

RVAgreen 2050 Environment Working Group  
1/4/2021

City of Richmond  
**RVAgreen**  
2050

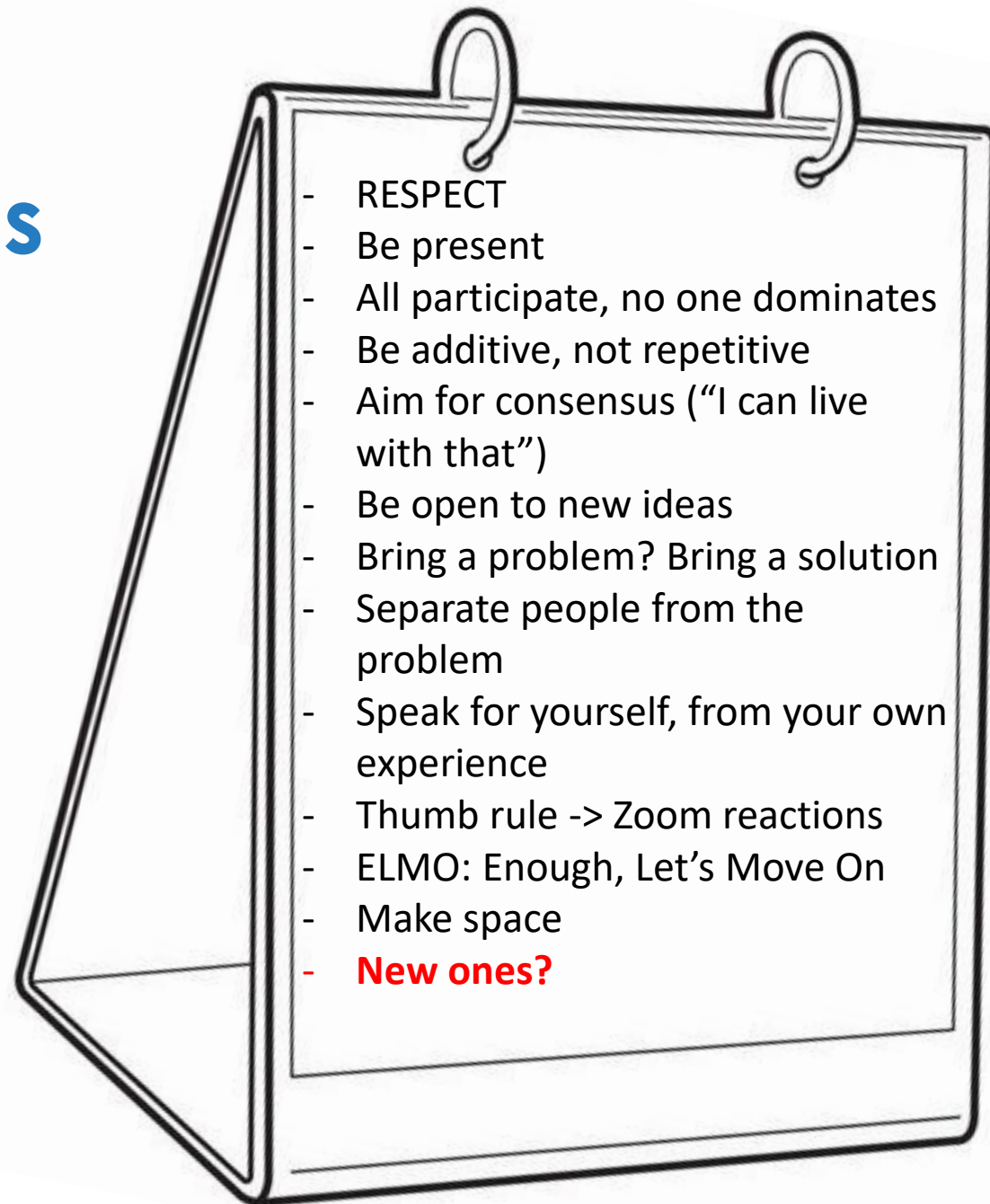
Equitable climate action for a healthy and resilient Richmond

# Agenda

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

**Today's objective:** Participants will gain a greater understanding of why and how equity – and particularly racial equity – is central to the RVAgreen 2050 process, and will provide input on the Equity Screening Tool as one of the mechanisms we will use to center equity in our work.

