied by the EPA.***

*Have*

**38%**

*higher **nitrogen-dioxide** exposure.*

*Are*

**2x**

*more likely to live without **potable water** and **modern sanitation.***

# Heat & Justice

How are marginalized communities **feeling the heat?**

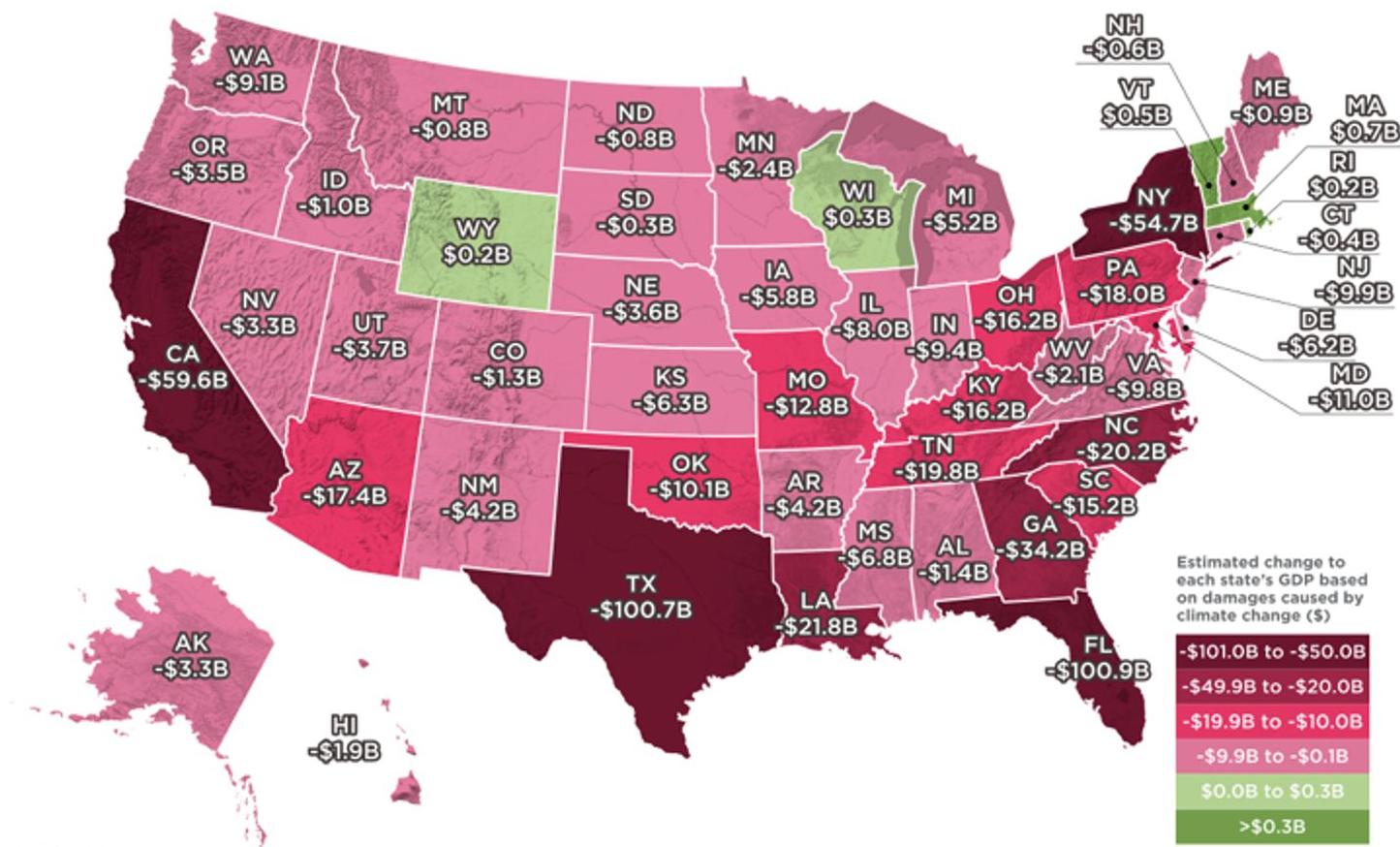
Housing: US Dept HUD (Housing and Urban Development) does not require A/C units in affordable housing.

