

Inequity in the Air:

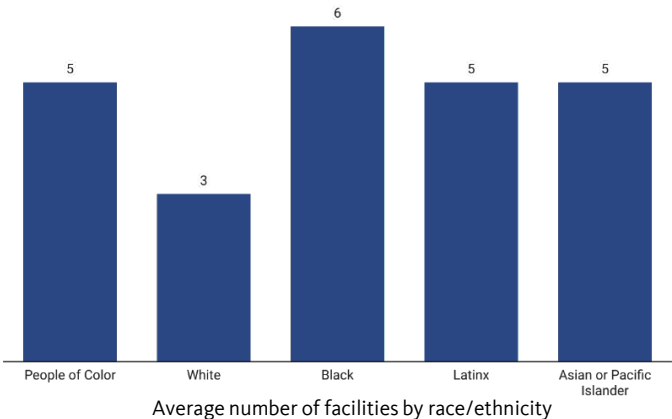
An Analysis of Emitting Facilities and Emissions in the Bay Area

Every day, Bay Area residents are involuntarily exposed to emissions from facilities like oil refineries and power plants. Chronic and short-term exposure to air pollutants can negatively impact respiratory health and cause an increased risk of cancer. Our recent analysis found that Bay Area communities of color, lower-income neighborhoods and communities with language and education barriers live, work, and play closest to emitting facilities. Residents living closer to emitting facilities are more vulnerable to the health effects of emissions. Despite the health impacts of chronic pollution, these communities are vibrant neighborhoods, where residents want to live without fear of exposure to harmful pollutants and their impacts on future generations.

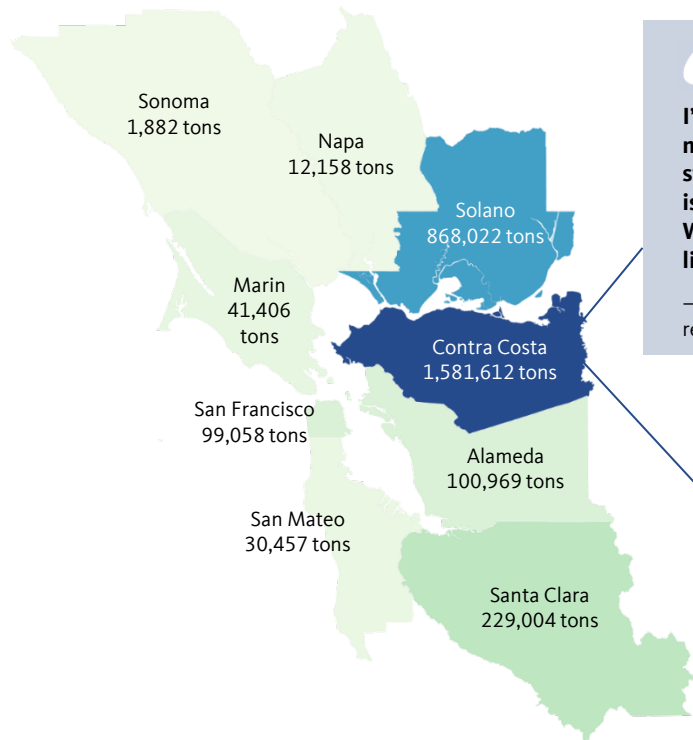
Nearby neighborhoods with more people of color are near more facilities and facilities that produce more in emissions

150,000

more tons of GHG emissions are released from facilities closer to neighborhoods of color compared to facilities near predominantly white neighborhoods.




There is a particularly high concentration of GHG emissions (measured in tons) in the northern part of Contra Costa where the five major refineries in the region are located: Chevron Richmond, Phillips 66 Rodeo, Marathon Martinez, Martinez Refining Co, and Valero Benicia. The health impacts from emissions exposure come with both physical and financial costs—the health care costs associated with oil refining in Contra Costa County are estimated to be between \$71 million and \$140 million each year.



