RVAgreen 2050 Transportation Working Group

December 17, 2020

City of Richmond

RVAgreen 2050

Equitable climate action for a healthy and resilient Richmond

Agenda

- Settling in and ground rules
- Previous meeting recap and Q&A
- RVAgreen 2050 vision statement
- RVAgreen 2050 Equity Screening Tool
- Wrap-up and next steps

But first - meet your Office of Sustainability team!

Alicia Zatcoff
Sustainability Manager

Dawn Oleksy
Climate Action Program & Operations Supervisor

Khilia Logan
Management & GIS Analyst

Wendy Fewster
Climate Action Coordinator

Kendra Norrell
Community Engagement Coordinator

Brianne Fisher (Mullen)
Sustainability Coordinator

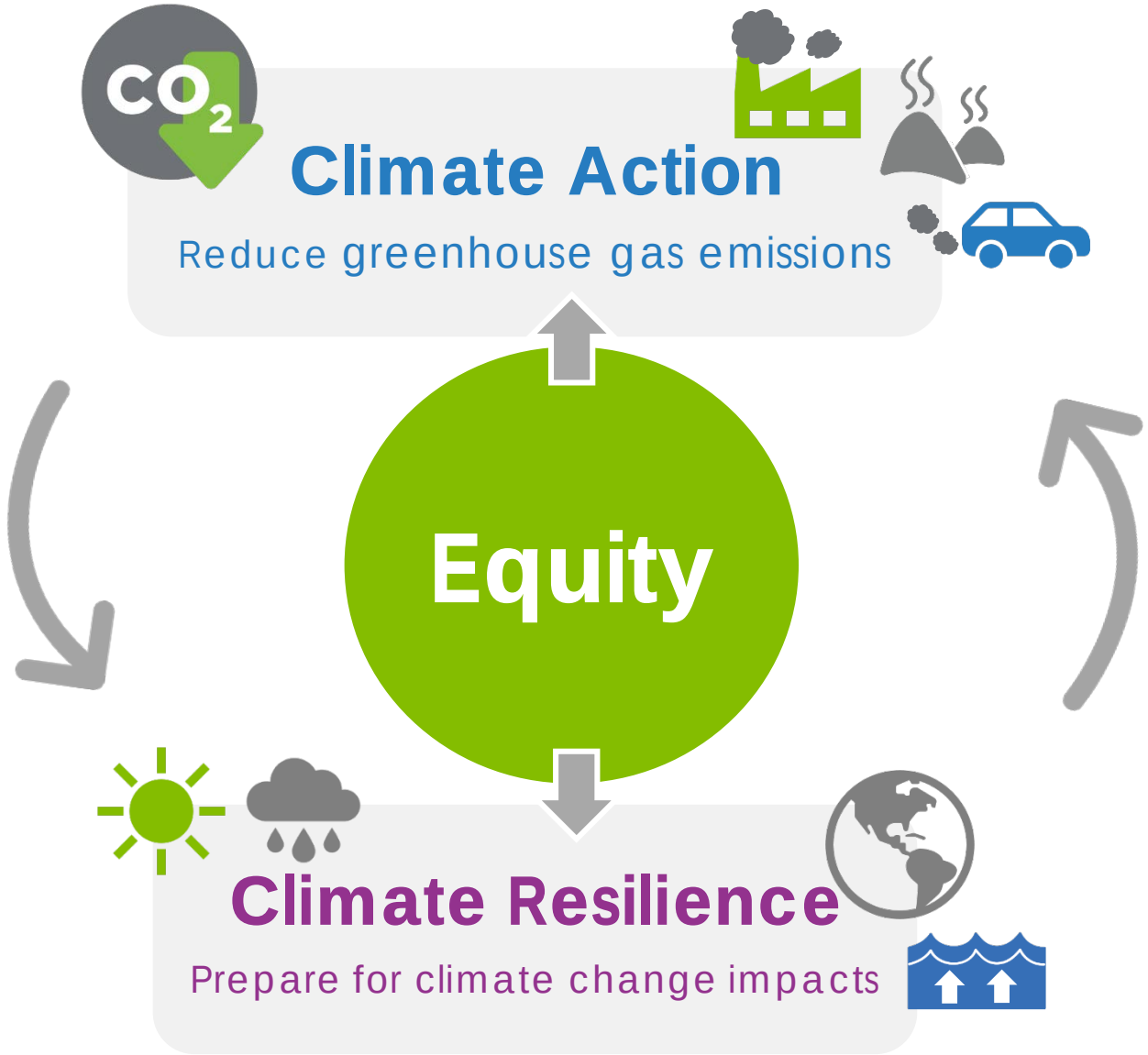
Ground Rules / Group Expectations

Icebreaker!

3 MINUTES: in breakout rooms with groups of 3-4

What's one way we could make our holiday celebrations more sustainable?

RVAgreen 2050 - Integrated approach:



A Next Step in City Planning

2012

RVAgreen Sustainability Plan

2013

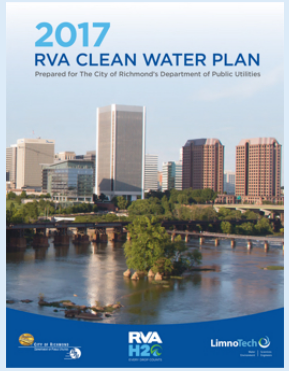
Richmond Connects Strategic Multimodal Transportation Plan

Recommends strategies for a multimodal transportation system for the city

2017

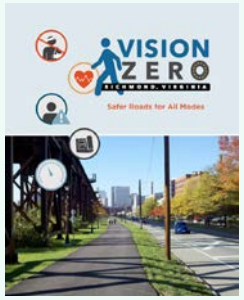
RVAH2O Clean Water Plan

Sets goals for reducing pollution and flooding



2018

Vision Zero Action Plan



Establishes strategies to address safety on city streets with a goal to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries by 2030