Transportation: Many people rely on public transportation, walking, and biking.



# The Economic Damage from Climate Change in the United States

## Estimated Change to Each State's GDP (\$)



Article & Sources:  
<https://howmuch.net/articles/the-economic-damage-from-climate-change-in-the-united-states>  
<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/356/6345/1362>  
<http://www.governing.com>

# ***MENTAL HEALTH***

- Anxiety
- Depression
- PTSD
- Aggression & Violence
- Crime
- Suicide
- Domestic Violence





# ENERGY

# ENERGY BURDEN: WHAT IT IS AND HOW RENEWABLES CAN HELP



[Extreme Heat Days for Floridians](#)

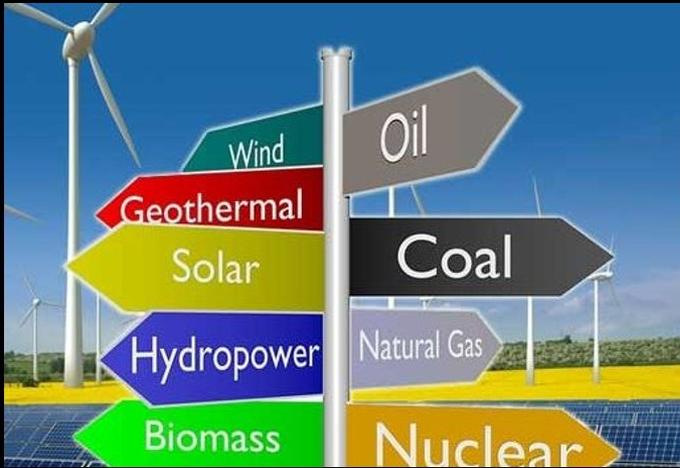
Defining what is and isn't affordable when it comes to energy is tricky, but this much is clear: **low-income families are suffering disproportionately under the current energy landscape.**

Energy shut-offs statewide  
Importance of Energy  
Freedom

# Energy Freedom

**Where** do Floridians get their energy from?

**Who** is our energy coming from?



# WHAT CAN YOU DO IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

- Talk about it (**Your Voice**).
- Stay responsibly informed.
- Set up a virtual **Climate Workshop** for your family, friends, community.
- Stay civically engaged at all levels.
- Consume sustainably and mindfully.
- Support climate-conscious businesses.

Your Voice  
Your Wallet  
Your Vote  
Your **SUPERPOWER**



THE CLEO  
INSTITUTE



# MELTING FLORIDA



VoLo Foundation

Union of  
Concerned Scientists



zubi

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# LAUNCH DAY

Installations will be staggered;

- Miami (9/9)
- Tampa (9/16)
- Orlando (9/23)

Following the statues we will host an educational webinars & town halls:

- Killer Heat: The Urgency Of Rising Temperatures with UCS (9/10)
- Town Hall with NBC6: The Financial & Health Impacts Of Heat On Our Underserved Communities (9/11)
- Climate Crisis Impacts in Florida with Chief Meteorologist John Morales (9/17)
- Surviving Florida Summers: Heat Stress on Outdoor Workers (9/24)



A woman with short, curly brown hair, wearing glasses and a pearl necklace, is shown from the chest up. She is wearing a black and white patterned top. Her hands are raised in a gesture of emphasis as she speaks. The background is a plain, light-colored wall with a green plant visible on the left side.

“Hey, it’s reality. It’s a crisis. Pay attention.”

