RVAgreen 2050 Environment Working Group
2/8/2021

Drafting Objectives

City of Richmond
RVAgreen 2050

Equitable climate action for a healthy and resilient Richmond

Agenda

- Settling in and ground rules
- RVAgreen 2050 structure and inputs
- **Discussion:** Pathways to climate action and resilience goals
- **Discussion:** Objectives
- Wrap-up and next steps

Today's Objectives

- Understand where draft content for RVAgreen 2050 is coming from
- Review and provide your input and buy-in on draft pathway and objectives
- Prepare to start talking about strategies!

Ground Rules / Group Expectations

- RESPECT
- Be present
- All participate, no one dominates
- Be additive, not repetitive
- Aim for consensus ("I can live with that")
- Be open to new ideas
- Bring a problem? Bring a solution
- Separate people from the problem
- Speak for yourself, from your own experience
- Thumb rule -> Zoom reactions
- ELMO: Enough, Let's Move On
- Make space
- **New ones?**

RVAgreen 2050 DRAFT Structure

Goals	**What are the long-term aims we want to accomplish?**
Vision	**What does the ideal future look like when RVAgreen 2050 is implemented?**
Community Priorities	**What cross-cutting public values do we want to center in our plan?**
Pathways	**What leverage points will lead us towards realizing and operationalizing the goals and community priorities?**
Objectives	**What are the long-term aims we want to accomplish, organized into the different pathways?**
Strategies	**What are the SMARTIE actions that will lead us toward our objectives?**
Implementation Plans	**How are we going to implement, measure progress, and ensure accountability in this plan?**

Goals

Climate Action

Achieve a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 from the 2008 baseline

Achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050

Climate Resilience

Prepare for, adapt, and improve the City of Richmond's resilience to the local impacts of climate change

Goals

Vision

Community Priorities

Pathways

Objectives

Strategies

Implementation Plans

Vision

All Richmonders, regardless of their identity or neighborhood, thrive in a climate-resilient and climate-neutral community.

Supporting Principles:

- Community and personal **well-being, local ecosystems, and economic vitality** are balanced in a truly sustainable Richmond.

- Everyone has **equitable access across the entire city to resources that are clean, sustainable, and affordable**, including air, water, food, energy, housing, transportation, economic opportunities, and natural resources.

- **Everyone has the ability and resources to take ownership** of equitable climate action and community resilience planning and implementation.

- "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 historically disenfranchised communities.

Community Priorities

Racial Equity & Environmental Justice

Engagement & Communication

Government Accountability

Community Wealth

Housing & Buildings

Neighborhoods

Health & Well-Being

Goals

Vision

Community Priorities

Pathways

Objectives

Strategies

Implementation Plans

Where we are today...

Goals	**What are the long-term aims we want to accomplish?**
Vision	**What does the ideal future look like when RVAgreen 2050 is implemented?**
Community Priorities	**What cross-cutting public values do we want to center in our plan?**
Pathways	**What leverage points will lead us towards realizing and operationalizing the goals and community priorities?**
Objectives	**What are the long-term aims we want to accomplish, organized into the different pathways?**
Strategies	**What are the SMARTIE actions that will lead us toward our objectives?**
Implementation Plans	**How are we going to implement, measure progress, and ensure accountability in this plan?**

Draft Pathways

Buildings & Energy	**Accelerate the equitable transition to healthy, resilient, climate neutral buildings and energy sources**
Transportation	**Accelerate the transition to clean, and equitable mobility systems**
Waste	**Eliminate our dependency on landfill disposal and foster sustainable**
Environment	**Invest in ecosystem resilience, regeneration, and conservation**
Community	**Create an equitable, healthy, prosperous, and resilient Richmond while ensuring focus and honoring community priorities**

Goals

Vision

Community Priorities

Pathways

Objectives

Strategies

Implementation Plans

Draft Pathway - *Environment*

Invest in ecosystem resilience, regeneration, and conservation

Discussion questions:

- What do you like?

- What don't you like?

- What's missing?

Where we are today...

Goals	What are the long-term aims we want to accomplish?
Vision	What does the ideal future look like when RVAgreen 2050 is implemented?
Community Priorities	What cross-cutting public values do we want to center in our plan?
Pathways	What leverage points will lead us towards realizing and operationalizing the goals and community priorities?
Objectives	What are the long-term aims we want to accomplish, organized into the different pathways?
Strategies	What are the SMARTIE actions that will lead us toward our objectives?
Implementation Plans	How are we going to implement, measure progress, and ensure accountability in this plan?

