

Case Study

Racial Equity Impact Assessment & Implementation Guide for Oakland, California's Equitable Climate Action Plan

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*Addressing the Climate Crisis: Moving Toward A Just Transition For Bloomington
Town Hall hosted by Bloomington Commission on Sustainability*



Recent Projects

- **Author:** Racial Equity Impact Analysis: Eliminating Lead Paint Hazards in Oakland & Alameda County
- **Equity & Engagement Facilitators:** UC Climate Resilience Planning Initiative
- **Focus Group Host:** East Bay Community Energy's Connected Communities Program
- **Equity Facilitator:** City of Oakland's 2030 Equitable Climate Action Plan
- **Lead Author:** Racial Equity Impact Assessment & Implementation Guide
- **Co-Author:** CalEnviroScreen: A Critical Tool for Achieving Environmental Justice in California
- **Steering Committee Co-Facilitator:** West Oakland Community Action Plan

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E/J Solutions is a guest on Ohlone land.

Sogorea Te' Land Trust

An Urban Indigenous Women-led Land Trust in California's East Bay



We are based in **Huichin** (East Bay, CA)
Confederated Villages of Lisjan,
Chochenyo Ohlone Territory

Effective climate action is **impossible** without racial, economic, environmental & gender justice.



Frontline communities face heightened climate **vulnerability.**

The Climate Gap

There is a Climate Gap in the United States.



Map shows rates of disparity between minority share of the population and their share of the health risk from air pollution.



- Environmental and socio-economic inequalities expose frontline communities to greater harm, and inhibit their capacity to adapt to, resist, or recover from climate events.

Without focused intervention, frontline communities will also be **less likely to share the benefits of climate action policies.**

Racial Equity Impact Assessments provide a framework for: **1)** understanding the negative impacts on frontline communities (caused by climate change and existing policies) and **2)** designing and implementing climate policies that direct the lion's share of benefits toward meeting priority community needs.

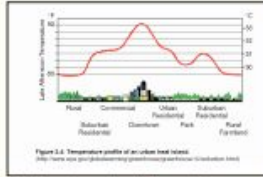
The Climate Gap

There is a Climate Gap in the United States.

Climate change will cause minorities and the poor in the United States to...

Suffer more during extreme weather events. Hurricane Katrina revealed how extreme weather events cause particularly devastating damage to minorities and the poor. Another example is in Los Angeles, where African Americans are twice as likely to die from a heat wave as other residents.

Minorities and the poor are more likely to live in urban centers with less tree cover to reduce heat and more concrete and pavement to trap it. They also have less access to air conditioning, and are less likely to own cars to escape extreme weather events.



Graph shows temperature differences between neighborhoods.



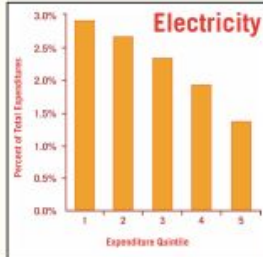
Map shows rates of disparity between minority share of the population and their share of the health risk from air pollution.

Too often, those who oppose taking action on climate change point to higher prices that may result from climate solutions. However, doing nothing won't help: climate change will lead to higher prices for energy, food and water.

Have fewer or shifting job opportunities. The majority of jobs in sectors that will be significantly affected by climate change, such as agriculture and tourism, are held by low-income people of color. Workers in these industries would be the first to lose their jobs in the event of an economic downturn due to climatic troubles.

Breathe dirtier air. A recent study titled, "Justice in the Air" found that minorities and the poor in the U.S. already breathe dirtier air than other Americans. Climate change will cause the air we breathe to get even dirtier, exacerbating the disparities in the health impacts of air pollution.

Pay even more for basic necessities. Low-income Americans already spend a greater portion of their income on basic necessities.



Graph reveals the difference between the percentage of income the poor (quintile one) and the wealthy (quintile five) pay for electricity.

Urban Heat Island Effect:

Lack of tree cover compounded by abundance of dark colored concrete and air pollution (smog).

