

RVAgreen 2050 Community Working Group  
12.18.2020

City of Richmond  
**RVAgreen**  
2050

Equitable climate action for a healthy and resilient Richmond

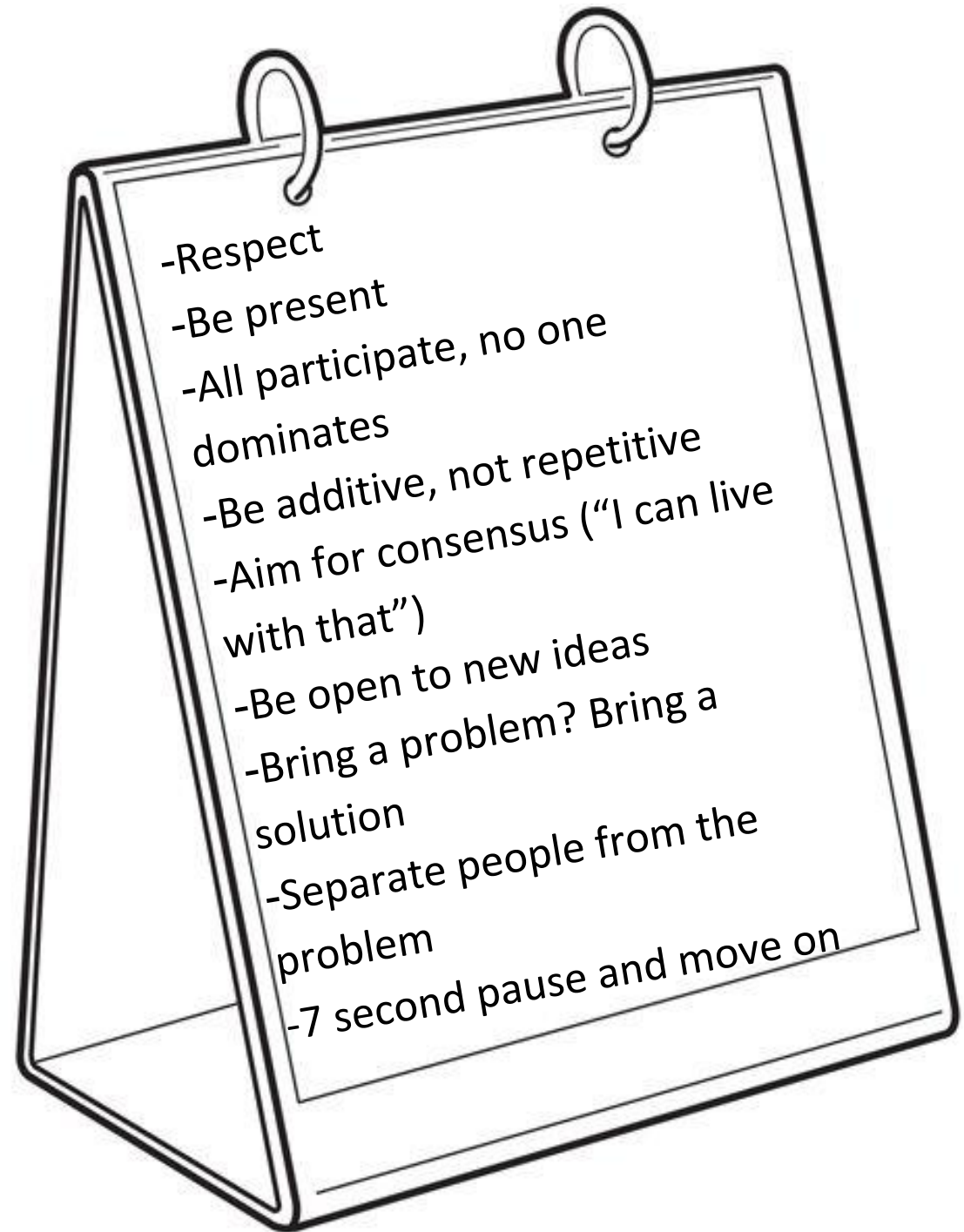
# Agenda

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

# But first! “Hello” from the Office of Sustainability team:

- **Alicia Zatcoff**, Sustainability Manager
- **Brianne Fisher (Mullen)**, Sustainability Coordinator
- **Dawn Oleksy**, Climate Action Program & Operations Supervisor
- **Kendra Norrell**, Community Engagement Coordinator
- **Khilia Logan**, Management & GIS Analyst
- **Wendy Fewster**, Climate Action Coordinator