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I've been living in Richmond my whole life, my little brother was born with asthma... I started to learn how refineries cause so many issues from environmental to health issues. We have been living next to a refinery all our lives.

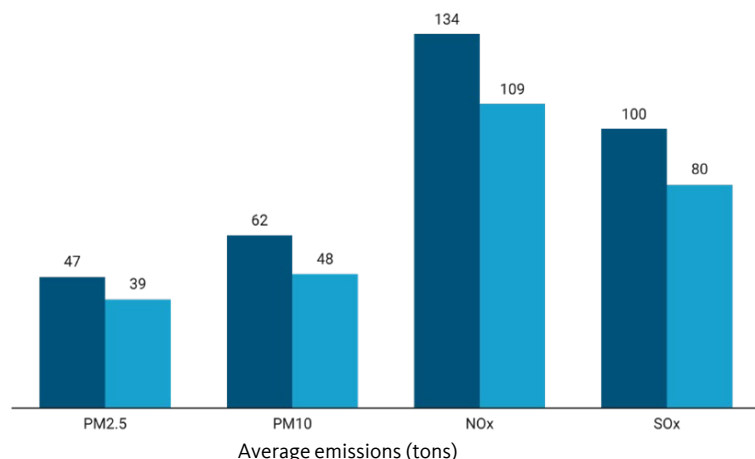
— Princess Robinson, RichmondLAND, Richmond resident.



The Chevron Refinery in Richmond, Contra Costa County

Neighborhoods with low-income households, low levels of educational attainment, and high levels of linguistic isolation experience high levels of GHG emissions and harmful co-pollutants

■ Bachelor's degree attainment lower than the regional average
■ Bachelor's degree attainment higher than the regional average



3x

the amount of GHG emissions that low-income households are exposed to compared to high-income households.

The Bay Area can only have clean and safe air for all communities in the region with these key strategies:

- 1) Plan for a Just Transition:** As long as refineries operate in the Bay Area, residents will continue to suffer from asthma, cancer, and high medical bills. Advocates and policymakers should pursue a multiyear 'just transition' strategy to responsibly decommission refineries, protect workers, and invest in regenerative, community-led economies.
- 2) Invest in Real Climate Solutions:** California's climate dollars will go furthest on both climate and environmental justice by investing in truly renewable energy, including solar and wind production, paired with electrification, mass transit, and cheaper electric cars for working people. California Climate Investments should invest in real climate solutions for people living at the frontline of poverty and pollution, not hydrogen, biofuels, or other refining schemes that sustain pollution for nearby communities.
- 3) Make Local Polluters Pay:** In Richmond, a coalition of environmental justice organizations and city workers unions launched a ballot measure effort that forced Chevron to turn over \$550 million to fund essential services and a just transition fund. The "Polluters Pay" model shifts resources out of the pockets of corporations into communities and can serve as a model for other localities to hold large corporations accountable.
- 4) Protect and Strengthen Local Clean Air Regulators:** Tracking, reporting, and pursuing legal action against air quality violations at local refineries plays a critical role in creating and enforcing clean air policy.
- 5) Share (More) Data:** In order to, clean the air – or decide if it's safe to spend time outside – residents and regulators need clear, independently vetted information about refinery pollution.

The **Bay Area Equity Atlas** is a partnership between the San Francisco Foundation, PolicyLink, and the USC Equity Research Institute (ERI). www.bayareaequityatlas.org.

Sources and notes: California Air Resources Board's Pollution Mapping Tool, California Emissions Inventory Data Analysis and Reporting System, and Bay Area Equity Atlas interviews with Richmond residents living near the Chevron Refinery.

Asian Pacific Environmental Network is an environmental justice organization with deep roots in California's Asian immigrant and refugee communities.

Communities for a Better Environment aims to build people's power in California's communities of color and low-income communities to achieve environmental health and justice by preventing and reducing pollution and building green, healthy and sustainable communities and environments.