2020

Richmond Regional Housing Framework

Establishes a vision where everyone has a stable, healthy, and affordable place to call home

2020

Richmond 300 Master Plan

RICHMOND 300
A GUIDE FOR GROWTH

Establishes a vision for growth and outlines placed-based policy recommend-dations to guide physical development

2020

Net Zero Resolution

Sets goals to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, and prepare for, adapt, and improve resilience to local climate change impacts through an equity-centered climate action and resilience plan

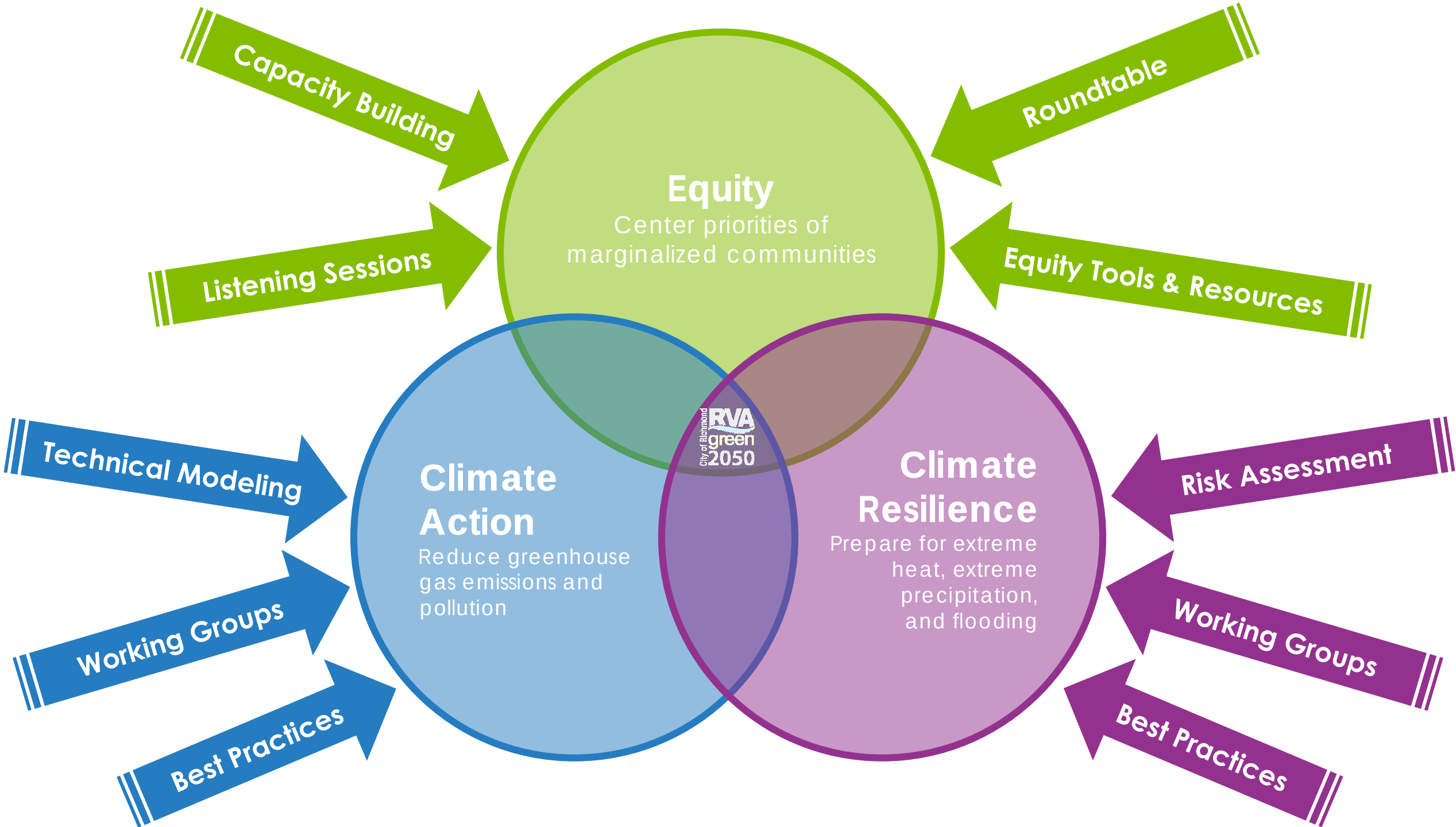
NET ZERO GOAL
BY 2050

2021

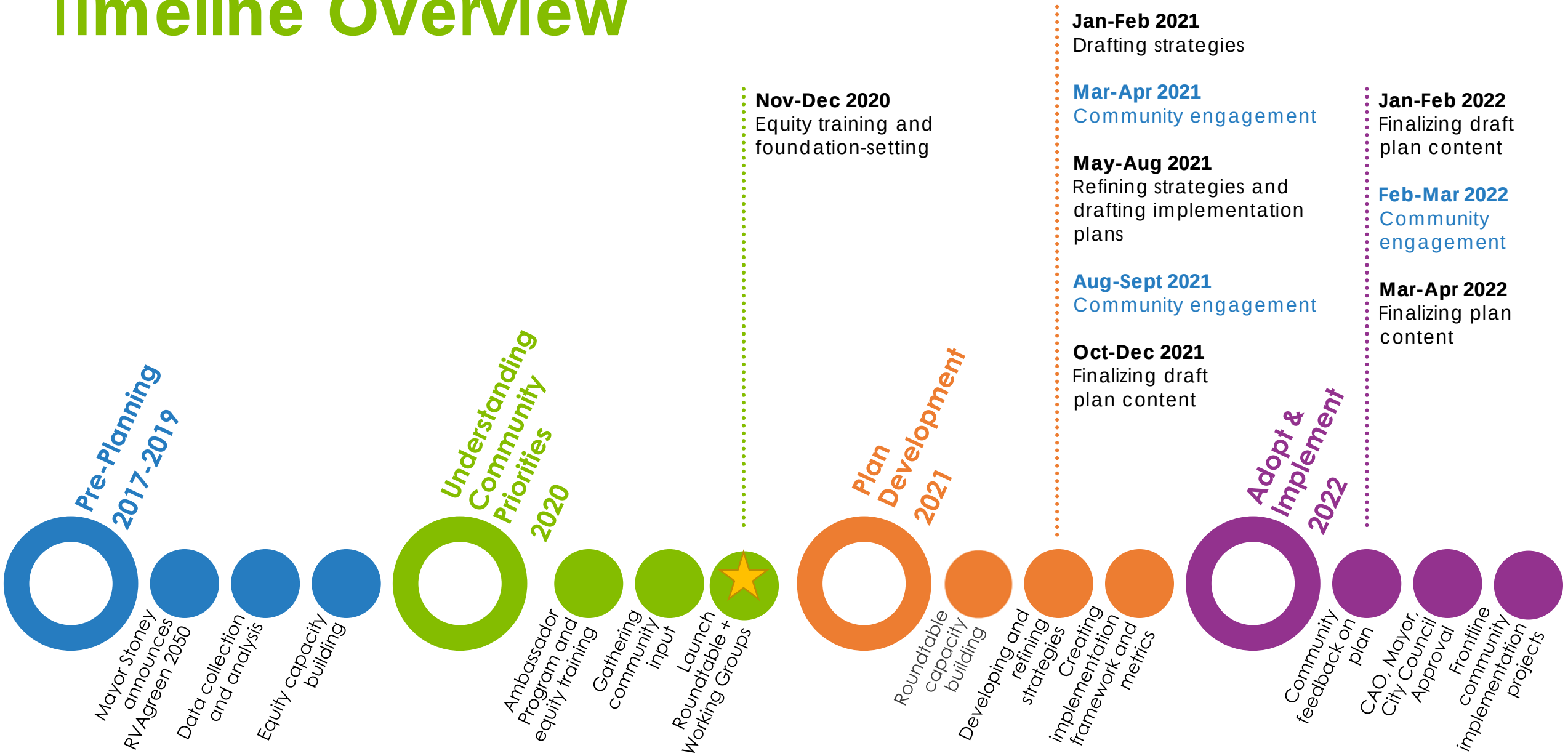