# Ground Rules / Group Expectations





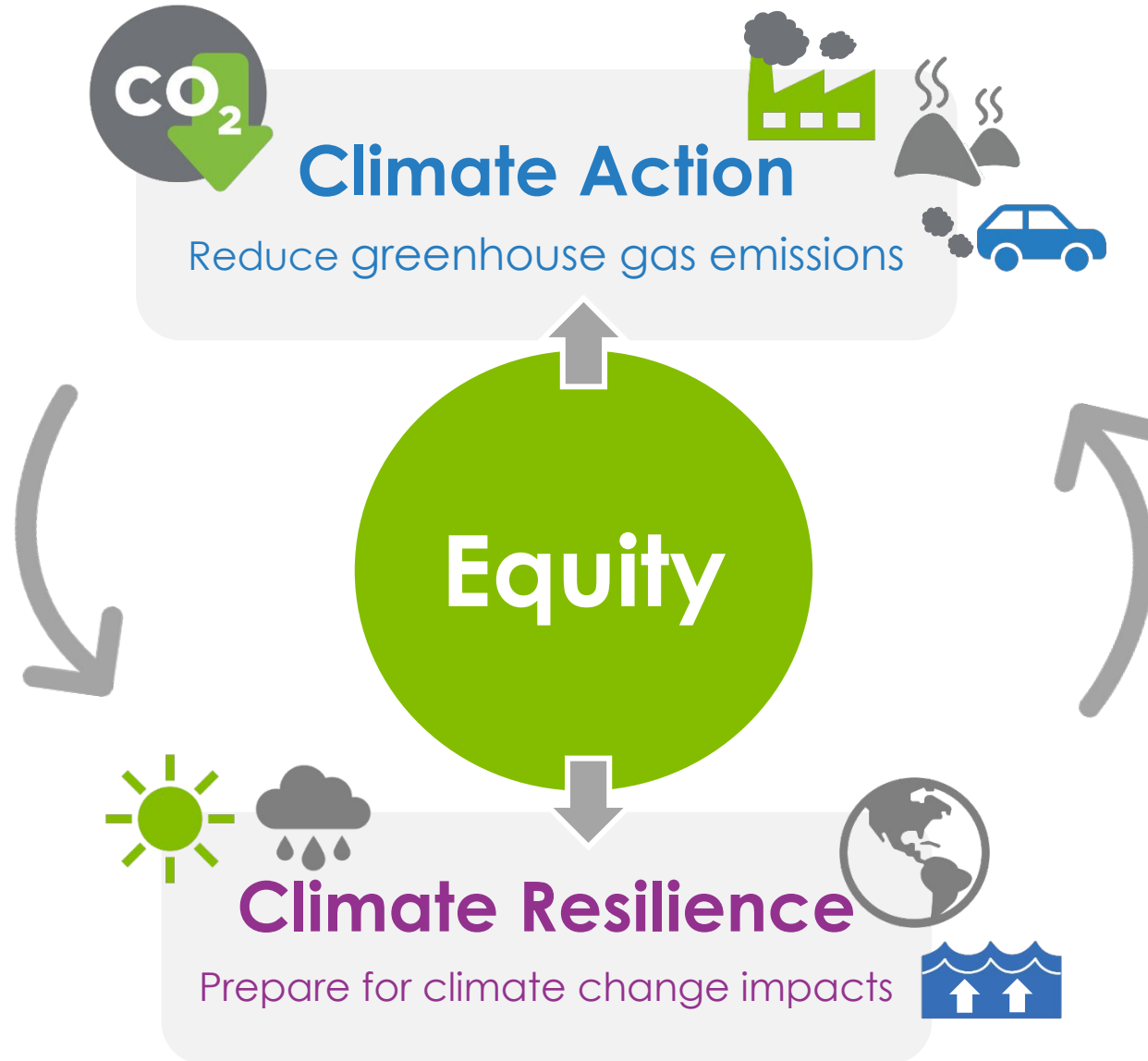
# Icebreaker!

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

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



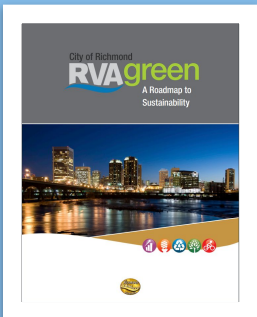
# RVAgreen 2050 - *Integrated approach:*



# A Next Step in City Planning

**2012**

RVAgreen Sustainability Plan



**2013**

Richmond Connects Strategic Multimodal Transportation Plan

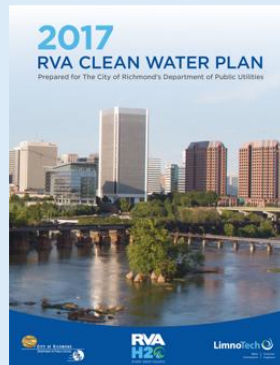
Recommends strategies for a multimodal transportation system for the city



**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**

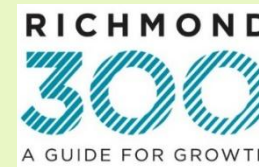
Richmond Regional Housing Framework



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

**2020**

Richmond 300 Master Plan



Establishes a vision for growth and outlines placed-based policy recommendations 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



