

**PORT
AUTHORITY
NY NJ**

Critical Infrastructure, Equity and Resilience

AEG Stakeholder Challenge - January 2021

AIR LAND RAIL SEA

Sustainability Policies

1993:

Environmental Policy

2006:

Sustainable Design

2008:

Sustainability Policy

2018:

Embracing the Paris
Climate Agreement

PANYNJ SUSTAINABI LITY GOALS

Emissions Reductions

35%

202

5

80%

2050

JFK Solar Project: Overview

- Solar canopy providing covered parking to approximately 3,000 parking spaces
- System capacity of 12.3 MW:
 1. Power for the Airport:
 - 6.2 MW provided to AirTrain JFK
 - 2.5 MW battery storage provides resilience to AirTrain JFK
 2. Community Solar:
 - 6.1 MW sent to local power grid
 - 2.5-5 MW power available to low- and moderate-income residents in surrounding communities, eligible for credits that lower customer bills
- Largest on-site solar plus storage project in NYS



Why is Climate Equity important?

“The impacts of climate change will not be borne equally or fairly, between rich and poor, women and men, and older and younger generations.” – United Nations

- Climate and air quality impacts disproportionately affect marginalized communities
- These communities generally produce fewer emissions per capita
- Climate impacts can exacerbate inequitable social conditions and lead to social instability
- Putting Environmental Justice and Climate Equity at the center of sustainability plans and ensuring sustainability is better integrated into core organizational mission will be key to an organization’s social license to operate, *especially in communities served/impacted by the organization*
- Siloed D&I, environmental, ethics, and governance objectives will need to cohere into an ESG framework and metric for organizations to plan and demonstrate progress

Key Obstacle in Achieving Climate Equity

Organizational sustainability goals/opportunities do not map neatly to climate equity needs and solutions, especially in local communities

- Key strategies for GHG reductions by a specific organization: e.g. on-site or grid purchases of renewables; energy efficiency may not produce tangible local benefits
- Carbon offset market mostly focused on geographically distant projects that may be hard to validate, and do not benefit local communities
- Enabling projects unrelated to organization direct operations or mandate often hard to transact, lack internal credibility
- PANYNJ advancing local content goals for JFK Solar project, working with Developer to identify opportunities; additional to 30% MWBE requirements



Benefits/Consequences Related to Obstacle

- Organization-specific resources will not be available for projects that directly benefit impacted communities
- Offsets or credits that can be monetized or retired to finance/meet sustainability goals do not represent projects that can directly benefit communities
- Steep curve to qualify projects to generate offsets/credits, no clear path or lead on effort; high cost without scale



Problem Statement

Regarding Critical Infrastructure and Resilience, to achieve NY's Carbon & Equity goals, the most critical obstacle to overcome is...

...a framework to match organizational sustainability goals and resources to local opportunities to address climate equity.