# Ground Rules / Group Expectations



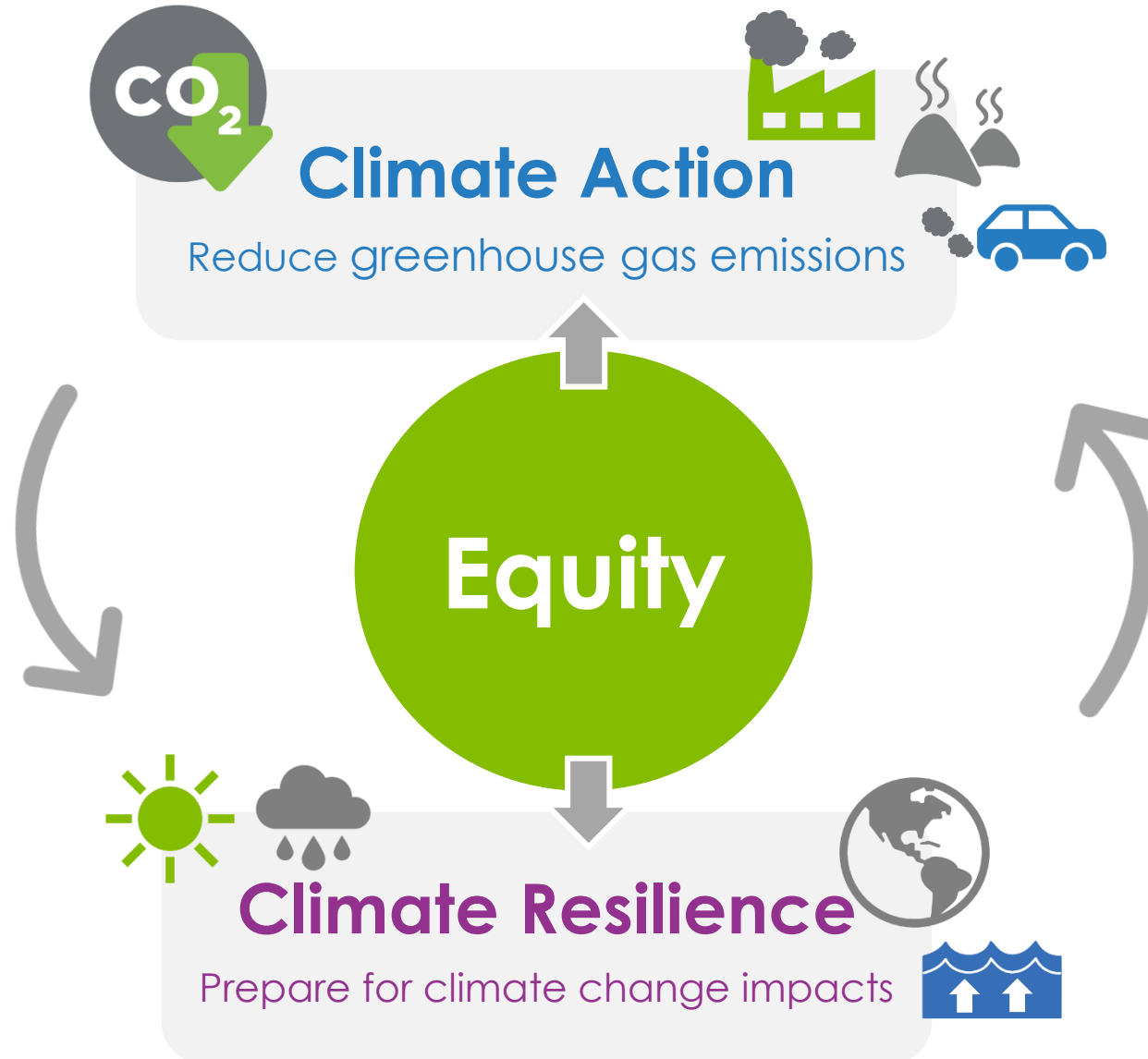
# Partner Sharing #1

**4 MINUTES:** in breakout rooms with 2 people

Share your understanding of equity in general and/or a reflection on how equity has come into your work, life, etc.