Draft Objectives - *Inputs*

RVAgreen 2050…is at the nexus of…with inputs/tools for each element…

Equity
● Climate Equity Index
● Training and capacity building
● Community priorities
● Equity Screening Tool

Climate Action
● Greenhouse gas inventories
● Richmond 300 actions
● Best practices and examples
● Greenlink GHG emissions modeling

Climate Resilience
● Climate change impacts data
● Richmond 300 actions
● Best practices and examples
● Climate Vulnerability & Risk Assessment

Goals

Vision

Community Priorities

Pathways

Objectives

Strategies

Implementation Plans

Creating Draft Objectives

Richmond 300 Goals & Objectives

- **Complete Neighborhoods**: greenways, parks
- **City-Owned Assets**: parks
- **Historic Preservation**: viewsheds, natural features
- **Urban Design:** heat reduction, nature access
- **Jobs and Businesses**: trees, green space
- **Tourism**: Riverfront Plan, JRPS Master Plan
- **Clean Water**: reduce consumption, restore and protect natural areas, green stormwater infrastructure
- **Resilient and Healthy Communities**: tree canopy, reduce urban heat, green space, floodplain management, habitat

Plans from other cities

- Green stormwater infrastructure
- Biodiversity
- Tree canopy
- Green and open space
- Water conservation
- Urban heat island reduction
- Urban agriculture

RVAgreen 2050 Elements

- **Equity**
- **Climate action**
- **Climate resilience**

Goals

Vision

Community Priorities

Pathways

Objectives

Strategies

Implementation Plans

Draft Objectives

1. Provide equitable access to nature

2. Expand and protect green infrastructure (trees, plants, soil)

3. Enhance resilience of water resources

Goals

Vision

Community Priorities

Pathways

Objectives

Strategies

Implementation Plans

Objectives vs. Strategies

1. **Provide equitable access to nature**

   Example strategy: By 2030, establish an annual budget for the Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities Department to acquire new public park space in neighborhoods with the highest urban heat island impacts.

2. **Expand and protect green infrastructure (trees, plants, soil)**

   Example strategy: By 2024, create a position for an urban forester to work in neighborhoods/City Council districts with the lowest urban tree canopy coverage.

3. **Enhance resilience of water resources**

   Example strategy: By 2025, restructure residential water and wastewater fees and billing procedures to promote and incentivize reduced water consumption.

Activity

- Divide into 3 breakout rooms
- Facilitators will switch between rooms to guide discussion on one of the draft objectives
  - Objective 1 - access to nature (Rob)
  - Objective 2 - green infrastructure (Khilia)
  - Objective 3 - water resilience (Brianne)
- Take 15 minutes per round to:
  - Provide feedback on draft objectives
    - Is the objective statement overarching yet explanatory enough?
    - What is missing?
    - How could it be said better?
  - *If time allows*, begin brainstorming more specific strategies to achieve the objectives

Goals

Vision

Community Priorities

Pathways

Objectives

Strategies

Implementation Plans

5-minute break

Go into breakout rooms!

Objective #1
Rob's group

Objective #1 (Rob)

Provide equitable access to nature

Discussion questions:

- Can we live with this (consensus)? What do we like? What's missing?

- Does the objective address equity, climate action, and climate resilience?

- Is the language accessible? How accessible does it need to be?

Objective #1 (Rob)

Provide equitable access to nature

Double click to comment or revise!

Equitable access for **who** to nature? Can there be an addendum to include residents + connection to nature?

-WME

What do we mean by nature? Kind of broad. Parks and Green spaces? Public, private, etc.

I like how simple the language is. It's accessible.

Benefits of natural access is even more important in heavily impacted and industrialized areas.

Importance of proximity needs to be included. Espeically for industry and impact.

Strategy - look at zoning for industry. Put negatively impacting things around more equitbaly.

AND - allocate mitigation resources in ways that address history inequities in impacts.

Invitation and welcome is an important . WHO has access when and how are they welcomed.

Maybe add a qualifier like "healthy" nature

More outreach about how to get to parks and green spaces and how you can use them.

Active use - basketball is use, just like birdwatching.

I would prefer "nature and quality green space"

Parks--built parks--matter too

Objective #1 (Rob) Slide 2

Provide equitable access to nature

Double click to comment or revise!

If you cant pick up the James River, how do you connect people to those resources.

