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
• Use these questions to evaluate how a proposed action addresses equity	Consider these data and metrics to help answer the questions and/or assess a proposed action
Additional Considerations	
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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
• 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?	• **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	
• 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?	

🙌 Engagement & Communication

Priority Considerations	Suggested Data & Metrics
• Does this engage and empower historically disenfranchised communities in a meaningful, authentic, and culturally appropriate manner? • How have communities (including historically disenfranchised) been engaged? • Does this help foster effective long-term relationships and trust between diverse communities and local government?	• **What data tell you the answer to the question?** • Demographic information for those engaged in the process • Frequency of and number of outlets for engagement • Number of partner organizations involved
Additional Considerations	
• Does this promote ongoing activities to update and involve the community? • Are there opportunities to expand engagement? • Does this align with and support historically disenfranchised communities' priorities, creating an opportunity to leverage resources and build collaborative partnerships?	

🏛 Government Accountability

Priority Considerations	Suggested Data & Metrics
• Has the community asked for this? Is there a mechanism in place to change the action as needed based on indicators and community feedback? • Is it clear who is accountable to whom and for what? • What is the current data related to the proposed action, where does it come from, and what does this data tell us?	• **What data tell you the answer to the question?** • Data disaggregated by race and ethnicity • *Evaluate the data source's potential bias*
Additional Considerations	
• Is the data disaggregated to show any potential disparity by demographics? • Is the action's metric or indicator meaningful to the community? • What accountability mechanism will ensure that historically disenfranchised communities will equitably benefit?	

📈 Community Wealth

Priority Considerations	Suggested Data & Metrics
• Does this support historically disenfranchised communities through workforce development, contracting opportunities, or increased diversity of employees and staff across sectors? • Are the benefits accessible to households and businesses throughout the community - particularly communities of color, low-income populations, and minority, women, and emerging small businesses? • Will this create workforce training opportunities that offer living wages and support a product or service wanted and needed in the community?	• **What data tell you the answer to the question?** • Employer involvement • Workforce data disaggregated by race and ethnicity • Program participation • Geographic location of programs
Additional Considerations	
• Are workforce opportunities free of exclusionary restrictions? (e.g., criminal history, education, credit, etc.) • Could this increase opportunities for living wage jobs near where people live? • Does this distribute resources across the city?	

🏢 Housing & Buildings

Priority Considerations	Suggested Data & Metrics
• Will this reduce the number of families that are cost-burdened by housing and transportation? • Does this reduce inequities in housing/building quality related to health and safety, such as issues related to lead, mold, air quality, etc.? • Could this increase access to housing in general, and to homeownership?	• **What data tell you the answer to the question?** • Housing and transportation cost burden disaggregated by geography, race, and ethnicity • Housing cost indicators (such as utilities)
Additional Considerations	
• What is the action's impact related to displacement of residents and small businesses? • Could this increase quality affordable housing stock across the city? • Does this promote access to resources in historically disenfranchised communities, such as quality schools and grocery stores?	

🏠 Neighborhoods

Priority Considerations	Suggested Data & Metrics
• Could this expand access to healthy, clean, and accessible transportation? • Could this increase access to quality green space in historically disenfranchised communities? • Could this increase and ensure long-term access to amenities* in historically disenfranchised communities?	• **What data tell you the answer to the question?** • Neighborhood-level engagement • Geographic distribution of resources • Non-vehicle transportation access
Additional Considerations	
• How does this address basic infrastructure needs that have not been met in the past? • How does this address historical and existing harm and inequity at the neighborhood level related to environmental hazards, racist policies, health hazards, and other issues? • Could this increase neighborhood-level initiatives such as markets, gardens, education, etc.?	

❤️ Health & Well-Being

Priority Considerations	Suggested Data & Metrics
• Does this address the health impacts of climate change*? • Could this reduce food insecurity? • Could this reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, and increase happiness?	• **What data tell you the answer to the question?** • Urban heat island • Health indicators (physical and mental)
Additional Considerations	
• Could this increase access to and quality of health services? • Does this address historic and existing health hazards? • Could this increase safety and security* in the community? (Does this address the external factors influencing crime such as trauma, poverty, housing, education, and physical and mental health?)	