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RALI Series: Promoting Solutions for Low Emission Development

Inclusive Climate Action: An Emerging Perspective

The RALI Series is a collection of papers developed by the RALI project to share examples of low emission development in practice. The series features case studies, tools, and innovative new approaches in this space, highlighting user benefits and lessons learned. To learn more about the RALI project, visit <https://www.climatelinks.org/projects/rali>.

Executive Summary

The effects of climate change are growing more pronounced and increasingly threaten the well-being of society, regardless of geographic location. However, the burdens of climate change are not equally distributed. Communities that are especially vulnerable or underrepresented often suffer the most, and climate change impacts can exacerbate existing social inequalities. A growing demand to address the intersection of climate change and social inequality has led to the concept of inclusive climate action, which builds on historical movements such as sustainable development and environmental justice.

What is inclusive climate action? Inclusive climate action means both reducing the effects of climate change on the most vulnerable and ensuring the benefits and burdens of climate action are equitably distributed. Climate action becomes inclusive by engaging a wide range of stakeholders, designing policies that are fair and accessible, and equitably distributing the policy impacts. This results in an adaptable and scalable approach that provides economic, environmental, and social benefits. Inclusive climate action ensures that climate adaptation and mitigation efforts consider equity and provide benefits to everyone.

Why is inclusive climate action important? Inclusive climate action is a solution to address both climate change and social and economic inequalities. Meanwhile, it provides many additional benefits such as greater economic opportunity, improved health and well-being, and better natural resource management.

Where is inclusive climate action occurring? Inclusive climate action takes different forms at different levels, from international platforms, to national policies, to local projects. Many international organizations are supporting inclusive climate action through the [United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals](#). Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and businesses are increasingly integrating inclusivity considerations in planning and policy initiatives. For example, a public-private entity in Bangladesh implemented inclusive climate action by creating a solar energy home system program to address a lack of electricity access in rural areas.

How can inclusive climate action be achieved? Several high-impact sectors serve as especially effective inroads to jump-start inclusive climate action, including renewable energy deployment, energy efficient buildings, waste management, and sustainable agriculture. While there is not a blueprint for inclusive climate action that applies to all contexts, several best practices have been identified to help achieve inclusive climate action:

- **Consistently identify holistic solutions** with multiple benefits that integrate social and economic equity and climate considerations.
- **Ensure participation of all stakeholders** in consultation, planning, and design.
- **Search for opportunities** to implement climate actions that directly benefit low-income, underrepresented, and vulnerable communities.
- **Measure the impact** of inclusive climate action and adjust as needed.
- **Form partnerships** amongst government, business, and NGOs.

What Is Inclusive Climate Action?

Among the many global challenges to the well-being and prosperity of society, the effects of climate change and social inequalities are becoming increasingly pronounced. In turn, efforts to promote climate action and equity have grown. UN Secretary-General António Guterres recently stated that climate change is the greatest threat to the global economy, and inclusive multilateralism that involves all parts of society is required to overcome it (UNFCCC, 2019).

The challenges of climate change and social inequality are often viewed separately; however, they are deeply interconnected. The negative effects of climate change are experienced more frequently and severely by vulnerable and marginalized populations—the poor, the homeless, the underrepresented—and the benefits of climate action are often distributed unequally. Meanwhile, low emissions climate-resilient development can lead to socially equitable economic development when planned appropriately. That is to say, inclusive climate action is not in conflict with social equity or economic growth, rather it reinforces both by fairly distributing the benefits and burdens of climate action and creating economic opportunity.

Low emissions, climate resilient development strategies can be inclusive by:

- Gathering diverse voices to participate in planning processes, especially women and underrepresented groups.
- Considering the needs of groups that are often overlooked, such as the elderly, the disabled, and indigenous peoples.
- Ensuring fair distribution of the benefits, costs, and results of climate actions.

The Origin of the Concept

Inclusive climate action is an emerging concept currently being prioritized in development circles. However, the notion itself is not new and can be traced back to several historical movements:

International Sustainable Development: Established during the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, this concept linked human development and the environment together, prioritizing human rights, economic development, and environmental protection. The idea was developed further, notably at the 1992 Rio “Earth Summit,” where the core principles of sustainability were established (UNFCCC, n.d.).

Decent Work and a Just Transition: Promoted by trade unions beginning in the 1990s, this concept linked together environmental protection, improved working conditions, and better jobs. This was the first step toward a just and green economy, later adopted in the 2010 International Trade Union Confederation resolution, which called for a “fair, ambitious, and binding international climate change agreement and just transition policy framework” (UNFCCC, n.d.).

Environmental Justice: Rising out of the civil rights movement in the United States during the 1960s, this concept was centered around the equitable distribution of environmental burdens and benefits (particularly related to pollutants and waste) that were negatively affecting low-income groups and communities of color. Advocates encouraged dialogue and participation with marginalized groups, called attention to the value of a fair and prosperous society, and promoted a more equitable distribution of outcomes (EPA, 2019). The movement later grew to incorporate other marginalized groups, such as tribes and rural residents, and expanded internationally.