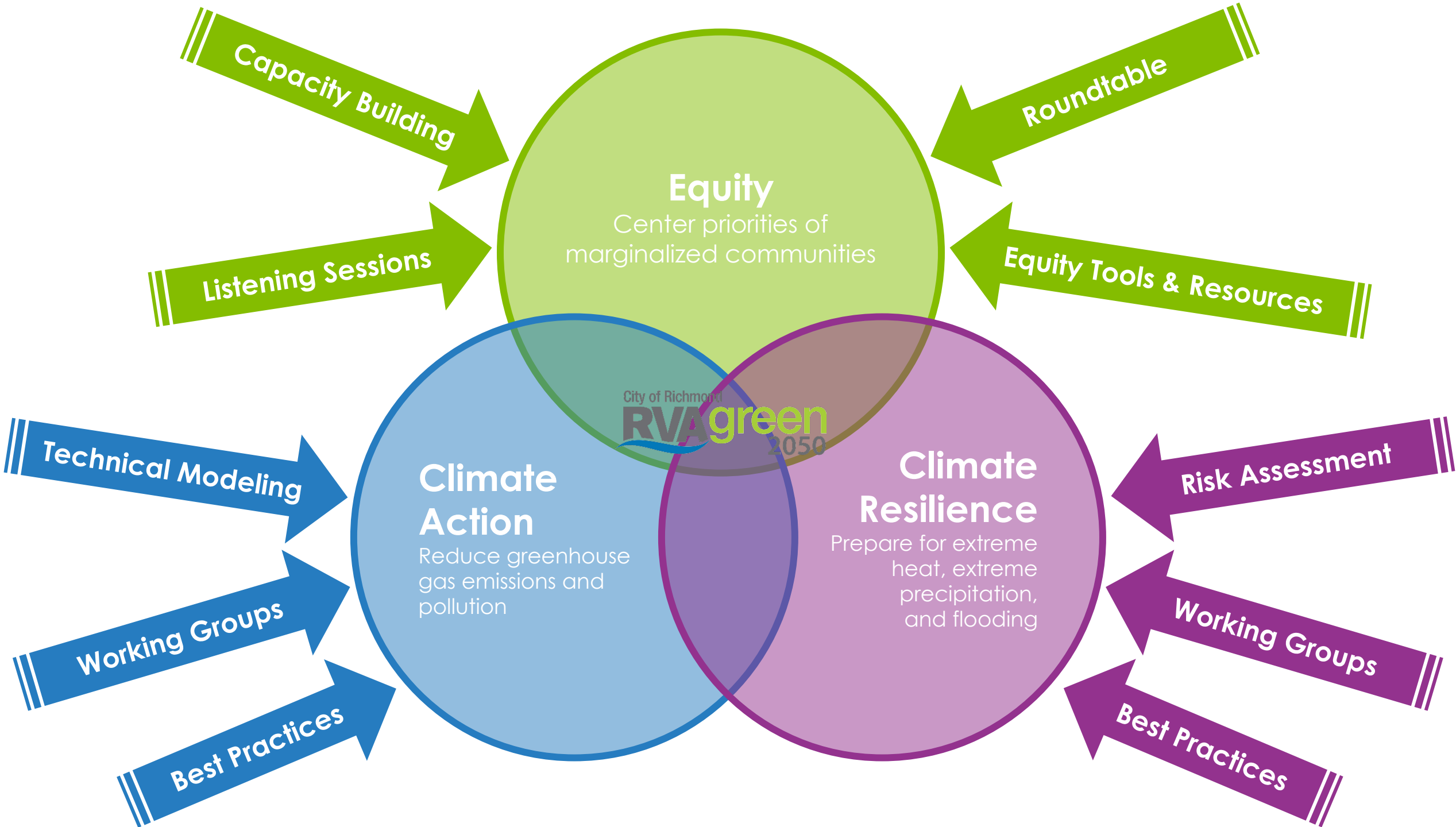
**2021**

RVAgreen 2050 Roadmap

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



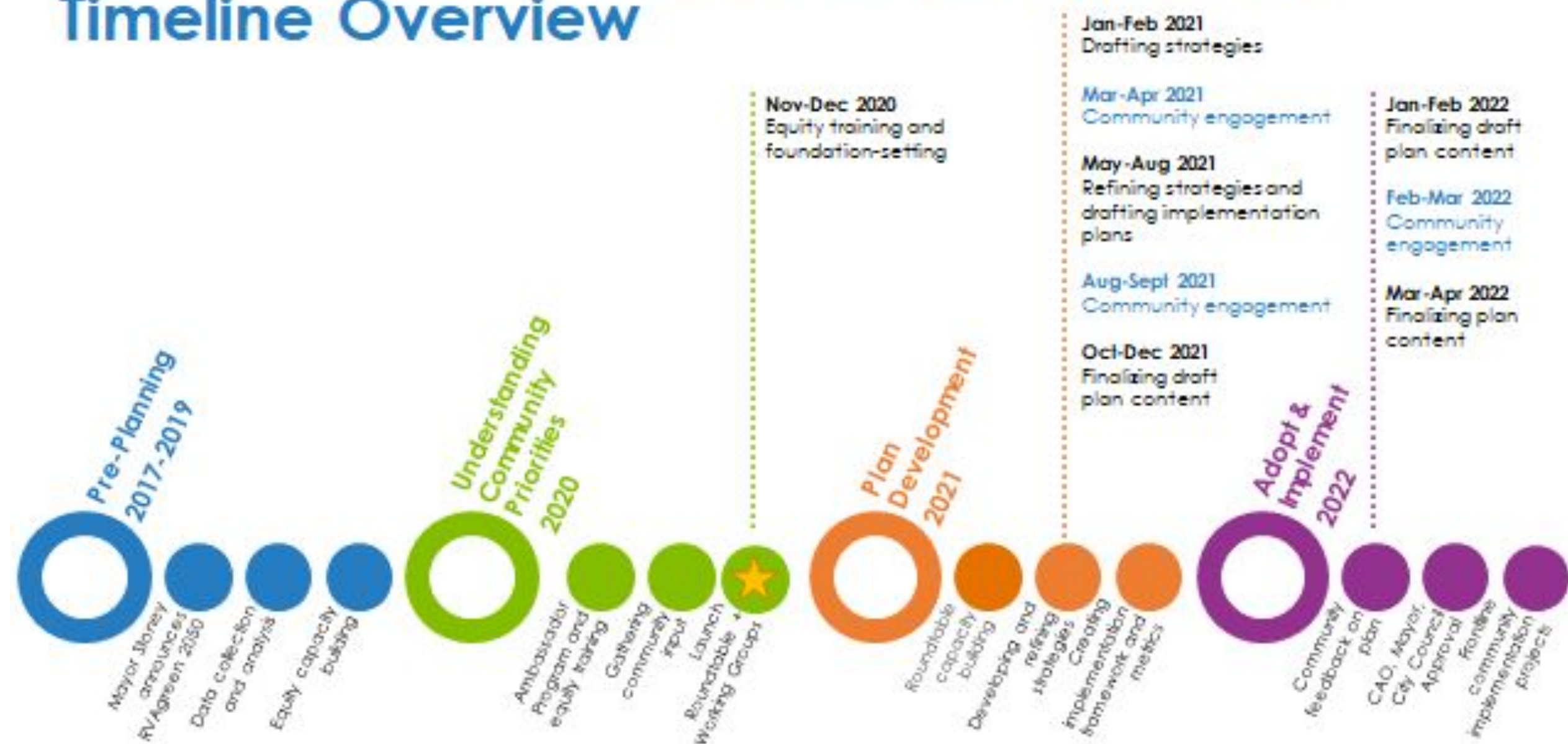
**RVAgreen 2050 is equitable climate action for a