RVAgreen 2050 Roadmap

RVAgreen 2050 is the city's equity-centered climate action and resilience plan

RVAgreen 2050 is equitable climate action for a healthy and resilient Richmond


Capacity Building
Roundtable
Equity
Center priorities of marginalized communities
Listening Sessions
Equity Tools & Resources
Technical Modeling
Climate Action
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollution
RVA green 2050
Climate Resilience
Prepare for extreme heat, extreme precipitation, and flooding
Risk Assessment
Working Groups
Working Groups
Best Practices
Best Practices

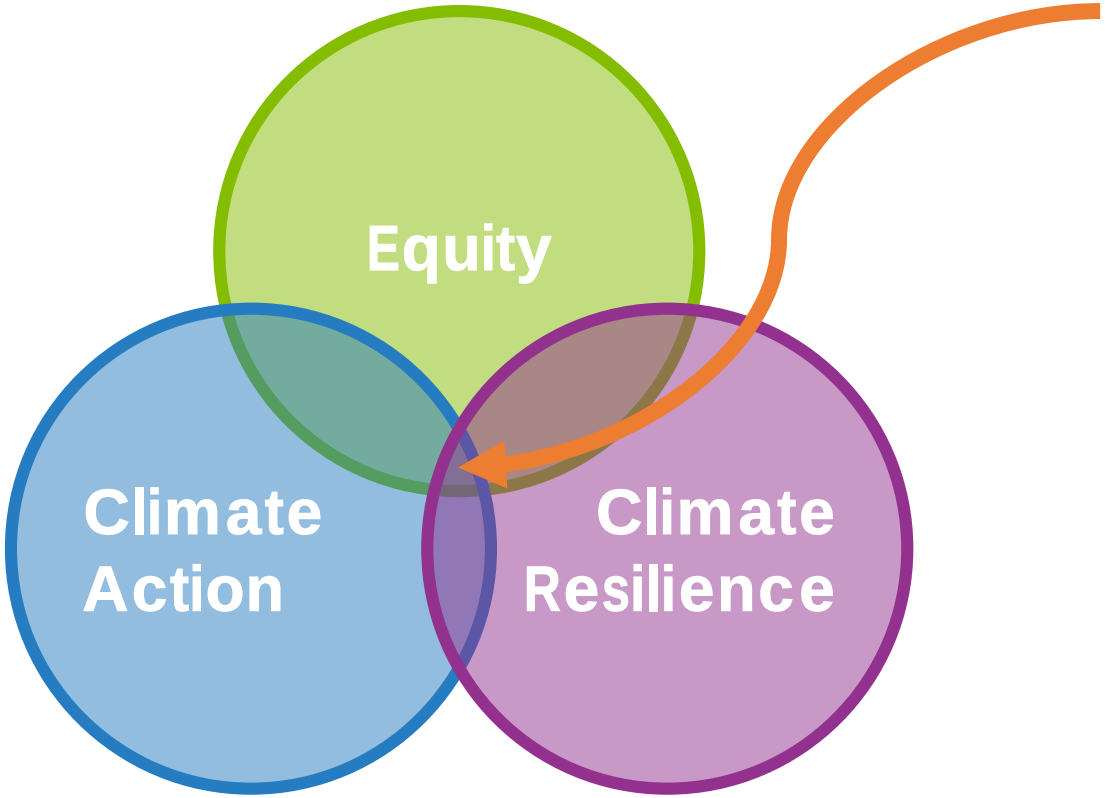
RVAgreen 2050 Process: Working Groups Timeline Overview