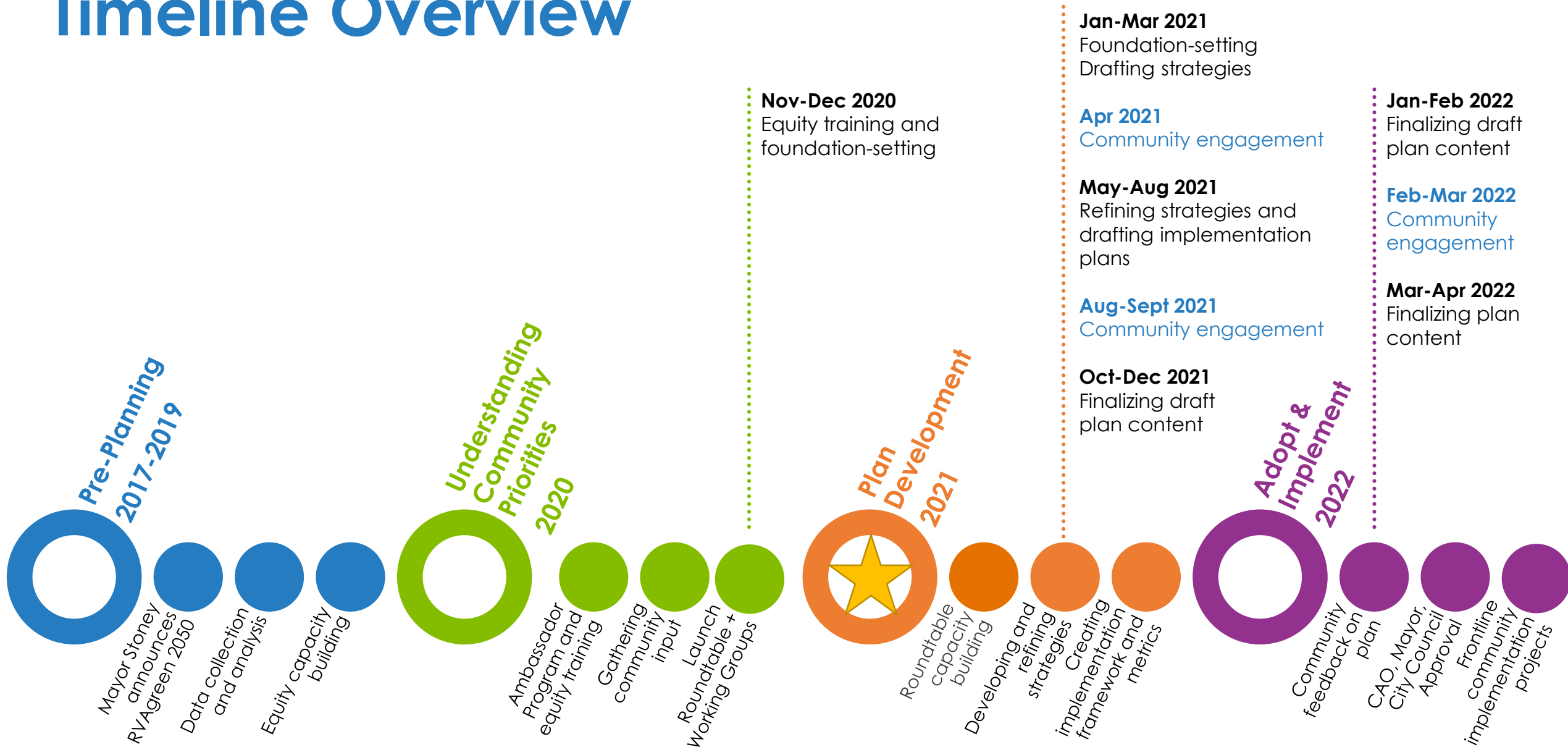
# RVAgreen 2050 - *Integrated approach:*





# RVAgreen 2050 Process: Working Groups

## Timeline Overview



# Vision Statement



**What will Richmond look like when  
RVAgreen 2050 is implemented?**

# 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?](#)

## **Working Groups feedback summary:**

- Simplify
- Define net-zero/carbon emissions
- Define green infrastructure
- Include other pollutants
- Include food justice
- Overly focused on humans
  - Animals
  - Ecosystems





