Climate Equity Review Framework

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- **Types of Equity**

  - Distributional, Process, Cross-generational

- **Racial and Social Equity Criteria**

  Disproportionate impacts, benefits, access, engagement, capacity building, alignment + partnership, economic opportunity + diversity, accountability

- **Examples of Community Priorities**
  - Anti-displacement and climate resilience
  - Affordable "green" homes
  - Green jobs pathways
  - Equitable transit access
  - Food systems and food justice
  - Access to energy and efficiency upgrades
  - Access to open space
  - Increased tree canopy
  - Community resilience hubs
  - Broader investments in community leadership and capacity building

4

Questions to consider

When developing actions for these strategies, how can we ensure they align with frontline community priorities?

Might they have unintended impacts? If so, what would they be?

Where is there an opportunity to address root causes? (racism, housing, poverty, jobs, health, area disinvestment...)

Climate Equity Review Feedback

Building Energy & Green Building

- **Education:** Ensure frontline communities understand how planning codes work, and the impact change in codes can have on housing conditions, transportation, etc. Educational materials should be in a variety of mediums and languages.

- **Financial support:** When renovating for energy efficiency, offer opportunities for frontline community owners to have financial support to make retrofits.

- **Anti-displacement**: Include strategies to prevent or lessen unintended burdens on BIPOC and low-income property owners, such as further displacing frontline communities from affordable housing and community resources.

Transportation & Land Use

- **Education:** Provide in-language and accessible information on the variety of modes of transit offered by King County Metro. People can't use services they don't know about.

- **Fair Accessibility:** Ensure that access to an ORCA card is available for all communities. Pilot a program similar to the UW UPass where one card works for all modes of transit (buses, train, car sharing, e-bikes, etc.), and revise qualification barriers for receiving a free ORCA card to be more inclusive of income thresholds, etc.

- **Transit Accessibility:** Invest in small-scale transit options to ensure all portions of a trip can be covered using public transit. Prioritize County wide funding for public transit, i.e., transit levy.

- **Safety:** Prioritize public safety when using transit. Ex: Right of way can be overgrown (blackberry, vegetation) between walks from home to bus stops, which at night can be especially scary to use.

- **Anti-displacement:** Ensure that mixed-land use development in proximity to high-capacity transit, walking and biking areas doesn't further displace frontline communities.

Forests & Agriculture

- *Partnerships:* Work with Indigenous groups and tribes on ensuring protection of forest and farmland is available for them to use as they see fit, and support educational effort on traditional ecological knowledge for Indigenous peoples.

- *Education:* Provide information to BIPOC on local opportunities for small scale farming and business development to support the increase of BIPOC growers.

- *Urban forestry:* Provide incentives for tree plantings using culturally relevant methods and with technical support (planting, maintenance, etc). Expand urban forestry programs in the County's unincorporated areas, and have clear information on who is responsible for the maintenance of these plants.

Consumption & Waste

- *Education:* Be intentional with the narratives being shared. Reframing circular economy practices as knowledge that has already existed among frontline communities. Be clear the onus is on producers too.

- *Partnerships:* Outreach should go beyond community-based organization and partner with diverse frontline community members. CBOs don't always represent the diversity that exists within larger non-homogenous frontline communities, or intersecting identities within groups.

- *Accessibility:* Make clear what is meant by a "circular economy", and provide affordable sustainable options for frontline communities to change their consumption and waste practices. Focus on providing incentives for making changes, rather than penalization of improper waste reduction.

- *Materials management:* We need to get away from plastics - they are unhealthy overall and still tied to the fossil fuels industry. Use alternatives that already exist such as glass and paper, and ethically locally sourced materials.

Climate & Economic Opportunity

- **Green career pathways:** Ensure white-collar jobs of leadership, policy (organizing, policy making, etc) are targeted and available to frontline communities through intentional engagement and access to internships, fellowships, trainings, etc.

- **Contractor development:** Offer trainings for contractors in frontline communities to become qualified for working in the clean energy sector and use transfer their skills from a fossil fuel industry in the green industry.

- **Capital projects:** Incentivize contractors that hire from local workforce, DEI and/or BIPOC workforce development programs, Youth/Young Adult internship & Fellowship programs and use of climate-smart materials

- **Communication:** Be transparent and understanding of the impact clean energy initiatives have on frontline communities across the world (i.e. the Global South) when sharing "good news" regarding the economic benefit connected to clean energy

Climate Preparedness

- **_Education:_** Provide clear information and in-multiple languages regarding emergency climate preparedness, and climate hazards risks, especially the impacts on those in vulnerable conditions.

- **_Accessibility:_** Prioritize stormwater parks and GIS in places with risk of urban flooding and partner with frontline communities to develop these projects.

- **_Anti-displacement_**: Ensure that buyouts in river floodplains impacted low-income communities can afford to purchase a new home with buyout and won't be further displaced from their neighborhoods/communities.

- **_Financial support:_** Ensure that mini-grants available for climate resilience & preparedness projects are available not just to those with 501c3 status, but also to fiscally sponsored and informal community orgs and small businesses.