Inclusive Climate Action Defined

Inclusive climate action:

- **Has three elements:** inclusivity of process, policy, and impact
- **Is adaptable and scalable** to the needs and objectives of various actors at different scales
- **Has two principles:** to reduce the effects of climate change on the most vulnerable, and to ensure the benefits and burdens of climate action are equitably distributed

Elements of Inclusive Climate Action: Inclusive Process, Policy, and Impact

Evolved from the aforementioned historical movements, inclusive climate action has recently emerged as a way to address the current climate and social context. C40, an international network of the world's largest cities committed to addressing climate change and creating a healthy and sustainable future (C40, 2019c), has been instrumental in framing the concept, particularly to address the needs of present and future cities.

Inclusive climate action has three elements (C40, 2019a):

1. **Inclusivity of Process:** Engagement of a wide range of communities and stakeholders
2. **Inclusivity of Policy:** Fairness and accessibility in design and delivery
3. **Inclusivity of Impact:** Wider benefits of action, distributed as equitably as possible

When climate action is truly inclusive, there are no false trade-offs between social or economic goals and environmental goals; instead, multiple benefits such as increased economic opportunities, improved health and well-being, and reduced climate risks can all be achieved (C40, n.d.).

Adaptability and Scalability of Inclusive Climate Action

Though C40 applies this definition specifically to cities, the concept can be scaled-up to regional and national levels. Inclusive climate action's goals of reducing poverty and social inequalities, creating more inclusive and participatory planning processes, promoting a greener economy and workforce, and expanding climate adaptation and mitigation actions can be applied at any scale. For example, the UN has integrated the concept at the international level, incorporating inclusivity into many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a mechanism to increase the capacity of climate planning and management in the most vulnerable countries, and encouraging a focus on women, youth, and marginalized communities when strengthening the capacity to manage climate-related hazards (UN DESA, n.d.). Examples of SDGs that focus on inclusivity include Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, and Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. Others place greater emphasis on specific aspects of inclusiveness, such as gender equality. For example, the African Development Bank (AfDB) promotes applying a gender lens in decision-making for inclusive climate-smart finance (AfDB, 2018).

Principles of Inclusive Climate Action: Reducing Burden and Distributing Benefits

Climate change has disproportionate effects in two ways. First, the impacts of climate change affect vulnerable populations more frequently and intensely than other groups. Second, actions in response to climate change do not distribute benefits and burdens equitably. To address both issues, inclusive climate action is guided by two key principles:

1. **Reduce the effects of climate change on the most vulnerable populations.** Vulnerable populations are individuals or communities that are particularly sensitive to climate and non-climate shocks and lack capacity to adapt to them (Klinsky et al., 2015). They also tend to experience climate change effects more frequently and to a greater degree than others. Inclusive climate action aims to reduce the direct effects of climate change experienced by these groups through both adaptation and mitigation strategies.
2. **Ensure that the benefits and burdens of climate action are equitably distributed.** Taking action on climate can generate many benefits, but it is important that those benefits are enjoyed by all groups. For example, expanding mass transit systems to service all parts of the city, including areas where vulnerable populations live and work, provides greater mobility for everyone and reduces the cost of travel. Climate action can also create burdens. For example, reducing emissions can result in job losses in industries that rely heavily on fossil fuels. Developing new, climate-friendly jobs in communities where these jobs are disappearing can more equitably distribute the burden.

Related Concepts

Inclusive climate action is one of several related and overlapping concepts that have similar goals:

Just Transition: Now mainstreamed internationally, the Just Transition movement seeks to create decent work and quality jobs through social dialogue, social protection, rights at work, and employment. It emphasizes social and economic development through improved labor practices as a means to achieve a low-carbon economy and improved labor conditions (Wei, 2018). The Just Transition movement is primarily driven by labor and economic goals, but also recognizes that an improved economy and labor force can lead to environmental benefits.

Inclusive Growth/Inclusive Economy: Emphasizing economic development slightly more than the social or environmental dimensions, inclusive growth promotes shared prosperity resulting from economic growth (UNDP, 2017). An inclusive economy is one in which there is improved job quality and employment access, increased affordability, greater access to critical services, and enhanced community and government engagement to create a climate-resilient economy and society (Wei, 2018). Inclusive growth is similar to inclusive climate action in that both promote improving the livelihoods of all facets of society; however, inclusive growth emphasizes economic development as a means to achieve environmental benefits, whereas inclusive climate action emphasizes improving environmental resilience and health as means to create economic opportunities.

Equitable Climate Action: Strongly emphasizing social equity (both justice and fairness), equitable climate action applies equity to three key issues: determining responsibility for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and mitigation actions, fairly distributing climate costs and benefits, and supporting countries' development (internationally and domestically) while faced with climate change (Klinsky et al., 2015). Equitable climate action is the most similar to inclusive climate action, though it emphasizes the social dimension more and takes a more international perspective.

Climate Justice: An offshoot of environmental justice, climate justice applies those original principles to climate change, which is viewed as a human and civil rights issue, not just an environmental issue. Climate change is harming communities worldwide, and climate justice seeks to address the actions that harm the most vulnerable and underrepresented communities to foster sustainable, cooperative, and regenerative communities (NAACP, 2019). Climate justice emphasizes social equity more than any other concept, primarily focusing on social redress for the most vulnerable communities, whereas inclusive climate action promotes social equity broadly for all communities.

Dimensions of Inclusive Climate Action

Inclusive climate action incorporates the three overarching dimensions of sustainability: social equity, environmental action, and economic opportunity. Where other related concepts may prioritize the economic or environmental dimension, inclusive climate action stands apart by placing greater emphasis on social equity, achieved through environmental action. The underlying idea is that human well-being is multidimensional, and the well-being of everyone is the ultimate goal of inclusive climate action.