Planning Process Groups - Roles

Frontline Community Leaders (Roundtable)	• Help the City center equity in the planning process and elevate frontline community voices • Share lived experience to inform and guide process and provide recommendations • Serve as liaisons to ensure community needs and assets are integrated into planning process
Working Groups	• Provide topical expertise on RVAgreen 2050 goals and strategies to Roundtable • Assist with translating community priorities into equitable climate action and resilience strategies
Sustainability Office	• Primary convener • Bridge between community and City • Support community leaders to navigate current systems and identify leverage points for change
Third Parties	• Facilitator for Roundtable • Equity coach/consultant and technical consultants for Office of Sustainability staff • Local universities – research, documentation, process evaluation support

Our task: drafting SMARTIE strategies at the equity-climate action-resilience nexus



Does the strategy:

1. Address community priorities?
2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
3. Increase resilience to climate impacts?

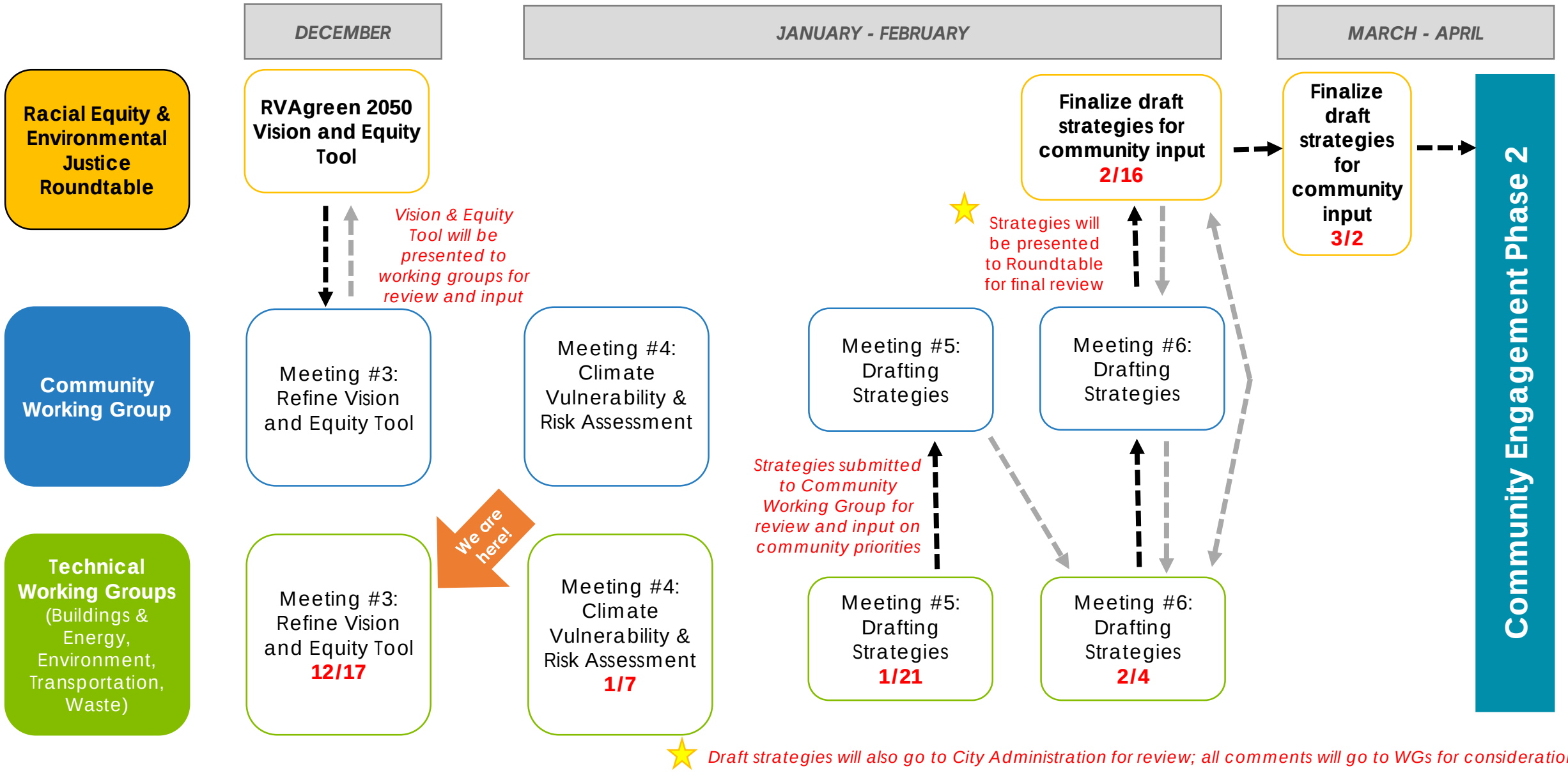
Our task: drafting SMARTIE strategies at the equity-climate action-resilience nexus

Is the strategy…

Strategic?
Measurable?
Ambitious?
Realistic?
Time-bound?
Inclusive?
Equitable?