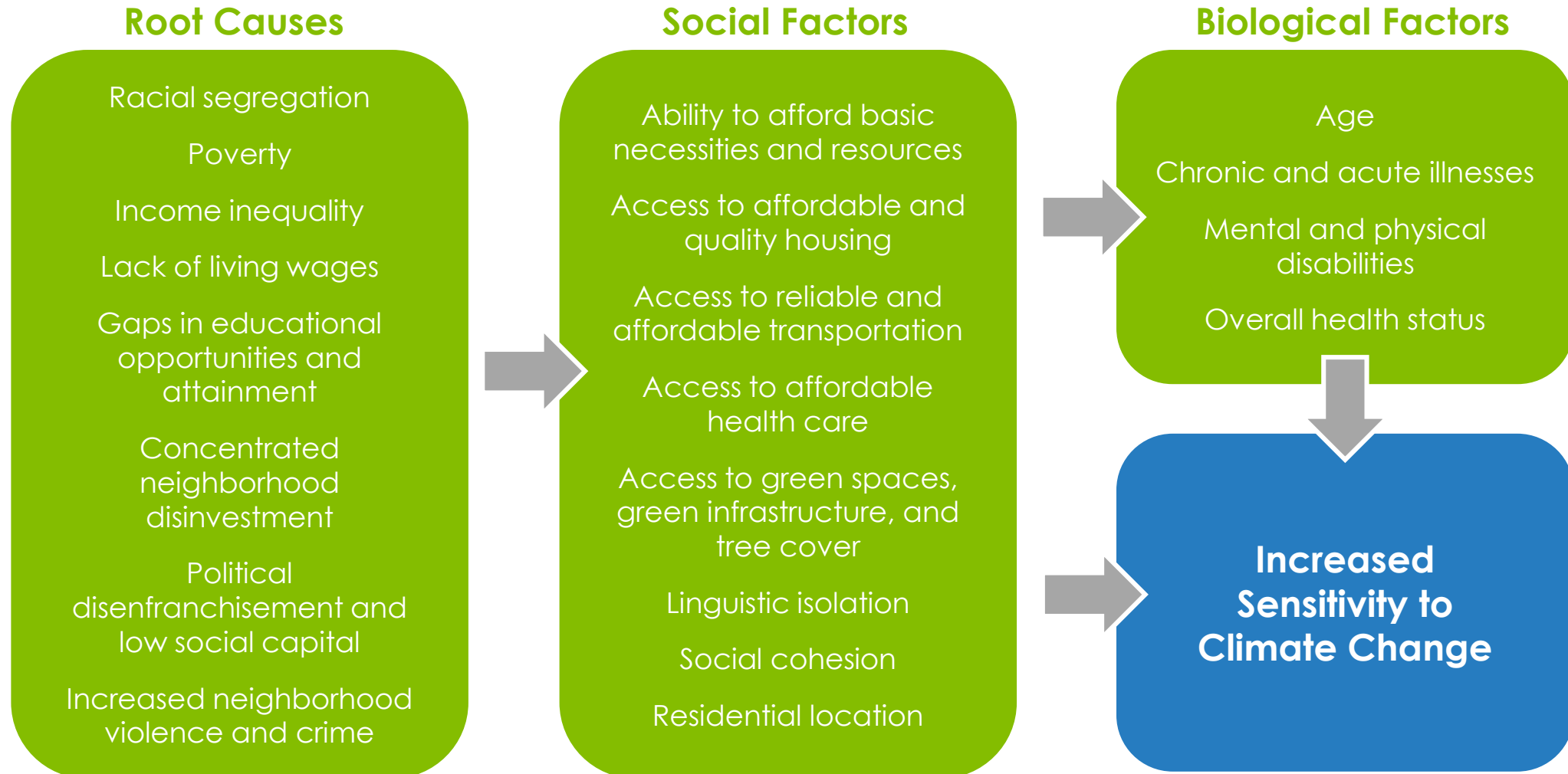
# Equity Tool

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