Social Equity

The social equity dimension recognizes that *those who suffer the most from climate change often contributed the least*. Vulnerable groups include those living in poverty, the working poor, informal economy laborers, indigenous peoples, rural populations, the elderly, and youth. The health and general well-being of all people is the chief concern of social equity. Social equity calls for the equitable distribution of benefits and burdens and inclusive dialogue.

Environmental Action

Both mitigating climate change and adapting to its effects are crucial components of inclusive climate action. Yet mitigation and adaptation actions are not inherently inclusive or just—they must be designed with these concepts in mind to ensure that the process and resulting outcomes are indeed equitable.

Economic Opportunity

Inclusive climate action can be an opportunity for economic development. By designing an economy that enhances job quality, provides skills training, and creates safe and welcoming work environments, society and the economy mutually reinforce one another.

Why Is Inclusive Climate Action Important?

As the effects of climate change increase and social inequalities worsen, immediate action is needed. Inclusive climate action is a solution to address both climate change and social and economic inequalities. It also provides many additional benefits such as greater economic opportunity, improved health and well-being, and better natural resource management.

The Challenge

As previously discussed, the dual threats of a changing climate and growing social inequalities affect everyone, regardless of geographic boundaries. Furthermore, a vicious cycle exists where disadvantaged groups suffer the most from climate hazards, and this exacerbates social inequalities, leading to greater suffering and vulnerability of these groups. As communities transition to address climate change, the process will likely disrupt businesses and communities, displace workers and industries, necessitate efforts to avoid negative impacts on assets and livelihoods, and may burden poor households with higher energy and commodity prices. New jobs and businesses may not be created where others were displaced, and areas that lack economic diversity may be more vulnerable (UNFCCC, n.d.). This feeds the fear that climate action conflicts with economic growth and social equity, causing some to avoid climate action entirely.

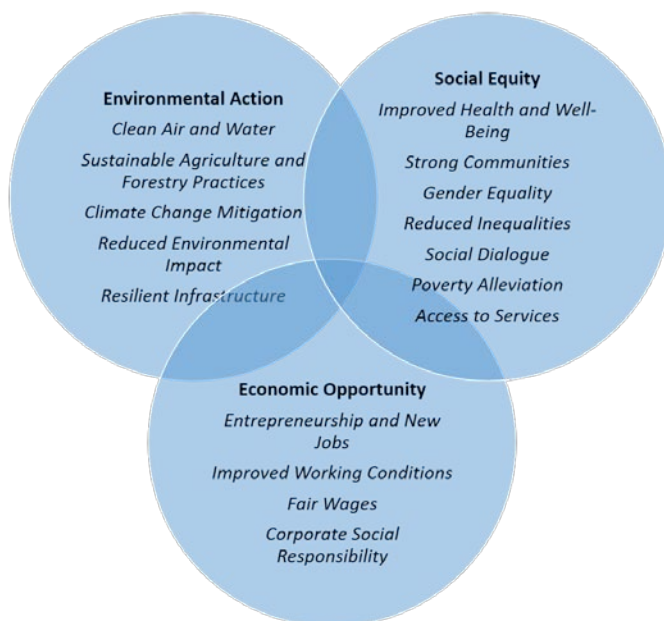
A Solution

The broad objectives of inclusive climate action are to enhance livelihoods, provide economic opportunities, and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Though there will be challenges, inclusive climate action proponents believe the threat of climate change can be turned into an opportunity to achieve these objectives. For example, the UNFCCC projects net gains in employment and economic growth, as well as improvements in job quality, income levels, access to services, and health benefits as the world transitions to a low-carbon economy (n.d.). By integrating an inclusive dimension in planning efforts, low emission development and climate action can be designed to be more equitable and impactful.

The Benefits

More than just an altruistic idea, inclusive climate action, when designed well and integrated throughout all levels and processes, can achieve impressive results beyond simply adapting to a changing climate. Several frameworks and tools have outlined the co-benefits or additional benefits to taking climate action, e.g., the [Sustainable Development Guidance](#) developed by the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), the [International Jobs and Economic Development Impacts \(I-JEDI\) Model](#) developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), and the U.S. EPA guide to [Quantifying the Multiple Benefits of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy](#). Such frameworks recognize that actions to address climate change have many additional benefits related to social, environmental, and economic factors. Furthermore, quantifying these benefits (or costs) provides a more representative assessment to assist analysis and decision-

Figure 1. Interrelated Dimensions of Inclusive Climate Action and Benefits



making efforts. While these benefits have been categorized as environmental, economic, and social, they are not exclusive to one category; many benefits overlap, further highlighting the fact that these relationships are integrated. By identifying benefits that are more apparent and immediately felt on a personal level, such as improved health or economic opportunity, co-benefit assessments can more directly describe the effects of climate action. Figure 1 shows the interrelated dimensions of inclusive climate action and associated benefits.

Social Benefits

Climate action can create outcomes that are beneficial to the environment and society, particularly related to health and livelihood. Reducing emissions and pollution results in cleaner air and water, reducing exposure to toxins, chemicals, and other hazardous substances. A healthier environment results in a healthier population, reducing illness and mortality rates, reducing hospital admissions and health care costs, and allowing people more time for work and leisure. Climate action can also improve livelihoods, especially by increasing access to and reliability of services, such as electricity, and by improving living and working conditions.