From SMART…	… to SMARTIE
Build a volunteer team of 100 door-to-door canvassers by May…	…with at least 10 people of color recruited as volunteer leaders first, so that they can help shape the way we run the canvasses.

Workflow (Dec.-Mar.)



Vision Statement

What will Richmond look like when RVAgreen 2050 is implemented?

Foundations/examples

What is RVAgreen 2050?

RVAgreen 2050 is the City of Richmond's equity-centered climate action and resilience planning initiative to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and help the community adapt to Richmond's climate impacts of extreme heat, precipitation, and flooding. This community-wide initiative to develop and implement a roadmap of actions is using an innovative planning approach that centers frontline community members and works at the intersection of equity, mitigation, and climate resilience. **RVAgreen 2050 is equitable climate action for a healthy and resilient Richmond.**

RICHMOND 300
A GUIDE FOR GROWTH

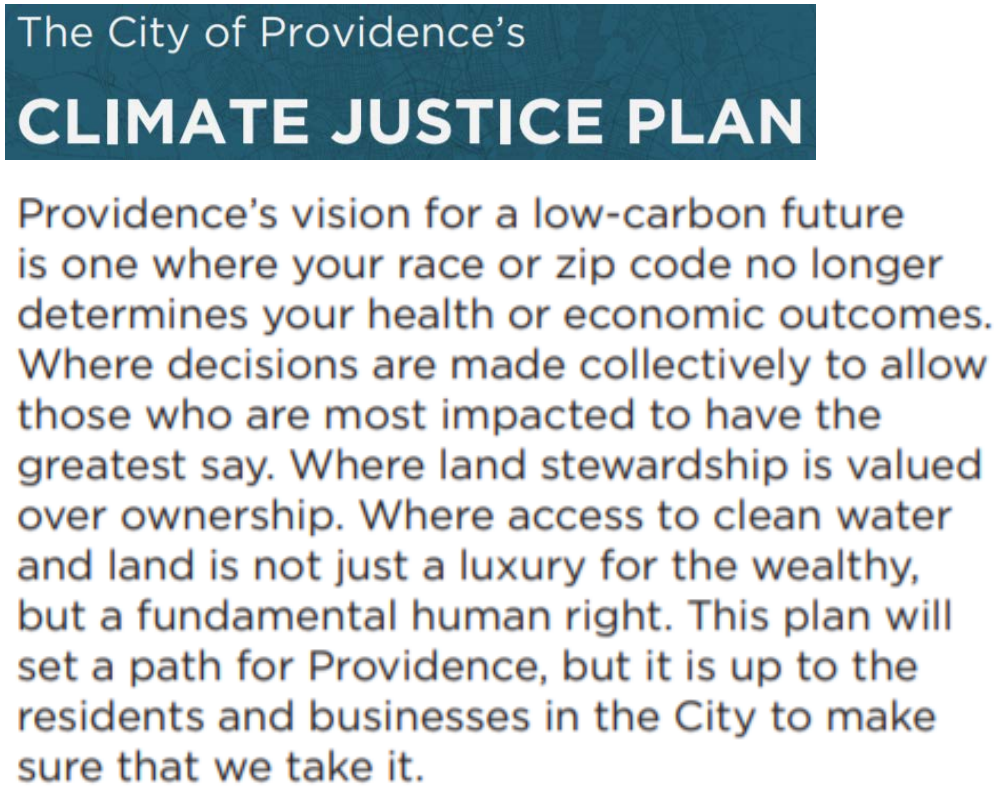
Overall vision: In 2037, Richmond is a welcoming, inclusive, diverse, innovative, and equitable city of thriving neighborhoods, ensuring a high quality of life for all.

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.

Foundations/examples

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.



Foundations/examples

Q29 In a few words, describe your vision of equitable climate action for a healthy and resilient Richmond.

DRAFT Vision Statement

The vision for an equitable, healthy, and resilient Richmond is one where carbon emissions are net-zero and a person's race, identity, socio-economic status, or zip code does not determine life expectancy, quality of life, or economic opportunity.

- Everyone has equitable access across the entire city to resources that are clean, sustainable, and affordable, including air, water, energy, housing, transportation, and green infrastructure.
- Everyone has the capacity and resources to take ownership of equitable climate action and community resilience planning.
- "Identity" includes but is not limited to: race, ethnicity, age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, and religion. We lead with race in our work to transform systems impacting all marginalized groups.*

**See City of Seattle, Why Lead with Race?*

Breakout groups activity

In two 5-minute discussion rounds:

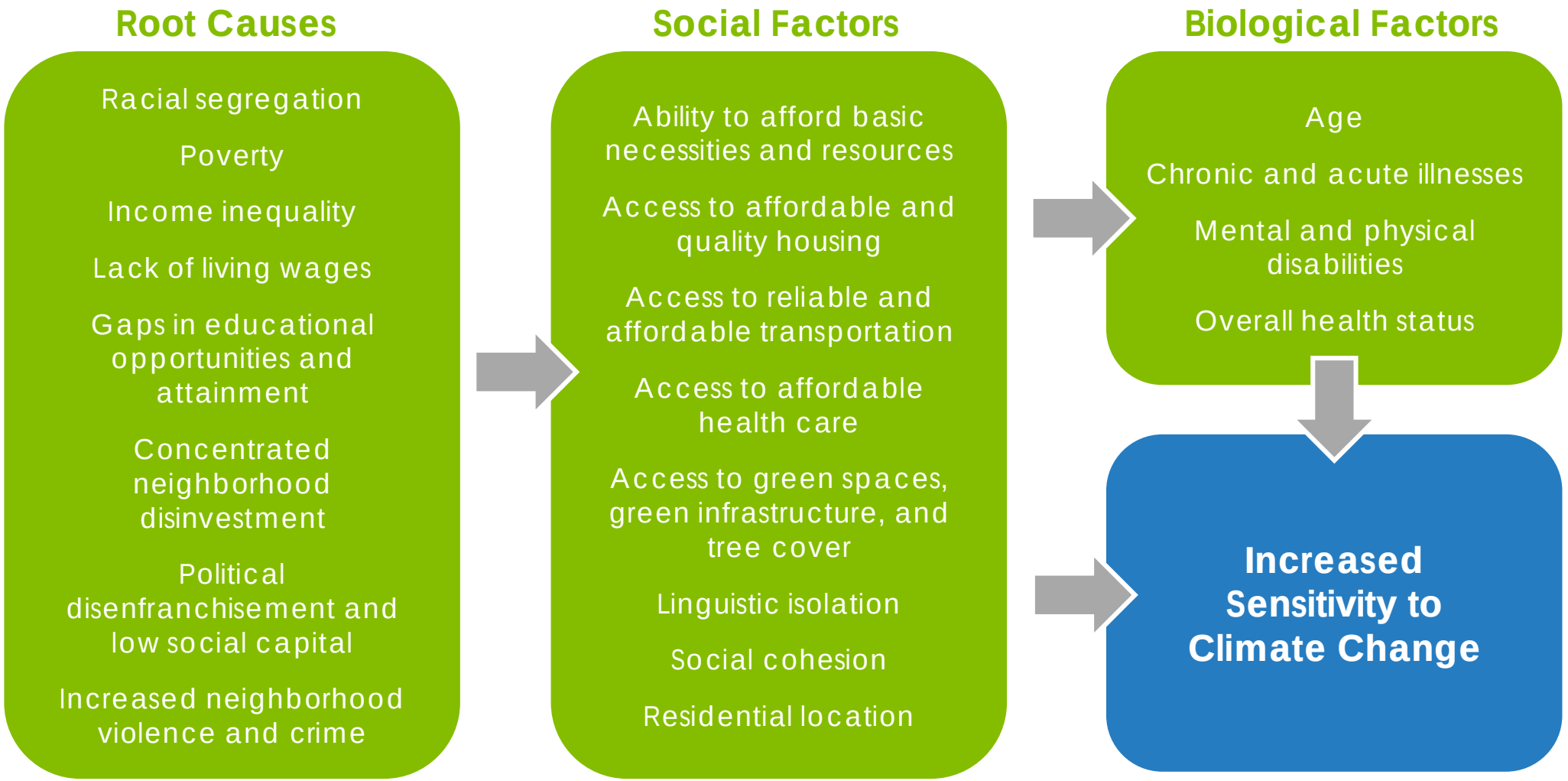
- Review draft vision statement
- Finish the following statements:
  1. I like/love…
  2. _____ is missing. / I can't live with…

When we come back to the full group: *How do you see this vision relating to the focus areas of this working group?*

Equity Tool

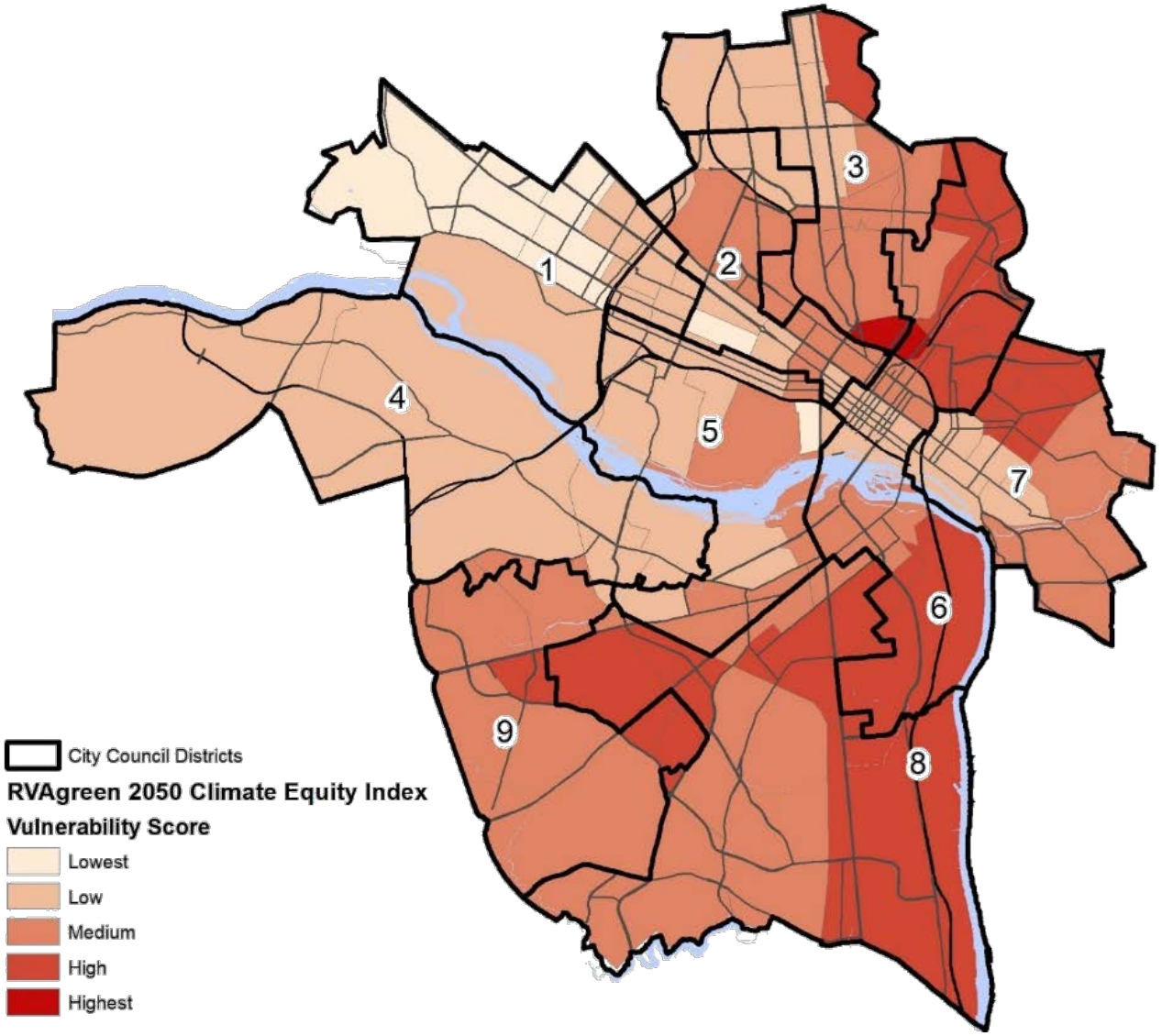
How can we ensure that making decisions related to policy, planning, programming, and budgeting advance racial equity and shared prosperity?

