

# MINDING THE CLIMATE GAP

## WHAT'S AT STAKE IF CALIFORNIA'S CLIMATE LAW ISN'T DONE RIGHT AND RIGHT AWAY

Amid efforts by out-of-state oil companies to halt California's landmark climate legislation, considering the repercussions of that decision — lost economic opportunities and dirtier air — should take top priority.

### ***Neighborhoods with Dirtiest Air Have Most to Lose if California's Climate Law (AB 32) is Halted:***

- In California, children in poverty, together with all people in poverty, live disproportionately near large facilities emitting toxic air pollution and greenhouse gases.
- People of color in the state experience over seventy percent more of the dangerous pollution coming from major greenhouse gas polluters as whites, and the disparity is particularly sharp for African Americans.
- The racial differential in proximity to pollution is not just a function of income: people of color are more likely to live near these polluting facilities than whites with similar incomes.
- Continuing to move forward with California's climate law presents the opportunity to save lives and bolster California's economy by focusing pollution reductions in neighborhoods suffering the worst public health impacts.

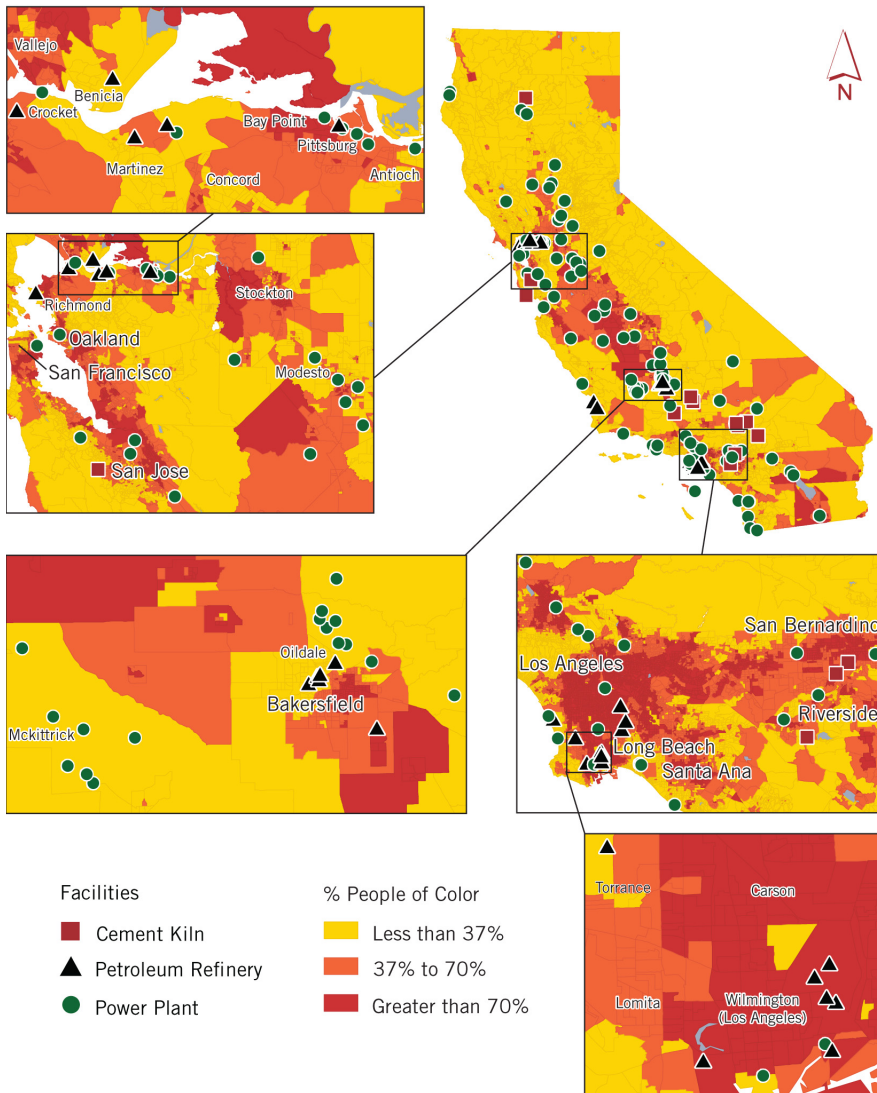
## HOW TO GET IT RIGHT

Implementing California's climate law the right way will result in cleaner air for everyone — especially those living in the neighborhoods with the dirtiest air. The report, *Minding the Climate Gap*, however, also warns about potential problems of increasing the pollution disparity under a market-based regulatory system, such as cap-and-trade or a carbon fee. To get it right, as well as right away, the authors identify policy strategies to ensure that California's climate law leads to a healthier California and cleaner air, including:

- **Restrict trading or fee options among facilities responsible for the most significant health impacts.**
- **Create trading zones to incentivize pollution reduction in the areas with the dirtiest air.**
- **Create a "Climate Gap Neighborhood Protection Fund" to improve air quality in highly-polluted areas and enhance the ability of local residents to adapt to climate change impacts.**

*"What we found is that people of color and the poor in California have a lot to gain if the state's climate policy moves forward in the right ways," said Rachel Morello-Frosch, associate professor of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley. "From cleaner air to new jobs and neighborhood revitalization, California's climate law has more to offer than just preventing climate change. But that also means that these neighborhoods have the most to lose if we don't do this right and don't do it right away."*

## Major Greenhouse Gas-Emitting Facilities in California



### Out-of-State Oil Companies are Leading Contributors to Both Public Health Risks from Air Pollution and the Effort to Suspend California's Climate Law

- Texas oil companies **Valero** and **Tesoro** are among the biggest financial backers of the effort to suspend California's climate law.
- Among the major greenhouse gas emitters studied, all four of the major Tesoro and Valero facilities rank in the top 15 facilities creating the largest public health risk from air pollution, according to an index that considers the possible effect on premature mortality. Additionally, both companies have facilities that are on the list of top contributors to pollution disparity, according to an index that measures disparate impacts on minority neighborhoods.
- Delaying implementation of California's climate law will not just contribute to continuing climate change, it could push back the opportunity to more quickly clean the air, reduce disparate exposure of people of color to dirty air, and generate new jobs in emerging green industries.

### Top Ten Percent of California's Major Greenhouse Gas-Emitting Facilities Ranked by Estimated Pollution-Related Health Impacts

| Rank | Facility Name                                   | City             |
|------|---|------------------|
| 1    | ExxonMobile Torrance Refinery                   | Torrance         |
| 2    | Tesoro Wilmington Refinery                      | Wilmington (LA)  |
| 3    | BP Carson Refinery                              | Carson           |
| 4    | Chevron El Segundo Refinery                     | El Segundo       |
| 5    | ConocoPhillips Los Angeles Refinery Wilmington  | Wilmington (LA)  |
| 6    | Shell Martinez Refinery                         | Martinez         |
| 7    | Valero Benicia Refinery                         | Benicia          |
| 8    | Mountainview Power Plant                        | San Bernardino   |
| 9    | Chevron Richmond Refinery                       | Richmond         |
| 10   | California Portland Cement Company Colton Plant | Colton           |
| 11   | Paramount Refinery                              | Paramount        |
| 12   | Valero Wilmington Refinery                      | Wilmington (LA)  |
| 13   | Cemex Victorville/White Mountain Quarry         | Apple Valley     |
| 14   | Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery                    | Martinez         |
| 15   | Etiwanda Generating Station                     | Rancho Cucamonga |

### Top Ten Facilities Polluting Disproportionately in Communities of Color

| Rank | Facility Name                                   | City            |
|------|---|-----------------|
| 1    | BP Carson Refinery                              | Carson          |
| 2    | Tesoro Wilmington Refinery                      | Wilmington (LA) |
| 3    | Paramount Refinery                              | Paramount       |
| 4    | ConocoPhillips Wilmington Refinery              | Wilmington (LA) |
| 5    | ExxonMobile Torrance Refinery                   | Torrance        |
| 6    | Chevron Richmond Refinery                       | Richmond        |
| 7    | Malburg Generating Station (Vernon Power Plant) | Vernon          |
| 8    | ConocoPhillips Carson Refinery                  | Carson          |
| 9    | Valero Wilmington Refinery                      | Wilmington (LA) |
| 10   | California Portland Cement Company Colton Plant | Colton          |

For the full report, please visit: <http://bit.ly/ClimateGap>