Climate Impacts on Frontline Communities

Breathe dirtier air and pay more for basic necessities:

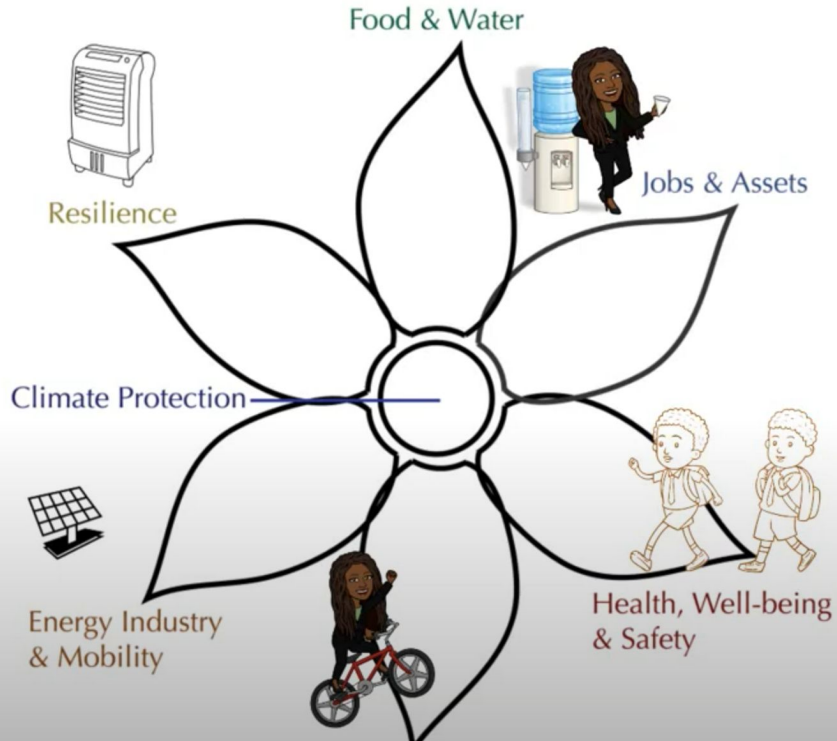
Communities of color are more likely to live in polluted neighborhoods.

Low-income communities of color pay more for electricity and other necessities to live.

Racial Equity Impact Assessment: Climate Equity Screen

Climate Equity

Policies that protect the climate while **equitably distributing the local benefits of climate action**, such as access to energy efficient homes and appliances.



REIA

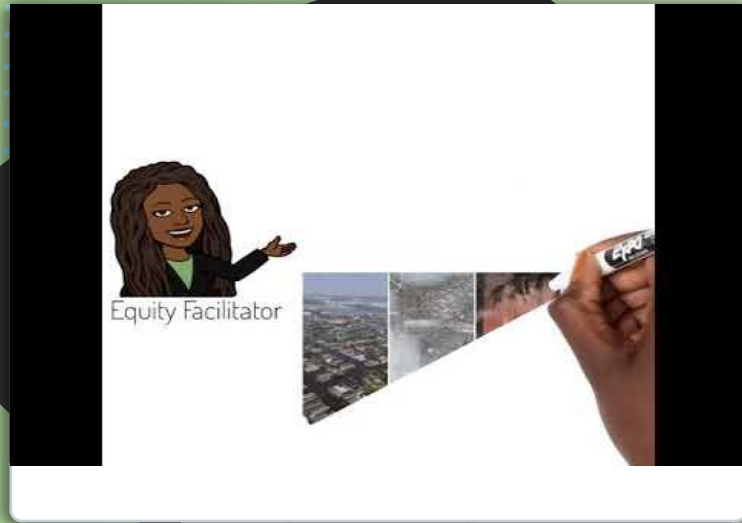
- 1) Collect qualitative and quantitative data to identify and understand the climate burdens on frontline communities (caused by climate change and existing policies).
- 2) Design and implement climate policies that equitably distribute the local benefits of climate action and avoid creating additional burdens.
- 3) Periodically evaluate and course correct as needed.