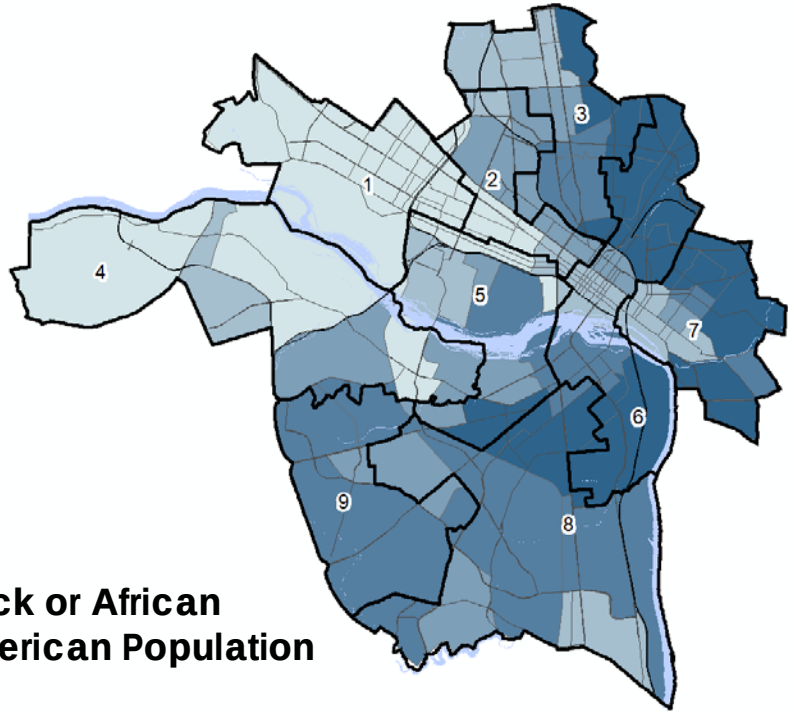
Climate Change Affects Some More Than Others



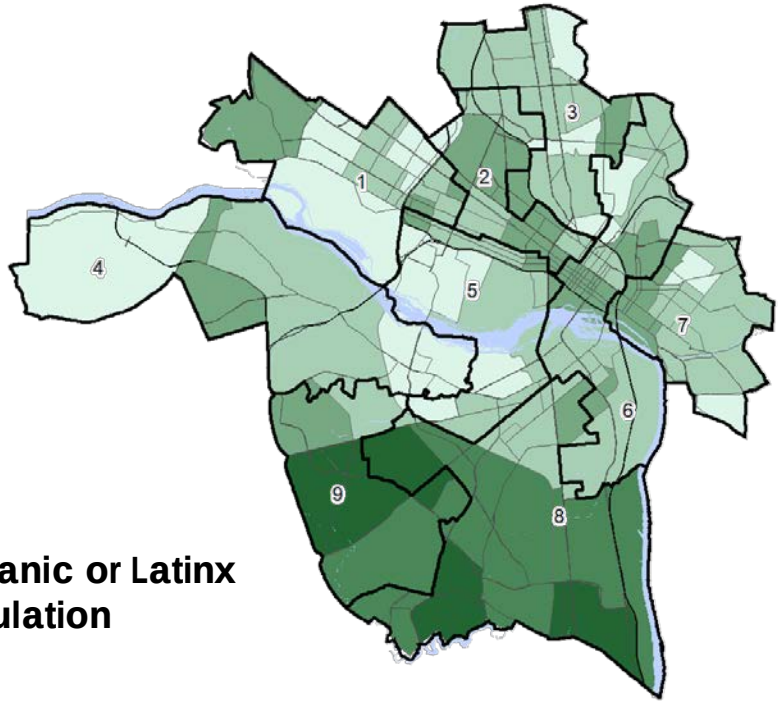
Source: Government Alliance for Racial Equity (modified)

People of color face disproportionate impacts





Black or African American Population



Hispanic or Latinx Population

Centering Equity

Source: Government Alliance on Race and Equity; Desiree Williams-Rajee, Kapwa Consulting (modified)

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

What is an equity tool?

- Integrate explicit considerations of equity in decisions, including policies, practices, programs, and budgets
- **A product and a process**

LOCAL AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE ON
RACE & EQUITY

RACIALEQUITYALLIANCE.ORG

Equity tool example: 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.