Need equitable access--literally ways to get--to our best assets (like the James River Park System). (because we can't create the river and the rapids in all neighborhoods)

Public engagement in proximate green resources. What does the community want in their 10-minute walk.

Richmond 300 - walk and lower resourced communities.

Emphasis - on fresh air. In whatever package works best for a given community.

Trauma reduction as a benefit and more needed in impacted communities.

Human restoration and regeneration

Nature - exposes people to the fact that there are other beings that we share space with. Birds and bugs, etc.

Green space as Oasis.

Connectivity is key particularly for communities with limited close access. Also ways to move people to green spaces.

Considering connectivity is critical, including on regional basis to allow climate migration

"nature" & quality green space & parks with amenities & the assets that they would like (basketball, tennis, pickleball, skateparks, picnic benches, bmx, whatevs)

Objective #1 (Rob) Slide 3

## Provide equitable access to nature
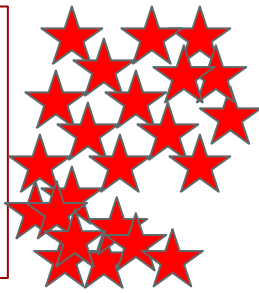
Why aren't we building it in as we go? Why does Green Space need to "outside" the everyday confines of the place you live?

Multi-Modal Transportation this must be part of the "access" piece.

Safe transportation is key.

Greenways are avenues to connecting neighborhoods to "prime resources"

Can impact the experience of the 10-minute walk.

Intent behind the spaace is important.

Welcome, community intent and creation of space are best if intertwined.
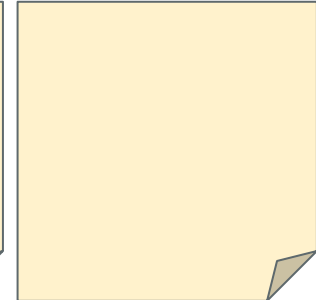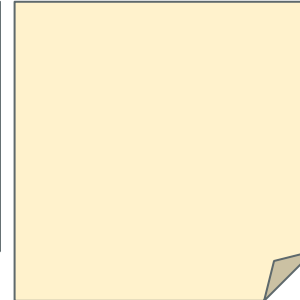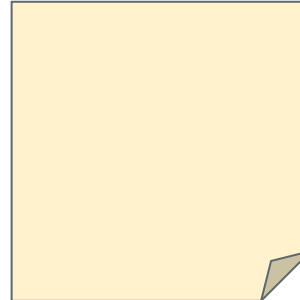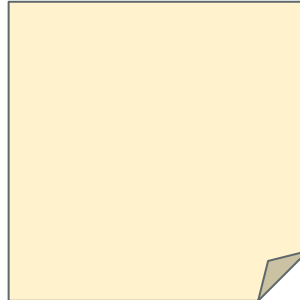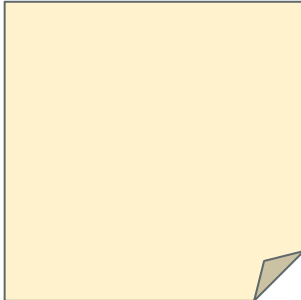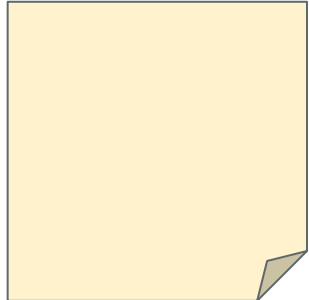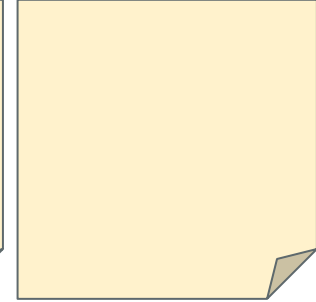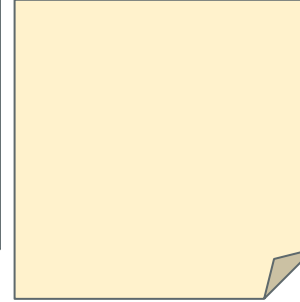
Objective #2
Khilia's group

Objective #2 (Khilia)

Expand and protect green infrastructure (trees, plants, soil)

Discussion questions:

- Can we live with this (consensus)? What do we like? What's missing?

- Does the objective address equity, climate action, and climate resilience?

- Is the language accessible? How accessible does it need to be?

