RVAgreen 2050 Draft Vision Statement

What will Richmond look like when RVAgreen 2050 is implemented?

RVAgreen 2050 Draft Vision Statement

An equitable, healthy and resilient Richmond is one where carbon emissions are net-zero; identity, socio-economic status, or zip code doesn't determine life expectancy, quality of life, or economic opportunity; there is equitable access to clean air and water, clean and low cost energy, resilient and affordable housing, sustainable transportation options, and green infrastructure; and people have the capacity and resources to take ownership of equitable climate action and community resilience planning.

Draft Vision Statement Comments

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RVAgreen 2050 Draft Equity Tool

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

DRAFT EQUITY TOOL CONTENT

What is it? The **RVAgreen 2050 Equity Screening Tool** is designed to help determine the extent to which proposed climate action and resilience actions prioritize equity. It will be used to conduct a basic equity assessment of every action in the RVAgreen 2050 equitable climate action and resilience plan, as well as prior to making related decisions on policy, planning, programming, and budgeting.

How does it work? The Equity Screening Tool is organized by the seven community priorities gathered during the listening phase of the RVAgreen 2050 planning process. Stakeholders should review and answer the suggested questions in each community priority section to help *recognize inequities, the conditions under which they thrive, and the possible solutions and environments that would mitigate negative effects and enhance positive results.*

Note! The Equity Screening Tool requires ongoing evaluation and refinement to ensure effectiveness.

Some content adapted from the Cleveland Climate Action Racial Equity Tool, San Antonio "SA Climate Ready" Equity Screening Tool, and Portland "Climate Action Through Equity" Equity Considerations

RVAgreen 2050 Equity Screening Tool *Quick Decision Guide*

Stakeholders in the RVAgreen 2050 planning process should use the following questions to evaluate all proposed climate action and resilience strategies in their development phase. The full Equity Screening Tool can serve as a reference for additional considerations and detail related to the RVAgreen 2050 community priorities.

This content will be updated to reflect responses from Roundtable feedback survey

DRAFT EQUITY TOOL CONTENT
Quick Decision Guide (pt. 1)

Community Priority Area	Does the proposed action...
Racial Equity & Environmental Justice	- generate burdens (including costs, accessibility issues, displacement, and other burdens), either directly or indirectly, to ==historically disenfranchised communities==? - acknowledge/respect/honor the culture, historic assets, and traditions of ==historically disenfranchised communities==? - explicitly address racial equity?
Engagement & Communication	- reflect significant community engagement, specifically of ==historically disenfranchised communities==? - promote ongoing activities to inform, update, and include the community? - help foster the building of effective long-term relationships and trust between diverse communities and local government?
Government Accountability	- have appropriate accountability mechanisms to ensure that ==historically disenfranchised communities== will equitably benefit and not be disproportionately harmed? - address **who** is accountable **to whom** and **for what**?

DRAFT EQUITY TOOL CONTENT

Quick Decision Guide (pt. 2)

Community Priority Area	Does the proposed action...
Community Wealth	- provide benefits to households and businesses throughout the community - particularly communities of color, low-income populations, and minority, women, and emerging small businesses? - increase opportunities for living wage jobs in the same zip code as where people live?
Housing & Buildings	- reduce the number of families that are cost burdened by housing and transportation? - limit displacement of residents and small businesses when surrounding property values rise? - reduce barriers to homeownership? - increase quality affordable housing stock?
Neighborhoods	- increase amenities, access, and connections in historically disenfranchised communities (including green space, sustainable and healthy transportation, services, markets, education, etc.)? - address basic infrastructure needs that haven't been met in the past?
Health & Safety	- address the health impacts of climate change, such as heat-related illnesses and food insecurity? - address the external factors influencing crime such as trauma, poverty, housing, education, and physical and mental health? - address historic and existing health hazards?

RVAgreen 2050 Equity Screening Tool *FULL CONTENT*

This content will be updated to reflect responses from Roundtable feedback survey

DRAFT EQUITY TOOL CONTENT

Does the proposed action promote <u>racial equity and environmental justice</u>?