REIA: Climate Equity Screen

Based on a robust community engagement process where the community identifies their **priority needs** determine whether each climate action does each of the following. If it does not, identify ways to redesign the policy until it passes the screen with a yes to all elements.

1. **Prioritizes** frontline communities for climate investments and **maximize the benefits**.
 - ◆ Address **priority community needs** (key determinants of physical, social and economic well-being, such as cost-savings or improving public health).
 - ◆ Distribute climate benefits **geographically** responsive to the needs of each community, and/or by **income**, and/or by **race**.
 - ◆ Preserve and strengthen **local assets** and cultural values (cultural continuity).
 - ◆ **Reduce disparities** by remedying/mitigating existing harms (e.g., air pollution, lack of tree canopy) and avoiding additional harms (e.g., displacement, new pollution sources).
2. Hold businesses and industries accountable for improving the environment and restoring our communities.
3. Fosters local green job creation, entrepreneurship, and cooperative ownership opportunities for members of frontline communities.

Racial Equity Impact Assessment

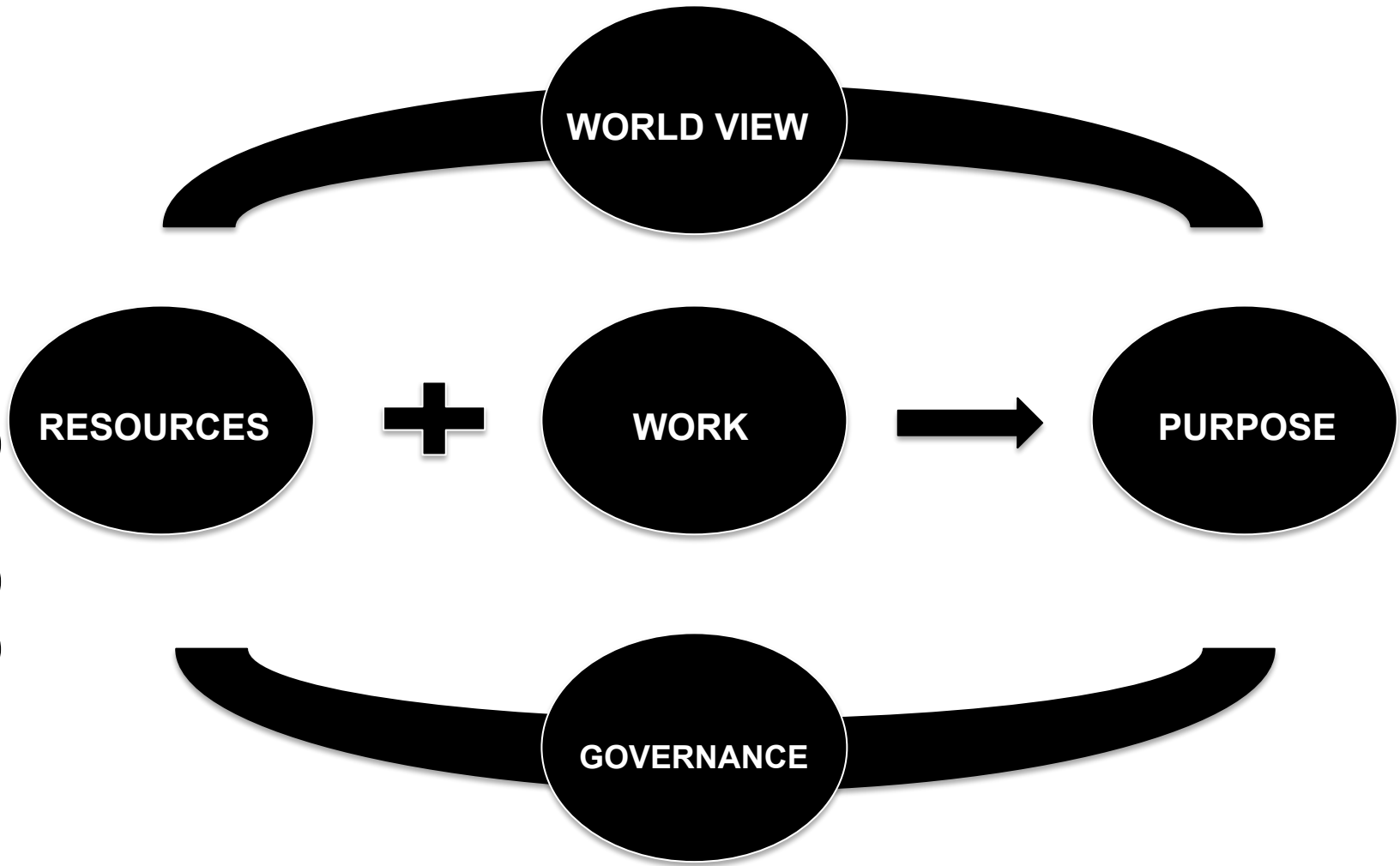


[Click image to view video](#)

Ensuring that a lion's share of the **local benefits of climate actions** flow to frontline communities.