Objective #2 (Khilia)

Expand and protect green infrastructure (trees, plants, soil)

Double click to comment or revise!

Can't live with "green infrastructure"--gotta get rid of "infrastructure" here

Green space could work

Or "natural systems"

Needs some work. Should be more directed toward vulnerable communities. Need to use a different term than "green infrastructure"

Instead of GI, could we say "green practices" or just call out trees, plants, etc.?

Do we mean rain gardens here? Vegetated bioswales? Tree wells?

MAINTAIN!!!!

Workforce development opportunity here

Maybe "the living environment" over green infrastructure?

I guess what we're really trying to say is "protect soil, plant plants and trees, and protect those that exist"?

I'd be curious where native plants fit in here, and where invasive plants fit in

Directly address equity - "expand GI into places without trees, green space, etc."

Doesn't address equity… maybe could by saying "expand green space and plants equitably throughout Richmond"

Call out improvements to water quality, carbon sequestration, etc. so that someone can't just put in a turf lawn

Objective #3
Brianne's group

Objective #3 (Brianne)

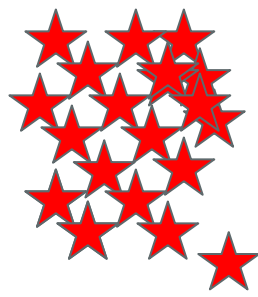## Enhance resilience of water resources

Discussion questions:

- Can we live with this (consensus)? What do we like? What's missing?

- Does the objective address equity, climate action, and climate resilience?

- Is the language accessible? How accessible does it need to be?

Objective #3 (Brianne)

Enhance resilience of water resources

Double click to comment or revise!

Suestion: mention resilience to environmental / natural functions and their extremes? (snow, rain, heat, etc)

-WME

How address equity? explicitly?

Water as a primary objective seems important, and like how this statement is broad/inclusive of lots of issues

Would prefer more specific about enhancing resilience of infrastructure against flooding, especially in neighborhoods with historic flooding issues

I don't think "resources" is the perfect word

Implement RVAH2O proposed actions but with more ground-up approach (RVA Clean Water Plan)

Include an education/advocacy/engagement process in helping folks understand why they should care about water resilience, quality.

Be specific about stormwater, runoff, green infrastructure solutions, issues.

"Enhance resilience of **and equitable access to** water-system resources"

"Preserve and enhance quality and resilience of water resources"

I would say increase capacity of the teams that support clean water work (restoration, cleaning water, water treatment, wastewater treatment, cleaning storm drains, stream "regeneration")

Exit breakout rooms

Reflection & working group collaboration

- Activity reflections?

- Facilitating collaboration across working groups - ideas?
    - Office of Sustainability staff can relay potential topics of interest
    - Meetings are open to all!
        - **Buildings & Energy**: Wed., Feb. 17, 11 - 1
        - **Waste**: Thurs., Feb. 18, 9-11
        - **Transportation**: Thurs., Feb. 18, 1-3

Wrap-up and next steps

- Homework:
    - TODO: Add any additional feedback to the activity slides
    - AFTER TODAY: Email us with additional feedback so we can incorporate it into the next draft