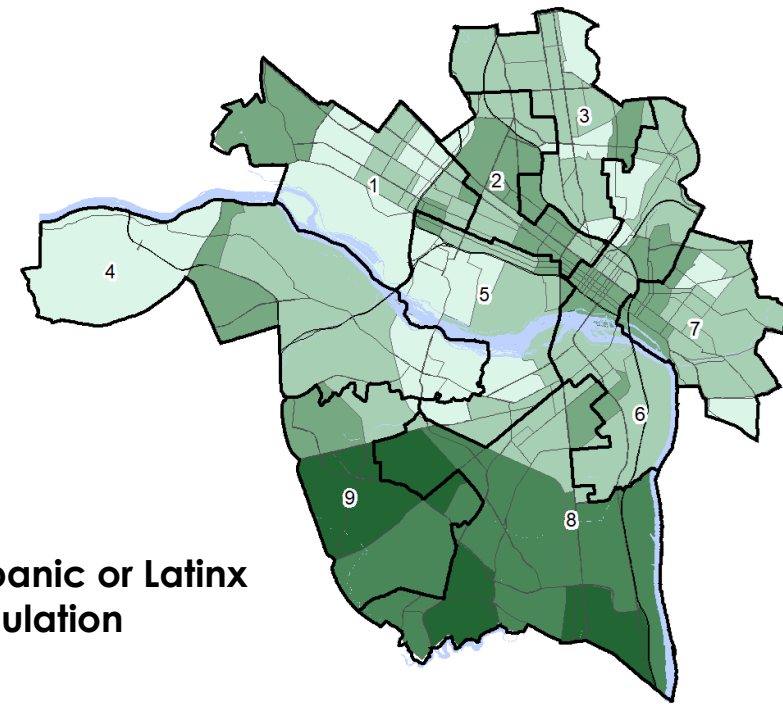
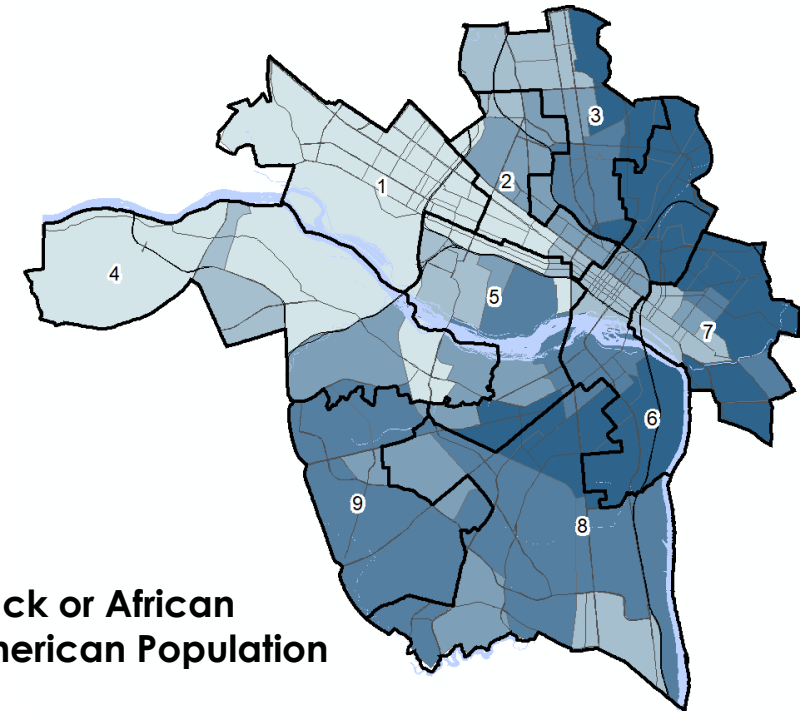
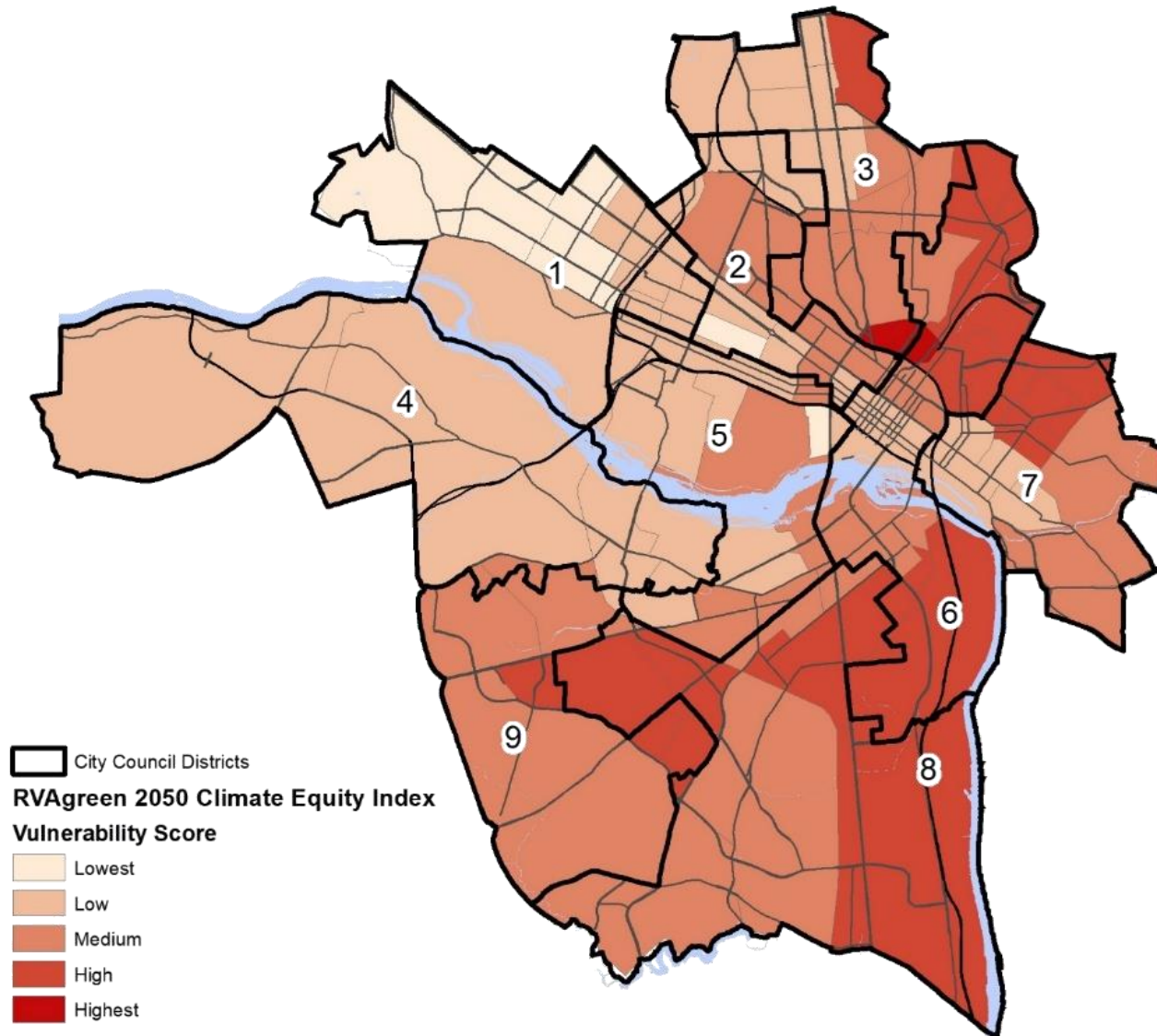