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:

Equity tool example: Boston

Questions and Considerations for Integrating Equity

Key Questions	Considerations: does the strategy/is the strategy...?	
Is it green?		
Is it GHG-free?	Reduce GHG emissions: electrification, active transport, lower non-CO_2 emissions	Yes / No / Depends
Is it environmentally sustainable?	Use less energy or emit fewer GHGs to provide the same energy service; other environmental considerations: land and water use, pollution, etc.	Yes / No / Depends
Does it promote smart behavior?	Alter behavior or use in ways that accomplish more than GHG reductions: i.e., better timing or siting for congested resources, smarter use of resources, waste reduction	Yes / No / Depends
Is it fair?		
Is it accessible?	Available to and beneficial for all communities; addresses historical disparities and cultural differences	Yes / No / Depends
Is it affordable?	Affordable to all private residents; limits negative impacts on public sector	Yes / No / Depends
Are workforce opportunities just?	Balanced and fair in workforce and contractor diversity; addresses historical disparities	Yes / No / Depends
Who gets to decide?		
Is it inclusive?	Active and meaningful role in decision-making for impacted or socially vulnerable communities	Yes / No / Depends
Are values considered?	Decision-making processes go beyond dollars and cents to address shared values and cultural differences	Yes / No / Depends
Is it measurable?	Enable measurement of quantity and quality of service provided and community impacts in order to provide important performance feedback	Yes / No / Depends

Equity tool example: 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:		

Equity tool example: 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?

Equity tool example: Portland

New Actions for a Better Plan

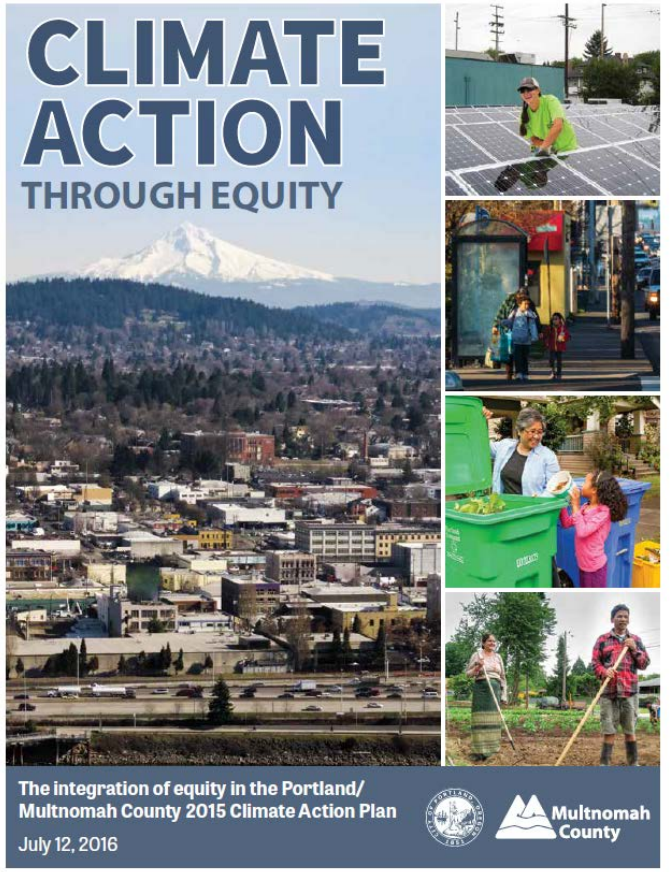
City and County staff, with guidance from the Equity Working Group, incorporated equity throughout the plan. A few specific examples are outlined below:

New 2030 Objectives:

- **17)** Engage communities, especially impacted under-represented and under-served populations, in the development and implementation of climate change-related policies and programs. (Page 120)

Added specificity to how actions are implemented:

- **1G)** Small Commercial – Support energy efficiency improvements to small commercial buildings, especially in under-served communities. (Page 64)
- **3C)** Community Solar – Support the development of community solar projects that benefit all residents, particularly communities of color and low-income populations. (Page 68)



RVAgreen 2050 Equity Screening Tool

- Centered on community priorities heard during the listening process (summer 2020) – *next slide*
- **Product**:
  - **Full Equity Screening Tool** with lists of questions/considerations to evaluate the extent to which proposed climate action and resilience strategies (incl. policies, programs, budgets, etc.) prioritize equity as it relates to each community priority
  - **Quick Decision Guide** with a condensed version of high-priority questions and considerations for the planning process
- **Process**: Embedding a practice of equity thinking through creating and using the tool

Understanding Community Priorities

DRAFT Equity Screening Tool

7 key questions:

Does the proposed action...

- promote racial equity and environmental justice?
- reflect equitable engagement and communication?
- demonstrate and promote government accountability?
- promote community wealth?
- expand affordable housing?
- support safe and beautiful neighborhoods?
- promote health and well-being?

Breakout groups activity

In three 8-minute discussion rounds:

- Self-select into breakout rooms by topic:
  - Racial Equity and Environmental Justice (Dawn)
  - Engagement and Communication / Government Accountability (Wendy) - *4 mins for each topic*
  - Community Wealth / Housing and Buildings (Jeff)- *4 mins for each topic*
  - Neighborhoods / Health and Well-Being (Max)- *4 mins for each topic*
- Review draft equity screening tool content for 1 of the 7 community priorities
- Use symbols and slide notes to provide your feedback

When we come back to the full group: *How do you see the equity screening tool impacting the focus areas of this working group?*

Next Steps

Homework!

- Add any additional feedback on vision statement
- Visit/revisit equity screening tool sections to provide input

Next meeting: January 7, 2021 @ 1:00

- Climate Vulnerability & Risk Assessment
- Beginning to draft strategies

RIGHT NOW! Complete the feedback survey to help us improve for next time!