

RVAgreen 2050 Roundtable Meeting

05.18.2021

Agenda

- Debrief Engagement
- Review Community Input
- VCU Equity Assessment

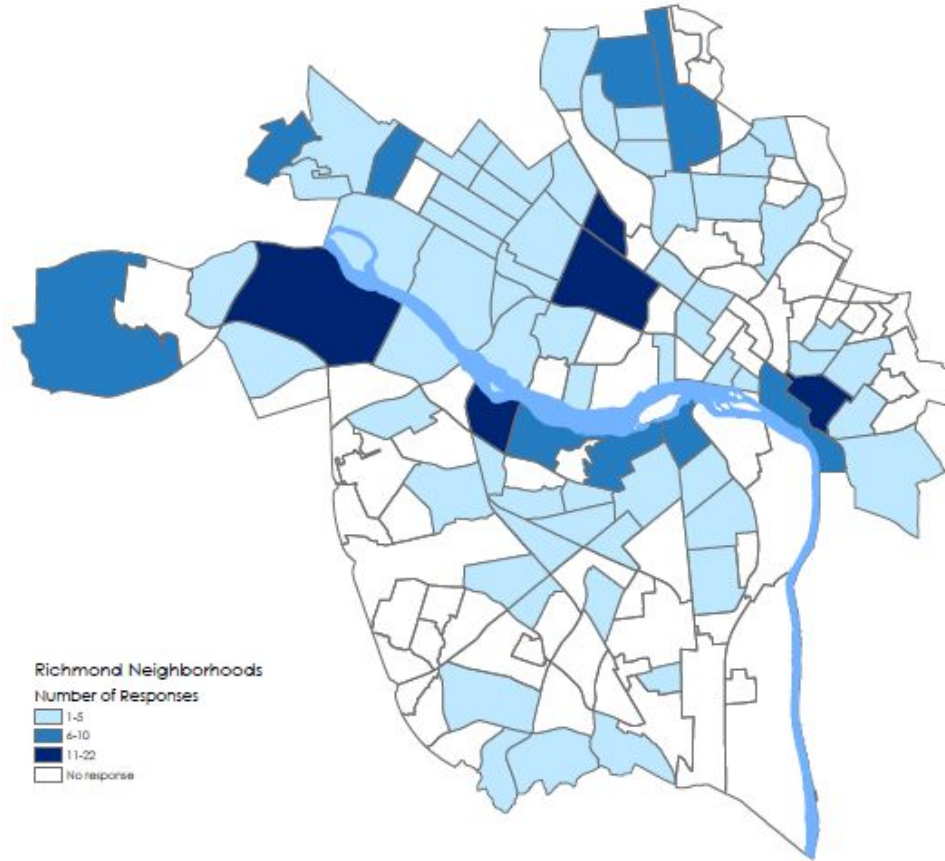
April Engagement Debrief

Engagement Experience

- What worked?
- What didn't work?
- Which method worked better (in-person vs. virtual)?
- Which gave you the most amount of responses?
- How well received was the structure of the survey (open-answer vs. multiple choice)?
- What did you learn that we can apply to the fall engagement?