# A SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP

We would like to invite you to help amplify this campaign in order to make the climate crisis a top priority for Floridians. We will be providing you with a social media tool kit that will contain messaging, hashtags, and links to the videos of the statues melting, with the call to action to learn more about heat, and sign the Florida Climate Pledge. All digital content will be for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

## What we need from you:

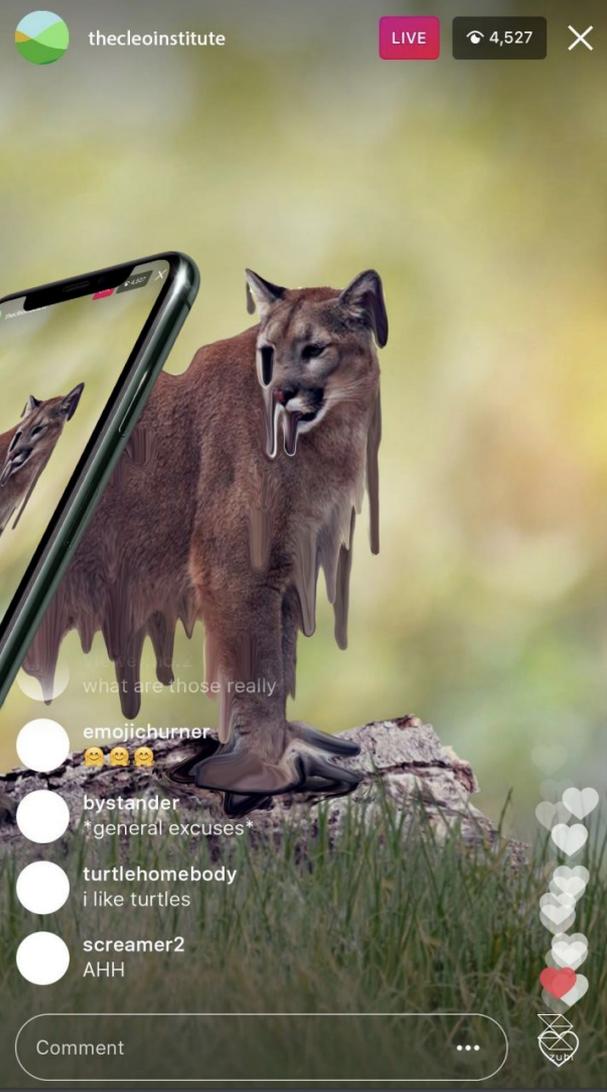
- The point of contact that handles your social media (if it's not you)
- How far in advance do you need the digital content?

Please email this information to Natalia at [nortiz@cleoinstitute.org](mailto:nortiz@cleoinstitute.org)

