RVAgreen 2050 Vision Statement

What will Richmond look like when RVAgreen 2050 is implemented?

Examples: other city climate plans

Portland: Prosperous, Connected, Healthy and Resilient, Equitable (each with vision statements)

Bend, OR: Neighbors businesses, and community leaders working together to preserve our natural environment while promoting economic opportunity and resilience for current and future generations.

The City of Providence's

CLIMATE JUSTICE PLAN

Providence's vision for a low-carbon future is one where your race or zip code no longer determines your health or economic outcomes. Where decisions are made collectively to allow those who are most impacted to have the greatest say. Where land stewardship is valued over ownership. Where access to clean water and land is not just a luxury for the wealthy, but a fundamental human right. This plan will set a path for Providence, but it is up to the residents and businesses in the City to make sure that we take it.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The City of Everett is a leader in climate action and the green economy.

We partner with communities and businesses to work toward carbon neutrality; sustain healthy, resilient, and livable communities; preserve the natural environment and a robust local economy; and enhance quality of life for all residents for generations to come.

Example: Richmond 300 Master Plan

Overall vision: In 2037, Richmond is a welcoming, inclusive, diverse, innovative, and equitable city of thriving neighborhoods, ensuring a high quality of life for all.

Thriving Environment vision: Richmond is a sustainable and resilient city with healthy air, clean water, and a flourishing ecosystem. Carbon emissions are low, air and water quality are high, and city-wide solid waste production is minimal. The City is positively adapting to the effects of a changing climate, with a built environment that enhances and protects natural assets, including the James River. All residents have equitable access to nature and a healthy community.
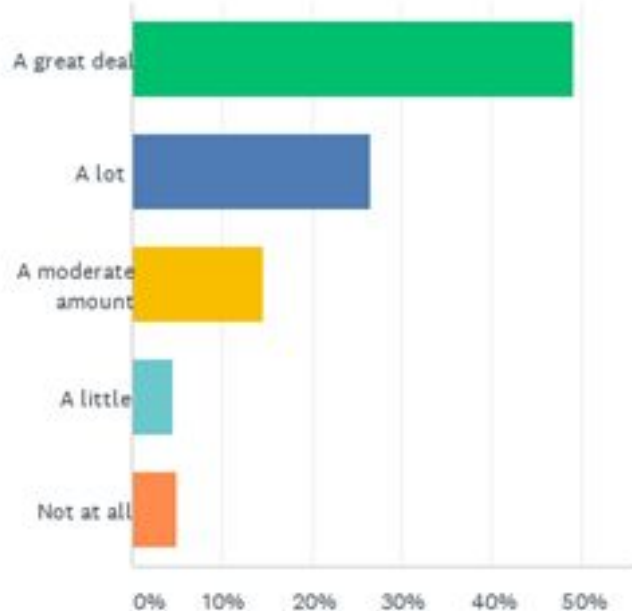
In a few words, describe your vision of equitable climate action for a healthy and resilient Richmond. - Community Survey
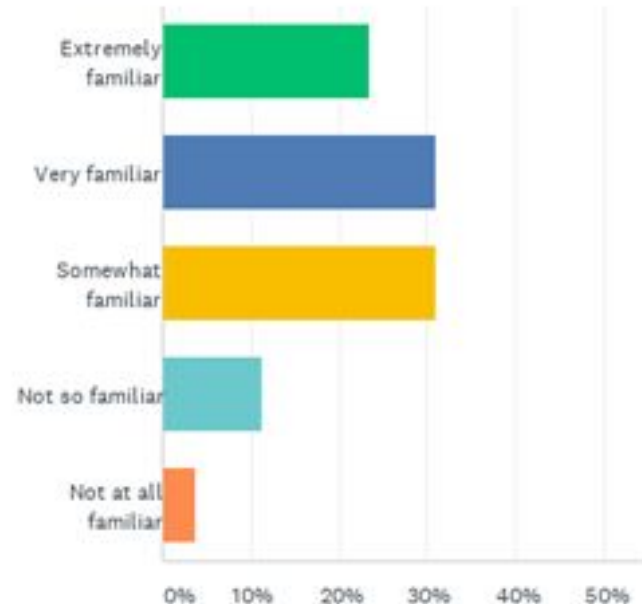
Environmental Justice and Richmond, VA

