**RVAgreen 2050 Environment Working Group**
*Monday, July 12th, 2021*

*Equitable Implementation & Accountability Meeting #1*

City of Richmond
RVAgreen 2050

# Equitable climate action for a healthy and resilient Richmond

# Agenda

I. **Intro:** Settling in & ground rules

II. **Review:** Update on how we are using the impact maps

III. **Key concept:** Equitable implementation - what does it entail and what needs to go into an implementation framework?

IV. **Activity:** Defining implementation readiness, partners, next steps, and funding mechanisms
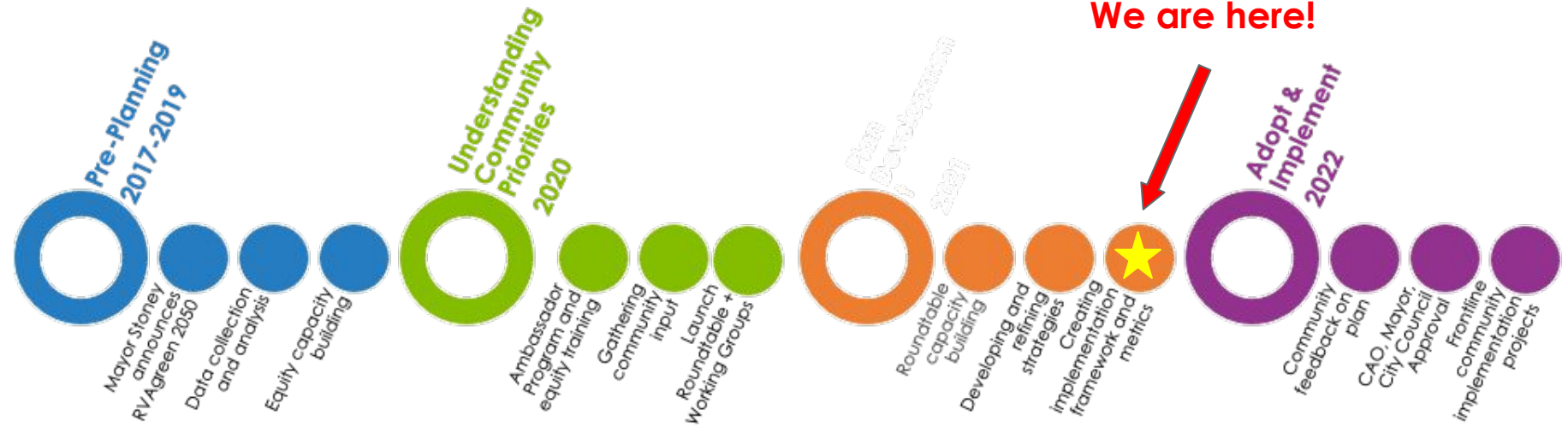
V. **Conclusion:** Wrap-up and next steps

# Today's Objectives

● Begin building out an equitable implementation and accountability framework for each strategy

  ○ *Readiness*

  ○ *Equitable next steps*

  ○ *Implementation partners*

  ○ *Funding and financing*

# 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?**

# Process Overview



Pre-Planning 2017-2019

- Mayor Stoney announces RVAgreen 2050
- Data collection and analysis
- Equity capacity building

Understanding Community Priorities 2020

- Ambassador Program and equity training
- Gathering community input
- Launch Roundtable + Working Groups

Plan Development 2021

- Roundtable capacity building
- Developing and refining strategies
- Creating implementation framework and metrics

**We are here!**

Adopt & Implement 2022

- Community feedback on plan
- CAO, Mayor, City Council Approval
- Frontline community implementation projects

# RVAgreen 2050 DRAFT Structure

| | |
|---|---|
| **Goals** | **What is the purpose of RVAgreen 2050?** |
| **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?** |
| **Prioritized Strategies** | **What are the strategies that will help us achieve our goals and what are the SMARTIE actions that will lead us there?** |
| **Impacts** | **How will our strategies impact the community and lead to a more equitable, resilient, and adaptive Richmond?** |
| **Indicators** | **How will we measure success?** |
| **Implementation** | **How are we going to equitably implement, measure progress, and ensure accountability in this plan?** |

# Strategy Refinement Process Summer 2021

| Impacts | Impact Maps | Implementation and Accountability |
|---|---|---|

Last meeting, we asked:

- What are the potential impacts of our prioritized strategies?

- How can those impacts inform the indicators that we use to measure success?

