



The Center for People of All Races

Programs & Services

With over 12,559 volunteer hours, El Centro de la Raza serves 14,542 individuals and 9,442 families through the following programs and services:

Basic Healthcare Enrollment
Bebes! Infant Mortality Prevention
Bilingual Legal Clinics
Business Opportunity Center
Café con El Centro de la Raza
César Chávez Demonstration Garden
Centilia Cultural Center
Citizenship Classes
College Readiness
Comadres Monthly Workshops
Commercial and Tenant Space
Community Meeting Space
Community Organizing
Community Service
Crisis Advocacy
Cultural / Political / Social Events
Economic Development
ECR Transitional Housing
El Patio Apartments
Emergency Safety Planning & Sensitive Location Project
Employment Assistance
ESL Classes
Federal Way Open Doors Program
Financial Empowerment & Asset Building
Food Bank
Foreclosure Counseling
Growing and Learning Together
Homeless Assistance
Hope for Youth Cultural Enrichment
Hirabayashi Place
Historical and Educational Presentations
HUD Housing Counseling
Immigration / Social Justice / Human / Civil Rights Advocacy
José Martí Child Development Center
Labor Standards Outreach & Education
Local, State, National & International Coalition Building
Luis Alfonso Velásquez Flores After School Program
ORCA Lift Reduced Fare Enrollment
Parent-Child Home Program
Plaza Roberto Maestas
Plaza Roberto Maestas After School Program
Public Benefits Enrollment
Santos Rodriguez Memorial Park
Seattle Youth Violence Prevention
Senior Nutrition & Wellness
Smoking Cessation & Marijuana Prevention
Summer Learning
Tax Preparation Site
Unidos in Finance
Veterans' Services
Volunteerism & Community Service Site
Youth Case Management
Youth Employment
Youth and Family Job Readiness Training

A voice and a hub for the Latino community as we advocate on behalf of our people and work to achieve social justice.

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State Of WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

June 2, 2020

Mark L. Johnson
Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Re: Relating to Clean Energy Implementation Plans and Compliance with the Clean Energy Transformation Act, Docket UE-191023

Estimado Mr. Johnson,

Mil gracias for the opportunity to submit comments on the implementation of the Clean Energy Implementation Plan, Docet UE-191023.

Greetings from El Centro De La Raza. My name is Estela Ortega and I serve as Executive Director for ECDLR. Our mission is to build unity across all racial and economic sectors, to organize, empower, and defend our most vulnerable and marginalized populations and to bring justice, dignity, equality, and freedom to all the peoples of the world.

The Clean Energy Transformation Act's (SETA) mandate for equity recognizes that communities of color and low-income communities are disproportionately impacted by pollution and that clean energy alternatives are often out of reach. We want to work closely with you on the development of the rules. For many years now, we have been advocating for environmental and health justice for Beacon Hill due to the air and noise pollution issues at our neighborhood. The CETA will be assistive in our work.

We appreciate the draft rules to create an Equity Advisory Board that represents environmental justice, ensure public participation, progress reports and assessing fines for non-compliance.

We strongly recommend that the CEPA Implementation plan include:

- **Language and Culturally appropriate community outreach and engagement.** Beacon Hill is majority people of color with 44% immigrants and refugees with only a third speaking English well. 23 languages are spoken in Beacon Hill.
- **Develop specific targets for equity.** The Clean Energy Transformation Act sets forward specific emission reduction benchmarks ensuring clarity of progress and success. We recommend universally adhered to and widely understood goals and metrics to track our progress.
- **Strengthen definitions of equitable distribution** to provide clarity on reducing disparities and ensure **lowest reasonable cost** includes equity so its not used as an excuse for inaction.

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- **Create an Equity Advisory Board.** to guide the overall program. We believe our shared success requires a body that can provide expertise and insights to the commission and ensure continuity and use of “best practices” across the energy sector. In addition, the Equity Advisory Boards required for each utility should have the opportunity to connect directly with commissioners (regulators) and provide, as a body, comments in plans and reports.
- **More capacity for communities of color to participate.** In order to effectively, adequately and appropriately engage our communities in public participation, we recommend utilities be required to contract with community-based organization(s) with the language capacity, cultural competency and trust needed to educate, reach out to and support their involvement in weighing in on the planning and progress.

We again thank you for the opportunity for us to provide comments to the Commission. Through our statewide coalition, Front and Centered, we are providing specific input on changes to the draft rules and answers to questions for consideration.

Respetuosamente,

Estela Ortega
Executive Director

cc: Derec Gruen, Policy Co-Director, Front & Centered
Maria Batayola, ECDLR Environmental Justice Coordinator

El Centro de la Raza has been a voice and a hub for Seattle and King County's Latino community as we advocate on behalf of our people and work to achieve social justice. Through our comprehensive programs and services, we empower members of the Latino community as fully participating members of society. We also work to raise awareness with the general public, and government, business and civic leaders about the needs of the Chicano/Latino community