Concerned with Environmental Justice in Richmond, VA

- A great deal
- A lot
- A moderate amount
- A little
- Not at all

Familiar with the Goals of Environmental Justice
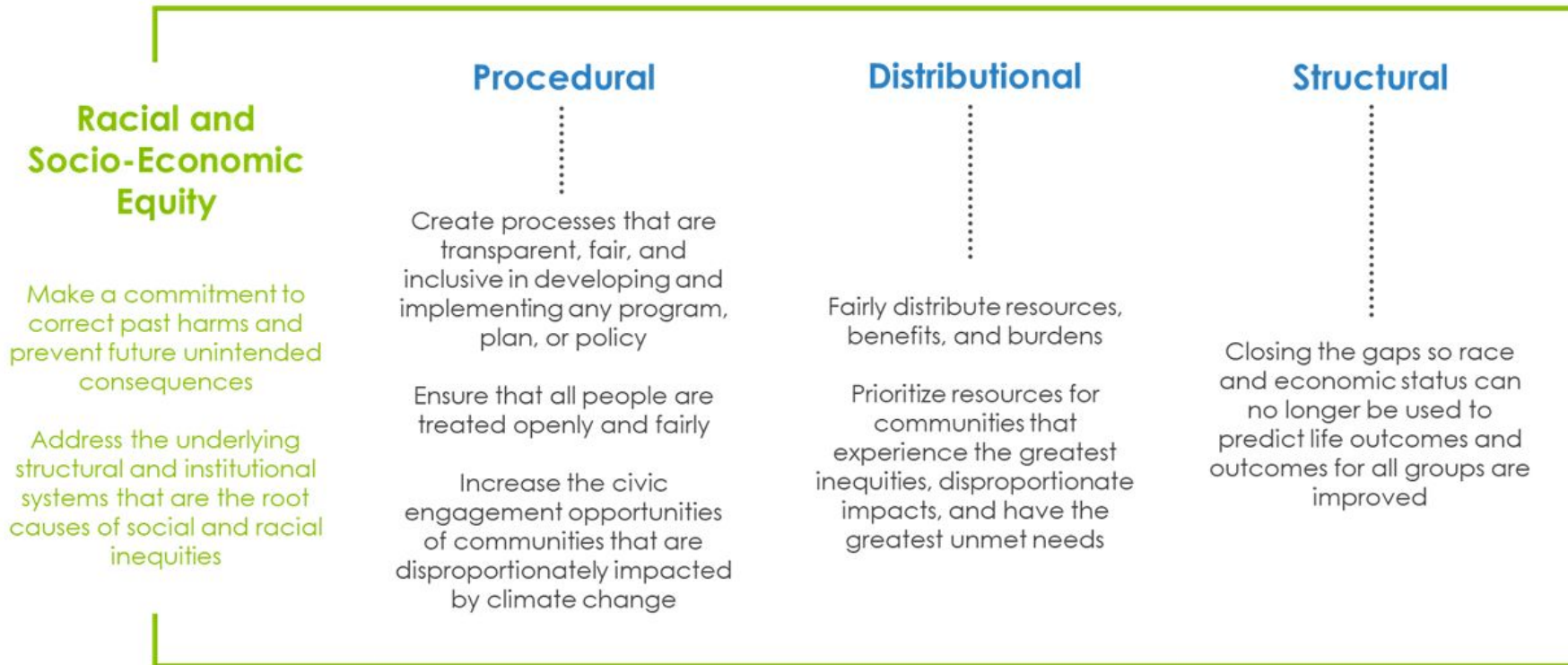
- Extremely familiar
- Very familiar
- Somewhat familiar
- Not so familiar
- Not at all familiar

RVAgreen 2050 Equity Tool

How can we ensure that making decisions related to policy, planning, programming, and budgeting advance racial equity and shared prosperity?

Equity Framework

Racial and Socio-Economic Equity

Make a commitment to correct past harms and prevent future unintended consequences

Address the underlying structural and institutional systems that are the root causes of social and racial inequities

Procedural

Create processes that are transparent, fair, and inclusive in developing and implementing any program, plan, or policy

Ensure that all people are treated openly and fairly

Increase the civic engagement opportunities of communities that are disproportionately impacted by climate change

Distributional

Fairly distribute resources, benefits, and burdens

Prioritize resources for communities that experience the greatest inequities, disproportionate impacts, and have the greatest unmet needs

Structural

Closing the gaps so race and economic status can no longer be used to predict life outcomes and outcomes for all groups are improved

Community Priorities

Racial Equity & Environmental Justice: Richmond's racist past has created systems that serve our community in inequitable ways, from education and healthcare to government and natural resources. Our Black and African American and Hispanic and Latino communities in particular face more harm due to crises such as climate change and COVID-19 due to historic and systemic racism.

Engagement & Communication: Many voices are underrepresented in public processes for several reasons, including lack of trust and burnout from participating in past efforts that have seen limited results.

Government Accountability: Residents want to be involved and informed during decision making processes. We must build trust between government and the community through open and honest communication.