[ Union of  
Concerned Scientists



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thecleo institute

LIVE

4,527



what are those really



emoji churmer



bystander

\*general excuses\*



turtlehomebody

i like turtles



screamer2

AHH

Comment



# Protecting Ratepayers through the COVID crisis:



**Tyler Fitch**  
Regulatory Manager, Southeast



**Olivia Nedd**  
Policy Director, Access & Equity Program



**VOTE SOLAR**

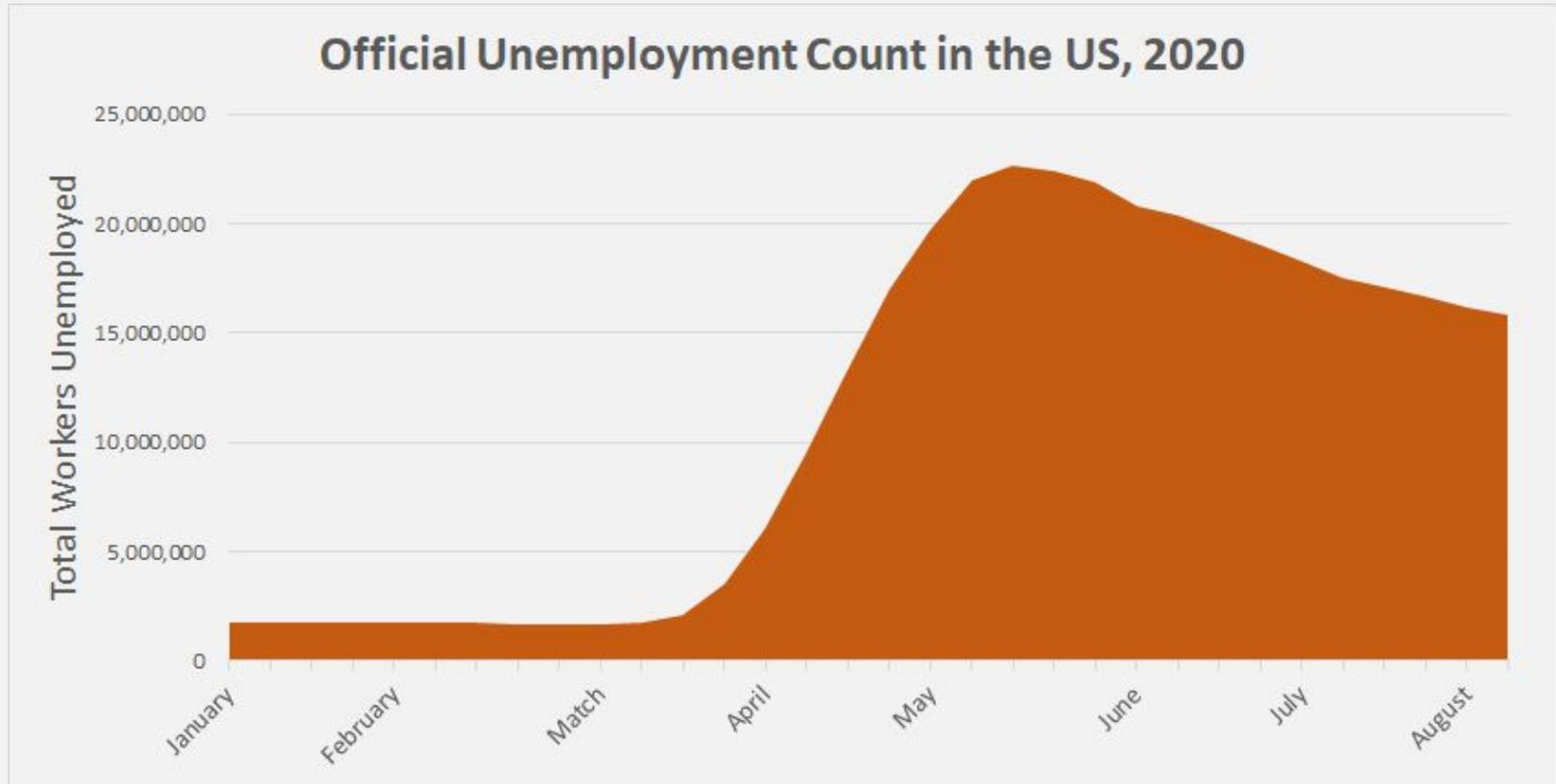
# Even before this crisis, energy was unaffordable for US households

