

# Austin Climate Equity Plan Overview

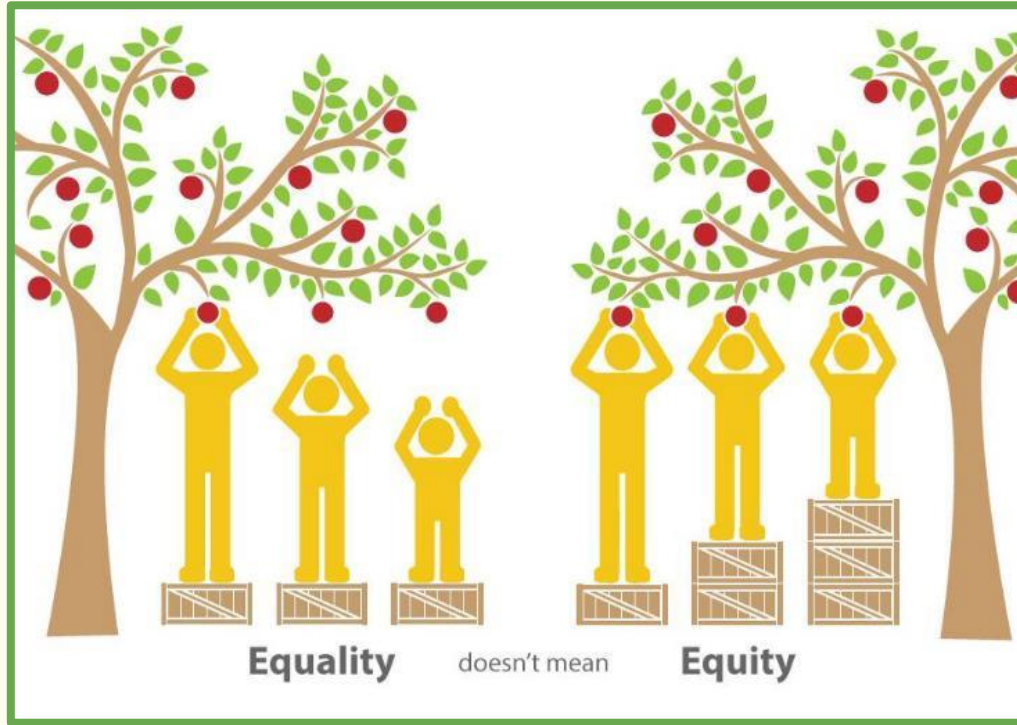
5/26/2021



OFFICE OF  
SUSTAINABILITY

CITY OF AUSTIN

# The City's Commitment to Equity



*Racial equity is the condition when race no longer predicts a person's quality of life outcomes in our community*

# Our Commitment to Climate Equity

## Climate Change

**Eliminate the use of fossil fuels for energy & transportation**

- Energy efficiency
- Renewable energy
- Less dependence on cars
- Electric vehicles
- More trees & natural spaces
- Healthier consumer choices

**Health**

**Affordability**

**Accessibility**

**Cultural Preservation**

**Community Capacity**

**Just Transition**

**Accountability**

## Racial Equity

**Eliminate disparities that can be predicted by race**

- Safety for all at all times
- No disproportionate economic outcomes
- Fair access to services for all
- Inclusive participation in our city
- Positive health outcomes for all
- Embrace culture & difference

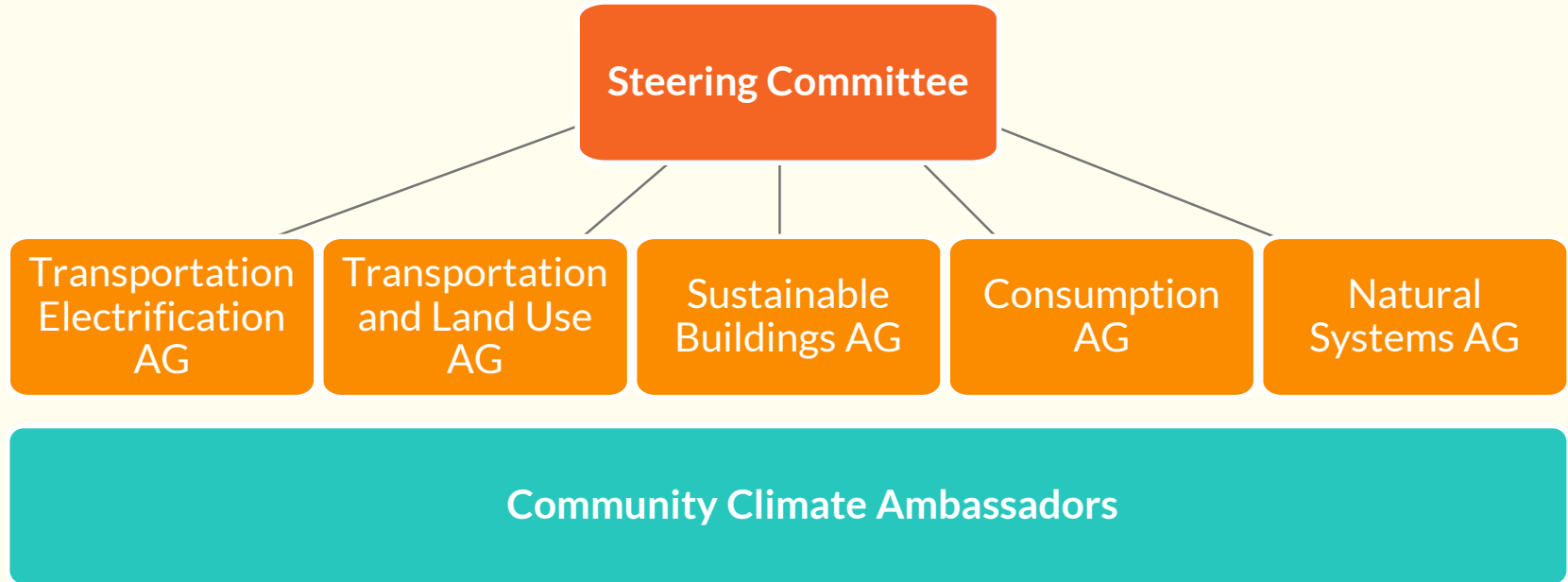
*If we're not proactively addressing equity, we're perpetuating injustice*