healthy and resilient Richmond**





# 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**

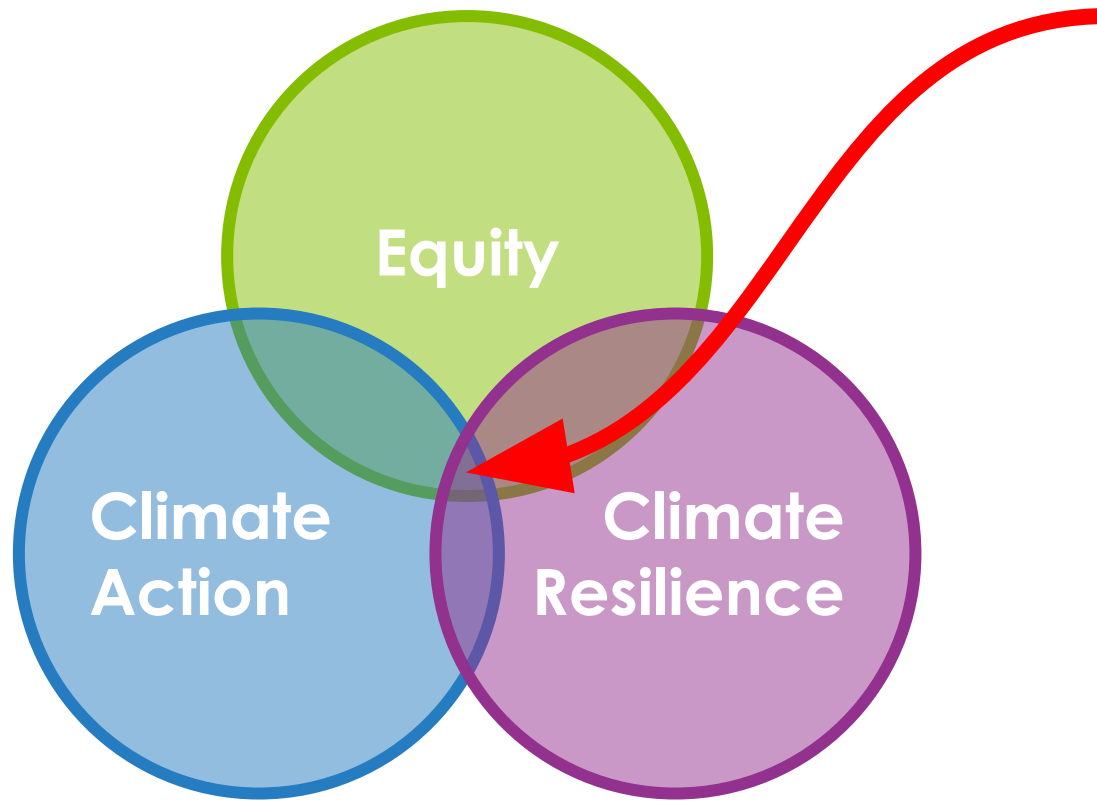
## Sustainability Office

- 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:

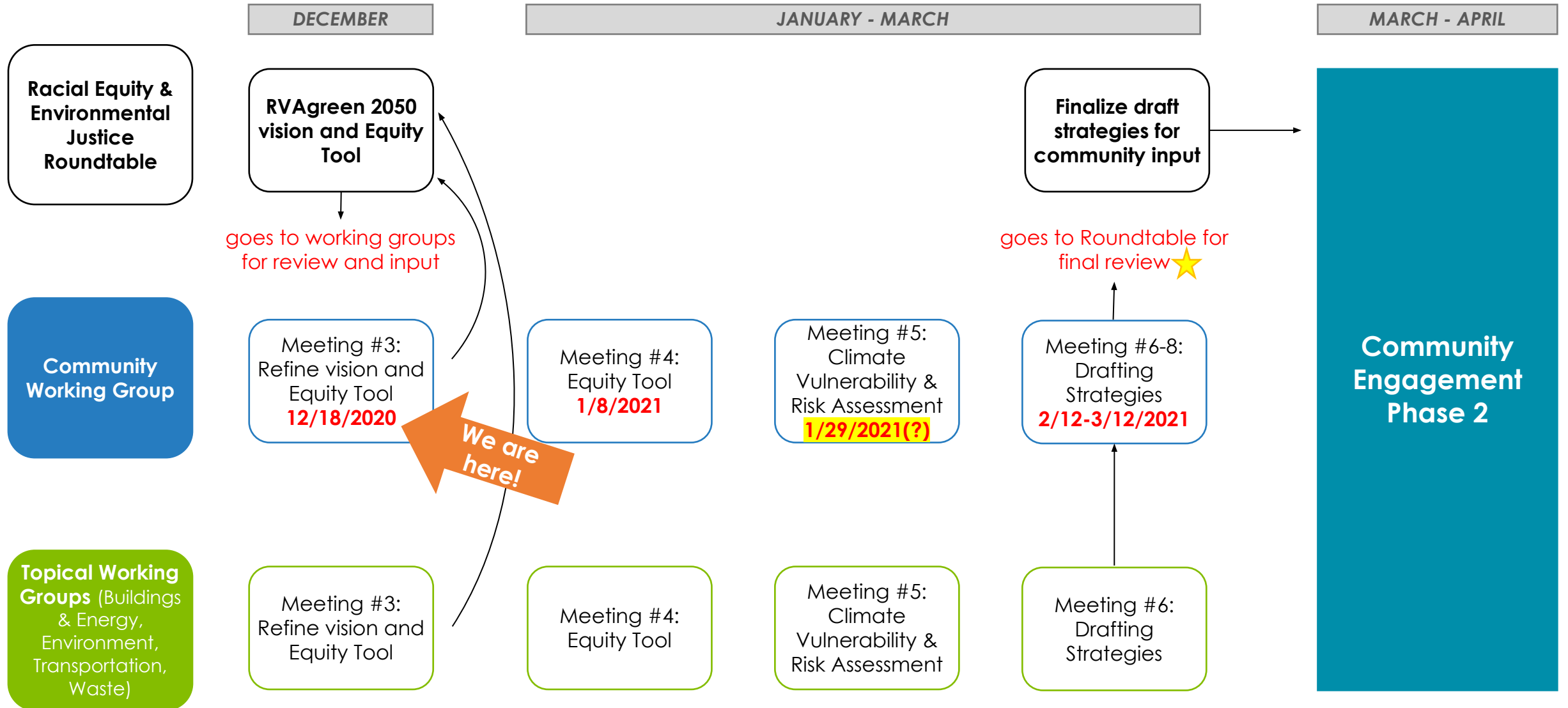
1. Address community priorities?
2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
3. Increase resilience to climate impacts?

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

Is the strategy... **S**trategic?  
**M**easurable?  
**A**mbitious?  
**R**ealistic?  
**T**ime-bound?  
**I**nclusive?  
**E**quitable?

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 (Nov.-Apr.)



★ Draft strategies will also go to City Administration for review; all comments will go to WGs for consideration



# Poll

Would moving our meeting on January 29, 2021 to January 22, 2021 work for you? (Friday 1pm-2:30pm)

# Climate Change is Already Impacting Richmond

April 19, 2017

This year brought Richmond fourth-highest tree pollen in 30 years

May 26, 2017

Two water rescues in James, which is under warning much of the

February 13, 2017

The warm weather is gone for now, but Sunday left a mark on Richmond's records

May 10, 2017

Science shows Richmond season more intense than

February 25, 2019

James River hits highest level

September 27, 2019

Richmond's September weather is going to rank high for heat and low

May 24, 2020

Summer weather outlook: extra warmth and rainfall favored across Va.