PILLARS OF ECONOMY

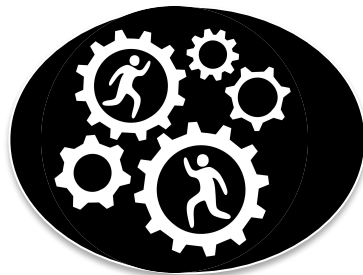


EXTRACTIVE ECONOMY



Extraction
Dig, Burn, Dump

+



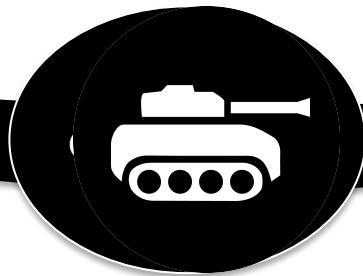
Exploitation



Enclosure of
Wealth & Power

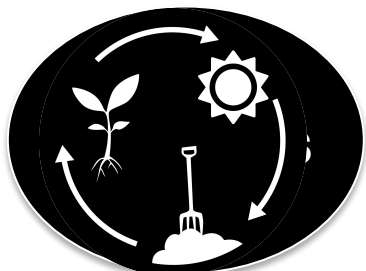


White Supremacy, Patriarchy, Consumerism & Colonial Mind



Militarism

LIVING ECONOMY

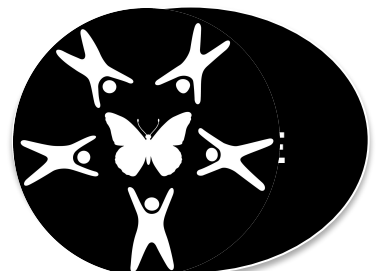


Regeneration

+



Cooperation



Ecological & Social
Well-being



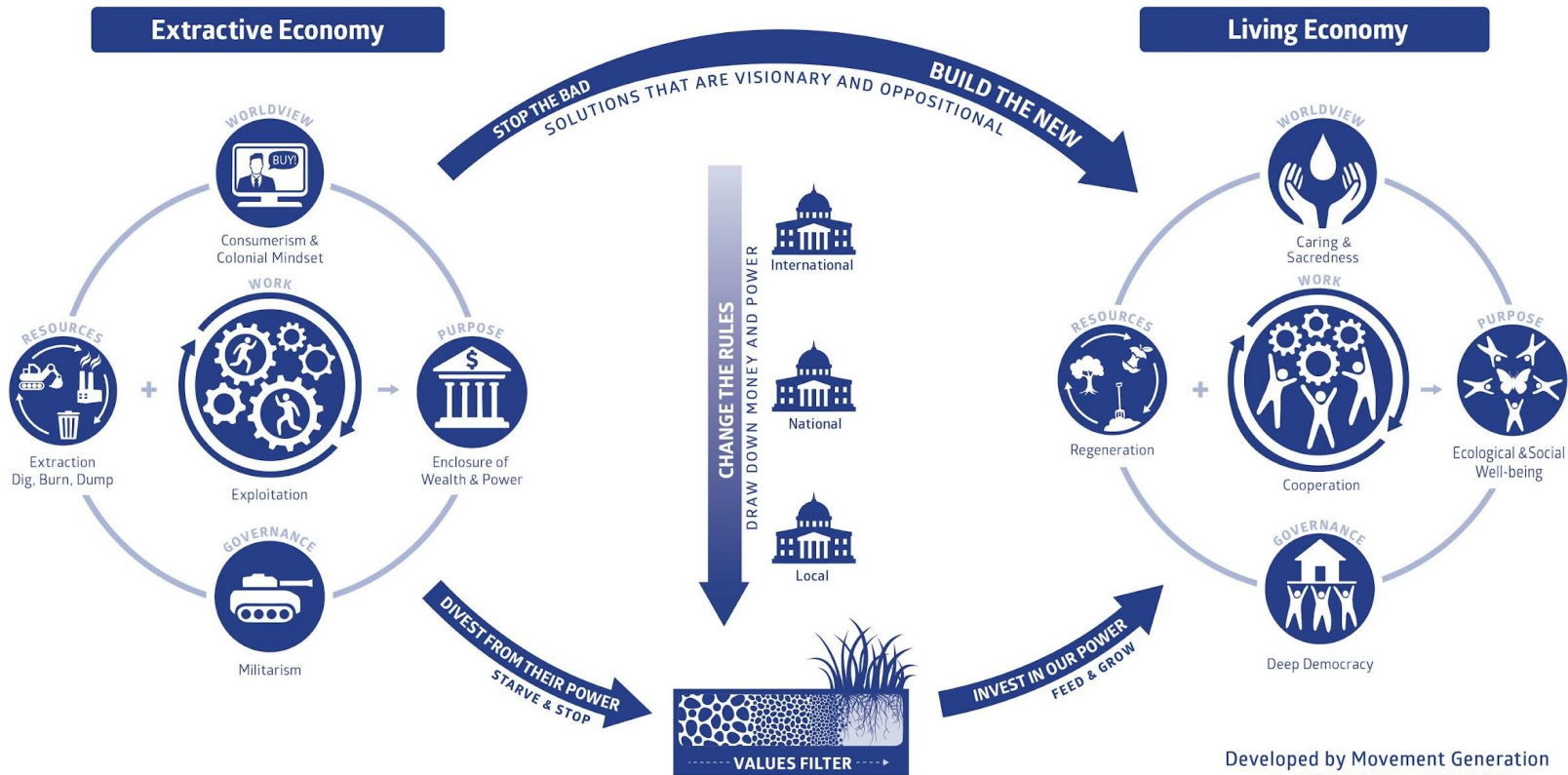
Sacredness & Caring



Deep Democracy

A STRATEGY FRAMEWORK FOR JUST TRANSITION

RESIST — RETHINK — RESTRUCTURE



THE WAY WE MOVE CAPITAL MUST:

- ▶ Shift economic control to communities
- ▶ Democratize wealth and the workplace
- ▶ Advance ecological restoration
- ▶ Drive racial justice and social equity
- ▶ Relocalize most production and consumption
- ▶ Retain and restore cultures and traditions

Developed by Movement Generation
with **OUR POWER CAMPAIGN**
COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR A JUST TRANSITION

JUST GIVING 2016
EDGE FUNDERS ALLIANCE VERSION

Community Engagement



Community Engagement

By the Numbers

- 400 Oaklanders attended workshops across all 7 Districts
- 800 Oaklanders took our online survey
- 18 Neighborhood Leaders
- 5 Climate Equity Work Days + Pop-Up Engagement
- Over 5,000 Oaklanders engaged



Community Priorities

For Us, By Us

- 1. Support a public bank** to divest public money from fossil fuels and enable local financing of local sustainable economic development projects promoting climate action and creating local benefits.
- 2. Support community land trusts** for permanently affordable housing, local businesses, growing food, and supporting biological and cultural diversity.
- 3. Municipal ban on single-use plastics** such as packaging and flatware.
- 4. Low-cost or free bus fare.** Transit passes or reduced fares for all.
- 5. Climate justice education & curriculum.** Teachers and students develop K-12 curriculum with service-learning opportunities and partnerships with the City and community-based organizations for Oakland Unified School District.

Community Priorities

For Us, By Us

6. Improve public transit. More frequent, reliable bus service, public safety at bus stops, more destinations, more amenities.

7. Community-owned solar that allows renters and neighbors to financially benefit from shared solar energy installations.

8. Ensure complete neighborhoods so that needed daily services are accessible without a car, including green pathways and alleyways and safe streets and sidewalks for active mobility.

9. Make streets safer for pedestrians, bikes, wheelchairs, skateboards, and scooters.

10. Urban farming & gardens. Grow local food production and food access by supporting more community-based farms and gardens on vacant lots.

Equitable Climate Action Plan

BART
ba

MeetDowntownOak.com

FREE SHUTTLE

5101

Plan for Free Transit + Increase Access and Accessibility

By 2023, develop a roadmap to provide free transit for low-income residents by 2030 and all residents by 2040.



A Plan for Affordable Housing Near Transit

Update the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Guidelines to further prioritize development of housing near transit, including housing for low, very low, and extremely low-income levels.

ECAP ACTIONS

Require Existing Buildings to be All-Electric by 2040

By 2022, develop a policy roadmap to achieve decarbonization of the existing building stock by 2040, without additional cost burden or displacement risk to frontline communities.



This strategy can dramatically reduce carbon emissions and improve indoor air quality, but also raises a lot of equity concerns. REIA strategies can help:

- Avoid utility bill increases for low-income residents
- Ensure low-income renters receive benefits and minimize burdens
- Make ample funds available for temporary relocation assistance
- Increase local economic resilience through local hire for decarb efforts
- Provide financial assistance for low-income landlords and businesses to make the shift in a timely manner.

ECAP ACTIONS

Carbon Removal

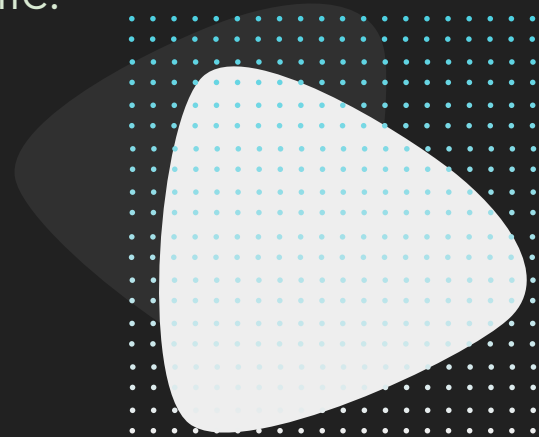
- Protect + invest in the urban forest, prioritizing frontline communities
- Evaluate potential for other biological approaches
- Plan for a negative carbon economy



Key Equity Recommendations

Utilize Bloomington-specific data to identify the frontline communities related to each CAP Action — the **most burdened and most vulnerable**.

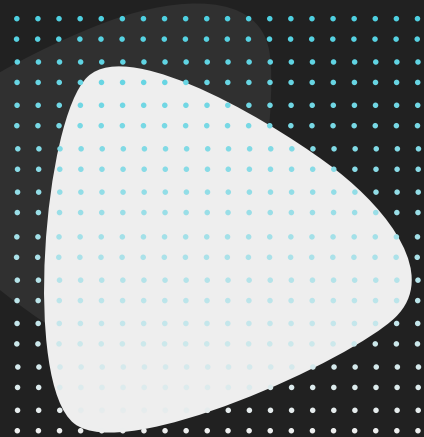
- Create a publicly accessible maps with overlapping equity indicators, for use by City staff and the public.
- Co-design climate strategies with frontline communities. **Maximize local benefits** and avoid creating additional burdens.



Key Equity Recommendations

Delegate implementation and oversight power to the community throughout implementation.

- Partner with frontline community groups to create a decentralized, neighborhood-based body with delegated power over CAP implementation.
- Over time, evaluate the extent to which the benefits of each CAP action flow to frontline communities and course-correct as needed to meet priority community needs across geography, race and class.



Thank you!



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