

RVAgreen 2050 Buildings & Energy Working Group

Wednesday, July 14th, 2021

*Equitable Implementation & Accountability
Meeting #1*



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

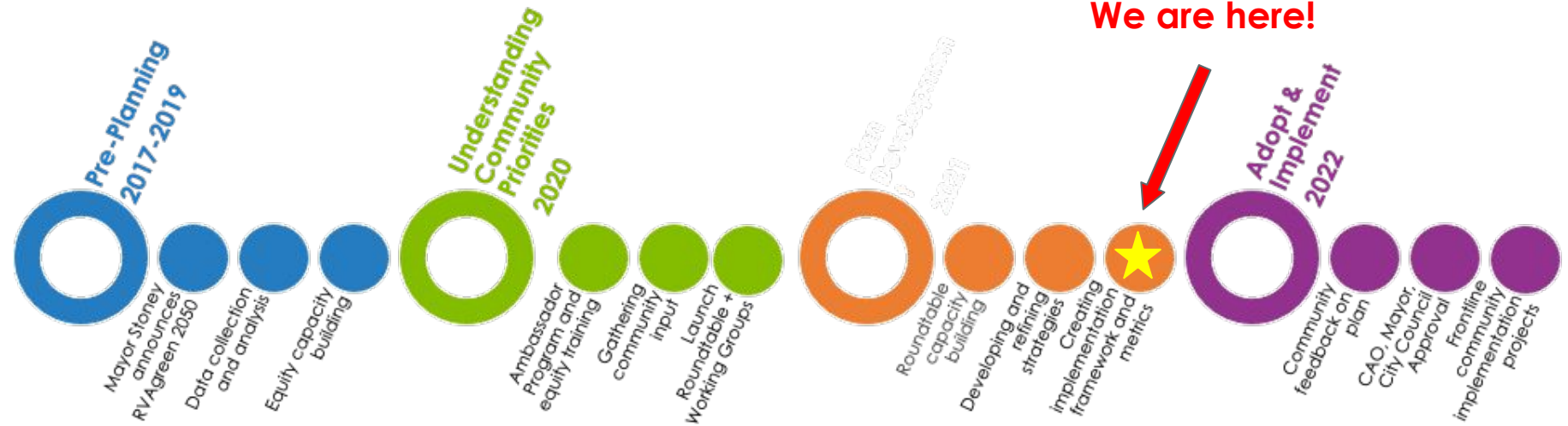
Today's Objectives

- 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



Process Overview



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:

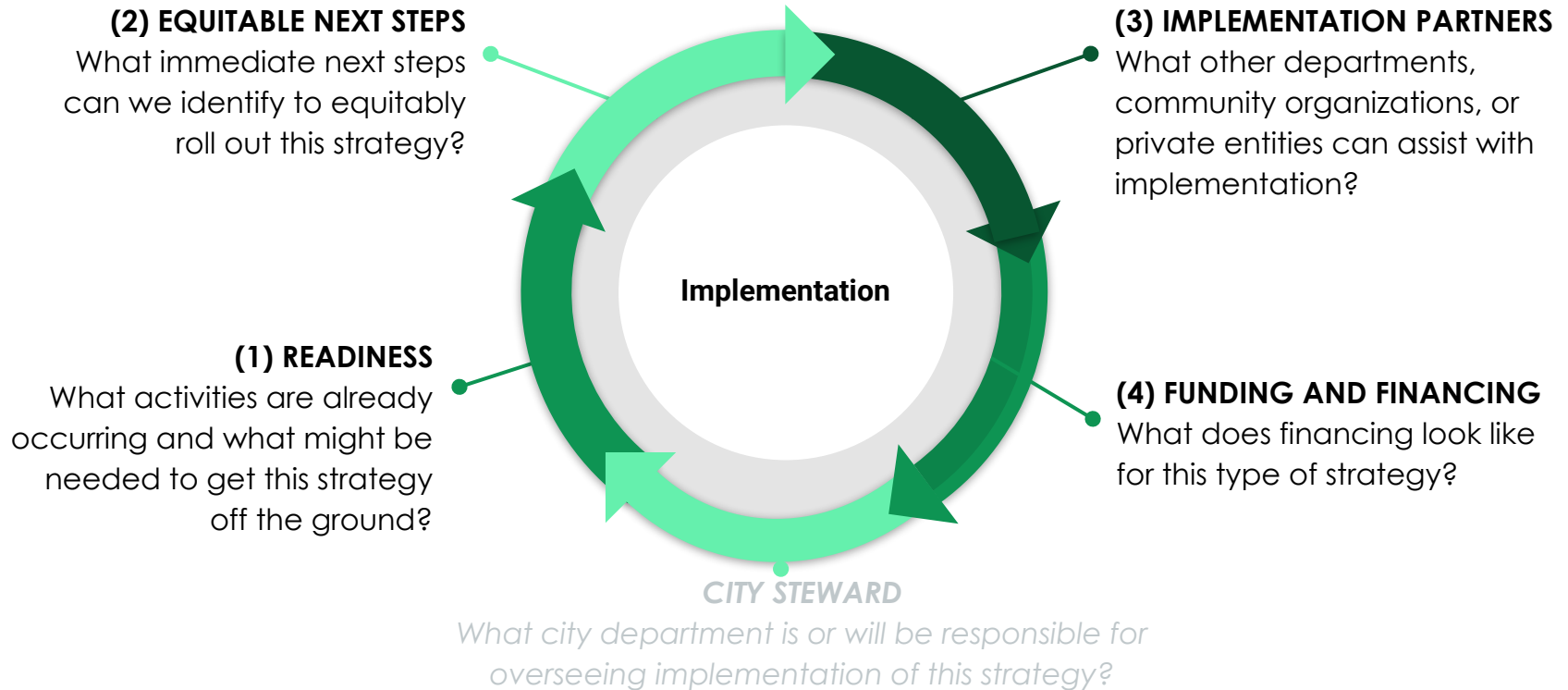
- How will we equitably implement the plan?
- How will we ensure accountability and transparency?