# Climate Change Affects Some More Than Others



Source:  
Government  
Alliance for Racial  
Equity (modified)

# People of color face disproportionate impacts



# 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](https://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: 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

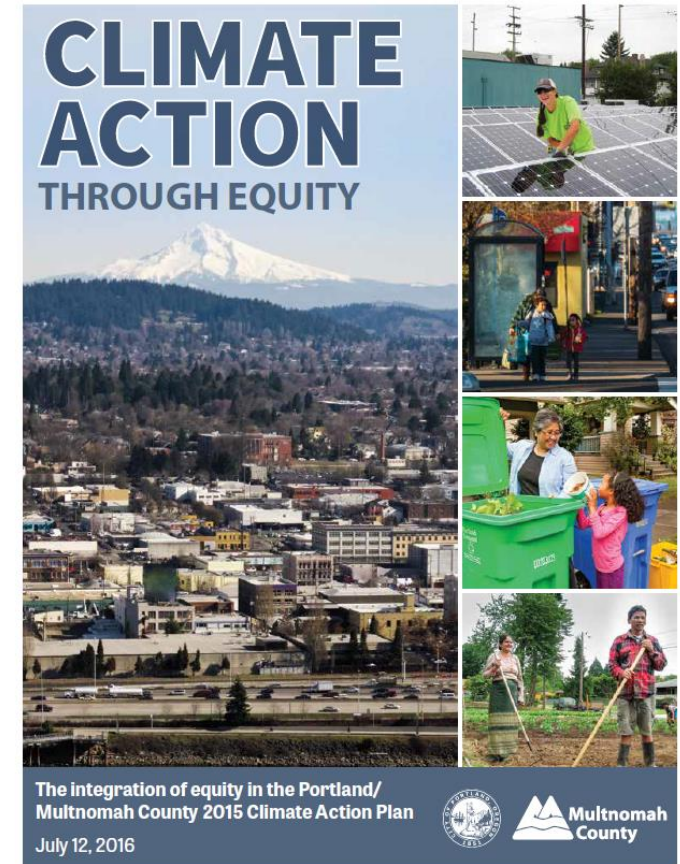
City and County staff, with guidance from the Equity Working Group, incorporated equity throughout the plan. A few specific examples are outlined below:

### 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)





# Partner Sharing #2

**4 MINUTES:** in breakout rooms with 2 people

Share your understanding of equity as it relates to climate and environment



# 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



Racial Equity &  
Environmental Justice



Engagement &  
Communication



Government  
Accountability



Community  
Wealth



Housing &  
Buildings



Neighborhoods



Health & Well-  
Being

# 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?

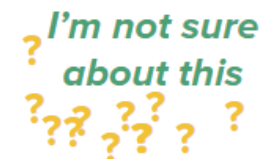
# DRAFT Equity Screening Tool

**Activity:** What questions can we use to determine the extent to which each proposed climate action and resilience strategy in the RVAgreen 2050 plan prioritizes equity as it relates to...