Environmental Benefits

In addition to reducing emissions, climate action can benefit the environment through water conservation, waste reduction, and minimizing other pollutants and toxins. Reducing the environmental impact of human actions improves the health of the environment, wildlife, and society.

Economic Benefits

There is a business case for climate action, as low emission development can create positive economic outcomes for businesses and society. For example, a recent report estimates that bold climate action could result in \$26 trillion in economic benefits globally by 2030 and could generate as many as 65 million low-carbon jobs (NCE, 2018). Resilient infrastructure and low-emissions technology may necessitate higher up-front spending but will reduce costs and risks in the long-term. Not only will the economy grow, but income levels and working conditions are also expected to improve alongside growth in GDP. Furthermore, the potential to reduce energy and health costs would save households money. While some economic outcomes may negatively affect some groups and industries, the overall effect is expected to be positive.

Where Is Inclusive Climate Action Occurring?

Many factors are driving inclusive climate action and efforts are growing. Many international organizations, such as the UN, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and multilateral development banks, are prioritizing these efforts through organizational policy goals. Inclusive climate action is increasingly found in planning and policy initiatives at all levels of government. NGOs and businesses are also promoting these efforts at more local levels. At each of these scales, inclusive climate action is being integrated in multiple sectors, such as renewable energy, agricultural practices, and transportation.

Enacting inclusive climate action at all levels of government is necessary to be truly inclusive and to achieve maximum potential. Inclusive climate action takes different forms at different levels to fit varying contexts and capabilities. However, these levels are interdependent with high-level policies flowing down to action at local levels, and local priorities informing high-level planning.

Inclusive Climate Action at the International Level

At the international level, intergovernmental organizations like the UN and multilateral agreements like the Paris Agreement have set an agenda that includes a vision and goals related to inclusive climate action. The UN SDGs are a prominent example, calling for climate action to be more inclusive of developing countries, vulnerable states, and marginalized populations. Figure 2 shows the connection between inclusive climate action and the SDGs. These aspirational goals inform plans and policies at lower levels. Additionally, international agencies offer technical expertise and capacity development related to inclusive climate action. For example, the International Labor Organization (ILO)

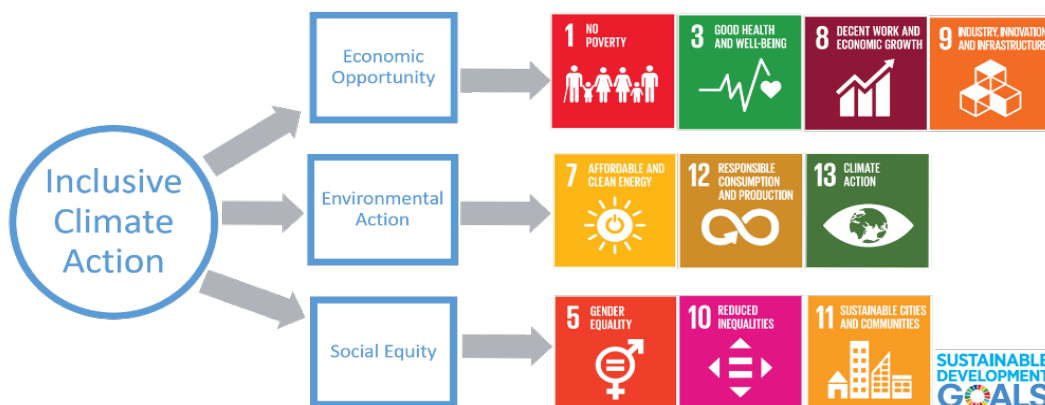
guiding framework highlights strategies to develop social dialogue, social protection, and the right to decent work and

employment (Wei, 2018).

Figure 2. The connection between inclusive climate action and UN's SDGs

Inclusive Climate Action at the National Level

At the national level, governments have outlined plans to achieve both international commitments and national priorities to advance inclusive climate action, such as when developing Nationally Determined Contributions



(NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) (Klinsky et. al, 2015). Policies are created to facilitate those plans. For example, Egypt recently eliminated a fuel subsidy that was favoring the wealthy, instead diverting those funds to assist poorer households and retired and disabled pensioners, while investing in renewable energy infrastructure (UNFCCC, n.d.). In addition to developing inclusive climate action-related policies, nation-states often provide resources, both technical and monetary, to enact them. Another approach has been to combine governmental resources with national organizations such as trade unions. For example, France's construction sector created Qualit-ENR, a program that has developed training standards for installing renewable energy equipment (UNFCCC, n.d.).

Inclusive Climate Action at the Subnational Level

At the subnational level, where the majority of public investment occurs, national plans are translated into concrete actions (OECD, 2018a). At the subnational level, actors tailor national inclusive climate action plans to the local circumstances and needs, including health, safety, education, and adequate shelter. Cities and NGOs such as C40 have been particularly active in implementing inclusive climate action at a local level. For example, Mexico City's EcoBici bikeshare scheme was designed to provide transportation access for individuals who do not own cars, while also increasing safety metrics, reducing nearly 1,200 metric tons of GHG emissions annually, and improving the physical and mental fitness of users (C40, 2017). Business actions, too, are most likely to occur at a local scale.