Equitable implementation and accountability framework

Equitable Implementation and Accountability Framework



Equitable Implementation



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

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY BURDEN: Implement measures to reduce the energy burden of Richmond's most vulnerable communities and improve residential resilience to climate change.

Subcomponents

1. Facilitate energy efficiency upgrades through community-based programs, advocacy, partnerships, and low/no-cost financial options.
2. Establish partnerships to provide equitable thermal comfort through immediate cooling relief in the way of equipment, tree canopy, and utility bill assistance to low-income residents and/or residents of formerly redlined neighborhoods and heat islands.
3. Educate all residents about the benefits of electrification by sharing targeted case studies in the areas of highest utility burden.

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?

City of Richmond
RVAgreen
2050

Equity Screening Tool

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.

The tool is organized by the 7 community priorities gathered during the summer 2020 listening process

Community Priority

Priority Considerations	Suggested Data & Metrics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use these questions to evaluate how a proposed action addresses equity	<p>Consider these data and metrics to help answer the questions and/or assess a proposed action</p>
Additional Considerations	

*see glossary for additional information about this term

An asterisk (*) indicates that a concept or term is listed in the glossary at the end of the tool

Racial Equity & Environmental Justice

Priority Considerations	Suggested Data & Metrics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does this generate burdens*, either directly or indirectly, to historically disenfranchised communities*?• Does this acknowledge, respect, protect, and honor the culture, assets, and traditions of historically disenfranchised communities?• What communities would benefit* most from the proposed action?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What data tell you the answer to the question?• Data disaggregated by race and ethnicity• Demographic information for those engaged in the process• Ongoing costs and to whom
Additional Considerations	

Additional Considerations

- Does this prioritize areas vulnerable to the impacts of climate change*?
- What process was used to understand how the impacted communities feel about the proposed action?
- Can the benefits be targeted in progressive/creative/proactive ways to reduce historical or current disparities?

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

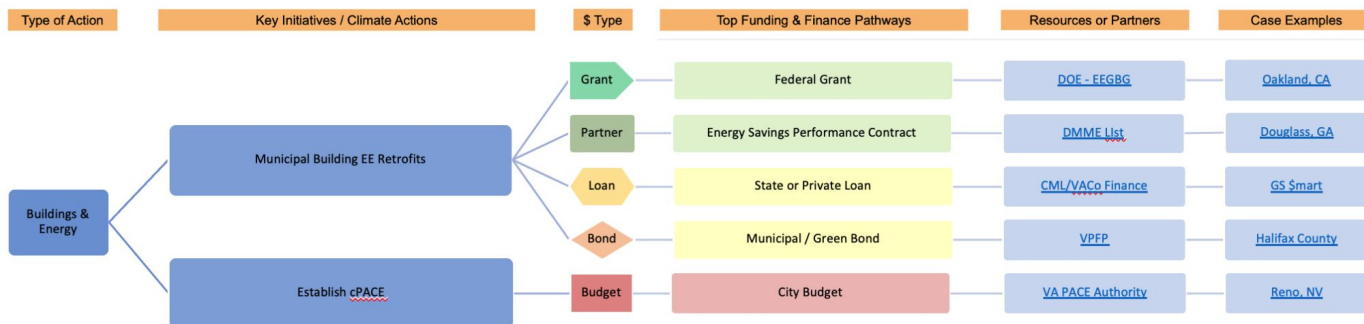
What are they?

- 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 – Buildings & Energy



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

Let's walk through an example together:

Objective 1: Achieve climate neutrality and increase resilience in government buildings, infrastructure, and operations.								
Subcomponents	Notes/Comments	Readiness (Status)					Relevant Legislation	
	Notes, comments, and feedback from previous meetings and feedback periods for consideration:	What is the most appropriate readiness category for this subcomponent?					Equitable Next Steps	
		Ongoing	Ready to Go	Aligned	City Action	State Action	Use the equity screening tool to help think through the equity gaps:	
							Relevant legislation that may be helpful to consider:	
							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?
1. Convert all city-owned streetlights to LED lighting, minimize operation during daylight hours, and identify opportunities for solar panels in the lighting infrastructure. Prioritize improvements in historically disenfranchised neighborhoods.	Integrate 'dark sky' criteria through recommendations from the Dark Skies Association (e.g., integrate hooded fixtures to direct light downwards and use motion-activated dimming to reduce light pollution) (Source: Konveio)							

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?

Activity Groups

Dawn	Wendy/David
Objective 1: Achieve climate neutrality and increase resilience in government buildings, infrastructure, and operations.	Objective 2: Maximize energy efficiency, performance, and resilience in all existing buildings.
<p>Sign-Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• J Endicott• Robert Stone• Jeff Crawford• Adam Hohl	<p>Sign-Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Andrew Grigsby• Damian Pitt

*Go into breakout
rooms!*

Exit breakout rooms!

Wrap-up and next steps

- **Next meeting:** Wednesday, August 4th @11am, “RVAgreen2050 Implementation and Accountability, Part II”
- **New meeting:** Wednesday, August 25th @11am, “RVAgreen2050 Implementation and Accountability, Part III” *(invitation to come)*
- **NOW:**
 - General reflections?
 - Fill out feedback survey and keep an eye out for RVAgreener survey
 - Share updates, upcoming events, and resources in the chat

THANK YOU!