Community Wealth: Richmonders want improved access to jobs and wrap-around services that provide education, job training, job retention, and living wages.

Housing & Buildings: Richmond's buildings should be safe and affordable. This includes providing access to efficient and affordable housing across the city.

Neighborhoods: Richmonders want to live in safe and beautiful neighborhoods that promote safety, sustainability, and beauty, and provide access to green space.

Health & Well-Being: Richmonders are concerned with water and air quality, violence, food access, and the impact these issues have on mental and physical health.

Example Equity Tool: Portland

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Disproportionate impacts

Does the proposed action generate burdens (including costs), either directly or indirectly, to communities of color or low-income populations? If yes, are there opportunities to mitigate these impacts?

2. Shared benefits

Can the benefits of the proposed action be targeted in progressive ways to reduce historical or current disparities?

3. Accessibility

Are the benefits of the proposed action broadly accessible to households and businesses throughout the community — particularly communities of color, low-income populations, and minority, women and emerging small businesses?

4. Engagement

Does the proposed action engage and empower communities of color and low-income populations in a meaningful, authentic and culturally appropriate manner?

5. Capacity building

Does the proposed action help build community capacity through funding, an expanded knowledge base or other resources?

6. Alignment and partnership

Does the proposed action align with and support existing communities of color and low-income population priorities, creating an opportunity to leverage resources and build collaborative partnerships?

7. Relationship building

Does the proposed action help foster the building of effective, long-term relationships and trust between diverse communities and local government?

8. Economic opportunity and staff diversity

Does the proposed action support communities of color and low-income populations through workforce development, contracting opportunities or the increased diversity of city and county staff?

9. Accountability

Does the proposed action have appropriate accountability mechanisms to ensure that communities of color, low-income populations, or other vulnerable communities will equitably benefit and not be disproportionately harmed?

Example Equity Tool: Cleveland

The Cleveland CAP Racial Equity Tool is made up of 5 question areas that help determine the extent to which proposed climate action objectives and corresponding actions prioritize equity. The CAP also acts as an aid for building an implementation strategy.

1. Language
2. Accountability & Data
3. Disproportional Impacts
4. Economic Opportunity
5. Neighborhood Engagement (see 'Spectrum of Engagement" below)

Consider for each objective and corresponding actions the extent to which they advance equitable outcomes:

SIGNIFICANT: At least half of the actions under this objective advance equity. Keep as is. Clearly advances equitable outcomes, proceed with this climate action.

MODERATE: At least one action under this objective advances equity. Refine to more explicitly advance equity. These actions should be brought back to the Equity and Neighborhood Engagement Subcommittee for input and/or people this action may impact, including people of color, elderly, English as a second language population, etc.

INSIGNIFICANT: No actions under this objective advance equity. Rewrite with corrective action. Proceeding without making substantial changes is not recommended.

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1. NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT

How communities have informed or co-designed this objective and its corresponding actions

KEY QUESTIONS:

How have communities been engaged (refer to 'Engagement Continuum')? Specifically, have communities of color been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement? Does the proposed objective and its corresponding actions align with and support existing neighborhood priorities (refer to neighborhood workshops if possible)?

NOTES:

Example Equity Tool: San Antonio

Theme 4: HEALTH

Desired Outcome: Results in increased health (physical and mental) for vulnerable populations.

SAMPLE SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS	IMPACT Does it have the ability to positively/negatively impact or have no impact on the desired outcome? Include explanation.	RECOMMENDATIONS
Could this reduce ground-level ozone and improve air quality?		
Could this extend expected longevity for vulnerable populations and result in reduced disparity in expected longevity?		
Could this reduce asthma-related hospital visits?		
Could this reduce urban heat island effects?		
Could this reduce standing water in areas of inadequate drainage and resulting vector-borne diseases?		
Could this improve the walkability of communities and access to greenspaces?		
Could this reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, i.e. increase mental health?		
Other considerations?		
SUMMARY:		

Racial Equity & Environmental Justice: Richmond's racist past has created systems that serve our community in inequitable ways, from education and healthcare to government and natural resources. Our Black and African American and Hispanic and Latino communities in particular face more harm due to crises such as climate change and COVID-19 due to historic and systemic racism.

Example questions from other tools:

- Is there a geographic priority for this action in an identified vulnerable geography?
- Is this objective and its corresponding actions explicitly addressing factors of equity or racial equity in particular?
- Is the language easily understood and will it resonate with the community?
- Does the proposed action generate burdens (including costs), either directly or indirectly, to communities of color or low-income populations? If yes, are there opportunities to mitigate these impacts?
- Can the benefits of the proposed action be targeted in progressive ways to reduce historical or current disparities?
- Does this acknowledge/respect/honor the culture, historic assets, and traditions of communities of color?
- Does this negatively impact the existing cultural structure?

