

## For Immediate Release

October 11, 2023

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Contact: Marla Cherney  
*Communications Officer*  
Email: [mcherney@sustain.org](mailto:mcherney@sustain.org)

### **Institute for Sustainable Communities Announces the Launch of the Advancing Equitable Decarbonization in Buildings Owned by People of Color (AEBD)**

*Montpelier, VT* – The Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) is excited to announce the launch of the Advancing Equitable Decarbonization in Buildings Owned by People of Color (AEBD) project. In partnership with [CBRE](#), the project is a collaborative, multi-phase model for equitable decarbonization and energy efficiency focusing on buildings owned by people of color. Additionally, the project will develop financial products and incentives that increase the access of Black and brown building owners to sustainability funding and financing instruments.

The project will grow community capacity to implement equitable building decarbonization in communities of color in three pilot cities—Oakland, California; St. Louis, Missouri; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Through the project, leadership alliances will convene in each city to implement demonstration projects and develop replicable products for directing resources toward Black and brown building owners. The members of this leadership alliance work in partnership with ISC, CBRE, and others to:

- Advance approaches and utilize tools to execute equitable building decarbonization roadmaps,
- Increase access to sustainability funding and financing instruments for Black and brown building owners, and
- Implement equitable building decarbonization demonstration projects.

Each leadership alliance will be developed in collaboration with anchor partners from each city. Anchor partners include [Community Builders Network of Metro St. Louis](#), [Allen Temple Baptist Church](#) in Oakland, and [Overbrook Environmental Education Center](#) in Philadelphia. In addition to the anchor partners, leadership alliances will consist of majority Black- and brown-led organizations, local individuals in each city with diverse occupational and life experiences, local community development financial institutions or funders, and individuals who are a part of the LGBTQIA+ community.

“Equitable building decarbonization is critical to ensuring that communities impacted by energy injustice and insecurity will benefit from energy efficient buildings, lower energy costs and cleaner air to breathe. AEBD centers community voices and expertise in decarbonization efforts and prioritizes communities of color designing and optimizing benefits of energy efficiency and climate justice efforts,” said Sonia Joshi, Director U.S. Programs.

ISC is partnering with CBRE, the world's largest commercial real estate services and investment firm, to develop and execute decarbonization and energy efficiency roadmaps, energy use benchmarking, and a database for Black- and brown-owned buildings. CBRE is committed to supporting equitable climate change solutions in all communities and this partnership reflects CBRE's dedication to helping businesses, people and their societies to thrive.

Funded by CBRE, each anchor partner organization will receive \$7,000 to support their role while leadership alliance members will receive \$1,000 each. Funding will directly support thought leadership, technical assistance around decarbonization, capacity building, and peer learning opportunities. Project demonstration sites will also receive up to \$40,000.

#### About the Institute for Sustainable Communities

ISC is a non-profit organization with a mission to create equitable, climate change solutions around the world. We do this by forming collaborative, people-focused partnerships that support communities disproportionately impacted by the global climate crisis. Since its founding in 1991, ISC has utilized a unique, bottom-up approach to ensure solutions emerge from within communities, rather than being imposed from the outside. Our projects focus on divested communities throughout the world, with specific attention paid to the impact systemic racism and gender inequity has had in communities, workforces, and industrial sectors as they move toward a just transition. For more information, please visit [sustain.org](https://sustain.org).

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