

Session 2 summary:

Keeping equity & justice at the centre of your net zero target

Net Zero Leader presenter: New York State

Watch the session [here \(English\)](#)
and [here \(Español\)](#).

Net Zero Futures.



June 2021

Key takeaways

Equity in Net Zero Policymaking

- Equity in climate policies includes questions around offsetting, how fast reductions should be made, the scope of net zero targets and what actions and investments need to be made today – all elements to be considered and included in net zero planning.
- The [Oxford Net Zero Principles for Aligned Offsetting](#) can be considered by policymakers when developing offsetting plans.
- The [Race to Zero Lexicon](#) document also provides shared definitions of key terms related to net zero.
- While the use and definitions of these terms vary across regions and contexts, **it is important for each policy/plan to be clear and explicit about the stakeholders being addressed.**
- [Oxford Net Zero](#) is developing a framework for stakeholders to consider when developing an equity and justice strategy. Feedback from states and regions is welcome so please get in touch with [Kaya Axelsson](#) if you're interested in inputting.



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Key takeaways

New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act

- This legislation came about as a result of strong advocacy from environmental justice organizations in New York State.
- When signing emissions reductions targets into law, it is important for governments to also address the legacy of impacts of fossil-fuel economies.
- The economy-wide transformation of a net zero plan requires special expertise, panels, and groups across various sectors, including working groups for both Just Transition and Climate Justice.



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Key takeaways

New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act

- The Act was both future-looking and focused on addressing past impacts on disadvantaged communities (e.g. a strategy to reduce toxic air contaminants in disadvantaged communities).
- To do this successfully, governments must establish criteria to identify disadvantaged communities. One challenge has been a lack of sufficient data to back up definitions/criteria. In response, New York State hired a GIS coordinator to compile that data so that it will be available for future iterations.
- **Highlighting the voices of communities and taking a ground-up approach takes time. It is better to start from the point of inclusion rather than risking unsuccessful policies or lack of participation later on.**

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“ New York is proud to be a national leader on clean and renewable energy and is working to achieve the country’s most ambitious climate targets, including 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040 and 85% carbon emission reductions economy-wide by 2050 with a goal of a net zero future. Climate change is a global issue, but together with the new administration in the White House, New York can serve as a model for the nation and the world.

Andrew M. Cuomo,
Governor of New York



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