



RMI Equity Principles

October 2021

RMI's mission is to “transform the global energy system to secure a clean, prosperous, zero-carbon future for all.” First and foremost, we advocate for a global transition to a sustainable energy system free from climate change. We also advocate for that transition to be equitable and just. To achieve 100% clean and efficient energy use globally, we ultimately must find solutions that work for all of the world's communities. This is not only a social imperative, it is also a transformative opportunity. To achieve a 1.5 degree C pathway, the world must invest roughly \$3-5 trillion per year - every year - for the next 3 decades in the low carbon solutions of the future (rather than in fossil fuels). Developing and deploying these low-carbon solutions responsibly can help to address historic inequities and support an era of shared and mutual development for all.

The linkages between climate and equity are significant. Vulnerable communities are most likely to sustain negative economic, health, and social consequences of unsustainable energy choices. They are also more likely to lie in harm's way due to climate related damage from storms, wildfires, sea level rise, and other foreseeable changes. At the same time, solving the climate crisis can only be achieved at pace and scale with broad and aligned action across the entire patchwork of global communities. Alignment requires that vulnerable communities receive all the benefits of a clean energy future and participate fully in its creation.

Policy and markets have the power to transform society. They have created great advancements in equity and energy, and they have also created great harm and inequities. We must understand how they can be used to create good instead of harm, so we can focus our solutions on the greatest good.

In recognition of this close linkage between solving climate change and addressing equity and environmental justice, RMI has drafted the following set of principles and commitments to ensure that we do our best to work on both issues.

RMI Equity Principles

As we work to secure a 1.5 degree C future, we will strive for:

- **Systemic change.** We will seek to reshape markets, guide policy, and shift mindsets to align with an equitable zero-carbon future.
- **Shared power.** We will support the leadership of communities, constituencies, and individuals on the frontlines of equity and climate work.
- **Brave humility.** We will learn from others to guide what we do, acknowledging the limits of our knowledge, and we will balance that with recognizing and building upon our mission and strengths as an organization to be ambitious and contribute to this work.

RMI Equity Commitments

Building on our strengths and aligned with our values, RMI will:

- Use our whole-systems approach to ensure that our climate solutions are not only fast, economical, and efficient, but also just, inclusive, and built to last. To do this, we will seek to work with relevant stakeholders to advance equitable climate solutions.
- Utilize markets and the policies that shape them as important levers for driving change, using our engagement to support climate solutions that are both equitable and just.
- Define equity priorities for our work that align with our solutions focus. These priorities may vary over time and by country.

In delivering against these commitments, RMI will:

- Seek to advance equity in our work in each of the following areas*:
 - **Procedural equity** – fair and inclusive processes and decision-making
 - **Distributional equity** – resources, benefits, risks, and burdens are distributed fairly, prioritizing benefits for those with the highest need
 - **Structural equity** – institutionalizing procedural and distributional equity for long-term, sustainable success
- Create inclusive spaces for conversations with varied perspectives and find ways to increase shared decision-making processes based on those conversations wherever we have the power to do so. Where we do not have the power to make that happen, we will advocate for this approach.
- Support the leadership of frontline and environmental justice communities, and leading equity and environmental justice scholars and organizations to co-create the process, definition, and solutions of an equitable energy transition
- Seek to partner with, support the funding of, and elevate the decision-making power of marginalized individuals and equity organizations.
- Build diverse teams at RMI as part of our foundation to be able to successfully work with diverse communities and stakeholders.
- Actively develop resources including training, guidance, and funding, to support our teams' implementation of these principles and practices, including guidance on how to proceed when goals or values are in conflict.
- Systematically and regularly evaluate our progress toward supporting our teams on these issues and achieving our shared vision.

*As framed by Kapwa Consulting