**One in three households in the US** deal with energy insecurity.

**30 million** households pay more than 6% of their income toward energy bills.

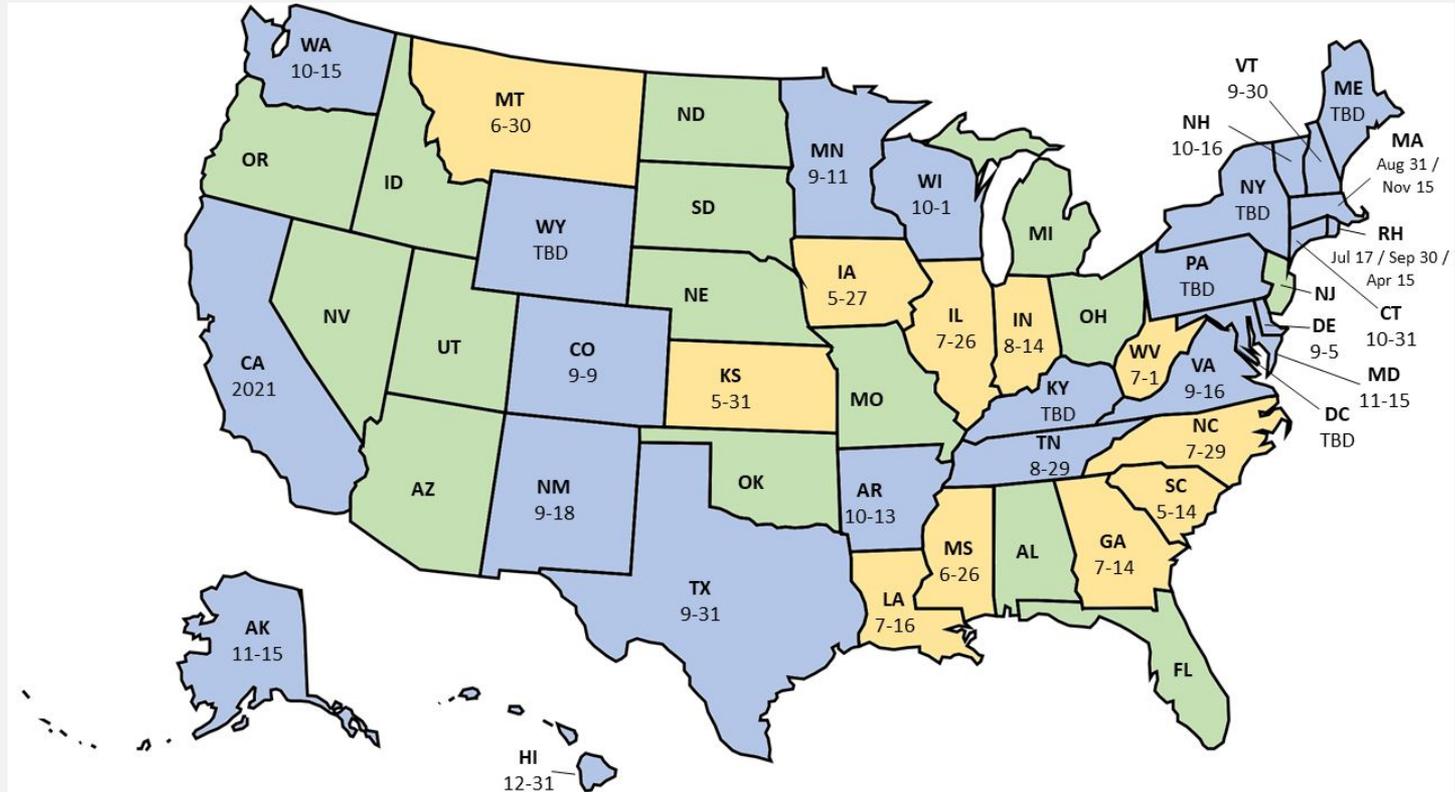
Studies have found that **households in disadvantaged communities use less than affluent households, but pay more of their paycheck.**

# But COVID-19 has put those issues into hyperdrive.



Source: US Department of Labor

# States acted to protect citizens early on in the crisis, but protections are rolling off..



Source: National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

# Who can help and what should they do?



**State & local legislature.**



**Utilities.**



**Regulators.**



# We need to know the scale of the problem.

- » Utility companies **don't** report information on how many customers may be disconnected.
- » Where we do have data, we see a looming crisis.:

State	Housholds at risk of disconnection
Florida	At least 560,000
North Carolina	More than 1 million
Pennsylvania	800,000

- » We need to know the scale of the problem. **We need data.**



# Ensure the most vulnerable are protected.

- » **Long-term disconnection moratorium:** Disconnections are a public health risk & entrench economic damage. Long-term protection and immediate reconnection.
- » **End punitive treatment of low-income customers.**
  - > End late fees & disconnection/reconnection fees.
  - > End negative credit reporting.
  - > End deposits.
- » **Humane payment plans.** We know the road to economic recovery will be long and we should give customers the chance to recover.

## » Utilities can share the burden.

- » Who should bear the burden of economic disruption?
  - > Ratepayers who have been impacted by COVID-19?
  - > What about utility shareholders & profits?

