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Report Finds Critical Need to Center Justice in New York State Grid Planning

NEW YORK — Just days before a New York Public Service Commission technical conference on environmental justice in grid planning on December 16, the Energy Justice Law and Policy Center has [released a detailed roadmap](#) for ensuring equity and justice in the state's electric grid expansion. The report, "[Energy Justice and Transmission Planning in New York State](#)," developed in collaboration with Columbia Climate School researchers, identifies significant gaps in current planning processes and provides specific recommendations for reform.

"Grid expansion is essential for meeting New York's climate goals, but we must ensure it delivers real benefits to communities that have historically borne the burdens of our energy system," said Raya Salter, Executive Director of the EJLPC who will present the findings at the [December 16 technical conference](#). "This research provides concrete steps to achieve the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act's mandate that disadvantaged communities receive at least 35% of clean energy benefits."

[Key findings](#) show that while transmission planning processes exist, they lack mechanisms to measure and ensure equitable outcomes. Studies of grid systems have revealed that infrastructure access and reliability often remain lower in frontline communities.

"Through our research, we found that incorporating justice metrics at the start of the planning process, rather than as an afterthought, is crucial," said Maria Jean Bushby, Columbia Climate School researcher.

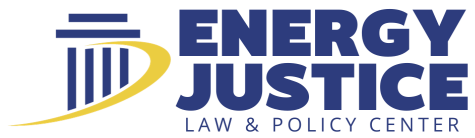
"Our analysis revealed significant opportunities to improve grid planning processes to better serve frontline communities," said Ian Robert Hunt, Columbia Climate School researcher.

"The recommendations in this report provide practical tools for ensuring grid expansion benefits all New Yorkers," said Cassidy Smith Hall, Columbia Climate School researcher.

[The report recommends:](#)

- Integrating justice metrics into initial grid modeling
- Creating a dedicated working group for disadvantaged communities
- Developing standardized tools to measure community benefits

The full report is available at <https://www.ejipc.org/transmission>



About Energy Justice Law and Policy Center: The Energy Justice Law and Policy Center is a non-profit organization based in Westchester County, New York, that advances clean energy and climate justice through law and policy initiatives. Led by attorney and clean energy law and policy expert Raya Salter, EJLPC works to ensure frontline communities are centered in New York's clean energy transition. Learn more at www.ejipc.org.