“Climate justice” is the idea that the well-being of people and the planet are inextricably linked. It unites environmental goals, such as decreasing carbon emissions, with social equity goals, such as stopping environmental injustice and reducing poverty.

Decades of housing sprawl and industrial pollution combined with the effects of racial and economic segregation have created a landscape that is unhealthy, unequal and bad for our planet. To reverse this trend, Public Advocates works with a broad range of allies — from conservationists and smart growth advocates, to organized labor and environmental justice activists — to shape and influence the most important debates occurring in California on climate change and sustainable development.

- Planning for a Sustainable Bay Area: Making sure the San Francisco Bay Area develops in a way that both reduces greenhouse gas emissions and benefits low-income communities of color through the creation of quality jobs, healthy neighborhoods, affordable homes and reliable public transit.
- Implementing Senate Bill 375: Advocating to ensure California’s anti-sprawl legislation is implemented in a manner that powerfully advances social equity and environmental goals.
- Investing in Underserved Communities: Combating poverty and pollution by securing state funding for clean air and clean energy projects in low-income communities.

Thanks to our joint advocacy with our allies, the 2014-15 California budget included $130 million for affordable housing and sustainable communities, and $25 million for low-carbon transit service.