



## **Why Social Justice and Equity Matter for the Environment**

In an ideal world, there would be no air pollution, all water would be clean, energy would be generated entirely renewably and without pollution-generating combustion, and wild places and wildlife would continue to be abundant.

All children would know that there are places to enjoy nature with loved ones or in solitude.

Until then, we know that there are inequities that prevent all Californians from sharing in prosperity and that expose many to disproportionate pollution burdens and health impacts.

Sierra Club is based on volunteers and extraordinary efforts by courageous individuals to address environmental problems in their communities.

If prejudice forces people to hide in the shadows, if poverty deprives people of education and adequate food and lodging, if low wages force people to work multiple jobs that allow no time for civic engagement, if fear of retribution keeps people silent about polluters, then our efforts to protect and stand up for the environment are weakened.

--Sierra Club California  
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