Outputs & Outcomes

↓

Impacts

**Today and in the next meetings** (**July & August**), we will be thinking about:

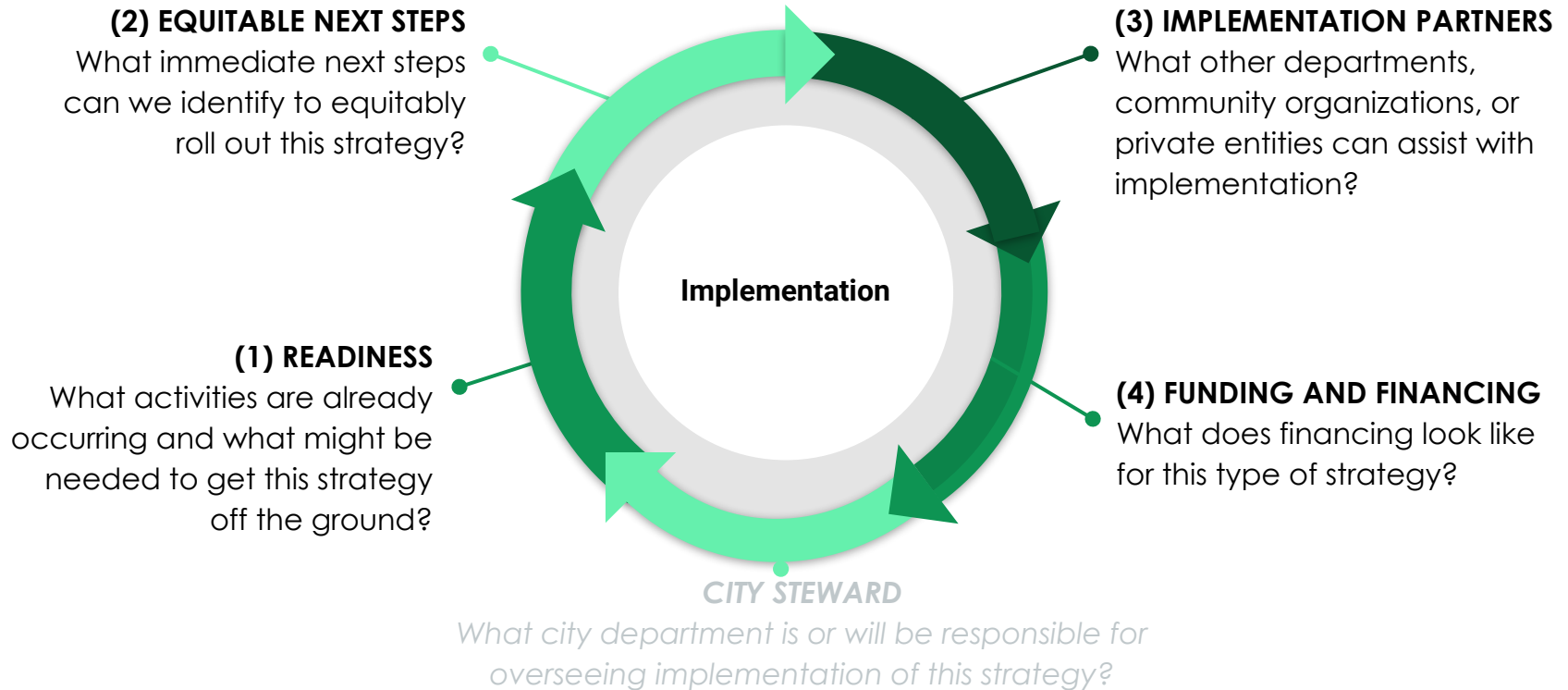- How will we equitably implement the plan?

- How will we ensure accountability and transparency?

*Equitable implementation and accountability framework*

# Equitable Implementation and Accountability Framework

# Equitable Implementation



**(2) EQUITABLE NEXT STEPS**
What immediate next steps can we identify to equitably roll out this strategy?

**(3) IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS**
What other departments, community organizations, or private entities can assist with implementation?

**Implementation**

**(1) READINESS**
What activities are already occurring and what might be needed to get this strategy off the ground?

**(4) FUNDING AND FINANCING**
What does financing look like for this type of strategy?

*CITY STEWARD*
*What city department is or will be responsible for overseeing implementation of this strategy?*

# Implementation - *Strategy Subcomponents*

To ensure that we are developing an *actionable* implementation plan, each strategy is broken down into its component parts.

**We will be developing the implementation framework at the *subcomponent level*.**

*For example....*

Strategy

**Public-Private Green Space Management:** Create a comprehensive green space management program.

Subcomponents

1. Create public-private partnerships to help the city create, maintain, and manage high-quality parks, green infrastructure, and public open space.

2. Create a privately-owned public space program.

3. Conduct an impact assessment of climate change with regard to the presence of invasive species and create a plan for control and minimization.

