**RVAgreen 2050 Community Working Group**
*2/16/2021*

*Drafting Objectives & Strategies*

City of Richmond
RVAgreen 2050

# Equitable climate action for a healthy and resilient Richmond

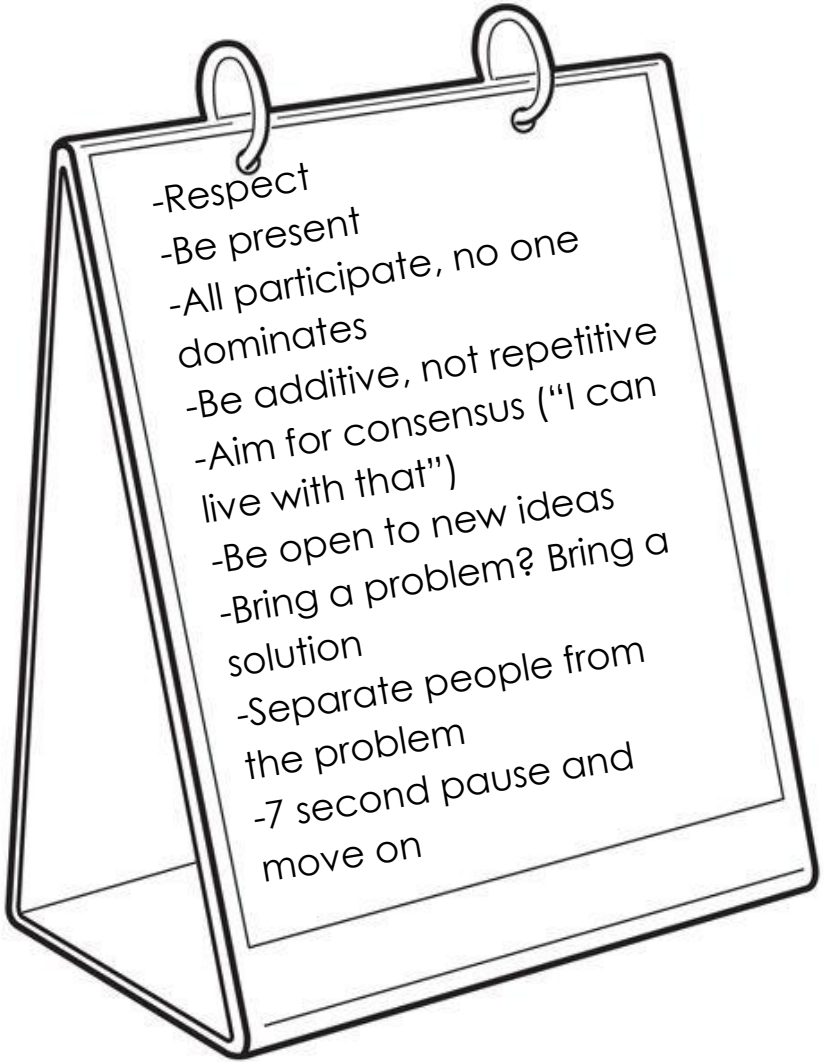
# Agenda

- Settling in and ground rules
- RVAgreen 2050 structure and inputs
- **Discussion:** Pathways to climate action and resilience goals
- **Discussion:** Objectives & Strategies
- 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 pathways and objectives
- Prepare to start talking about strategies!

# Ground Rules / Group Expectations



# 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

# 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

Goals

Vision

Community Priorities

Pathways

Objectives

Strategies

Implementation Plans

# Where we are today…

| | |
|---|---|
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# 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 | Fostering sustainable methods of waste reduction - wasting less, reusing more |
| Environment | Invest in resilient, healthy, and equitably distributed natural resources throughout the community to support biodiversity and human well-being |
| Community | Create an equitable and resilient Richmond while ensuring focus and honoring community priorities |

# Draft Pathway - *Community*

**Create an equitable and resilient Richmond while ~~ensuring focus and~~ honoring and ensuring focus on community priorities**

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? |
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# Draft Objectives - *Inputs*