November 12, 2019

4 PM UPDATE: Dry and fr after Richmond's snowies 30 years

October 2, 2019

Wednesday was the hottest October recorded in Richmond — and it over

July 20, 2020

Richmond's heat wave continues after hottest day of the summer on Sunday

September 17, 2019

Remnants of Hurricane gave the Richmond deadly tornado in 2

July 20, 2019

Excessive Heat Warning in some parts of Central

October 10, 2019

Drought expands across Virginia

February 3, 2020

Early spring-like weather tracking chance of sprinkle Rain becomes more likely Wednesday

July 29, 2020

Richmond hasn't seen 20 straight days of heat in the 90s since 'Waterworld' was in theat

October 19, 2018

Michael, Florence and deadliest hurricane s

August 5, 2019

'We haven't really seen anything in Richmond couple comes across flood during walk

January 2020 was Earth's warmest January on record

October 15, 2020

U.S. Winter Outlook: Cooler North, warmer South with ongoing La Nina

April 30, 2020

After Richmond months, the Jar another minor

November 12, 2020

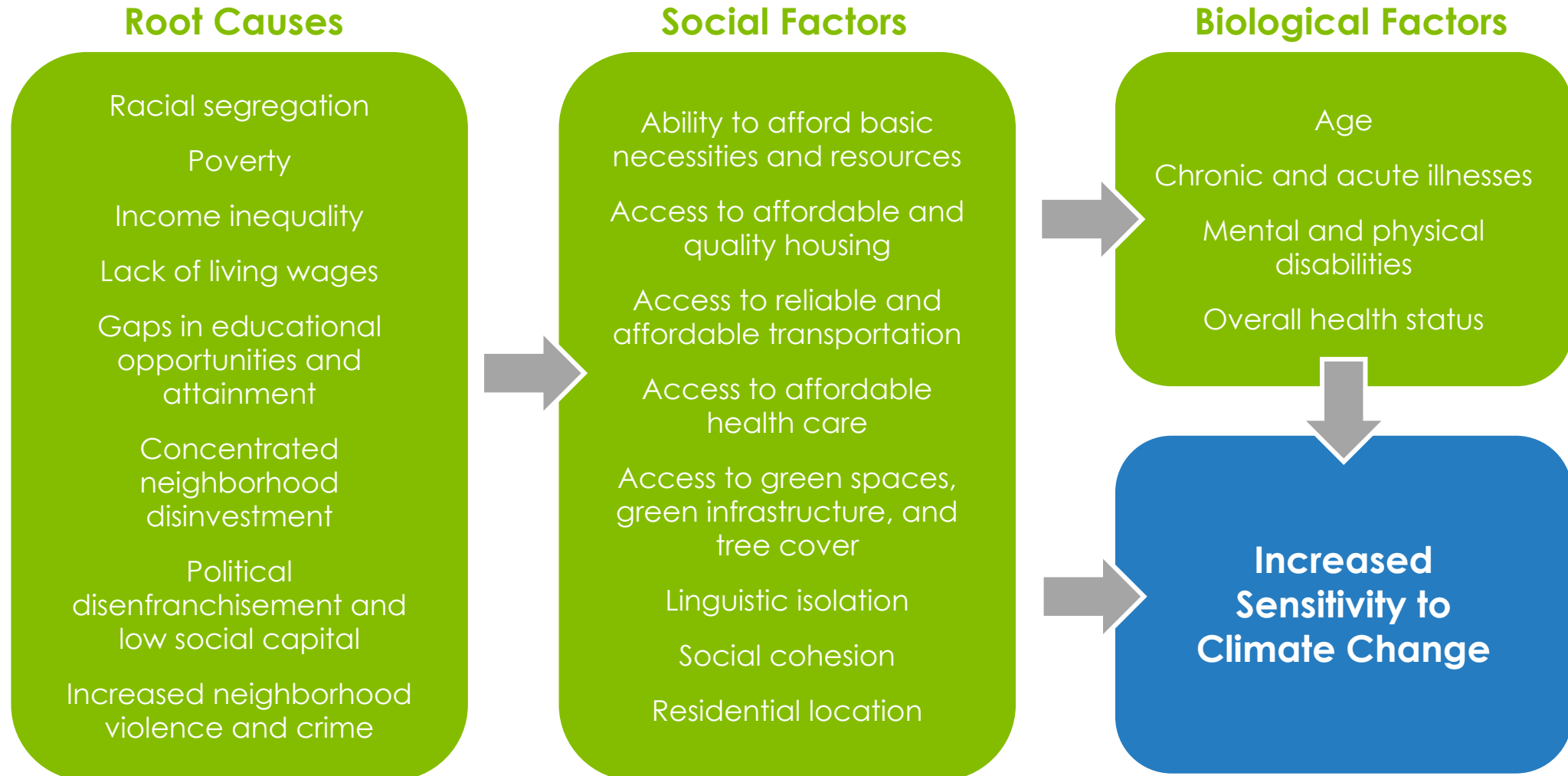
UPDATE: James River in Richmond could rise to its highest levels since 1996 following

November 30, 2020

The 2020 hurricane season was extremely busy for the Atlantic, and for Virginia. Here's who saw the most wind and rain.



