



# Draft Environmental Justice Framework

*Imagine 2050* Regional Development Guide



Committee of the Whole

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# Defining Environmental Justice

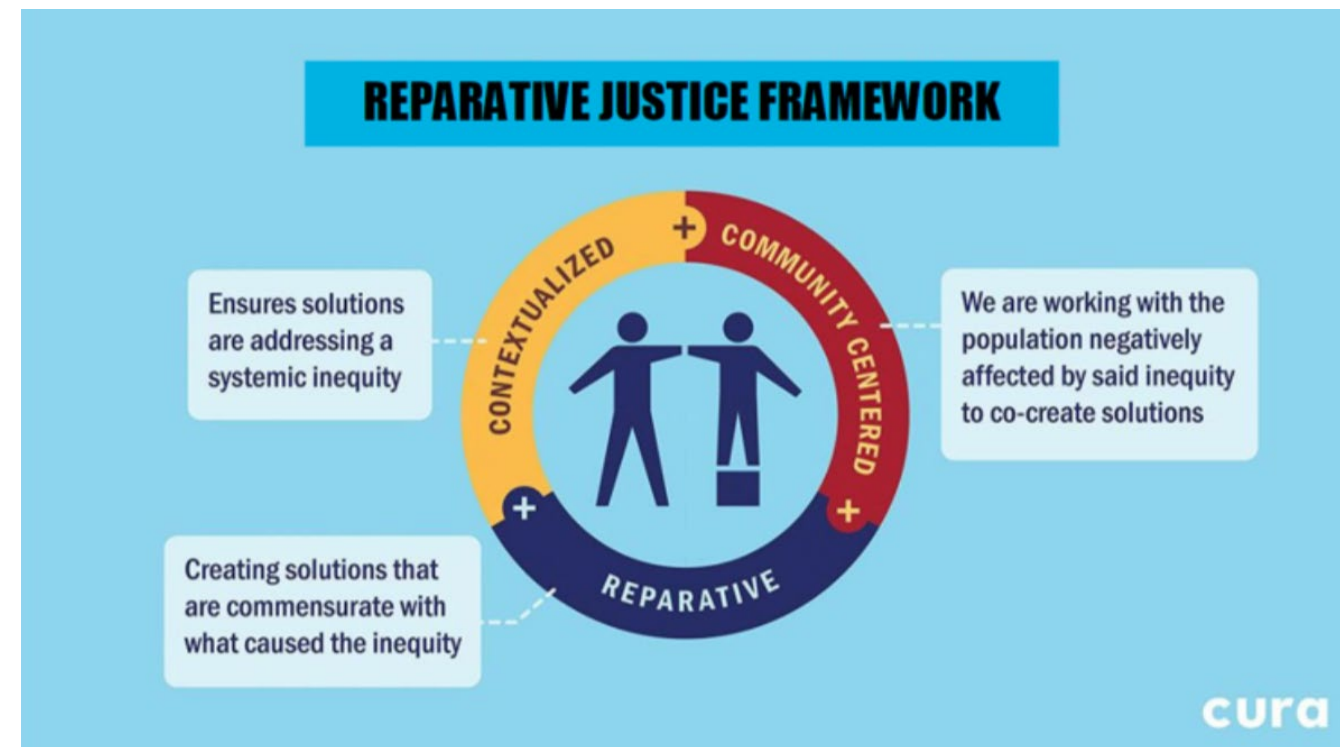
## Environmental Justice is:

**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

*Contextualized*



Prioritized  
engagement with  
overburdened  
communities

*Community-centered*



Community  
benefits beyond  
harm mitigation

*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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