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

| | |
|---|---|
| **Equity** | • Climate Equity Index<br>• Training and capacity building<br>• Community priorities<br>• Equity Screening Tool |
| **Climate Action** | • Greenhouse gas inventories<br>• Richmond 300 actions<br>• Best practices and examples<br>• Greenlink GHG emissions modeling |
| **Climate Resilience** | • Climate change impacts data<br>• Richmond 300 actions<br>• Best practices and examples<br>• Climate Vulnerability & Risk Assessment |

Goals

Vision

Community Priorities

Pathways

Objectives

Strategies

Implementation Plans

# Creating Draft Objectives

## Richmond 300 Goals & Objectives

- **Complete Neighborhoods**: small area plans, job access, connectivity
  **Jobs and Businesses**: equitable economic development, job access, small businesses
- **Housing**: affordable housing, homelessness, mixed income communities
- **Clean Air and Water**: energy-retrofits,, green stormwater infrastructure
- **Resilient and Healthy Communities**: land banks, green spaces, trees, food access,
- **Historic Preservation**: coordinate with affordable housing and economic development
- **Urban Design:** public art
- **Planning and Engagement**: civic associations, planning education,
- **Vision Zero**: sidewalls, cycling-pedestrian-transit infrastructure, GRTC,

## Plans from other cities

- Energy efficiency and partnerships
- Resilience and racial equity tools
- Equitable development
- Communication barriers
- Health equity
- Economic mobility
- Green jobs

## RVAgreen 2050 Elements

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

# Draft Objectives

1. Support a culture of climate action and resilience through equitable communication strategies and engagement
2. Ensure that those who are most affected by local climate impacts are centered in processes for developing, implementing, and evaluating solutions

# Activity

- Divide into 4 breakout rooms
- Facilitators will guide discussion on one of the other Working Groups' draft objectives
- Take 10 minutes to:
  - Provide feedback on each of the draft objectives
    - Is the objective statement overarching yet explanatory enough?
    - How could it be said better?

# Go into breakout rooms!

# Buildings & Energy

Accelerate the equitable transition to healthy, resilient, climate neutral buildings and energy sources

# Objectives

1. **Achieve climate neutrality and increase resilience in government buildings, infrastructure, operations, and energy supply.**
2. **Maximize energy performance and resilience in all existing buildings.**
3. **Ensure all residents have equitable access to affordable and resilient clean energy.**
4. **Achieve climate-neutrality and maximize resilience in all new buildings.**

Discussion questions:

- Does the objective address equity?
- Is the language accessible? How accessible does it need to be?

# Environment

Invest in resilient and healthy natural resources equitably distributed throughout the community to support balanced biodiversity and human well-being

# Objectives

1. **Ensure all residents have equitable connections to healthy natural resources, spaces, and species.**
2. **Reduce risks and impacts to the community and natural environment from heat and drought.**
3. **Reduce risks and impacts to the community and natural environment from extreme precipitation and flooding.**

Discussion questions:

- Does the objective address equity?
- Is the language accessible? How accessible does it need to be?

# Transportation & Mobility

Accelerate the transition for all to clean and equitable mobility systems

# Objectives

1. **Achieve climate neutrality in municipal fleet operations and increase resilience and stewardship of transportation infrastructure.**
2. **Create vibrant neighborhoods where all residents can easily ride transit, walk, or bike to meet daily needs.**
3. **Transition the community rapidly and equitably to clean-fuel vehicles and transit.**

Discussion questions:

- Does the objective address equity?
- Is the language accessible? How accessible does it need to be?

# Waste Reduction & Recovery

Fostering sustainable methods of waste reduction - wasting less, reusing more

# Objectives

1. **Model zero waste through municipal operations.** **(simplify this language [ex: 'lead by example'] / how can we use this to educate about landfills?)**
2. **Reduce commercial waste.** **(define with examples that might allow others to relate to their own lives)**
3. **Reduce residential waste.**
4. **Reduce industrial waste.** **(define with examples that might allow others to relate to their own lives)**

Discussion questions:

- Does the objective address equity?
- Is the language accessible? How accessible does it need to be?

