

Imagine 2050 Draft Definitions for Equity and Environmental Justice

Committee of the Whole



October 2023, Maia Guerrero-Combs, Senior Planner and Sarah Gong, Researcher

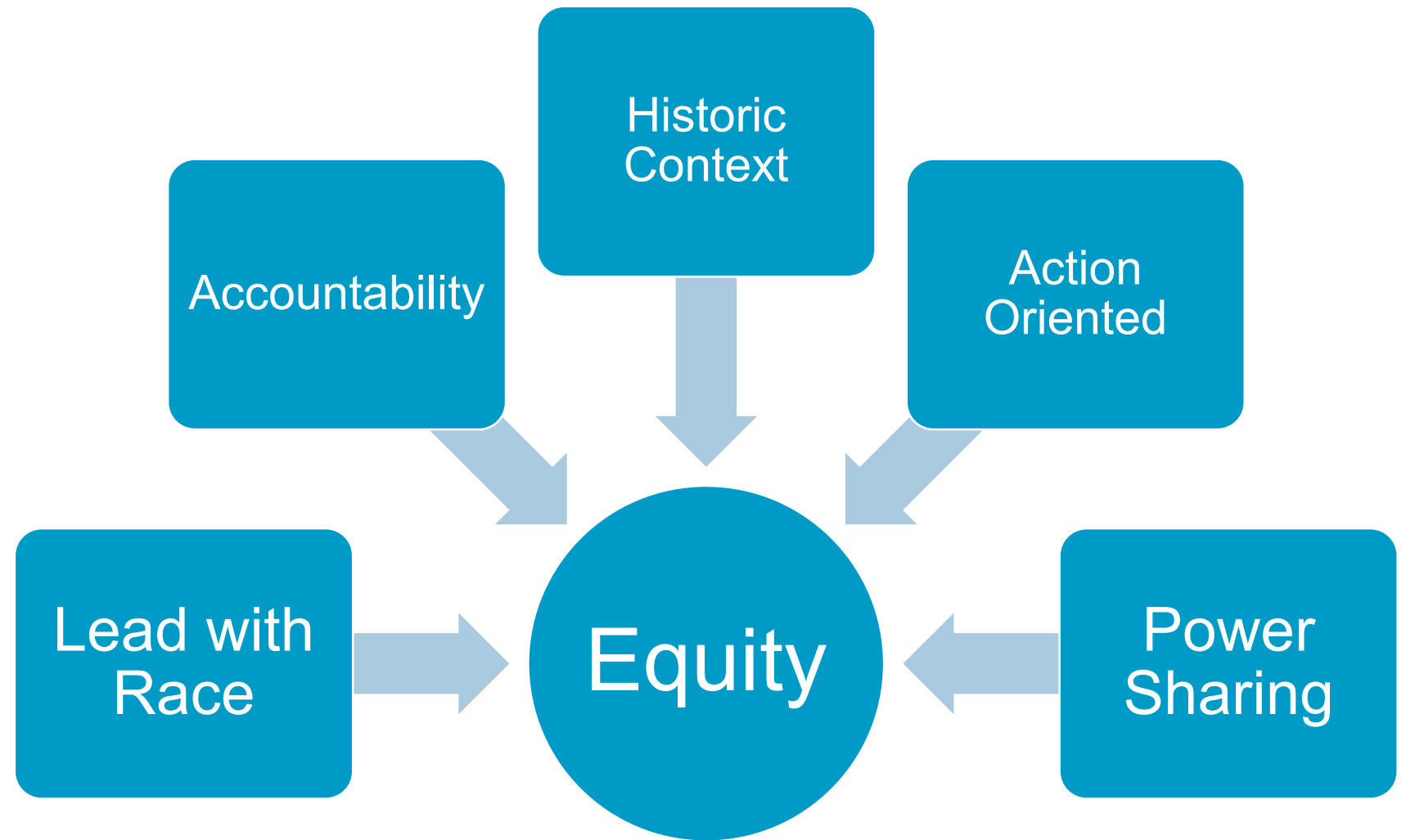
Equity Framework



Equity Definition: Process



Conditions of Success



Equity Definition

Equity at the Metropolitan Council means that historically excluded communities—especially Black communities, Indigenous communities, and communities of color— have measurably improved outcomes through an intentional and consistent practice of adapting policies, systems, services and spending so that they contribute to the repair of both historic and ongoing injustice.

Equity the Council – Context

Lead with race

Improve outcomes toward eliminating racial disparities

Action-Oriented

Intentional, ongoing, and consistent practice of adapting policies, systems, and structures

Historic Context

Repair both historic and ongoing injustice

Power-Sharing

Historically excluded communities share power in all levels of decision-making

Accountability

Measurably improve outcomes as defined by those most affected by them through engagement

Discussion Questions

Take 10 minutes to respond to the following questions:

1. What about this definition resonates with you?
2. How do you want to use this definition? How does it help achieve regional goals?



10:00

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Environmental Justice Definition: Development Process



Environmental Justice (EJ) Definition

The Metropolitan Council Environmental Justice (EJ) framework defines ‘Environmental Justice’ as the right for all residents to live in a clean, safe environment that contributes to a healthy quality of life.

Environmental Justice Context

Centers communities who experience a legacy of racism or other structural or systemic barriers that have resulted in environmental injustices, harms, and risks.

Requires change in the way we work by conducting community-centered engagement, repairing past and ongoing harms, distributing benefits equitably, and preventing future burdens.

Requires necessary adaptations to Council services, requirements, policies, practices, processes, and decisions.

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