

# VGI: An Introduction to Equity Considerations

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COMMUNITIES  
FOR A BETTER  
ENVIRONMENT  
established 1978

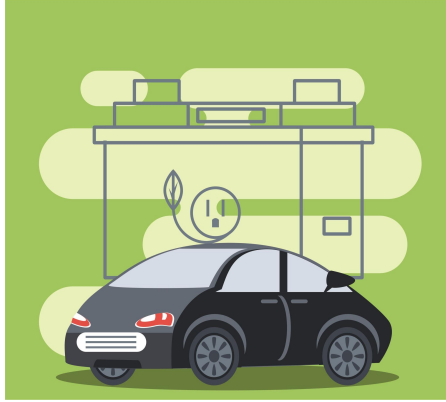
# VGI Could Potentially Deliver Powerful Equity Benefits. It Also Raises Important Equity-related Questions.

**One potential benefit of VGI would be reduced reliance on gas-fired peaker plants**

- **“Environmental justice community” definition for this presentation:** a community w/higher pollution than the state average, often also a community w/a high poverty rate and/or primarily a community of color
- CBE represents members in 4 front-line communities in CA, including in Southeast LA; SELA is home to the gas-burning Malburg power plant
- Gas-fired power plants are often located in EJ communities
- EJ communities face a high risk of being exposed to dangerous levels of Nox, PM 2.5, Sulfur Dioxide and VOCs; (these pollutants are implicated in respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular problems, cancer and premature death)
- CARB estimates ca. 7,200 annual deaths related to PM 2.5 pollution alone; however, CA has reduced some criteria pollutants in recent years



# VGI and the Affordability Crisis



**Raise your hand if you've experienced the affordability crisis**

**Low-income and front-line communities are especially impacted**



- CBE members, many of whom live at or near the poverty line, have reported juggling rent, food, medicine and other essentials
- VGI solutions targeted to EJ communities should be aim to reduce utility costs; up-front technology costs should be affordable (and/or subsidized)

## Affordable and accessible VGI solutions:

- Examples might include VGI - capable school buses, public fleets and private VGI technology eligible for incentives for low-income consumers;
- **CEC already has some promising VGI technology incentive programs, including charging technology incentives;** it is essential to make sure those are readily accessible by consumers w/the greatest need, including low-income consumers, consumers of color, English language learners, the elderly and those w/limited internet access, etc.

# VGI School Buses in El Cajon & Equity

**The El Cajon Valley Union School District's VGI school bus project is a powerful example of a VGI project in a front-line community**



- The district includes several areas that are front-line communities, including the part of El Cajon West of the 67 freeway which is in the 93rd percentile of overall pollution burden as of CalEnviroScreen 4.0; the project is replacing 6 of 49 buses w/VGI buses
- Aside from air quality improvements/energy generation, this can also create sustainable jobs

# Transportation Equity Principles

Equitable outcomes **and procedural equity are important** (Who is at the table? Are decision-making bodies inclusive of local residents, is there diversity as far as race, class, gender, disability status, language skills, professional experience, immigration status, etc. (to name just a few of many categories)

The CA Environmental Justice Alliance's Principles for Clean Transportation Investments: [CEJA-Principles-for-Clean-Transportation-Investments.pdf](#)

Highlights from the CEJA transportation principles:

ZEV technology & reduction of GHG and criteria pollutants is a priority

Community-led solutions are the most sustainable

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