# Exit breakout rooms

# Reflection & working group collaboration

- Activity reflections?
- **Survey for Working Group selection**
- 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
    - **Environment**: Mon., Feb. 22, 1-3

# 5-minute break

# Objectives vs. Strategies

1. **Support a culture of climate action and resilience through equitable communication strategies and engagement**

   *Example strategy: By 2025, develop equity scorecard to evaluate public-private development projects, including items such as ensuring residents within a community are first hired/considered for development projects.*

2. **Ensure that those who are most affected by local climate impacts are centered in processes for developing, implementing and evaluating solution**

   *Example strategy: By 2025, create a webpage that outlines all projects in planning, implementation, and evaluation phases for public consumption.*

# Activity

- Divide into 2 breakout rooms
- Facilitators will switch between rooms to guide discussion on one of the draft objectives
  - Engagement & Communication
  - Government Accountability
- Take 10 minutes to:
  - Provide feedback on draft objectives
    - Is the objective statement overarching yet explanatory enough?
    - What is missing?
    - How could it be said better?
- Take 10 minutes to:
  - Create strategy buckets
  - Draft strategies

# Go into breakout rooms!

# Engagement & Communication

# Engagement & Communication Objective

**Support a culture of climate action and resilience through equitable communication strategies and engagement**

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?

# Engagement & Communication Objective

**Support a culture of climate action and resilience through equitable communication strategies and engagement**

- Double-click in a post-it to comment on the proposed objective
- Drag a star to comments you agree with
- Use the slide notes to provide additional feedback and start brainstorming strategies (as time allows)

Double click to comment or revise!

Must be mobile-optimized

Use school communication & student projects to reach parents/families

Must be available in Spanish

Add “community” to engagement

How will people know that there’s a website? (Other forms of communication?)

Define all terms (equity, resilience, etc) up front and use consistently throughout the plan

Must include communication modalities for those not on-line or easily on-line

It seems like the gov’t accountability objective could offer some guidance to this objective

# Strategies

# Engagement & Communication

## Support a culture of climate action and resilience through equitable communication strategies and engagement

Buckets/topics for strategies:

- Spanish
- Virtual engagement (including website and social media)
- Physical engagement (door hangers, mailers, and event tabling)
- Funding/strategy for continued engagement (ie pay a community liaison to periodically work with communities to educate, assess barriers to implementing other strategies in the plan, etc)
- In person engagement
- City-wide ways to participate in climate action and resilience by partnering with relevant non-profits/community organizations
- Integration and participation among city departments/organizations (ex. schools)
- Updates on work done within the city.

# Objective: Support a culture of climate action and resilience through equitable communication strategies and engagement

## Strategy bucket: Languages

***Strategy rules:***
- MUST reduce GHGs and/or increase resilience
- MUST be equitable (we'll discuss in more detail next time)

**If it doesn't follow the rules, don't write it down!**

- Double-click in a post-it to add a draft strategy
- Drag a star to strategies you like
- Use the slide notes to provide additional feedback

Add your ideas for strategies!

Hire bilingual staff

Paid liaisons in Spanish-speaking neighborhoods

Language and Cultural competent

# Objective: Support a culture of climate action and resilience through equitable communication strategies and engagement

## Strategy bucket: Virtual engagement

***Strategy rules:***
- MUST reduce GHGs and/or increase resilience
- MUST be equitable (we'll discuss in more detail next time)

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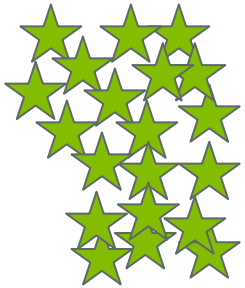

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Add your ideas for strategies! | Continue to be active on social media platforms; use analytics and explore ways to boost followers | Try to use TV stations whenever possible to capture elder residents that probably don't have internet but own a tv and landline. | Create guest speaking opportunities or maybe even a standing segment on WRIR for education and engagement | Be mobile-optimized for people with no computer at home | |
| Virtual meetings and recorded for people to review when they are available | | | | | |

# Objective: Support a culture of climate action and resilience through equitable communication strategies and engagement

## Strategy bucket: In-person engagement

***Strategy rules:***
- MUST reduce GHGs and/or increase resilience
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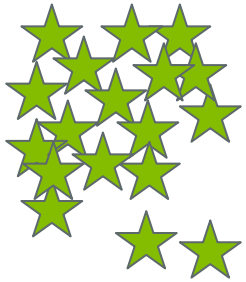

Add your ideas for strategies!