4. Validate and implement recommendations from the Mayor's Green Team.

5. Create a citywide definition of quality green space that provides guidance on these and other strategies.

# Implementation - *Readiness*

**Readiness describes the status of each strategy subcomponent.**

*Key Question(s):*
- What is the most appropriate readiness category for this subcomponent?

- If not, what is missing?

**Ongoing/Already Underway:** Implementation for this strategy has started.

**Ready to Go:** This strategy is ready to be implemented.

**Aligned for Implementation:** This strategy aligns with and will be implemented through another city plan.

**Requires City Action:** Policy changes at the city level are needed for this strategy to move forward (i.e. law must be passed or policy changed).

**Requires State Action:** Policy changes at the state level are needed for this strategy to move forward (i.e. law must be passed or policy changed).

# Implementation - *Equitable Next Steps*

**Defining equitable next steps will help determine how and where a strategy is implemented.**

*Key Question(s):*
- What are 1-3 key next steps we can take to equitably implement this strategy?

- What are the major equity gaps/disparities that this strategy could address?

- How can we equitably prioritize the roll out of this strategy?

# Implementation - *Implementation Partners*

**Implementation partners are others that can assist with successfully implementing a strategy.**

*Key Question(s):*
- Who needs to be involved in the implementation of this strategy in order for it to be successful?

- *Who could benefit from the success of this action?*

- What frontline or historically underrepresented community members or organizations should we include?

# Funding and Financing Mechanisms & Pathway Maps

# Funding & Financing Pathways Maps

**What are they?**
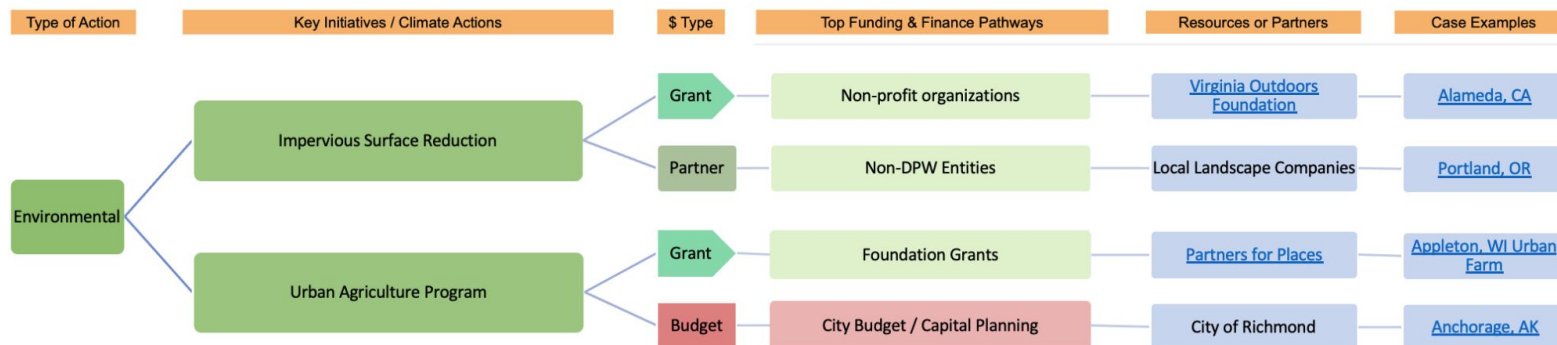
- *Visual communication tool showing the different funding and financing pathways available for Climate Action Plan strategies*

**Why are they useful?**

- Foster collaboration with other internal and external partners

- Provide an easy-to-understand visual that can help secure political support and funding for implementation

Richmond, VA – Example Funding & Financing Map - Environment

# Implementation - *Financing and Funding Mechanisms*

**Funding and financing mechanisms are ways to pay for strategy implementation.**

*Key Question(s):*
- Will this strategy be supported by municipal budgeting? If so, how?

- What grants, partnerships, or other funding sources are you aware of?

- Are there any existing local programs that could be aligned with or expanded?

- What are some successful similar funding examples?

| $ Type | Definition |
|---|---|
| Grants | Repayment-free capital from federal, state or private funding sources |
| Partnerships | Resources and capital from non-governmental and corporate actors, spreading risk across multiple entities |
| Loans | Upfront capital whose principal and interest must be repaid |
| Bonds | Dependable, predictable financing for large infrastructure projects |
| Budget | Money from a city's general fund |
| Taxes/ Fees | New sources of revenue |
| Special | Other special financing arrangements, such as lease-purchasing agreements, on-bill financing, and community shared equity |

# Activity

# Activity

**Begin to develop and define the key implementation components for our strategies.**

Breakout room discussion - 40 minutes per strategy (we will complete the remaining strategies next meeting) - construct the roadmap to implementation for each strategy's subcomponents

1. What activities are **already occurring** and what is the subcomponent's general readiness for implementation?

2. What are 1-3 key next steps, taking equity into consideration, for **getting this strategy off the ground**?

3. Who can assist with implementing this subcomponent and helping to **carry out the next steps**?

4. What does **financing** (specific sources of funds or general funding strategies) look like for this type of strategy?