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Sample Questions (Developed by Group):

Engagement & Communication: Many voices are underrepresented in public processes for several reasons, including lack of trust and burnout from participating in past efforts that have seen limited results.

Example questions from other tools:

- How have communities been engaged? Specifically, have communities of color been engaged?
- Are there opportunities to expand engagement?
- Does the proposed action engage and empower communities of color and low-income populations in a meaningful, authentic and culturally appropriate manner?
- Does the proposed action align with and support existing communities of color and low-income population priorities, creating an opportunity to leverage resources and build collaborative partnerships?
- Does the proposed action help foster the building of effective long-term relationships and trust between diverse communities and local government?
- Could this increase access to information around climate, i.e. impacts, benefits, and programs?
- Does this increase social cohesion (engagement and connection within/to the community)?
- Could this improve notification and or/preparation for disasters?

Engagement & Communication: Many voices are underrepresented in public processes for several reasons, including lack of trust and burnout from participating in past efforts that have seen limited results.

Sample Questions (Developed by Group):

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Government Accountability: Residents want to be involved and informed during decision making processes. We must build trust between government and the community through open and honest communication.

Example questions from other tools:

- What is the best indicator to track the outcome we are looking for?
- What is the current data collected and what does this data tell us?
- Is the data disaggregated to illuminate disparity by demographics?
- Who is accountable?
- Does the proposed action have appropriate accountability mechanisms to ensure that communities of color, low-income populations, or other vulnerable communities will equitably benefit and not be disproportionately harmed?

Government Accountability: Residents want to be involved and informed during decision making processes. We must build trust between government and the community through open and honest communication.

Questions developed by this group:

Community Wealth: Richmonders want improved access to jobs and wrap-around services that provide education, job training, job retention, and living wages.

Example questions from other tools:

- Does the proposed objective and its corresponding actions support communities of color and low-income populations through workforce development, contracting opportunities or the increased diversity of employees/staff across any sectors?
- Are the benefits of the proposed action broadly accessible to households and businesses throughout the community - particularly communities of color, low-income populations, and minority, women, and emerging small businesses?
- Does the proposed action help build community capacity through funding, an expanded knowledge base or other resources?
- Could this increase opportunities for living wage jobs in the same zip code as people live?
- Will this offer workforce or support training programs?
- Does this offer inclusive financing strategies that prioritize the most income-burdened populations?

Community Wealth: Richmonders want improved access to jobs and wrap-around services that provide education, job training, job retention, and living wages.

Questions - Developed by this group:

Housing & Buildings: Richmond's buildings should be safe and affordable. This includes providing access to efficient and affordable housing across the city.

Example questions from other tools:

- Could this reduce the number of families that are cost burdened by housing and transportation?
- Could this limit displacement of residents and small businesses when surrounding property values rise?
- Could this increase energy price stability?
- Could this reduce barriers to homeownership?
- Could this increase quality affordable housing stock?

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- Could this increase quality affordable housing stock?

Neighborhoods: Richmonders want to live in safe and beautiful neighborhoods that promote safety, sustainability, and beauty, and provide access to green space.

Example questions from other tools:

- Could this expand access to healthy/clean transport systems, such as walking paths, bike routes, and public transit?
- Could this increase amenities and walkability in traditionally underserved neighborhoods?
- Could this increase access to quality parks/green spaces in the most vulnerable communities?
- Could this result in improved flooding infrastructure responses to flooring, and evacuation routes?

Neighborhoods: Richmonders want to live in safe and beautiful neighborhoods that promote safety, sustainability, and beauty, and provide access to green space.

Questions developed by this group:

Health & Well-Being: Richmonders are concerned with water and air quality, violence, food access, and the impact these issues have on mental and physical health.

Example questions from other tools:

- Could this reduce food insecurity in low-income areas by increasing access to healthy, local food sources?
- Could this reduce ground-level ozone and improve air quality?
- Could this extend expected longevity for vulnerable populations and result in reduced disparity in expected longevity?
- Could this reduce asthma-related hospital visits?
- Could this reduce urban heat island effects?
- Could this reducing standing water in areas of inadequate drainage and resulting vector-borne diseases?
- Could this reduce stress, anxiety, and depression?
- Could this increase access to essential services such as hospitals, police, and fire?
- Could this reduce crime, focused on vulnerable zip codes?
- Could this increase safety and security in the community?

Health & Well-Being: Richmonders are concerned with water and air quality, violence, food access, and the impact these issues have on mental and physical health.

Questions developed by this group: