



## GREENLATINOS CLIMATE & CLEAN AIR CORONAVIRUS DIGITAL & ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

Please contact [comms@greenlatinos.org](mailto:comms@greenlatinos.org) with any questions you may have about this event. To provide partner content or update, please email [andreacolomina@greenlatinos.org](mailto:andreacolomina@greenlatinos.org).

**WHO:** GreenLatinos Community & Allies

**WHAT:** GreenLatinos Climate & Clean Air COVID-19 Toolkit.

The toolkit contains policy resources and information on how the compounding effects of COVID-19, climate and air pollution, impact the BIPOC/Latinx. This toolkit also contains digital content for you and/or your organization to raise awareness on these issues, and advocate. This digital toolkit is intended for ongoing use during the pandemic as organizations and individuals see fit.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, August 25, @ 5 PM EST / 4 PM CST / 2 PM PST

**WHY:** To raise awareness of within the Latinx community and provide resources that can inform local, state, and federal advocacy efforts to improve response and recovery policies.

**HASHTAGS:** #ActOnClimate #COVID19 #EnvironmentalJustice #ClimateJustice #JustRecovery #Equity #CleanAir #FrontlineCommunities #PublicHealth

**HANDLES:** @GreenLatinos

**REQUESTS:**

- **If you have social media accounts:** Please like and share content using the hashtags and handles listed above.

**CONTENT**

- [Social Content](#)
- [Graphics to Share](#)

### Background: Connection of Issue to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected people around the globe, including millions of people living in the United States in a number of ways, from direct infection and illness to job and home loss. In the U.S., those most affected by the pandemic are disproportionately Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), with higher rates of [infection](#) and [mortality](#) from the virus



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compared to those who are White. The causes of this disparity are not definitive, but research suggests that:

- Black and Hispanic/Latino people in the U.S. have [relatively high rates of underlying health conditions](#) that are risk factors for severe COVID-19 illness.
- Black, Hispanic/Latino, and Indigenous people have [lower rates of health insurance](#) than Whites, leading to poorer health outcomes that may increase COVID-19 risk.
- Black, Indigenous, and people of color, have higher exposure to air pollution caused by the burning of fossil fuels from [industrial](#) or [mobile sources](#).

The burning of fossil fuels has had an [outsized environmental impact](#) on Latinx communities which are more likely to sit near sources of air pollution. Close to [2 million](#) Latinxs live within a half-mile of pollution emitting oil and gas facilities alone. Some [research](#) has shown that even a small increase in long-term exposure to particulate matter (PM 2.5), a pollutant from burning fossil fuels, leads to a large increase in the death rate for COVID-19. Additionally, counties with more environmental risk measures, such as air pollution and legacy toxic compounds like lead, have a far [higher average death rate](#) from COVID-19 compared to counties with lower environmental risks.

In addition to the direct health consequences of pollution, the extraction and burning of fossil fuels release the greenhouse gases that cause climate change. The [regional impacts](#) of climate change in the U.S., such as severe droughts in the Southwest, excessive rain in the Midwest, and stronger coastal storms in the Southeast, also don't affect everyone equally. Many [low-income and minority communities are at risk](#) of damage from flooding, hurricanes and tropical storms, and negative [health effects from severe heat](#). During the COVID-19 pandemic, where many are forced to stay indoors and be socially distanced, escaping the threats of natural disasters or severe weather are difficult and risk greater exposure to the virus.

With the pandemic causing adverse economic [impacts on women, young adults, and immigrants](#) in the Hispanic community, maintaining immediate financial stability and providing avenues for long term financial recovery will be key in responding to this crisis. The [social determinants of health](#), such as income, access to healthcare, and environmental conditions are all interrelated. Thus any actions to remedy the impact of COVID-19 on the Latinx community must be holistic.

### Call Information & Invitation



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**Speakers:**

- **Juan Delcet-Barrero, Climate Vulnerability Social Scientist, Union of Concerned Scientists**
- **Laura Esquivel, Vice President of Federal Policy and Advocacy, Hispanic Federation**

[Link to Recording](#)

### Top Policy Asks:

As the nation continues to grapple with the pandemic, federal, state, local governments should take the necessary steps to provide immediate relief to communities on the frontlines of the pandemic. Additionally, efforts to stimulate a long-term economic recovery must center environmental justice and climate justice policies in order to maximize the co-benefits to public health and the environment. Though we are in a time faced with multiple challenges, advancing policies that aid the most vulnerable will ensure a just recovery and offers an opportunity to repair and rectify some of the social and economic burdens that fall on communities that are black, indigenous, or people of color.

### Immediate Response

- Senate passage of the [Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions \(HEROES\) Act](#) which would provide much needed medical aid and economic relief.
- Senate passage of the [Move Forward Act](#) which will [invest \\$1.7 Trillion](#) into infrastructure, education, and clean energy projects along with funds for community revitalization programs.
- Halt waivers of environmental pollution laws that have been allowed since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S.; Continue to enforce environmental regulations and public health protections during the pandemic and beyond.
- Extension of the supplemental unemployment benefits to maximum amount for impacted workers during the COVID-19 national emergency.
- Extension of eviction moratoriums, rent, and mortgage payment deferrals for all renters and homeowners during the COVID-19 national emergency.
- Added funding and extension of supplemental nutrition program provisions for children and families in need.
- Moratorium on utility shut-offs with mandated reconnections, along with utility affordability protections for low-income households during the COVID-19 national emergency and beyond.



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- Expanded free COVID-19 testing in areas of most need with outreach to communities and persons lacking access to medical care or reliable transportation to medical facilities.
- Mandatory reporting requirements, using thorough and established metrics, for all states and counties conducting COVID-19 testing to better track the spread and impact of the virus in vulnerable communities.
- Dedicated grants to support culturally competent community-based organizations to ensure that information about the virus and available federal programs is properly communicated.
- Remove eligibility restrictions based on income or citizenship status for stimulus programs to help support immigrant families and impacted workers.
- Protect farmworker pay, provide free healthcare for all farmworkers, and increase funding to rural health clinics.

### Long-term Recovery

- Reinstatement of all federal air pollution [rules and regulations that were revised or revoked](#) by the Trump administration, such as the Clean Power Plan, rules on methane emissions from fossil fuel activities, and the Clean Cars standard.
- Enact legislation such as the [Climate Equity Act of 2020](#) and [Environmental Justice For All Act](#) (H.R.5986) to center environmental justice in federal programs and decision making while enforcing environmental and civil rights laws.
- Prioritize funding for [programs that serve low-income and environmental justice communities](#) to aid those hardest hit by the pandemic and take steps to repair historical disenfranchisement.
- Invest in the development and deployment of clean energy technologies while investing in the education and growth of a Latinx clean energy workforce.
- Enact legislation that adopts a nationwide 100% clean energy goal, such as the [100% Clean Economy Act](#), to cut climate change causing emissions and harmful pollution from fossil fuel extraction, production, and use.
- Revoke all subsidies, such as tax breaks, for the fossil fuel industry, and utilize those funds to invest in community revitalization and clean energy deployment.

### **Policy Resources: (Relevant Articles/Op-ed/ Researching Polling/ Resources)**

- [A Just Green Recovery](#): This report by the Rhodium group analysis the potential economic and public health benefits if a COVID-19 recovery package were to included



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dedicated funding for programs that support projects in frontline and environmental justice communities.

- [UnidosUS Policy Priorities](#); UnidosUS has put together a set of policy priorities specific to COVID-19 response and recovery efforts for the Latinx community. You can view short videos and full-length details of these policies in English and in Spanish [here](#).
- [COVID-19 Data Project](#): This is a volunteer effort launched by *The Atlantic* and dedicated to collecting and publishing the data on the realtime impacts of COVID-19 across the country. They have developed a [Racial Data Tracker](#) to help understand the disparities facing people who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color.
- [Racial Disparities in COVID-19](#): This issue brief by the Kaiser Family Foundation assesses the scope of available research and data to identify specific health disparities impact racial minorities in the U.S. due to COVID-19.
- [State & Local Actions](#): The Council of State Governments has compiled a list of state and local actions taken in response to the coronavirus pandemic, including executive orders, county ordinances, and state reopening plans.

### Social Content

#### Facebook

- Latinxs are more likely to live in areas near sources of air pollution, like major highways and industrial centers. That means that respiratory illnesses like COVID-19 disproportionate impact our community. To beat this pandemic we also need to beat the environmental injustices that make our communities more susceptible to sickness. #ActOnClimate
- Before the start of the pandemic, the Trump administration gutted environmental pollution laws have been gutted/waived in favor of Big Oil and other polluter profits. Yet, COVID-19 disproportionately affects those most impacted by polluted air, including Latinx communities. The most immediate action from the Trump administration should be to reenact much-needed safeguards, not only to protect our planet but also to save our public health. #ActOnClimate

#### Twitter

- Latinxs are more likely to live in areas near air pollution sources, meaning respiratory illnesses like #COVID19 disproportionately impact our community. We can't beat this pandemic without also acting on climate. #EnvironmentalJustice



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- Before the start of the pandemic, the Trump administration gutted environmental pollution laws. Now, #COVID19 is hurting the people those laws were meant to protect. Our leaders must to #ActOnClimate, to save our public health.

### *Instagram*

- Latinxs are more likely to live in areas near sources of air pollution, like major highways and industrial centers. That means that respiratory illnesses like COVID-19 disproportionately impact our community. According to the Rhodium Group, counties with more environmental risk measures have a far higher average death rate from COVID-19 compared to counties with lower environmental risks. To beat this pandemic, we also need to beat the environmental injustices that make our communities more susceptible to sickness. #ActOnClimate
- Since before the start of the pandemic, the Trump administration gutted environmental pollution laws to prioritize oil and gas profits. Now, COVID-19 is hurting the people those laws were meant to protect. The most immediate response from the Trump administration should be to reenact these critical safeguards, not only to protect our planet, but also to save our public health. #ActOnClimate

### *LinkedIn*

- Latinxs are more likely to live in areas near sources of air pollution, like major highways and industrial centers. That means that respiratory illnesses like #COVID19 disproportionately impact our community. According to the Rhodium Group, counties with more environmental risk measures have a far higher average death rate from #COVID19 compared to counties with lower environmental risks. To beat this pandemic we also need to beat the #EnvironmentalInjustices that make our communities more susceptible to sickness. #ActOnClimate
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Graphics to Share: [DOWNLOAD GRAPHICS HERE](#)

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