# Climate Change Affects Some More Than Others



Source:  
Government  
Alliance for Racial  
Equity (modified)

# Race, Income & Disproportionate Climate Impacts

Low-income populations and communities of color are more likely to...



live in areas with less greenspace and are more vulnerable to respiratory and heat related illnesses



lack access to energy efficient housing and often are disproportionately impacted by high energy bills



be impacted by extreme weather events as a result of climate change



live in neighborhoods that lack convenient access to transit, or safe walking and biking options



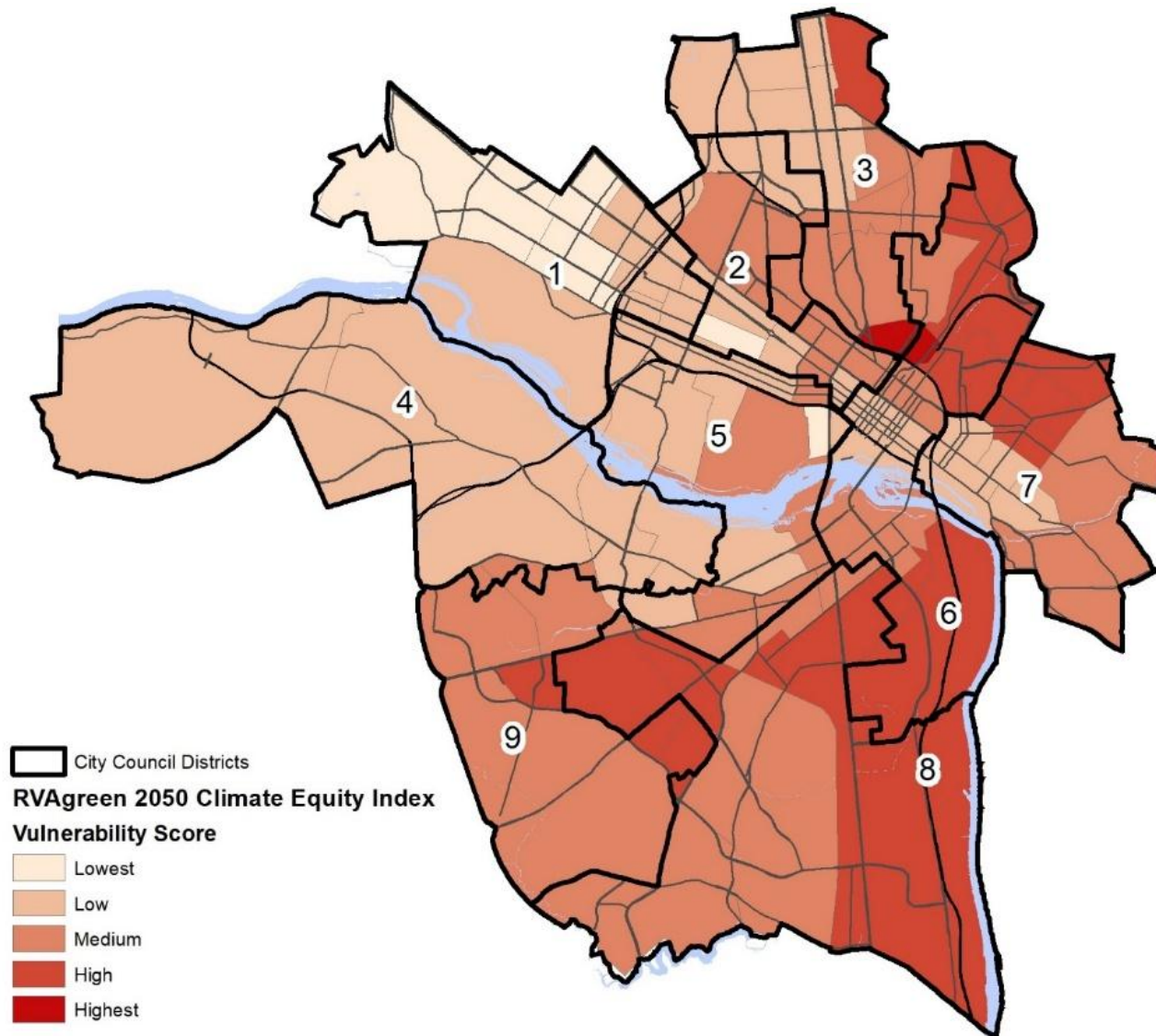
live in housing without air conditioning and are more vulnerable to heat related and respiratory illnesses and death



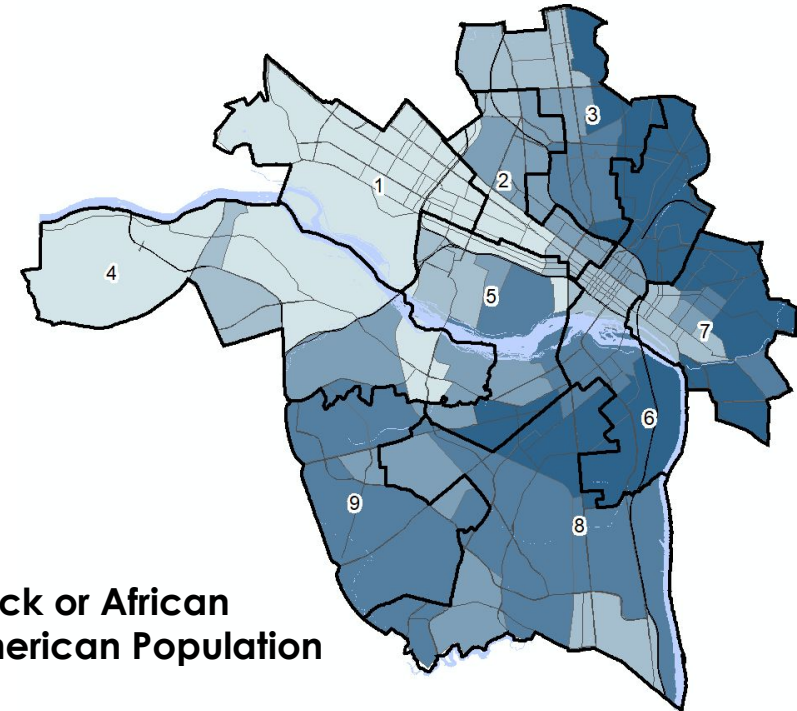
be exposed to pollution and airborne allergens and are more vulnerable to asthma and other respiratory illnesses