Engagement Demographics - INCOMPLETE

Survey Response by Neighborhood



City Council District

Prefer not to answer

6.8%

Other

3.8%

9th District

3.8%

8th District

2.8%

7th District

9.3%

6th District

8.1%

5th District

11.7%

1st District

11.7%

2nd District

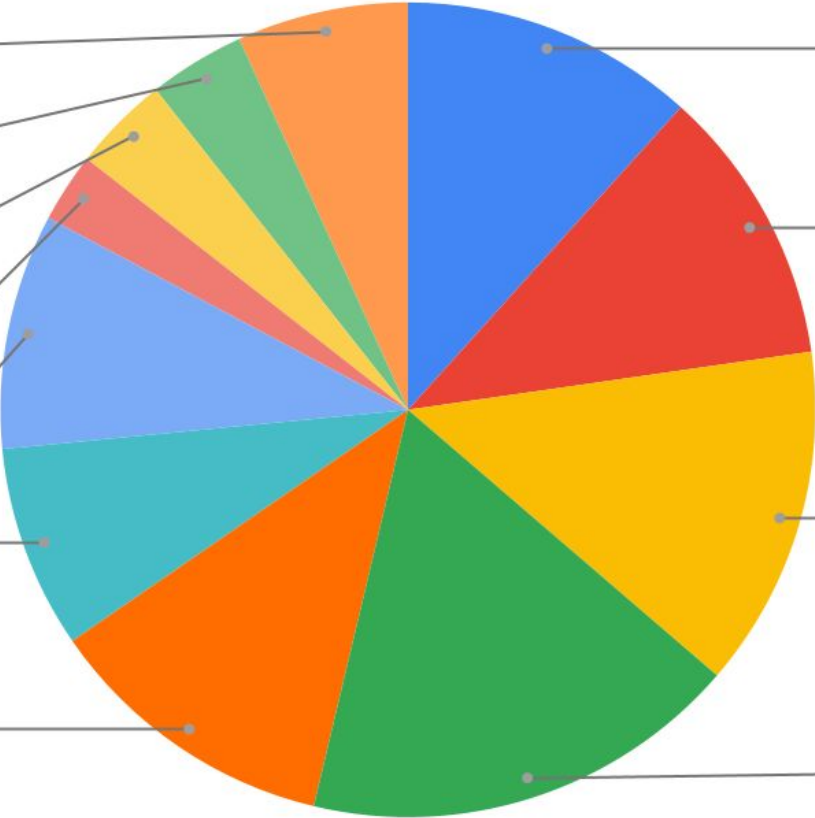
11.0%

3rd District

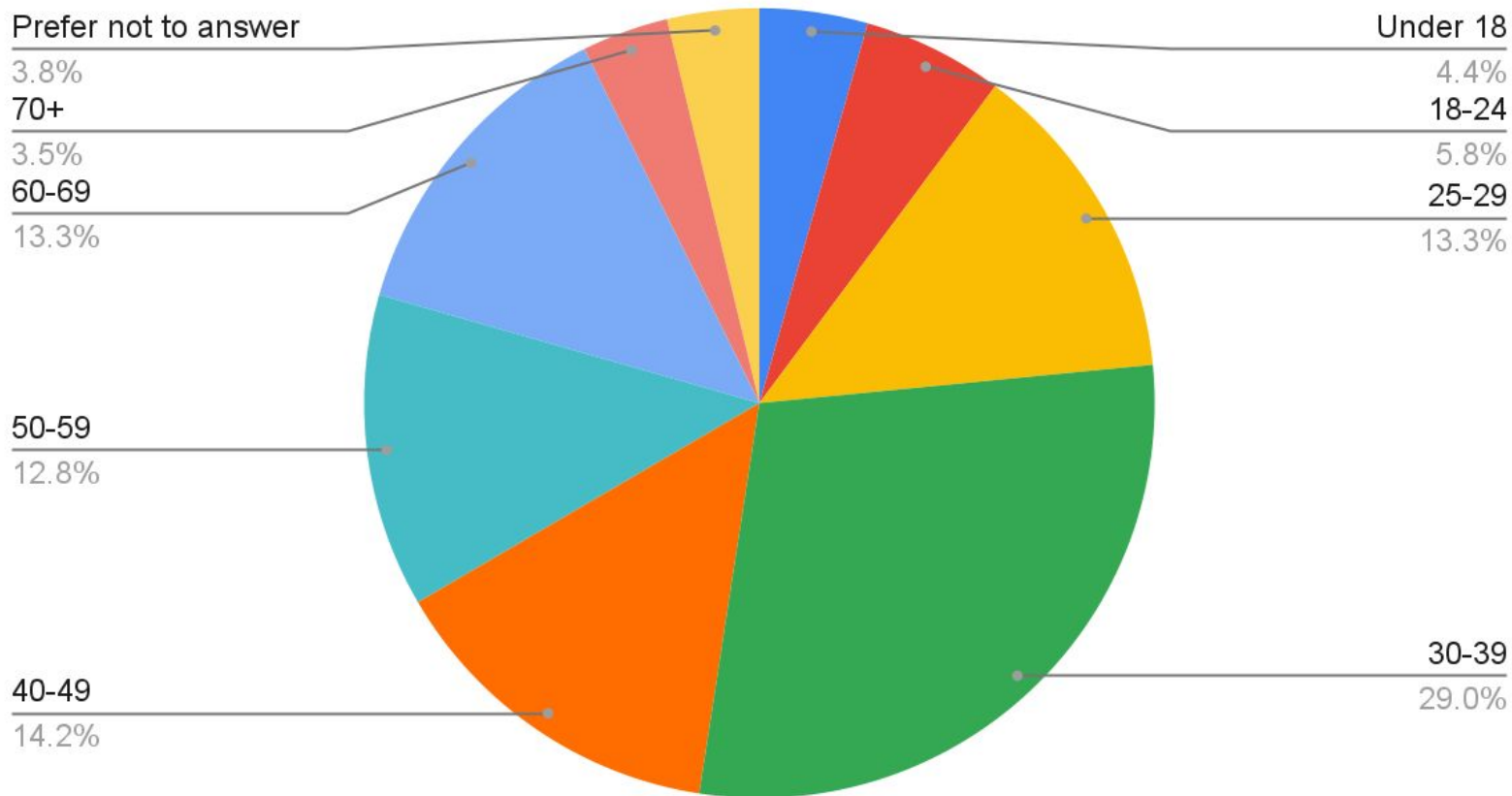
13.6%

4th District

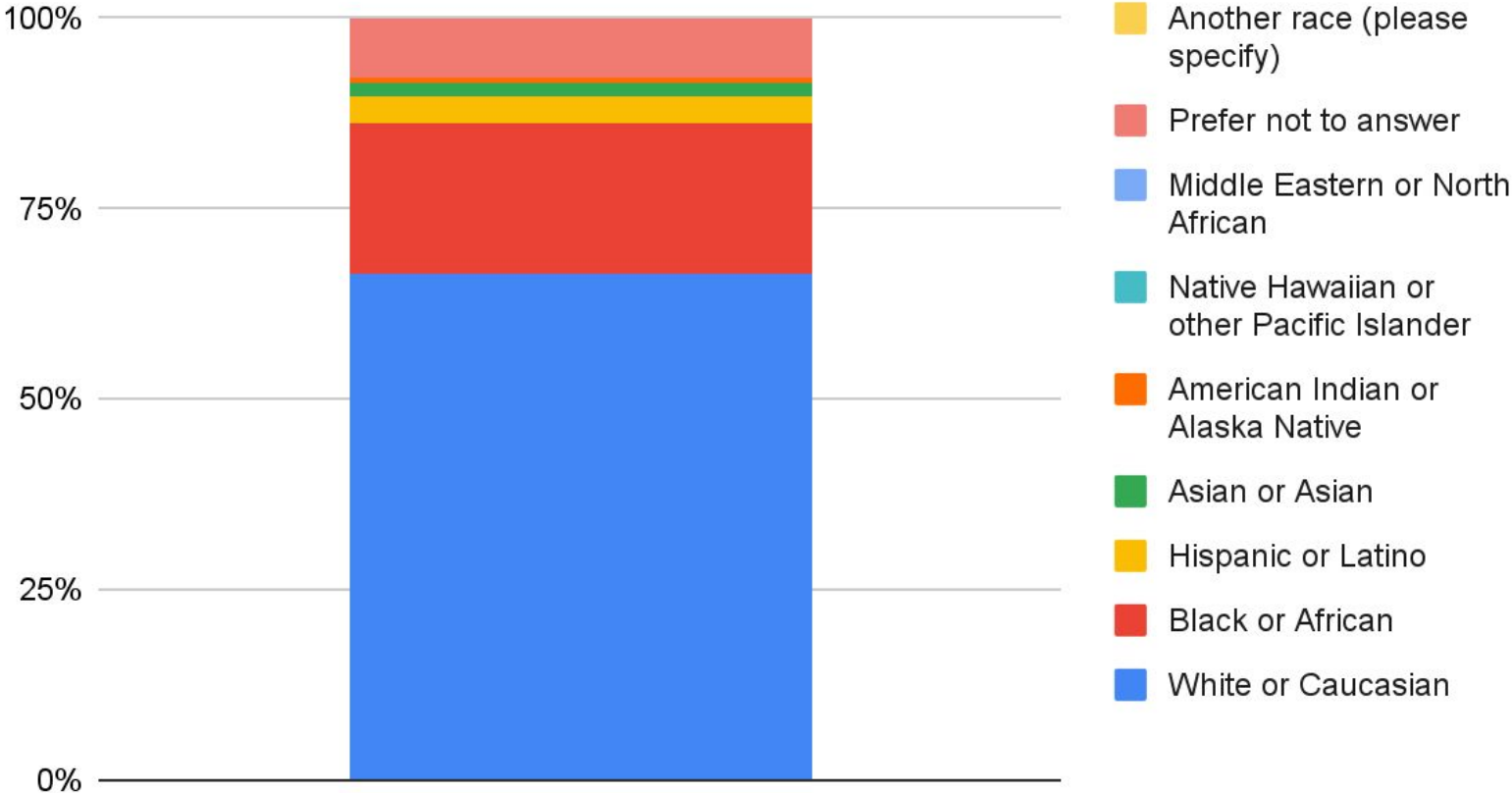
17.4%



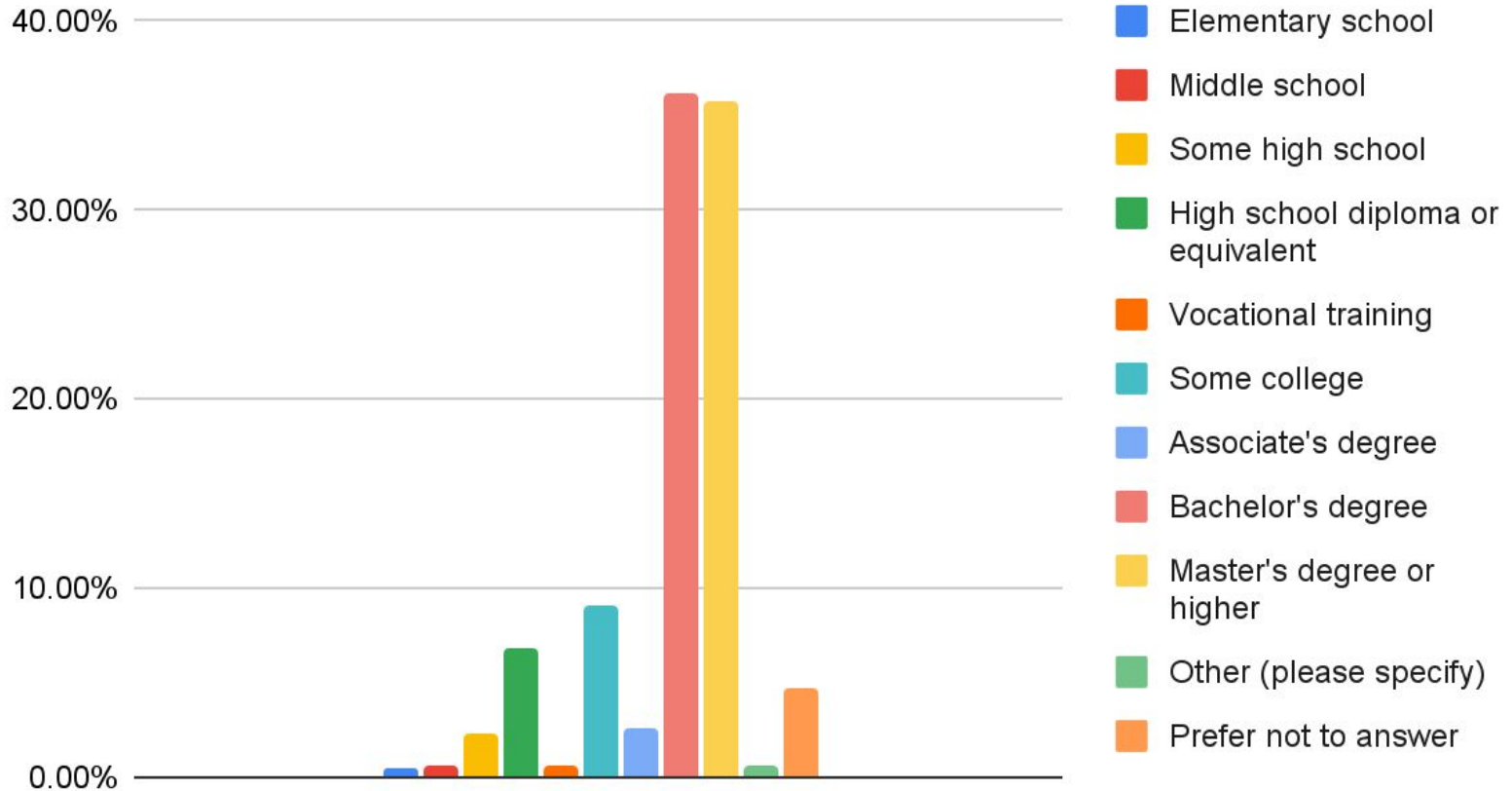
Age



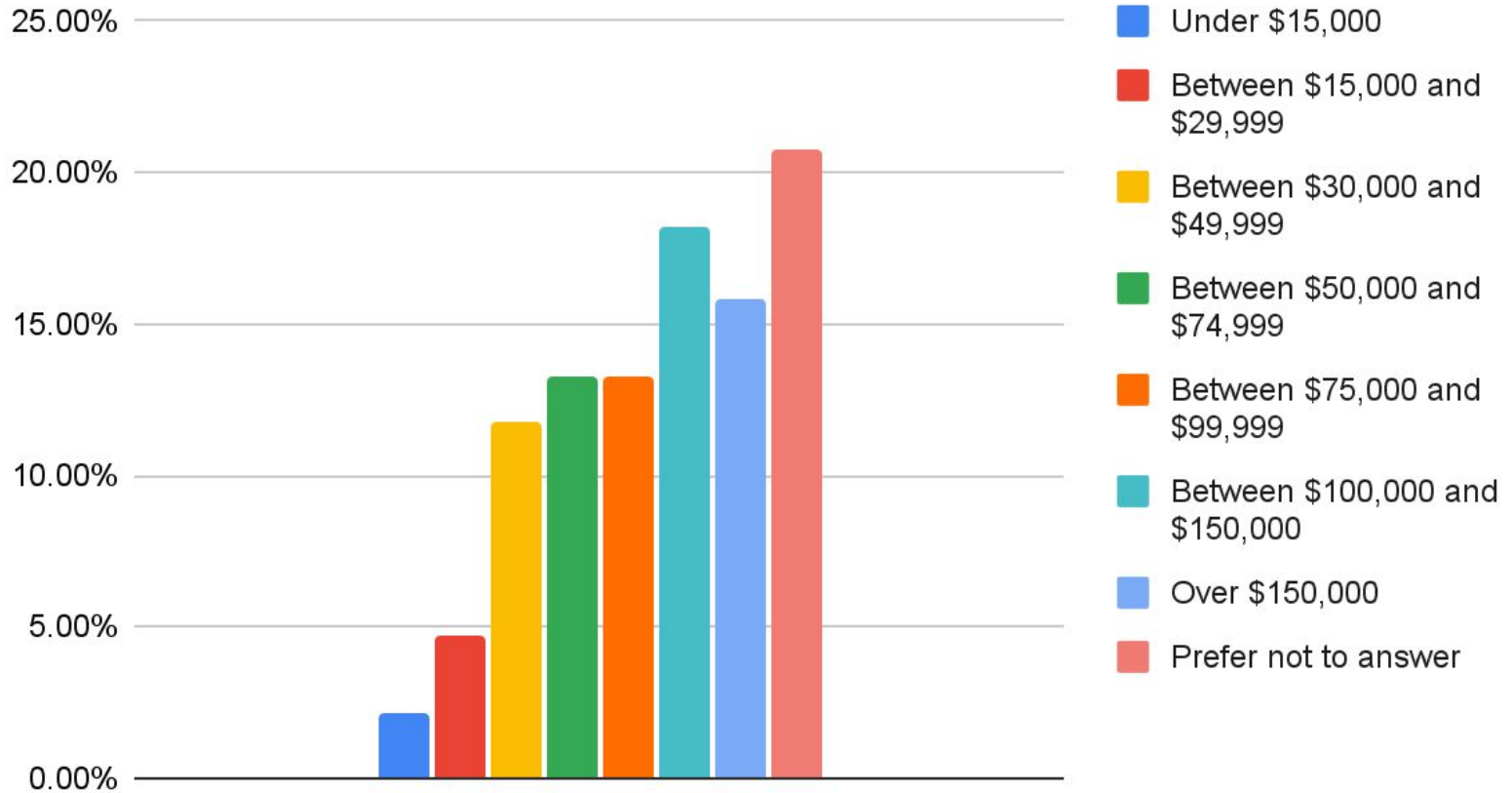
Race / Ethnicity



Education



Income



Engagement Feedback

Survey Feedback - High Level

- **Green Spaces & Trees**
- **Planning & Operations (Parks)**
- **Urban Agriculture (Community Gardens)**
- **Complete Streets**
- **Composting**
- **Air Quality**
- **Environmental Justice**
- **Connectivity**
- **Resilience Planning**
- **Engagement**
- **Public Transit**
- **Community Solar**
- **Government Relations**



Strategy Bucket	Ranking
Community Solar	82
Government Relations	82
Residential Energy Efficiency	80
Residential Solar	79
Green Building	78
Building Codes	77
