

# AB 1550

## The Climate Investments for California Communities Act

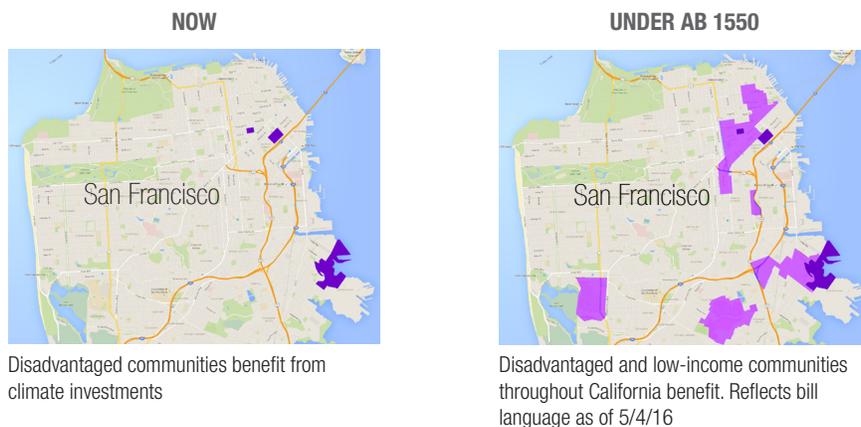


In 2016, California's legislature is considering Assembly Bill 1550, authored by Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez, designed to expand and improve existing laws that use fees paid by polluters to increase clean energy, reduce smog and bring jobs and investment to communities that have the dirtiest air and the most economic needs. If it becomes law, **AB 1550 will do three things:**

**1 INCREASES FAIRNESS** One quarter of California's population lives in disadvantaged communities. It's only fair that those communities get a quarter of the money available to help clean their air and put people to work.



**2 INCREASES EQUITY** AB 1550 brings benefits to more low-income Californians, creating more opportunities to improve climate and quality of life for Californians with the most economic need.



**3 TARGETS BENEFITS** AB 1550 ensures that 25% of climate investments directly benefit low-income households and communities both inside and outside disadvantaged communities.



## Assembly Bill 1550: Why It Matters

Ten years ago, California took a bold step toward cleaning our air and building a new, clean energy economy by passing a law called the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32). The law committed our state to reduce pollution and fight climate change by moving away from dirty fuels like oil and coal, and expanding safer, cleaner energy sources like solar and wind, while benefitting our most disadvantaged communities.

The idea was simple: Make polluters pay for the damage they cause in California when they dump filth into our air, and put that money to work in our neighborhoods, especially those hardest hit by pollution and economic difficulties -- low-income neighborhoods and communities of color. A second law, SB 535, guaranteed a portion of these funds to those hard-hit communities.



The results have been astounding – billions of dollars in polluter fees invested in projects that help save energy, boost clean power, expand access to clean transportation and help Californians lower their energy bills, while creating jobs in our communities.

In 2016, we have a chance to build on this success and bring these benefits to even more Californians through a new law, the **Climate Investments for California Communities Act, AB 1550**. This bill, authored by Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez (D-Los Angeles), will help to bring cleaner air and good jobs to more neighborhoods and families across the state. Here's how it will work:

Polluter fees go into a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), where they're used to fight pollution and invest in clean energy, clean transportation, and much more. Right now, state law requires that at least 25% of this money be invested in projects that benefit communities hardest hit by pollution and poverty, with at least 10% going to projects located in those communities.



### **AB 1550 would bring benefits from polluter fees to more people and communities:**

Because 25% of Californians live in disadvantaged communities (DACs), the bill would *require 25% of GGRF investments to be located in disadvantaged communities*, assuring they get their fair share.

AB 1550 would also mandate that an additional portion of the funds directly benefit low income households and communities throughout the state, *whether or not they live in a disadvantaged community*.

Low-income households spend a larger share of their income on basic necessities – including, water, electricity, natural gas, and transportation – than higher-income households. Hundreds of thousands of low-income Californians live outside DACs – in locations such as rural communities in northern and southeastern California, as well as urban districts in places like the Bay Area and San Diego, among others. These Californians should receive a fair share of benefits from polluter fees.



**The bill is now making its way through the state legislature and we need your help to make sure it becomes law.**

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