As the public face of policy change, policymakers have particular power in shaping the public narrative around what is politically possible. When it comes to green gentrification, there is opportunity to lay the public-facing and infrastructural groundwork that can facilitate housing-environmental collaboration in both high-level policy and project implementation. Policymakers also shape the regulatory measures, financial incentives, and other public support structures that take aim at displacement and environmental disparities.

AUDIENCE

- Elected officials
- Policy aides and consultants
- Public policy researchers

GUIDING CONSIDERATIONS

1) There is a wealth of existing knowledge to be drawn upon, through local organizing, academia, and residential wisdom; policymakers don’t have to reinvent the wheel
2) Legislation should account for the time, energy, and expenses necessary for long-term effective implementation
3) Existing local institutions, community organizations, and environmental and housing justice networks will mediate the success of policy, both in turning the tide of political will and in supporting effective implementation

Example Best Practices

- Build policy with and alongside long-time advocates, particularly in the case of pre-existing local campaigns
- Include environmental justice in housing policy and housing justice in environmental policy, both in name and substance
- Support open data gathering efforts to better account for housing and environmental justice metrics, including rent burden, localized environmental toxicity, and eviction
- Incorporate racial justice metrics into budgetary allocation for both environmental and housing funds