Resilient Infrastructure	76
Commercial Energy Efficiency	75
Municipal Clean Energy	74
Municipal Energy Efficiency	74
Carbon Capture	73
Education & Awareness	73
Electrification for Clean Energy	71



Strategy Bucket	Ranking
Resilience Planning	83
Funding	81
Accountability	73
Communications	78
Planning & Partnerships	78
Education & Awareness	77
Resilience Infrastructure	74



Strategy Bucket	Ranking
Green Spaces & Trees	88
Planning & Operations	86
Urban Agriculture	86
Air Quality	85
Engagement	83
Land & Development	78
Carbon Sequestration	77
Stormwater Management	76
Water	70
Partnerships	68



Strategy Bucket	Ranking
Complete Streets	85
Connectivity	84
Public Transit	83
Transportation Efficiency	76
Resilient Infrastructure	75
Education & Awareness	72
Electric Vehicle Transition	71



Strategy Bucket	Ranking
Composting	85
Environmental Justice	85
Circular Economy	81
Recycling	81
Waste Water	81
Zero Waste	81
Building Codes	79
Consumption	79
Waste Audits	79
Carbon Capture	78
Municipal Operations	78
Resilient Infrastructure	78
Education & Awareness	74
Pay-As-You-Throw	69

Q10 This vision statement is looking towards 2050 - we know that is a long time from now!
Briefly describe your vision for a climate-neutral and climate-resilient Richmond by 2030.

better add sustainable homes infrastructure reduce live new Every affordable
energy sources easier provided taking solar individual increased residents work
better public transportation focused climate neutral etc Also 2030 see improved
plans Richmond business bike lanes transit clean food make help bike
goal use projects transportation electric vehicles will climate change
green climate resilient neighborhoods tax
community power city support people
affordable housing green space renewable energy access
bus trees climate public transportation 2050 resources
ways energy options needs much alternative Expanded buildings
composting public large gardening City Richmond recycling public transit
walking especially system hope cars areas free actions school safe create invested
development parks Richmonders pedestrian housing natural include statement Lots
opportunities