**Northam pushes for overdue electric bill forgiveness**



**Let's envision a brighter, fairer future**



**CATALYST**  
**MIAMI**



**Zelalem Adefris**

VP of Policy & Advocacy, Catalyst Miami  
Steering Committee Member, Miami Climate Alliance

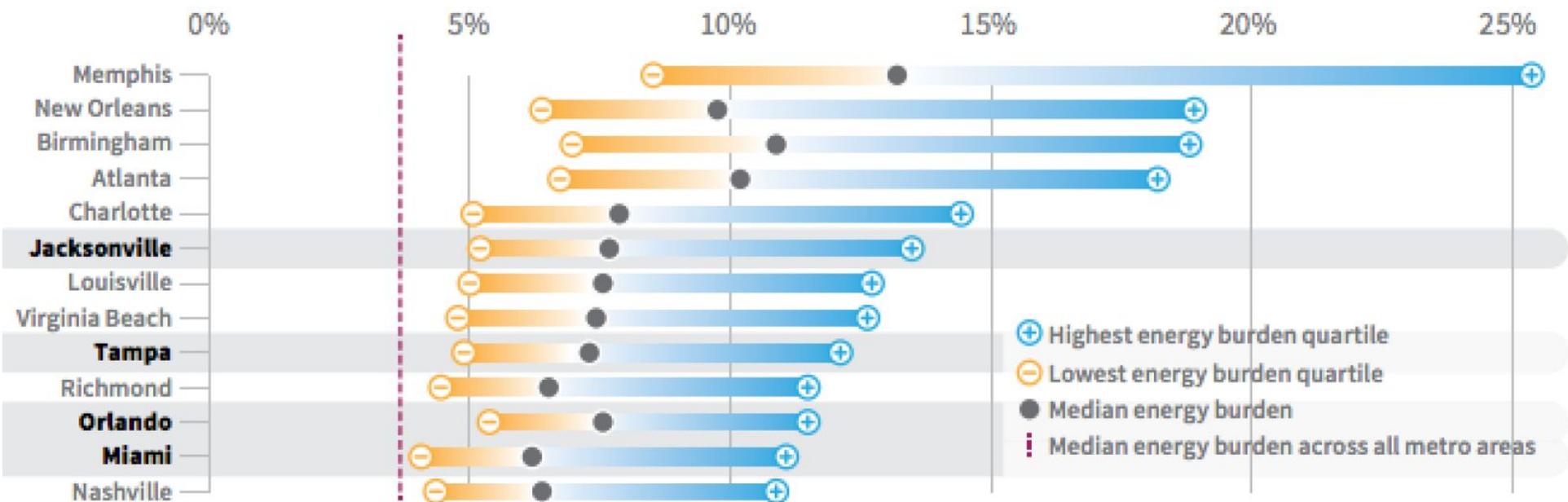
[zelalema@catalystmiami.org](mailto:zelalema@catalystmiami.org)



## Local Context

- 2.7 million people
- 900k households
- 21% of households in poverty
- 58% of households considered the working poor or in poverty

## Quartile Energy Burdens of Low-Income Households in Southeastern Cities



**Low-income households in Florida cities in this study face high energy burdens. On average, half the low-income households in Jacksonville, Tampa, Orlando, and Miami have an energy burden greater than 7.2%, and a quarter of them, over 12%. The national average is 3.5%.**



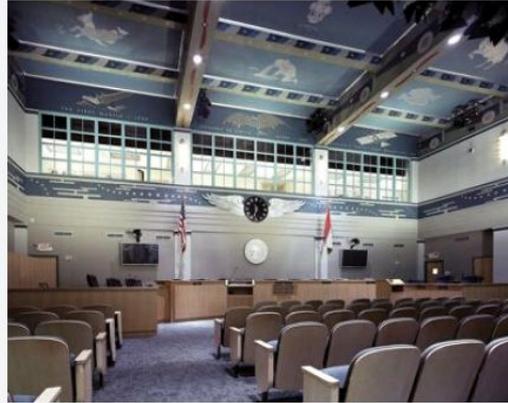
## Florida utility low income energy efficiency programs (2015 data)

Electric utility	Spending per residential customer (\$)	Savings per residential customer (kWh)
Duke Energy Florida	\$0.22	2.76
Florida Power and Light Company	\$0.02	0.02
Gulf Power Company	\$2.12	3.70
Jacksonville Electric Authority	\$1.66	2.20
Orlando Utilities Commission	\$0.53	0.37
Tampa Electric Company	\$6.29	7.34
Southeast Median	\$2.45	2.83
National Median	\$2.58	2.86



## CLEAR

10-week grassroots advocacy  
& leadership training program



## MCA Clean Energy Working Group

Open & inclusive collective  
organizing space



## Catalyst to the Capital

Annual community-led  
advocacy trip to Tallahassee

*Impacted communities need to be at the helm of  
policy design & decision-making*

# Because that's how we win, design, & hold elected officials accountable to better policies



A horizontal timeline with three black circular markers. The first marker is on the left, the second is in the middle, and the third is on the right. Below each marker is a text block describing an event.