Examples of Inclusive Climate Action in Practice

Bangladesh: Increasing Electricity Access and Reducing Emissions

In this project, the Infrastructure Development Company Limited (a public-private entity) implemented inclusive climate action to address a lack of electricity access in rural areas. Prior to the project beginning, while electricity access in Bangladesh had been increasing, rural areas remained far behind (75% lacked access in rural areas compared to 47% country-wide). In addition, over 80% of the country's electricity was generated with natural gas. To address these issues, the Infrastructure Development Company Limited created a rural solar energy program to provide solar home systems for rural families. This program resulted in greater energy access in rural areas, as well as benefits at the individual level, such as a reduced burden on women to collect fuel that allowed them to engage in income-generating activities (Klinsky et al., 2015).



Figure 3. Solar home systems increase energy access for rural communities, avoid emissions, and have positive gender co-benefits. (Source: IDCOL)



Figure 4. The cable car system in Medellín helps reduce GHG emissions and provide transportation options for underserved neighborhoods. (Source: “Metrocable” by Camilo Sanchez, CC BY 3.0.)

Colombia: Improved, Inclusive Municipal Transit

In Medellín, Colombia, the city implemented an innovative approach to transportation to inclusively address social and climate challenges. Informal urban settlements, known as favelas, are notoriously poor and underserved. Travel from favelas to the city center was extremely burdensome and expensive. To address the issue, the city installed a cable car system to provide cheap and quick transport to residents and visitors, allowing easy access to jobs, education, consumer goods, and other services (NCE, 2018). The electric cable cars reduced the use of buses and other fossil-fuel powered transportation options, resulting in emission reductions of 121,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) in the first seven years of the project (myclimate, 2012). This project underscores how inclusive climate action can save individuals time and money, increase access to essential services, and transform vulnerable communities.

How Can Inclusive Climate Action Be Achieved?

Inclusive climate planning, policy, and action is not simple. Moreover, there is no single blueprint that will apply to all contexts and there will be tradeoffs associated with different implementation methods (UNDP, 2017). Implementors must consider the local context when designing inclusive climate action, including the level of development, economy, governance structure, and environmental risks. Yet because inclusive climate action is adaptable and scalable, accounting for and addressing these factors is inherent in the process.

Integrating Inclusive Climate Action into Sectoral Activities

Climate action can occur in numerous sectors but some offer greater potential impact, particularly for inclusivity. Efforts offering significant potential for inclusive climate action include renewable energy deployment and access, upgrading transit and transportation systems, forestry management, sustainable agriculture, greening industry, energy efficient buildings, improved access to water and sanitation, and enhancing waste management and waste recovery. These efforts can be merged together to create an inclusive, low carbon pathway to achieve climate goals. The national and local context will determine which efforts to prioritize, as well as appropriate means of implementation. Table 1 provides illustrative examples of inclusive climate actions in four key sectors, as well as how the action might be non-inclusive or climate-adverse if not properly designed.

Table 1: Priority Implementation Sectors and Examples of Inclusive and Non-Inclusive Climate Actions

Sector	Inclusive Climate Action	Non-Inclusive Climate Action	Inclusive but Climate-Adverse Action
Waste Management	Establish household waste collection service for low-income households, and use organic waste for compost in community gardens (benefits low-income households, diverts waste from landfills)	Establish household waste collection service city-wide, and charge a flat monthly rate (greater burden for low-income households to pay the fee)	Establish household waste collection service for low-income households, and landfill organic waste (benefits low-income households, but doesn't reduce waste)
Agriculture	Provide small landholders a subsidy to implement low-emissions farming practices, e.g., no till farming or organic farming (benefits small landholders, reduces emissions)	Provide all farms a subsidy to implement low-emissions farming practices (does not differentiate those that need a subsidy most)	Provide small landholders a subsidy to buy fertilizer, chemicals, and machinery (benefits small landholders, but increases emissions)

Sector	Inclusive Climate Action	Non-Inclusive Climate Action	Inclusive but Climate-Adverse Action
Transportation	Expand mass transit systems to rural and urban areas, including areas where vulnerable populations live and work (reduces vehicle miles traveled [VMT], expands access for vulnerable populations)	Expand mass transit systems to urban areas with high single-occupancy VMT (reduces VMT, but does not benefit low-income populations)	Build roads to underserved rural areas (expands access for underserved populations, but increases VMT)
Energy Efficient Buildings	Offer tax rebates to small businesses that install energy efficiency heating and cooling upgrades (targets businesses with few resources, mandates energy efficiency)	Offer tax rebates to businesses that install energy efficiency heating and cooling upgrades in excess of \$5,000 (mandates energy efficiency, but rebates are only accessible to high-earning businesses)	Offer tax rebates to small businesses that install heating and cooling upgrades (targets businesses with few resources, but does not mandate energy efficiency)

Best Practices for Inclusive Climate Action

This section summarizes best practices that can be applied at any level of governance or within any organization, including considerations and examples. See the Appendix for more resources to support inclusive climate action.

Consistently identify holistic solutions with multiple benefits that integrate social equity and climate considerations.

Climate action should consider social and economic implications and vice versa. It is important to understand that these dimensions are self-reinforcing. When taking climate action, always seek to understand how all communities, especially vulnerable communities, will be affected by and benefit from climate actions. Similarly, when addressing social equity or economic concerns, seek to understand how approaches will interact with climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. Climate actions should be designed to create multiple benefits that address multiple policy goals—aspire to win-win-win solutions.

