

# Community Engagement

We support communities on the frontlines of climate change to drive their own solutions



## Challenge

The impacts of extreme weather do not hit everyone equally. Communities of color, people with low incomes, and indigenous peoples are on the frontlines of climate change. Decades of policy and business practices have separated us by race and income into unequally resourced communities and buildings: now, these same frontline communities are carrying the burden of higher energy bills, dirtier air, and increased vulnerability to severe weather and power outages, and displacement from their homes

## Overview

We believe that climate justice cannot be achieved without acknowledging and rectifying the systemic injustices that disproportionately impact frontline communities. The people who are closest to these problems also hold the keys to the solutions. Our responsibility is to use our financial resources, connections, and technical knowledge to listen and to support more equitable policymaking and community-driven climate solutions. We focus on creating high-performing buildings that benefit all residents, and on economic opportunities for frontline community members.

## Our Program

Our Community Engagement team has worked closely with community-based organizations around the country to understand how we can support them and how we can conduct our work in ways that advance climate justice. [Three resources](#), (Framework, Process Guide, and Conflict Resolution Guide), rooted in the principles of a Just Transition, guide IMT's engagement in place-based work. The team works to help community organizations and jurisdictions implement equitable decarbonization solutions, through services such as:

- **Ecosystem mapping** to identify community-based partners and support them to define a role in building decarbonization in government policy or industry facing programs
- **Equitable decarbonization education and peer learning series** to support community organizations engaging in building sustainability and resilience topics for the first time
- **Co-developing effective model solutions**, and addressing the unintended consequences of building decarbonization policy
- **Third-Party facilitation between CBOs and cities.** We use our expertise to steer cities into accepting community driven solutions, and honoring their expertise.