**\$450K increase in  
weatherization  
program funding**

2019

**Local resolution  
urging the PSC to  
implement  
meaningful energy  
efficiency goals**

2019

**Local resolution  
calling for a  
moratorium on shut-  
offs, which led to FPL  
postponing shut-offs**

2020

## Zelalem Adefris

VP of Policy & Advocacy

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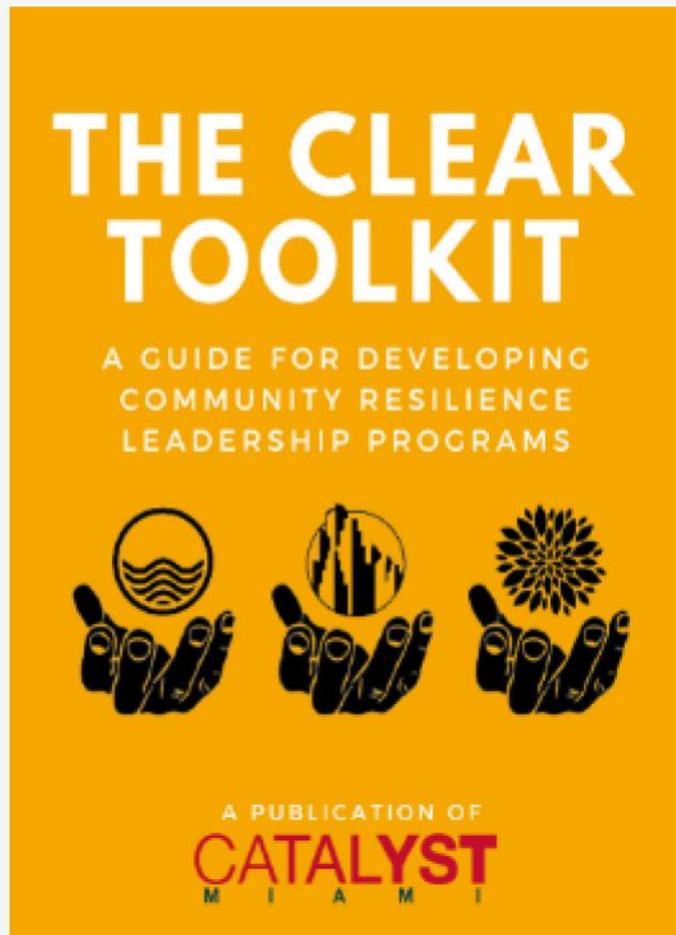
@catalystmiami

### ACTION ALERT:

<https://cleanenergy.org/feeca>

[www.catalystmiami.org/clear\\_toolkit\\_library](http://www.catalystmiami.org/clear_toolkit_library)

[www.catalystmiami.org/subscribe](http://www.catalystmiami.org/subscribe)



OUR CONTACT DETAILS

# Protecting Ratepayers through the COVID crisis:



**Katie Chiles Ottenweller**  
**Southeast Director**



**VOTE SOLAR**

# Protecting All Florida Ratepayers

When Gulf Power asked for special treatment for customers' debts in July, **CLEO Institute and Vote Solar intervened.**

- » No disconnections until 2021 at the earliest
- » Comprehensive utility reporting
- » Fair treatment of utility costs
- » **Expand debt forgiveness & energy efficiency**

Florida Public Service Commission allowed Gulf's special treatment, but ordered a workshop on our request.

Commissions will have to make more decisions in the future  
**-- and they need to hear from us.**

# Call to Action

- » Join the **Florida Climate Pledge**
- » Read and share the **Principles for Protecting Utility Customers in the Regulatory Response to COVID-19**
- » Take action to fix the **Florida Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act**

**Questions? Ideas?**