Adopting integrated planning and governance frameworks that use evidence-based analysis to promote economic growth and sustainable natural resource management, e.g., the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework, can result in more holistic planning efforts (UNDP, 2017). Applying multiple benefits assessment frameworks such as ICAT’s *Sustainable Development Guidance* to identify and quantify the many benefits that inclusive climate action can produce will help decision makers understand the full breadth of benefits of inclusive climate action.

Ensure participation of all stakeholders—including low-income, underrepresented, and vulnerable communities—in consultation, planning, and design.

Valuing the voices of everyone is a core tenet of inclusive climate action. Tactics to achieve this include surveys, meetings with stakeholders, social dialogue platforms, and other participatory mechanisms. The challenge is ensuring that everyone’s voice is valued equally, and that the concerns and needs of the vulnerable are addressed when plans are designed and carried out.

Social dialogue is a key component in promoting inclusive climate action that helps to identify challenges and needs, hear many perspectives, and make consensus-based decisions (UNFCCC, n.d.). One method to encourage stakeholder participation is to promote local ownership of an issue or a program, thereby promoting local aspirations, leadership, and skills to sustain results over time. Empowering poor and excluded groups to participate in programs as agents of their own development is especially powerful (UNDP, 2017).

Search for opportunities to implement climate actions that directly benefit low-income, underrepresented, and vulnerable communities.

Identifying targeted and direct actions that support communities most often overlooked will be the most immediate and impactful way to create climate action that is truly inclusive. Recalling the two principles of inclusive climate action, these

opportunities can both minimize climate change impacts on these communities, as well as provide benefits through climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. For example, installing renewable energy on social housing, increasing mass transit to vulnerable areas, and training low-income populations in clean energy job skills are all examples of applying both principles to the issue and directly supporting the most vulnerable communities.

Measure the impact of inclusive climate action and adjust as needed.

A lack of data is a common obstacle to effective design and implementation of inclusive climate action (UNFCCC, n.d.). Yet data collection and reporting are critical to measure the impact of actions and to determine progress towards goals. Beyond tracking progress, measuring and analyzing relevant indicators can help identify needs and direct future planning and strategies.

While data may be difficult to obtain, it is still important to identify and track metrics as best as possible. Mapping metrics to specific goals can help guide data collection. Relevant quantitative metrics include the number of jobs created, stakeholders engaged, or people assisted, as well as the value of beneficial outcomes, the value of reduced energy burden, or the value of economic productivity changes. Relevant qualitative metrics include survey responses to quality of life or job quality. In identifying and collecting these metrics, it is important to track these indicators for different populations of society. For example, the number of jobs metric should indicate the number of jobs created for individuals of different socioeconomic status, race, gender, and age. Breaking down these metrics by different segments of the population will better measure if actions are indeed inclusive. Furthermore, data analysis can help target communities most in need to ensure that actions have the greatest possible impact (C40, 2019b).

Collaboration is key: forming partnerships amongst government, business, and NGOs can leverage their respective capabilities.

Inclusive climate action is inherently collaborative and interdisciplinary. Each sector of society plays an important role, and each has strengths and weaknesses. Collaboration between businesses, government, and NGOs can minimize shortcomings and leverage strengths for greater impact. Businesses can continue to increase corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts and promote job creation and market growth (UNDP, 2017). Government provides institutional and legal frameworks to carry out projects at a large scale. NGOs give voice to marginalized society and the environment. Working with community-based organizations can help decisionmakers better understand the local context, better direct resources, and earn local buy-in for projects. International finance institutions also play a role, assisting less capacitated countries in building technical capacity to formulate policies and bridge the investment gap to jumpstart projects (Wei, 2015). These actors share common objectives, and partnerships allow them to achieve more than they would alone. For example, the OECD Business for Inclusive Growth Platform is linking businesses and governments to align their actions to achieve inclusive growth (OECD, 2018b).

Strengthening relationships within and amongst individual institutions is also vital. Communication and collaboration across governmental agencies improve efficiency and save resources (C40, 2019b). Similarly, regional and international cooperation between governments can do the same. Connecting businesses in related sectors such as energy and transportation or health and the environment can improve business outcomes and result in an inclusive economy. In the spirit of inclusivity, expanding collaborative efforts and partnerships encourages engagement with a broad array of stakeholders and enables policies and actions that address everyone’s needs.

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Appendix: Annotated Collection of Resources

Table 2 presents a list of resources related to inclusive climate action for readers interested in further reading on the subject. The author, resource type, a brief summary, and a resource link are offered for each resource.

