



Climate change affects everyone, but disadvantaged and underserved communities are often hurt first and worst by its impacts. In these communities, climate change is a new and complicating environmental challenge stacked on top of histories of pollution, disinvestment and discrimination. Today, these communities are often disproportionately exposed to pollutants and toxic substances, and live in neighborhoods that are often characterized by unsafe streets, a lack of quality parks, trees and green spaces, and limited access to healthy food. Without action, climate change will dramatically accelerate these inequities, exacerbating the injustices present in urban environments today.

Delivering multi-benefit green infrastructure can help redress some of these systemic inequities in cities. For example, trees and green spaces can minimize the severity of extreme heat days, cooling neighborhoods through shade and evapotranspiration, and capturing particulate air pollutants.

This map highlights areas where there are greater numbers underserved and disadvantaged populations and was created by combining the following Equity criteria:

- People of Color
- Low-Income Households
- Less Than a High School Education
- Linguistic Isolation
- Population under 5
- Population over 64
- One-person Households
- Disability

Focusing on people with the greatest need

CLIMATE-SMART CITIES™: METRO MAYORS CLIMATE-SMART REGION - CLIMATE EQUITY

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