Presentations at schools

Event Tabling and be engaging not just a table with a few flyers

Hosting community meet-ups at community centers and popular shop/business(hiring folks from community to engage with their neighbors)

Volunteer opportunities to add resilience to green spaces, like rain gardens/native species landscaping, etc

# Objective: Support a culture of climate action and resilience through equitable communication strategies and engagement

## Strategy bucket: Funding

***Strategy rules:***
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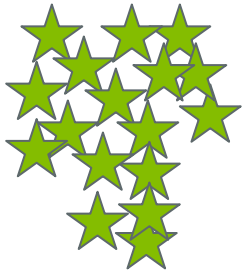

Add your ideas for strategies!

Advocate for additional engagement funding from the city (find a champion on city council)

Research and pursue grant opportunities independently and with partner organizations

Set up partner organizations to receive private funding that will support community members

Leverage Companies offering volunteer hours to employee.

Climate action fund that developers must contribute to, like how the PAC is funded

This seems like it belongs under gov't accountability

If companies allow work-at-home to continue to positively influence GHG emissions, etc, give them tax incentives and/or allow their taxes to go toward funding this

# Objective: Support a culture of climate action and resilience through equitable communication strategies and engagement

## Strategy bucket: Internal engagement

***Strategy rules:***
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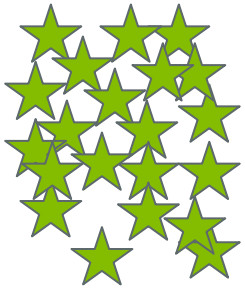

Add your ideas for strategies!

Invite partner agencies to nominate a "sustainability liaison" and work with them to implement worksite-specific strategies (could tie in with employee wellness programming)

<<== tie in to community volunteering / green future seal on HS diploma?

Keep all departments up to date on best climate practices and hold them accountable to meeting these objectives

# Objective: Support a culture of climate action and resilience through equitable communication strategies and engagement

## Strategy bucket: Engagement pathways

***Strategy rules:***
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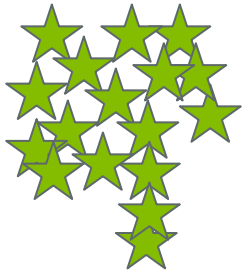

Add your ideas for strategies!

Develop K-12 curriculum to support RVAgreen 2050 objectives

:)

<<== tie in to community volunteering / green future seal on HS diploma?

Opportunities to participate in greening projects

Hosting community meet-ups at community centers and popular shop/business(hiring folks from community to engage with their neighbors)

# Government Accountability

# Government Accountability Objective

**Ensure that those who are most affected by local climate impacts are centered in processes for developing, implementing, and evaluating solutions**

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?

# Government Accountability Objective

**Ensure that those who are most affected by local climate impacts are centered in processes for developing, implementing, and evaluating solutions**

- Double-click in a post-it to comment on the proposed objective
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Add benchmarks/measurable objectives to hold government accountable to (could have public scorecards that assess progress)

Will it be necessary to explain to some communities why they might be deprioritized vis a vis those currently underprivileged?'

The objective does not address how the government will be held accountable. It centers how they will value what neighborhoods/communities have to say which is good but still does not place accountability on gov.

I think using the word "center" is appropriate but perhaps include another word like "involved in" as well? To clarify that community members can and will be actively engaged and not centered passively

A word like "protected" might be helpful too. Climate change is already here and many communities and individuals need immediate protection from its negative health and financial impacts.

Maybe instead of the word 'centered' used 'engaged.'