Q9 Richmond is getting hotter (increased temperatures and heatwaves) and wetter (extreme rain, storms, and flooding) because of climate change. What projects would you like to see in your community to help you be better prepared for these events?

runoff urban heat island lot areas bus stops buildings less asphalt spaces extreme heat
Increased infrastructure roads Better drainage improve sewer street trees updated
Improved bikes parking lots education people shelters infrastructure needs
heat Encourage clean drainage maintenance tree cover community
public transportation streets storm drain neighborhoods wells
areas Richmond parks canopy green spaces events
flooding see trees etc better rain water walking
Tree planting issues city climate change help bike lanes
roads hot tree canopy urban Planting trees housing shade
permeable storm replacing public mitigation sidewalks repair green trash care
rain gardens storm water stormwater management especially public areas cooling
permeable surfaces alleys Buried power lines development green space less improvements

Q10 Climate change is being caused by human activities such as heating and cooling buildings, driving cars, and waste generation. What projects would you like to see in your community to help reduce pollution?

green spaces public transportation options electric cars bus stops electric vehicles
transit options alternative bus service less bike share increase Currently trash spaces
program etc energy well access promotion safe places expand see
public transportation free community way green Planting trees
sidewalks solar energy use along trees create people
worked better neighborhoods bike street city lots
recycling many car investment building pedestrian
walking community composting bike lanes tax incentives
stations composting home bus plastic options stop
Better public transportation pollution reduce clean solar service
public transit businesses encourage electric bus solar panels trees planted making
incentives drive parks pedestrian lanes infrastructure recycling program mass transit
public transit options grocery stores bike paths

Your Feedback - High Level

- What resonated with your engagement / what surprised you?
- How does this summary line up with what you heard from your engagement?