- Next meeting: **Monday, February 22, 2021 - 1 p.m.**

- NOW:
    - Fill out feedback survey
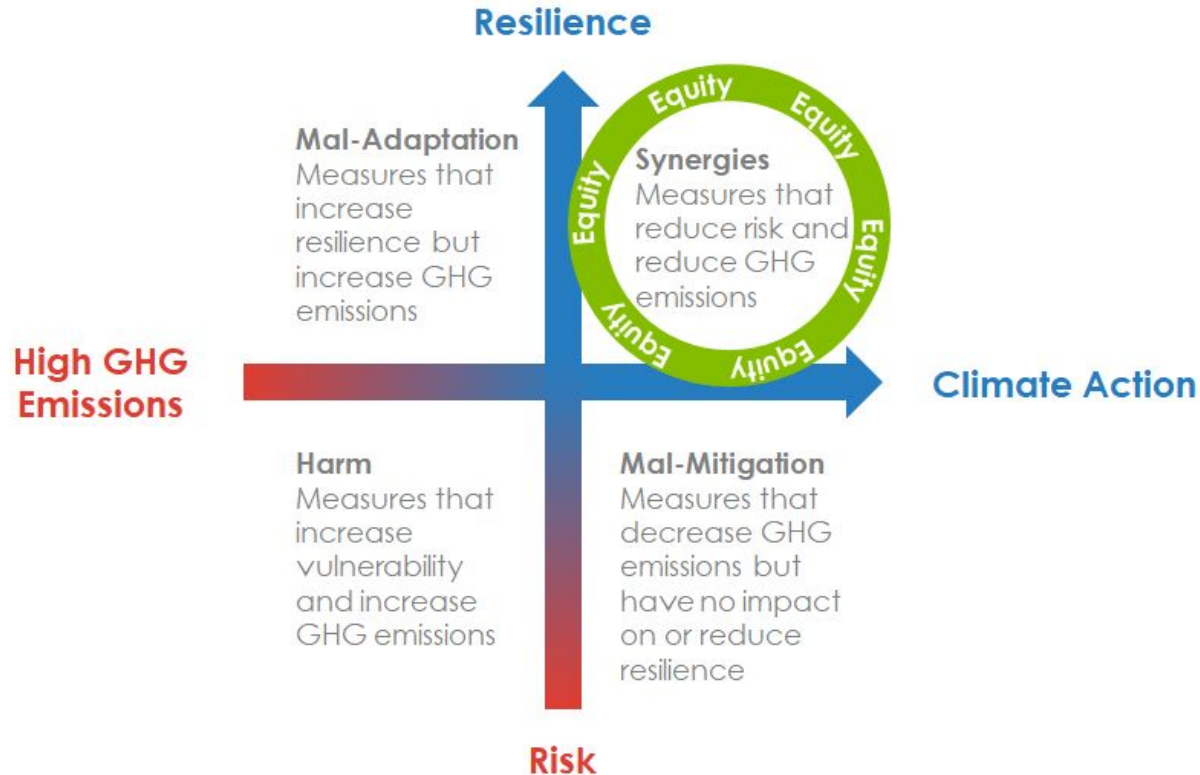   - Share updates, upcoming events, and resources in the chat

EXTRA SLIDES

RVAgreen 2050 Nexus
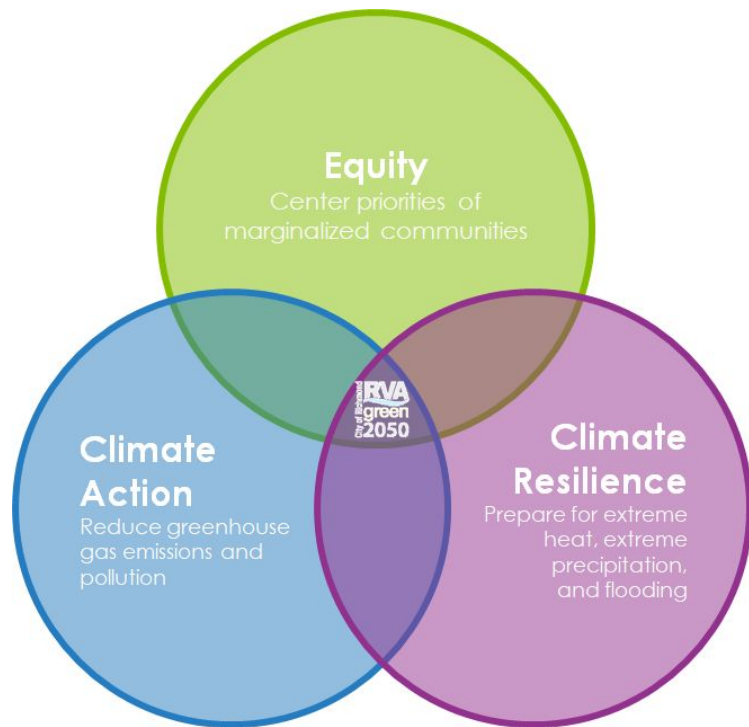
Example

RVAgreen 2050 Nexus

We're not starting from scratch!

2012

RVAgreen Sustainability Plan

2013

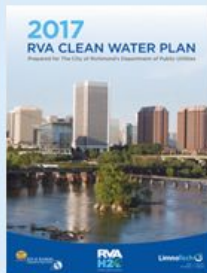Richmond Connects Strategic Multimodal Transportation Plan

Recommends strategies for a multimodal transportation system for the city

2017

RVAH2O Clean Water Plan

Sets goals for reducing pollution and flooding

2017 RVA CLEAN WATER PLAN

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

PARTNERSHIP for HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

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

CO_2 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