Perhaps having a if-then scenario i.e. if the gov't does not uphold their end of the bargain then….

Develop infographics that show disparities between parts of RVA narrowing over the next 30 years [the red/blue/green climate equity index maps]

Add deadlines into the strategies..like a process of how things will unfold

Yes to the "deadlines": be clear about the consequences of inaction AND immediate action steps to work to prevent those consequences.

Consider how those most impacted will be empowered/give the tools to implement and evaluate; hold government accountable for providing that technical assistance

^centered is important to use because it goes further than engage

# Strategies

# Government Accountability

## Ensure that those who are most affected by local climate impacts are centered in processes for developing, implementing, and evaluating solutions

Buckets/topics for strategies:

- Develop infographics that show disparities between parts of RVA narrowing over the next 30 years [I'm thinking of the red/blue/green climate equity index maps]. This means budgeting for the data behind the vulnerability indices to be collected on a regular schedule over the next 30 years to be able to share the story of progress and success of the overall RVAgreen 2050 initiative. Determine a reasonable frequency for data collection [ie 5 yrs]
- Add deadlines into the strategies..like a process of how things will unfold
- Perhaps having a if-then scenario i.e. if the gov't does not uphold their end of the bargain then…
- Where does gentrification and urban green belong?
- Govt. providing updates to neighbors. .
- Scorecards, for diversity of engagement and involvement in processes  (work with community members to determine what we are being evaluated on)

**Objective:** Ensure that those who are most affected by local climate impacts are centered in processes for developing, implementing, and evaluating solutions

## Strategy bucket: [text]

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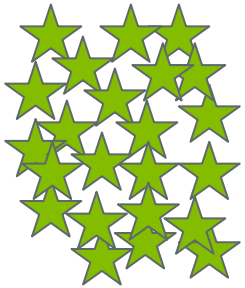

Add your ideas for strategies!

Climate impacts can impact community members' financial stability. What if there was hazard pay, or a pool of funds, for communities that are bearing an inequitable share of climate impacts?

**Objective:** Ensure that those who are most affected by local climate impacts are centered in processes for developing, implementing, and evaluating solutions

## Strategy bucket: [text]

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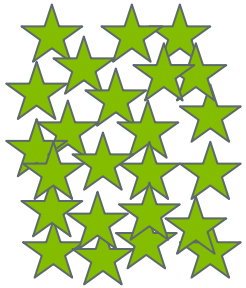


Add your ideas for strategies!

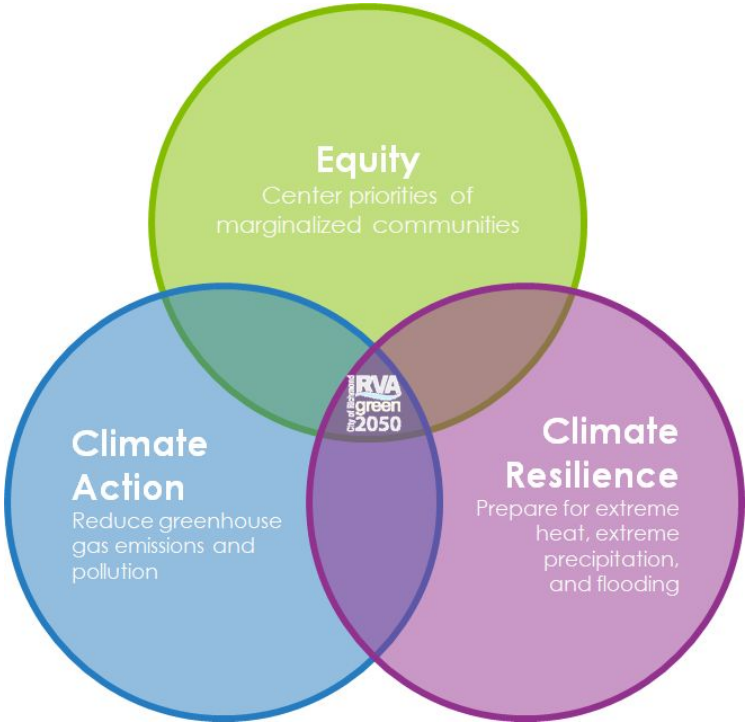
# Exit breakout rooms

# Wrap-up and next steps

- Next steps:
  - TODAY: 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: **Friday, February 26, 2021 - 1 p.m.**
- NOW:
  - Survey for Working Group selection
  - Fill out feedback survey
  - Share updates, upcoming events, and resources in the chat

