Draft Environmental Justice Framework

Imagine 2050 Regional Development Guide

Committee of the Whole  
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Environmental Justice is:

the right for all residents to live in a clean, safe environment that contributes to a healthy quality of life
Build on existing work

The Council’s Climate Action Work Plan and the Equity Framework

• Work is rooted in the:
  • Context of relationships between people and their environment
  • Integration of EJ principles into practices and policies as part of the 2050 RDG

• Informed by:
  • Multi-disciplinary EJ Task Force
  • Review existing EJ frameworks
  • 2040 Comp Plan local priorities
  • Partnership with CURA
  • 2050 RDG engagement data
Conditions for success

Grounded in the Council’s Equity Framework:

- Expand the scope of how we measure the efficacy of Council projects through a broad environmental justice lens.
- Build upon current Council structures and processes to define environmental justice as a necessary and explicit component of Council work.
- Reconcile the Council with overburdened communities through shared environmental justice values.
Environmental Justice Framework

People-centered, data-driven decision making

Prioritized engagement with overburdened communities

Community benefits beyond harm mitigation

Contextualized  Community-centered  Reparative
Framework Component 1: People-centered, data-driven decision making

Data from lived experiences of overburdened communities inform decisions

- Understand environmental history by valuing and integrating lived experience via quantitative and qualitative data
- Identify, address, and be transparent about practices that may perpetuate environmental injustice
- Address environmental harms not accounted for by existing regulations
Framework Component 2: Engagement and collaboration

Prioritized engagement with overburdened communities

• Build **reparative, respectful** relationships aware of community autonomy and capacity
• **Early and iterative** engagement processes with time needed to give informed input
• **Co-create** with community partners
• Collaborate with partner agencies
Framework Component 3: Community benefits

Community benefits beyond harm mitigation

• Ensure that benefits of Council work and investments meet community’s self-identified needs

• Provide transparency about investments and benefits

• Document and publicly report EJ-related benchmarks and metrics
Next steps

Building upon EJ commitment from the Climate Action Work Plan

• Commitment 1: “We will incorporate environmental justice principles as we plan, implement, and evaluate our climate work.”

• Directed us to consider environmental justice across many types of climate projects.

Embedding environmental justice principles across our planning efforts

• Conducting policy review (transportation, land use, housing, parks, water resources, climate, natural systems)

• Developing metrics and implementation measures
Questions for feedback

• What resonates with you about this framework?

• How do you see this framework advancing the Council’s regional planning efforts?
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