## Does the proposed action promote racial equity and environmental justice?

- What communities would benefit most from the proposed action?
- Does the proposed action generate burdens\*, either directly or indirectly, to historically disenfranchised communities? (*Burdens may include costs, accessibility issues, displacement, and others.*)
  - If yes, what specific communities are impacted, how would they be impacted, and what opportunities are there to mitigate these impacts?
  - How do the impacted communities feel about the proposed action? What process was used to gauge their response?
  - What mechanisms are in place to account for potentially burdened communities *not* being identified/informed/aware later in the process?
- Can the benefits of the proposed action be targeted in progressive/creative/ proactive 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 historically disenfranchised communities?
- 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?

Click and drag symbols to show:



Example strategy from Richmond 300:

**16.4(c) Continue funding programs to plant trees and educate public on importance of trees.**



# Breakout groups activity

- Break into discussion rooms by topic:
  - Engagement and Communication / Government Accountability (Rob) - 15 mins for each topic
  - Community Wealth / Housing and Buildings (Jenn)- 15 mins for each topic
  - Neighborhoods / Health and Well-Being (Khilia)- 15 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

**Main question:** What questions can we use to determine the extent to which each proposed climate action and resilience strategy in the RVAgreen 2050 plan prioritizes equity as it relates to this community priority?

# Partner Sharing #2

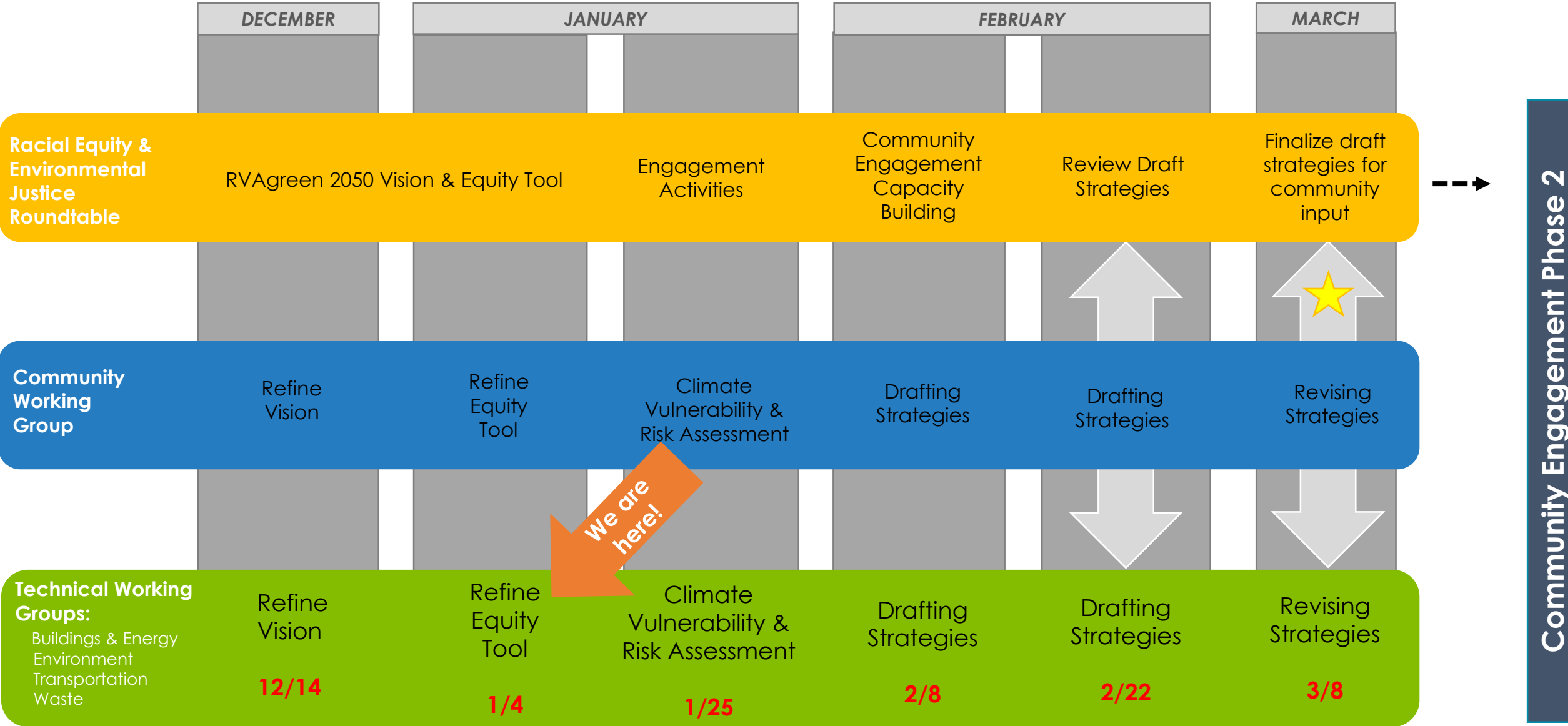
**4 MINUTES:** in breakout rooms with 2 people