Table 2: Resources for Further Reading

Resource Title	Author	Resource Type	Summary	Link
Inclusive Economy	BSR	Website	Defines BSR's approach to creating an inclusive economy that integrates human rights, inclusive supply chain practices, robust stakeholder and community engagement, and transparent reporting into business practices. Focuses on education and integrating new inclusive-economy tools and strategies. Offers links to numerous blogs, reports, and case studies on inclusive economy.	https://www.bsr.org/en/expertise/inclusive-economy
Climate + Inclusive Economy: The Business Case for Action	BSR	Report	Presents data and case studies to highlight the effects of climate change on an inclusive economy and aims to help companies across sectors understand the resulting consequences for business. Demonstrates why and how business can take action, including how companies can establish a deeper understanding of the nexus of an inclusive economy and climate throughout their businesses; how to articulate the risks and opportunities for companies across various sectors; how to secure buy-in from senior leadership; and how to identify, assess, prevent, mitigate, and remedy the adverse effects of climate change.	https://www.bsr.org/reports/BSR_Climate_Nexus_Inclusive_Economy.pdf
We Live Here Together: Mayors Working for Inclusive Climate Action	C40	Brochure	Describes C40's Inclusive Climate Action program that aims to provide tools and strategies to tackle climate change and inequality in an integrated way.	https://issuu.com/c40cities/docs/we_live_here_together_-_mayors_work
Pledging to Deliver Inclusive Climate Action FAQ	C40	FAQ	Offers short answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the C40 program, pledge, and rationale.	https://c40-production-images.s3.amazonaws.com/other_uploads/images/1881_Pledging_to_deliver_ICA_FAQ_for_website_original.pdf?1531928498
Benefits Research Programme: Enabling Inclusive Climate Action	C40	Report	Describes what inclusive climate action is and the benefits it can bring.	https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1VfKggXc6qOaU9CcUZtcIFKRU0/view

Resource Title	Author	Resource Type	Summary	Link
Benefits of Climate Action: Piloting a Global Approach to Measurement	C40	Report	Describes the benefits of urban climate action, enabling action, findings, approach, limitations, and recommendations. Inclusive climate actions tackle multiple mayoral priorities simultaneously, deliver multiple benefits to all segments of the population, and ultimately result in more transformational climate solutions.	https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1VfKggXc6qOO2syTIFsQTkwRm8/view
A Framework for Local Action on Climate Change	Center for American Progress	Report	Describes how as economic disparities and climate change risks rise, mayors are developing solutions that build resilient communities, create new economic opportunities, and support racial justice.	https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/reports/2017/09/28/439712/framework-local-action-climate-change/
Adaptation Clearinghouse	Georgetown Climate Center	Database	Offers resources to policymakers and others who are working to help communities adapt to climate change.	https://www.adaptationclearinghouse.org/
Opportunities for Equitable Adaptation in Cities: A Workshop Summary Report	Georgetown Climate Center	Report	Summarizes the results of an environmental justice workshop and provides examples of equitable adaptation happening in cities throughout the United States. The report also explores tangible actions city officials and environmental justice leaders can take to encourage community-driven planning and integrate social equity goals with climate adaptation goals.	https://www.georgetownclimate.org/files/report/GCC-Opportunities_for_Equitable_Adaptation-Feb_2017.pdf
Inclusive Economic Growth	Global Climate Action Summit	Website	Describes inclusive economic growth as a challenge and focuses on business climate leadership to generate good jobs, spur global development, and leave no one behind; also providing links to relevant articles. Video of the summit is also available.	https://www.globalclimateactionsu mmit.org/inclusive-economic-growth/
Inclusive Green Growth in Ethiopia: Selected Case Studies	Green Growth Knowledge Platform	Case Study	Describes good practices in four key sectors that are thought to be relevant to promoting inclusive green growth and fostering the transition to the green economy in Ethiopia.	http://www.greengrowthknowledge.org/case-studies/inclusive-green-growth-ethiopia-selected-case-studies
Guidelines for a Just Transition Towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies for All	ILO	Report	Offers guidelines to the ILO and its constituents that provide a framework to ensure that national and global efforts to tackle climate change and other environmental challenges, advance employment creation goals, and social justice and fair transitions for workers, enterprises and communities are all on an equal footing.	https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/group s/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/documents/publication/w cms_432859.pdf
Decent Jobs in a Safe Climate: ILO Solutions for Climate Action	ILO	Report	Reports that the transition to a greener and low-carbon economy could generate up to 60 million additional jobs worldwide over the next two decades compared to a 'business-as-usual' development path, leading to more and better jobs, poverty reduction, and social inclusion.	https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/group s/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/documents/publication/w cms_374304.pdf

Resource Title	Author	Resource Type	Summary	Link
Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change: From Victims to Change Agents Through Decent Work	ILO	Report	Describes why indigenous peoples face threats, what makes them agents of change, and how to empower them.	https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/group/public/---dgreports/---gender/documents/publication/wcms_551189.pdf
Building a Community of Practice at the Intersection of Water, Climate Resilience and Equity	Kresge Foundation	Report	Describes the challenges, needs, and opportunities facing leaders working at the intersection of water, climate, and equity; assesses how Kresge's CREWS grantees are addressing equity issues; outlines practical next steps for a developing community of practice and is a repository of knowledge generated to date from Kresge water grantees.	https://kresge.org/library/building-community-practice-intersection-water-climate-resilience-and-equity
The Climate Gap: Inequalities in How Climate Change Hurts Americans & How to Close the Gap	N/A	Report	Describes how communities of color and low-income communities are hit the hardest by climate change—themes include health consequences, economic consequences, and solutions to close the climate gap.	https://dornsife.usc.edu/assets/sites/242/docs/ClimateGapReport_full_report_web.pdf
In the Eye of the Storm: A People's Guide to Transforming Crisis and Advancing Equity in the Disaster Continuum: Action Toolkit	NAACP	Report	Describes how low-income, communities of color, and other frontline communities are disproportionately affected by the effects of climate change, extreme weather, and other natural and human-caused disasters and provides a framework for helping communities embed considerations of equity in all phases of emergency management: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, resilience building, recovery, and redevelopment. Developed for NAACP Units and their Environmental and Climate Justice Committees but it may be more broadly useful for community-based organizations, state and local government officials, other emergency management professionals, and individuals affected by disasters.	https://live-naacp-site.pantheonsite.io/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/NAACP_InTheEyeOfTheStorm.pdf
Just Energy: Policies and Practices: Action Toolkit	NAACP	Report	Describes eight modules of practical, user-friendly guidance on how to phase out coal, nuclear, and oil facilities and bring in clean energy like wind and solar. Designed to help develop energy justice plans to best fit the needs of communities.	https://www.naacp.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Just-Energy-Policies-and-Practices-ACTION-Toolkit_NAACP.pdf