- What communities would benefit from the proposed action?
- Does the proposed action generate burdens (including costs, accessibility issues, displacement, and other burdens), either directly or indirectly, to <mark>historically disenfranchised communities</mark>?
    - If yes, what specific communities are impacted and what 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? How can that reduction be measured?
- Does this acknowledge/respect/honor the culture, historic assets, and traditions of <mark>historically disenfranchised communities</mark>?
- Does this prioritize an identified geography vulnerable to the impacts of climate change?
- Does it explicitly address factors of equity, particularly racial equity? What racial demographics does the proposed action impact in particular?

DRAFT EQUITY TOOL CONTENT

Does the proposed action reflect <u>equitable engagement and communication</u>?

- How have communities been engaged? Specifically, have ==historically disenfranchised communities== been engaged?
- Are there opportunities to expand engagement?
- Does the proposed action engage and empower ==historically disenfranchised communities== in a meaningful, authentic and culturally appropriate manner? How do you know?
- Does it align with and support existing communities of ==historically disenfranchised communities== priorities, creating an opportunity to leverage resources and build collaborative partnerships?
- Does this promote ongoing activities to inform, update, and include the community?
- Does it help foster effective long-term relationships and trust between diverse communities and local government?
- Could this increase equitable access to information around climate impacts and related initiatives and benefits?
- Does this increase social cohesion (engagement and connection within/to the community)?
- Could this improve notification of and/or preparation for climate-related impacts such as heat and flooding events?

DRAFT EQUITY TOOL CONTENT

Does the proposed action demonstrate and promote <u>government accountability</u>?

- What is the best indicator to track the outcome we are looking for? Is the indicator meaningful to the community?
- What is the current data related to the proposed action, collected from various sources, and what does this data tell us?
- Is the data disaggregated to illuminate disparity by demographics?
- Does the proposed action have appropriate accountability mechanisms to ensure that historically disenfranchised communities will equitably benefit and not be disproportionately harmed?
- Is it clear who is accountable to whom and for what?
- Is there a mechanism in place to recalibrate the action as needed based on indicators and community feedback?

DRAFT EQUITY TOOL CONTENT

Does the proposed action promote <u>community wealth</u>?

- Does the proposed action support <mark>historically disenfranchised communities</mark> through workforce development, contracting opportunities, or increased diversity of employees/staff across 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?
- Could this increase opportunities for living wage jobs in the same zip code as where people live?
- Are workforce opportunities free of restrictions that would preclude people from the local community? (e.g., background, criminal history, education, credit, etc.)
- Will this offer workforce or support training programs - that offer living wages and support a product or service needed in the community (based on labor market information, training on what labor market is needed, offer salaries and promotion)?

Does the proposed action expand <u>affordable housing</u>?

- 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 reduce barriers to homeownership?
- Could this increase quality affordable housing stock?
- Is it reducing inequities in housing/building quality related to health and safety, such as issues related to lead, mold, air quality, etc.?
- Could this increase renewable energy price stability?

DRAFT EQUITY TOOL CONTENT

Does the proposed action support <u>safe and beautiful neighborhoods</u>?

- Could this expand access to healthy, clean, and accessible transport systems, such as walking paths, bike routes, and public transit?
- Could this increase amenities and walkability in <mark>historically disenfranchised communities</mark>?
- Could this increase access to quality parks/green spaces in <mark>historically disenfranchised communities</mark>?
- How does this address for basic infrastructure needs that haven't been met in the past?
- How does this address historical and existing harm and inequity at the neighborhood level related to environmental hazards, racist policies, health hazards, and other issues?
- Does this promote neighborhood-level engagement and communication (*before* implementation)?
- Does this support connections and accessibility (geographically, to services, socially, etc.) within neighborhoods and between neighborhoods?
- Could this increase neighborhood-level initiatives such as markets, gardens, education, and other systems?

DRAFT EQUITY TOOL CONTENT

Does the proposed action promote <u>health and well-being</u>?

- Does this address the health impacts of climate change, such as heat-related illnesses?
- Could this reduce food insecurity in low-income areas by increasing access to healthy, local food sources?
- Could this reduce stress, anxiety, and depression?
- Could this increase safety and security in the community? Does this address the external factors influencing crime such as trauma, poverty, housing, education, and physical and mental health?*
- Does this address historic and existing health hazards?
- Could this increase not only accessibility but also quality of services to promote health and well-being?

See "<u>Beyond Containment: Reevaluating What's Important to Improve Public Safety in Richmond</u>," Richmond Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney (January 2019)