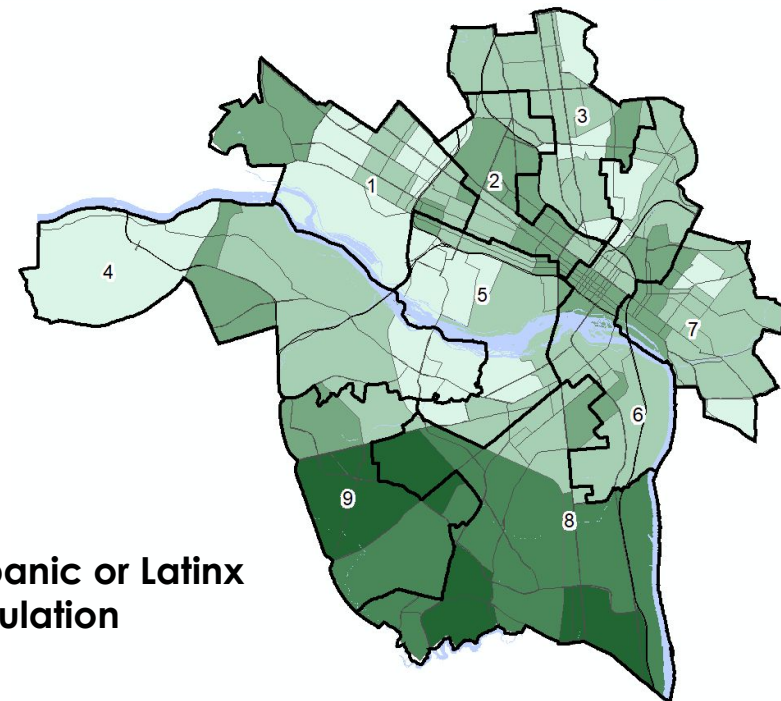
# People of color face disproportionate impacts



Black or African American Population



Hispanic or Latinx Population





# What is Carbon Neutrality?

Achieving carbon neutrality (net-zero carbon)=

Emissions produced from energy supply +  
buildings + transportation + waste  
= emissions captured locally + emissions offset

# Resources

- [The Principles of Environmental Justice](#)
- [How Decades of Racist Housing Policies Left Neighborhoods Sweltering](#)
- [Urban Heat Island Effect](#) - Science Museum of Virginia
- [Climate Safe Neighborhoods](#) - Groundwork RVA
- [What is climate change? A really simple guide](#)

# Poll

I would like to learn more about the intersection of climate action and equity.

# Definition of Equity for RVAgreen 2050

Race, identity, socio-economic status, or zip code does not determine life expectancy, quality of life, or economic opportunity.





# Vision Statement

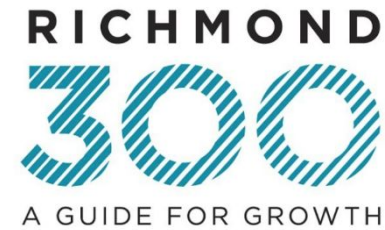
A faint, light gray compass rose is centered in the background of the slide. It features a circular design with eight primary points and numerous smaller, secondary points, creating a detailed star-like pattern. The letters 'W' and 'S' are visible on the left and right sides of the compass, respectively.

**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.**



**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.

## 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.

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.



# Foundations/examples

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

implement now trees cars help part renewable energy solutions affordable especially  
actions go clean energy safe residents efforts including way work transition  
creating efficient equitable climate action etc provide issues resources  
green jobs reduce accessible focus see affordable housing equitable  
good Improve access easier sustainable recycling green  
incentives areas use neighborhoods future  
Richmond education communities local city  
without need think green spaces investing will  
government people flood housing home food spaces live  
problems climate change corporations building support public places  
changes low-income energy jobs public transportation plan makes lead  
everyone pollution increased prioritize infrastructure public transit businesses  
great health kept programs class ensure care transportation private citizens income  
environment new

# 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](#) on your own
- Finish the following statements:
  1. I like/love... (*Round 1*)
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ is missing. / I can't live with... (*Round 2*)

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



# Wrap Up breakout groups activity

## In small groups (7mins):

- [Wrap up document](#)
- What are your key takeaways from this meeting?
- What questions, if any, do you have from this meeting?

**When we come back to the full group: *What was the theme in your group for takeaways and what questions kept coming up?***

# Next Steps

## Homework!

- Add any additional feedback on vision statement

## Next meeting: Friday January 8, 2021 at 1pm

- Equity Tool Introduction

**RIGHT NOW! Complete the [feedback survey](#) to help us improve for next time!**