VCU Equity Assessment

Recommendations: Centering Equity

1. Provide continued and up-to-date equity and climate action planning (CAP) training and education to ensure diverse and inclusive planning processes.
2. Diversify working groups, incorporate youth engagement, and attend existing community meetings to retain newly established frontline community partnerships.
3. Create a checklist for equity self-evaluation to focus on realistic, actionable goals and promote open avenues of communication.
4. Introduce and build capacity for participatory budgeting, as well as supplement budget with grants and philanthropic partnerships.

Recommendations: Capacity Building & Resourcing

1. Through the utilization of outside funding sources, increase community outreach and the process of finding and building community resources - while maintaining existing processes with the Roundtable Members.
2. Maintain existing facilitator and trainers beyond existing contract and enhance the Working Groups with their own dedicated facilitators and trainers to expand capacity building beyond the Roundtable members.
3. Expand upon the equity and sustainability training program founded for the Roundtable community as part of the community outreach mentioned above to spread awareness in disadvantaged communities.
4. Compensation of the facilitators, Roundtable Members, and planned for the Ambassador programs should be expanded to further community outreach trainers and resource finders.

Recommendations: Frame Mission

1. As part of outreach efforts, the OOS may want to consider re-engaging with community-based organizations to ensure sufficient engagement with frontline communities.
2. The OOS may want to consider highlighting to the public the broader equity focus throughout the government and consider creating a cross-departmental group to keep equity efforts going after this planning process.
3. The OOS may want to consider surveying RVAgreen 2050 participants, especially city staff, in order to determine the equity knowledge that was gained from the process.
4. The OOS may want to consider creating a charter that outlines the Roundtable's roles/responsibilities with respect to the remaining phases of the process.
5. The OOS may want to consider quantifying co-benefits in order to focus on the strategies that will have the greatest impact.

Recommendations: Equitable Decision Making

1. Continue to share decision-making power with stakeholders throughout the plan adoption and implementation phase in 2022 and seek ways to **engage new citizen-participants in this process** that represent new demographics, geographies, and social networks (e.g., beyond existing relationships)
2. Collaboratively develop and publish strategies to address how the Office plans to continue to train and support Roundtable members during the engagement phase and how they will **catalog and communicate** this community feedback
3. Define and publish a series of **equity-related indicators** to center the plan's implementation around continued equity, particularly given that no such set of evaluation criteria exist for the planning process

Recommendations: Build Support

1. As RVAgreen 2050 starts to reach out to community members to build support throughout the community, consider alternative ways of reaching community members where they are and building relationships with well established community leaders.
2. While equity was understood to be a priority by the Office of Sustainability, Facilitators, and Roundtable members, that was not always the case with working group members. Greater equity training for working group members would prevent ideas incongruent with the concept of centering equity in the plan from slowing down the process while also promoting higher quality ideas.
3. The RVAgreen 2050 team should develop an additional Climate Equity Implementation guide that provides a framework for evaluating the actions in relation to the objectives that were developed.

RVAgreen 2050 Strategy Prioritization

Factor	Weight
Potential GHG emission reductions	8
Resilience to climate change	4
Barriers & Financial/Political Capital	4
Cost v. Return	4
# of Jobs Created & Retained	4
Survey Results	2

Factor	Weight
Racial Equity & Environmental Justice	6
Government Accountability	3
Community Wealth	3
Housing & Buildings	3
Neighborhoods	3
Health & Well-Being	3
Engagement & Communications	3

Closing

Paper Surveys Due: May 19th

Next meeting: July 20th

Stipend Invoices Due: June 1st

Articles

- [New study highlights how air pollution disproportionately affects people of color](#)
- [We Can't Address Our Housing Crisis without Addressing Our Climate Crisis](#)
- [Can We Get to Net Zero With a 'Circular' Economic Strategy? Join the Conversation.](#)