► Some American Communities Exist with a Greater Burden of Environmental Harm than Others.

Many marginalized communities in the United States bear a disproportionate burden of environmental harm. The outcomes of this disparity include severe consequences to human health and well-being. Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach that not only reduces environmental harm but also ensures equitable access to clean energy and environmental resources.

America's sidelined groups, including many minorities, urban dwellers, and low-income peoples, face the brunt and burden of environmental maltreatment, much of which is rooted in the enduring legacy of discriminatory governmental policies and practices. Some of these practices historically include situating pollution sources such as toxic waste sites, landfills, highways and chemical plants in neighborhoods inhabited by representatives of this collective demographic. Unwanted in privileged, middle class, and wealthy neighborhoods or business districts, these toxic elements are more likely to exist in substandard housing communities, further increasing resident exposure to environmental hazards and associated health risks.[1]

Examples of this pattern are frequently evident in other similar areas near coal-fired power and manufacturing facilities that are known to release of a mix of toxins into the environment, with seemingly little regard for the impact on local habitat or residents. According to a 2008 study, 78% of Black Americans live within 30 miles of a coal-fired plant, compared to 56% of white Americans. Living in close proximity to these plants increases exposure to pollutants, intensifying health risks for those communities.[2]

Despite the potential of clean energy to address these inequities, the clean energy sector itself suffers from a lack of representation from these groups. Data from E2, a nonpartisan advocacy group, shows that 61% of clean energy workers in the U.S. are white non-Hispanic, with Black, Hispanic/Latino, and women workers significantly underrepresented relative to their presence in the overall workforce. The allocation of funding exacerbates this imbalance as reflected in a research study which focused on the 2007 to 2009 time-frame during which only 15% of environmental grants were directed to marginalized communities.[2] In essence, the benefits associated with Clean Energy goods and services that could support positive change, here, simply aren't as accessible as in other communities.

While reducing CO2 emissions and health hazards would clearly benefit the general population, the impact is especially significant for these overburdened communities. As such, local advocacy for cleaner energy becomes a crucial aspect of the broader fight for environmental justice.[3] However, the pursuit of cleaner energy is not without its own set of challenges. Economic disparities in access to clean energy highlight additional issues. A study by Tony Reames, researcher from the University of Michigan, exposes the "energy divide" that exists between wealthy and low-income communities. His analysis of federal weatherization programs in urban, low-income, majority-Black neighborhoods revealed persistent barriers, notably the community's mistrust of intended helpers and sponsorship.[4] This underscores the urgent need for more equitable resource allocation and a more inclusive clean energy workforce.

Building such a workforce, ensuring fair allocation of resources is an essential step toward achieving greater and more positive outcomes.

There is a better way forward.

WHO WE ARE

The **Black Fleet Network™ Clean Energy Taskforce** is a pioneering organization dedicated to advancing clean energy solutions and leading the transformation of the automotive fleet, mobility, and transportation industries. Our vision is to create a sustainable and inclusive future where clean energy is the norm. We strive to ensure that communities of all socioeconomic backgrounds benefit from clean energy advancements. Our efforts focus on reducing our carbon footprints, driving economic growth, and promoting social equity in the transition to a clean energy future.

As such, the Clean Energy Taskforce -- a component of BFN -- is advancing its Clean Energy emphasis toward increased application and collaboration. This advancement is intended to accelerate relevant Clean Energy solutions for people most impacted while addressing intersectional goals, such as environmental commitments to customers and constituents. Moreover, this advanced model is being developed to address new Clean Energy opportunities presented by the technical evolution in automotive, transportation and mobility products and services.

Collectively, our Taskforce leadership's fleet journeys have offered unparalleled experience and education surrounding commercial requirements and purchases, including the following:

- What makes sense in this space will always be dictated by end user use needs and interests, regulation, policy, and investment principles that prioritize responsible and impactful elements such as environmental issues, social issues, and corporate governance (ESG).

Our experience also guides our understanding of that which does - and does not drive success in the area of Clean Energy. This includes the following:

- The transition to a cleaner environment, requires organizations and individuals with a Clean Energy vision and goals to personally engage.
- Key sector players, irrespective of their increasingly unique challenges (i.e. economics, material costs, supply chain, and politics) will continue to need clean energy alternatives.
- These organizations need not work in silo to be successful in their efforts to deliver products and services that support their evolution and transition to Clean Energy.
- These sectors need new ways to satisfy cleaner automotive, mobility, and transportation products and services - quickly and equitably.
- Great and sustainable fleet operations ~~s~~ustain long-term vision and planning.
- Corporate flexibility to grow with modern thinking about Clean Energy goals must be incorporated into the strategic platforms of executed solutions.

HOW WE WORK

Our team of dedicated professionals excel~~s~~ in fostering authentic, symbiotic partnerships that drive clean energy, commercial-fleet transformation. We work alongside these partners to tackle the "heavy-lifting" required to execute clean energy solutions, ensuring seamless integration and measurable outcomes. Leveraging a strategic blend of partner development, project management, and thought leadership, we empower companies with a commitment to support impactful clean energy initiatives to achieve ESG, TCO, and advanced technology goals, among other areas of intersectional focus, within communities needing them the most. Our leadership's collective body-of-work spans decades upon decades of professional fleet experience including marketing, sales, operations, strategy leadership, government bids, contract development, statement of work (SOW) creation, bespoke solution development, cross-functional collaboration, and much more, to facilitate smooth project execution.

This is important because successful execution of Clean Energy programs is best achieved through an informed, modern, methodical and well-practiced approach. BFN's Taskforce can add that value via the team's experience and by facilitating collaboration, conjoining expertise with other interested parties to build upon a multi-partner platform. Such an ecosystem can also provide greater value to program customers and end-users who are new to the experience and benefits of Clean Energy through this collective body of knowledge.

The Clean Energy Taskforce is part of Black Fleet Network's innovative movement driving the commercial automotive, mobility, and transportation's transition to Clean Energy. Leveraging experience and market intelligence, we identify and develop efficient clean energy opportunities working with, and customized for our industry partners. We are fleet professionals and significant contributors to the industry. We are a think tank and resource hub. Most critically, we are a collective working toward Clean Energy adoption in areas that can benefit from them the most.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about BFN's Clean Energy Taskforce.

Sources:

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