# Activity - *Readiness*

| Subcomponents | Notes/Comments | Readiness (Status) What is the most appropriate readiness category for this subcomponent? | | | | | Relevant Legislation |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | Notes, comments, and feedback from previous meetings and feedback periods for consideration: | Ongoing | Ready to Go | Aligned | City Action | State Action | Relevant legislation that may be helpful to consider: |
| v. Create a citywide definition of quality green space that provides guidance on these and other strategies, which includes information on the types of spaces that provide co-benefits for extreme heat and flooding resilience. | Definition of quality green space developed via community partnership; creates a foundation for other EJ work, contributes to legislation & other initiatives (Source: impact mapping) | | X | | | | *HB 520 - Directs the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to convene a stakeholder advisory group for the purpose of studying the planting or preservation of trees as an urban land cover type and as a stormwater best management practice*<br><br>*HB 2042 - Gives a locality the ability to sometimes exceed general requirements in its tree replacement and conservation ordinances* |

# Activity - *Equitable Next Steps*

| Subcomponents | Equitable Next Steps | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Use the equity screening tool to help think through the equity gaps: | | |
| | What are **1-3 key next steps** we can take to equitably implement this strategy? | What are the major **equity gaps**/disparities that this strategy could address? | How can we **equitably prioritize** the roll out of this strategy? |
| | | | |
| v. Create a citywide definition of quality green space that provides guidance on these and other strategies, which includes information on the types of spaces that provide co-benefits for extreme heat and flooding resilience. | 1. Determine if there is a definition of quality green space in the VA state code | | share definition using diverse media/languages |
| | 2. Research & publish co-benefits | | |
| | 3. Achieve community buy-in | education / language; provides an objective list or understanding of what should be in different spaces (standardized) | |

# Activity - *Implementation Partners Funding & Financing Mechanisms*

| Subcomponents | Implementation Partners | | | | Funding and Financing Mechanisms | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | (1) Who **needs** to be involved in the implementation of this strategy for it to be successful? (2) Who could benefit from the success of this action? (3) What historically underrepresented community members or organizations should we include? | | | | Is it **capital-intensive (CI) or programmatic (P)?** (e.g. employees, outreach, education, incentives & policy initiatives) | What does creative & strategic financing for this subcomponent look like? | | | |
| | City Departments? | Community Organizations? | Private Sector? | Equity Partners? | | **Municipal budgeting?** If so, how? | What **grants, partnerships, or other funding sources** are you aware of? | Are there any **existing local programs** that could be aligned with or expanded? | What are some successful **similar funding examples**? |
| v. Create a citywide definition of quality green space that provides guidance on these and other strategies, which includes information on the types of spaces that provide co-benefits for extreme heat and flooding resilience. | -Office of Public Information & Engagement -PDR -DPU -P&R | -Richmond City Health District -James River Assoc -Capital Trees - Richmond Public Schools -Science Museum of VA | N/A | -VA Community Voice -Groundwork RVA -Southside ReLeaf | P | ID staff time and resources | N/A | N/A | N/A |

# Activity Groups

| Dawn | Khilia |
|---|---|
| **1.1 Public-Private Green Space Management:** Create a comprehensive green space management program. | **1.2 Parks Master Plan:** Develop, fund, and implement a Parks Master Plan. |
| **1.3 Urban and Community Agriculture:** Develop, fund, and implement an Urban & Community Agriculture program. | **2.2 Urban Forest and Green Space Planning:** Use urban forest and green space planning to increase resilience to extreme heat, drought, and flooding. |
| Sign-Up<br>• Rob (have to leave at 2, hope to come back)<br>• Monica<br>• Jenn<br>• Todd | Sign-Up<br>• Janine<br>• Shelly BP<br>• Bryce<br>• Christina Bonini<br>• Peter Braun |

*Go into breakout rooms!*

*Exit breakout rooms!*

# Wrap-up and next steps

- **Next meeting:** Monday, August 2nd @1pm, "RVAgreen2050 Implementation and Accountability, Part II"

- *New meeting: Monday, August 23rd @1pm, "RVAgreen2050 Implementation and Accountability, Part III" (invitation to come)*


- **NOW:**

  - General reflections?

  - Fill out feedback survey

  - Share updates, upcoming events, and resources in the chat

# THANK YOU!