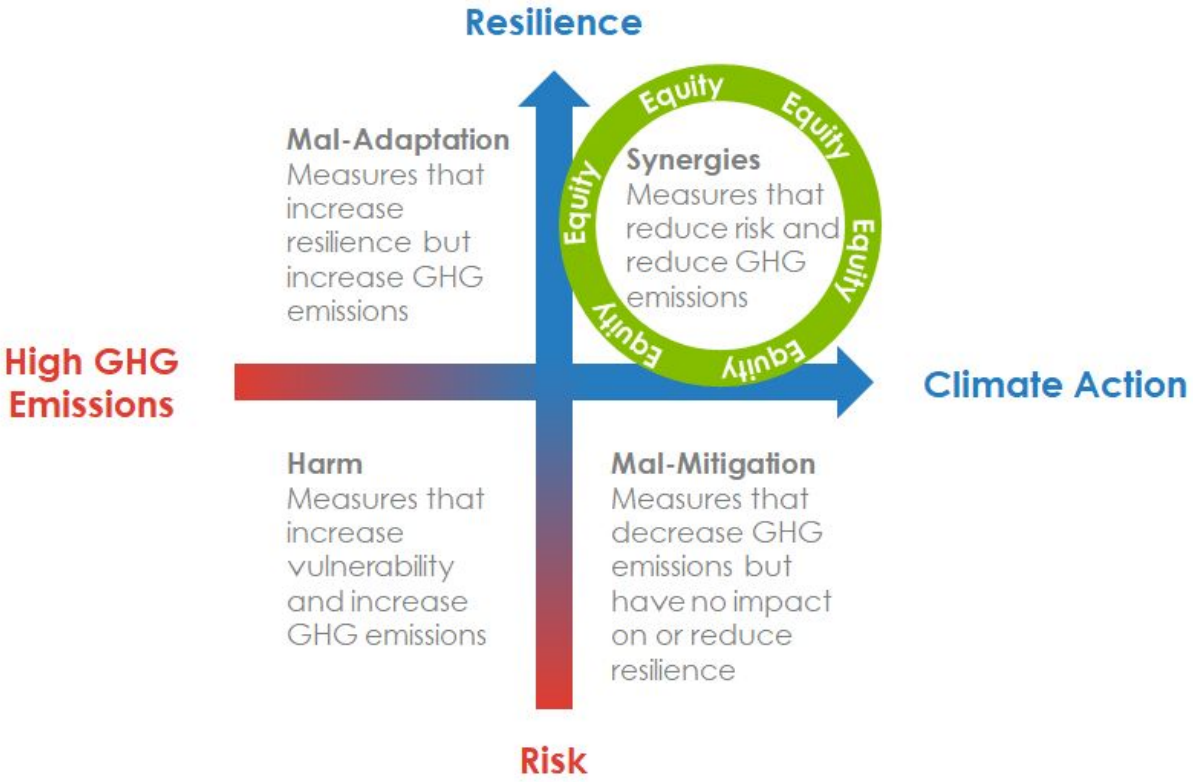
# *EXTRA SLIDES*

# RVAgreen 2050 Nexus




*Example*

# RVAgreen 2050 Nexus



# We're not starting from scratch!

**2012**

RVAgreen Sustainability Plan

**2013**

Richmond Connects Strategic Multimodal Transportation Plan

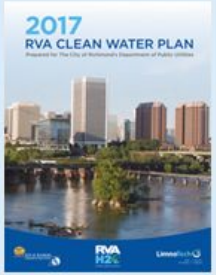
*Recommends strategies for a multimodal transportation system for the city*

RICHMOND CONNECTS

**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*

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***