Resource Title	Author	Resource Type	Summary	Link
Unlocking the Inclusive Growth Story of the 21st Century: Accelerating Climate Action in Urgent Times	New Climate Economy	Report	Describes how bold climate action could deliver at least \$26 trillion in economic benefits by 2030 compared to business-as-usual and highlights opportunities in five key economic systems – energy, cities, food and land use, water, and industry. Calls on governments, business, and finance leaders to urgently prioritize actions on four fronts over the next two to three years: climate-related financial risk disclosures and carbon pricing, investment in sustainable infrastructure, harnessing the private sector for innovation, and building a people-centered approach to ensure a just transition and to share gains equitably.	https://newclimateeconomy.report/2018/
Report on the OECD Framework for Inclusive Growth	OECD	Report	Introduces OECD's framework for inclusive growth, defines the concept and standards to measure, identifies policies for inclusive growth and linking them to outcomes, and provides recommendations.	https://www.oecd.org/mcm/IG_MCM_ENG.pdf
Inclusive Growth	OECD	Website	Describes how investing in people and places, looking beyond GDP, empowering youth and women can lead to inclusive growth, particularly in developing countries. Provides links to videos, tools, articles, and resources.	http://www.oecd.org/inclusive-growth/#introduction
Building Inclusive Climate Change Agendas in Cities	OECD	Slideshow	Describes inclusive climate action in cities, detailing how inclusive climate action is primarily occurring at the local level. Links to further resources.	https://www.slideshare.net/OECDLEED/building-inclusive-climate-change-agendas-in-cities
Understanding Climate Change: An Equitable Framework	PolicyLink	Report	Reports information that contributes to a deeper understanding of climate change issues, considers the equity consequences and implications associated with global warming, and provides resource guides that identify additional sources of information.	https://www.policylink.org/resources-tools/understanding-climate-change-an-equitable-framework
Climate Change and the Just Transition: A Guide for Investor Action	PRI	Report	Offers a framework that can be applied both by individual institutions and through collaborative initiatives to connect climate action with inclusive growth and sustainable development to address the social dimension of climate change.	https://www.unpri.org/download?ac=5361
UNDP's Strategy for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth	UNDP	Report	Outlines a strategy and specific policy and programmatic options for three broad priority areas to achieve SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth. These areas are: integrated planning for inclusive and sustainable growth; supporting employment creation, decent work and redistributive programs; and mobilizing and scaling up financing for enabling the transition to inclusive and sustainable growth.	http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Poverty%20Reduction/UNDPs%20Inclusive%20and%20Sustainable%20Growth-final.pdf

Resource Title	Author	Resource Type	Summary	Link
Just Transition of the Workforce, and the Creation of Decent Work and Quality Jobs	UNFCCC	Report	Presents the general concept of just transition including its drivers and objectives, discusses the linkages between just transition and the impacts of the implementation of climate change mitigation policies, and offers guidance on how to approach a just transition at the national level.	https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Just%20transition.pdf
Cities of Tomorrow: URBACT Thematic Report: Against Divided Cities	URBACT	Report	Aims to help European cities to rethink existing policies concerning spatial and social segregation in urban areas by presenting interesting practices from partner cities working on integrated sustainable development and providing recommendations for how to deal with segregated and deprived areas.	https://issuu.com/mdrt/docs/cities_of_tomorrow_urbact_thematic_80f854de865d7f
Reinvigorating Trade and Inclusive Growth	World Bank	Report	Emphasizes that there is a growing need to ensure that the rules, policies, and practices governing global trade are modernized and that trade rules should aim to build greater, more durable openness and encourage countries to reinvest in open, rules-based global trade. Shares insights into how trade benefits the poor; people in rural areas; micro, small, and medium enterprises; and women. Describes how greater openness in key areas such as services trade and e-commerce can promote competition, increase productivity, and raise living standards.	http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/874541538071614937/pdf/130272-WP-PUBLIC-Disclosed-9-30-2018.pdf
Building Climate Equity: Creating a New Approach from the Ground Up	WRI	Report	Offers a new approach to climate change challenges by linking actions to combat climate change with broader equity objectives, placing the wellbeing of people and communities at the core of climate action. Building on the findings of 30 case studies in 23 countries, it demonstrates how climate policies within countries, including policies directed at both low-carbon energy development and resilience to climate change effects, can simultaneously build the capabilities of individuals and communities. Concludes with recommendations.	https://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/building-climate-equity-072014.pdf