



**ANNOUNCING
BEZOS EARTH FUND AND
CLIMATE BREAKTHROUGH AWARDS
*TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN MUCH WILL BE REQUIRED***

Without a doubt, these are extraordinary times. In the last two years we've seen a once-in-a-century global pandemic and a belated (if incomplete) reckoning with the racism at the heart of American society – all against the backdrop of a [“code red”](#) climate emergency.

The Emerald Cities Collaborative is meeting this moment. Last year, we marked a decade of success in advancing high-road solutions to climate, economic and racial inequities. **Now, we are entering our second decade with the resources to take this critical work to scale.** But clearly, *“to whom much is given, much will be required”*.

The hard work of our dedicated board, staff, community partners and funders is paying off. Our collaboratives have produced policies, programs and projects that are putting a clean energy future into the pathways of people in low-income, BIPOC communities. This includes over \$250 million in energy-efficiency retrofits, including over 1500 low-income families with greener and healthier apartments; more than 250 small, minority-and women-owned firms trained in green building skills and a documented \$19 million in related contracts; and good jobs, apprenticeships and career pathways for some 400 disadvantaged youth. Our most enduring work involves the numerous system level changes in government and corporate policies that eliminate barriers that keep low-income communities locked into sick homes, toxic communities, and poverty wages and wealth disparities.

We are just getting started. The decade ahead is a critical one. Taking on this challenge was boosted by [The Bezos Earth Fund that recently awarded Emerald Cities a \\$12 million grant as part of its own 10-year \\$10 billion commitment to climate change and climate justice](#). ECC will leverage this investment to enhance our local coalitions and programs, and to ensure that government infrastructure and climate investments benefit environmental and climate justice communities.

With this support, we will harness climate investments at the state and local levels to reduce carbon emissions, create greener and healthier homes and lower utility bills for families living in multi-family affordable housing. We will build climate resilience for the most vulnerable

communities while creating high-wage jobs and contracting opportunities for residents and businesses from these communities.

This work is as important as ever – building the clean energy future one home, one neighborhood, and one job at a time. At the same time, the urgency of this moment demands larger, deeper societal changes. That is why we are proud to announce that [President/CEO Denise Fairchild is one of three recipients of the 2021 Climate Breakthrough Award](#), the largest environmental award of its kind.

Dr. Fairchild will receive \$3 million to design and seed a strategy to disrupt the foundation of America's fossil-fuel dependent economy by prompting large and enduring cultural shifts in energy consumption norms. Emerald Cities will provide the organizational backbone for her work in this new venture.

Over the next decade, Emerald Cities will elevate its efforts to a new level, commensurate with the urgency of our challenges. We will meet the moment with new and expanded programs and new leadership. [We are looking for new bold and experienced leaders to join our team in this dynamic time.](#)

We have also named seven new members of our board of directors –who along with our 10 current directors – are already active, program-level collaborators to help lead the organization over the next decade:

- Jacqueline Patterson, Founder and Executive Director, Chisholm Legacy Project
- Gary Cohen, Co-founder and President, Healthcare Without Harm
- Rosa Garcia, Executive Director, California Youth Leadership Corps
- Donnel Baird, Founder and CEO, BlocPower
- Chione Flegal, Managing Director, PolicyLink
- John Doherty, Special Assistant to the General President, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT)
- Dave Ribeiro, Director of Local Policy, The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)

These are indeed extraordinary times. We have the privilege, and responsibility, of living in a moment that could prove pivotal for the planet that sustains us, and for our hopes of a more equitable future. It's a time that demands an all-hands, all-strategies approach: the pragmatic work of building a clean energy future; and the creative work of envisioning a larger culture of sufficiency and solidarity. As we embark on the next decade of our journey together, we will do both, at scale.

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