Share how you see this equity screening tool impacting the work/topics of this working group





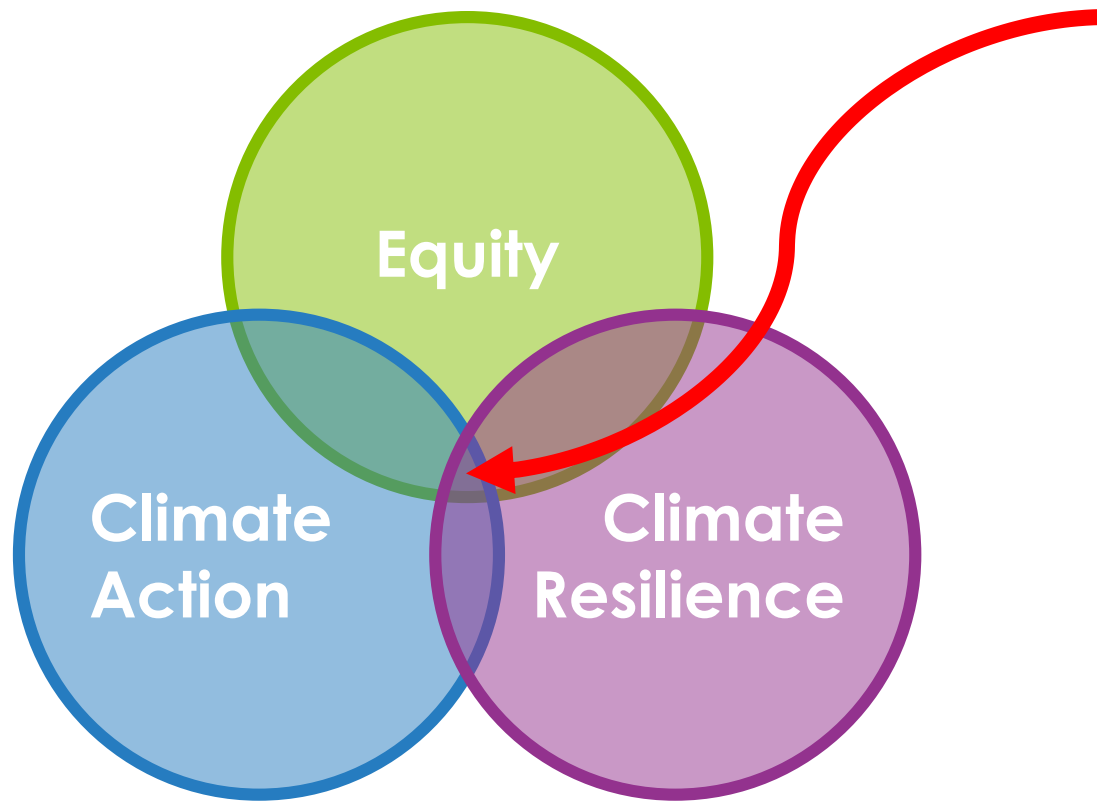
# Workflow



★ Draft strategies will also go to City Administration for review and feedback



# 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?



This is where the equity  
screening tool comes in!

# Next Steps

## Homework! By 1/11:

- Visit/revisit equity screening tool sections to provide input
- **Watch Kapwa Consulting equity foundations video if you haven't already!**

## Next meeting: Monday, January 25, 1:00 p.m.

- Climate Vulnerability & Risk Assessment
- Beginning to draft strategies – as time allows

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