



Equitable Deep Decarbonization requires that we:

1. Center equity, inclusivity, justice, and healing

As many of the most harmed by the climate crisis are the most marginalized, we must amplify, invest in, and follow their leadership in developing climate solutions. Promoting inclusivity includes connecting organizations and people to create new relationships and transforming existing relationships into ones centered around sharing power, influence, and resources. Healing must often begin at the wound; therefore, we need redistributive solutions for those communities most impacted by climate change and/or who have suffered historic energy injustices to ensure an equitably decarbonized Midwest. We must also remember that not all of those harmed are human, and healing the land and life supporting ecosystems is part of our work.

2. Prioritize local ownership of process and outcomes

Climate solutions must be formulated out of the intentions and goals of the community they propose to benefit. Local ownership of the decision-making process, energy systems, infrastructure, assets, and profits is prioritized to maximize positive impacts (economic and otherwise) of the clean energy future in every community in America. This involves centering and concentrating jobs and economic opportunities in local communities and economies, while simultaneously supporting existing and new local and grassroots institutions capable of leading, accelerating, and implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities. RE-AMP organizations must align the work of the broader geographic scope with the needs and opportunities of local leadership and the communities with which they work.

3. Leverage systemic change

Taking an equitable systems approach requires: considering multiple perspectives, identifying simple and complex cause and effect relationships, and recognizing short, medium, and long term time horizons. We must challenge default behaviors, structures, and the status quo, as they are often generated by a system that needs regular reform or transformation. Similarly, we must develop more effective interventions by seeking a greater understanding of the ever-changing structural and power dynamics of the larger whole. This requires that the perspectives of people with lived experience and/ or who would be affected by proposed changes are centered in the collaborative analysis. Those who have been most marginalized from the existing system must be at the core of this analysis and transformational process.

4. Establish holistic, ambitious, and credible intermediate steps for equitably eliminating greenhouse gas emissions in the Midwest by 2050

Based on current and ongoing scientific analyses (ex. National Climate Assessment and reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), the Midwest must curtail greenhouse gas emissions from the electric, transportation, commercial and residential building, agricultural, land stewardship and forestry, and industrial sectors. We must do so in a scientifically rigorous way, while remembering that homegrown community science and participatory action research are equally viable and valuable for establishing scientific rigor. All parties should work in mutuality to produce the best possible research to establish pathways to equitably eliminate greenhouse gas emissions in the Midwest by 2050.



5. Promote regeneration through responses to a changing climate

We are already experiencing and living with the impacts of the climate crisis, including major impacts to public health, energy and environmental justice, food and water supplies, and the built and natural environments. Climate impacts such as extreme weather events (e.g. flooding, droughts, and heat waves), public health impacts (e.g. increases in vector-borne illnesses, asthma, and respiratory disease), and deteriorating nutritional content of foods threaten our communities and livelihoods. In designing and implementing an equitable pollution-free energy future and responding to a changing climate, our most immediate focus should be on vulnerable and frontline communities. These communities are the first and most directly impacted and least situated to prepare, withstand, and adapt. Appropriate responses to a changing climate require that structures, institutions, and systems are designed, built, or rebuilt centering impacted communities so they can withstand climate impacts and flourish.

Adopted by the RE-AMP Steering Committee May 19, 2020