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# Community Involvement

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# Climate Plan Revision Structure



AG = Advisory Group

# Steering Committee Partners



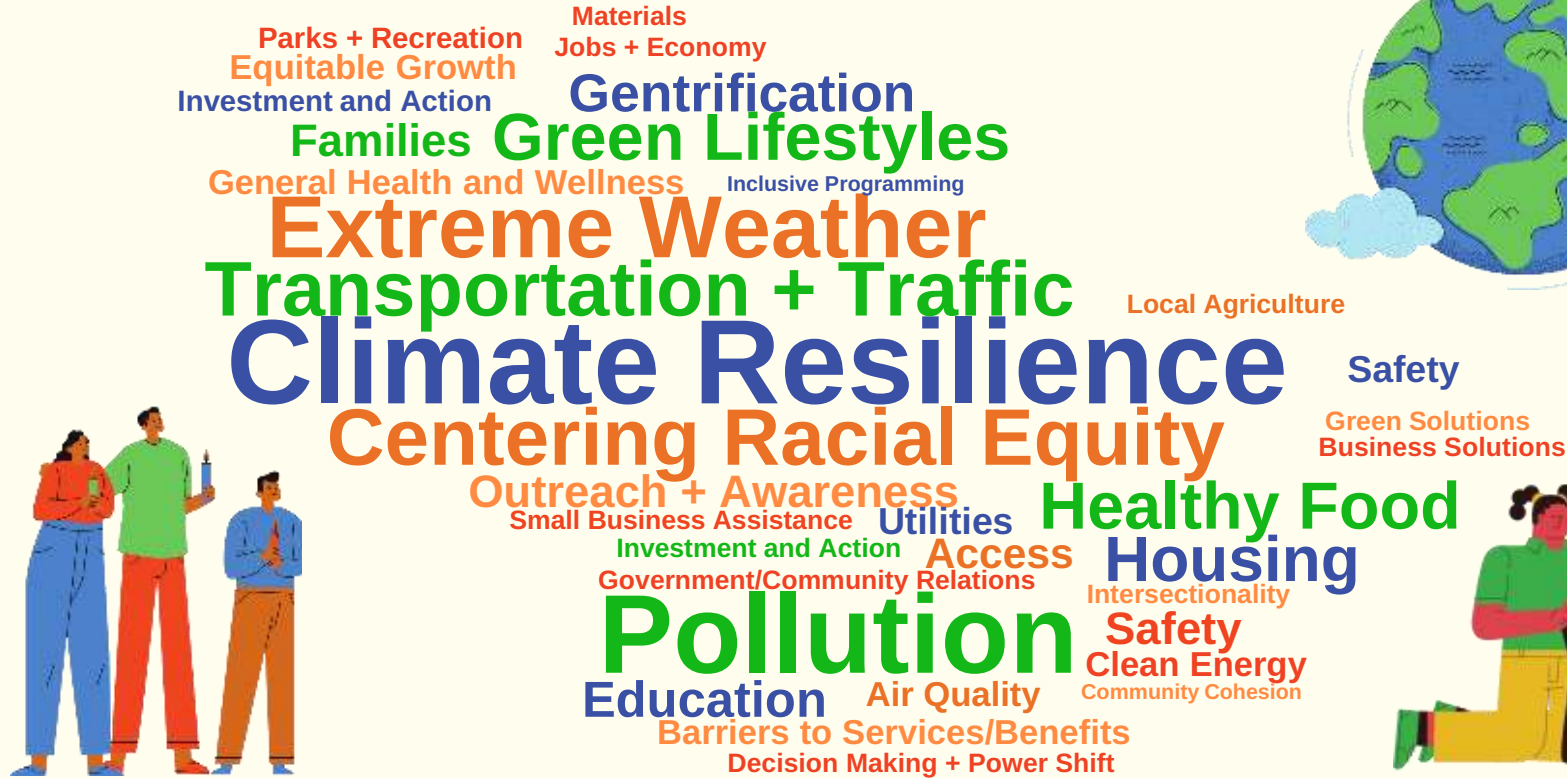
# The Community Climate Ambassadors



- Ambassadors were selected based on their ability to apply an equity lens to climate work, contribute their lived experience, and facilitate authentic conversations.
- The program sought to identify key concerns, priorities and needs of historically excluded groups.
- Ambassadors were financially compensated for their time.



# Priorities & concerns





# Priorities & concerns

Ambassadors helped identify these high-level community concerns, which will be detailed further in the next section.



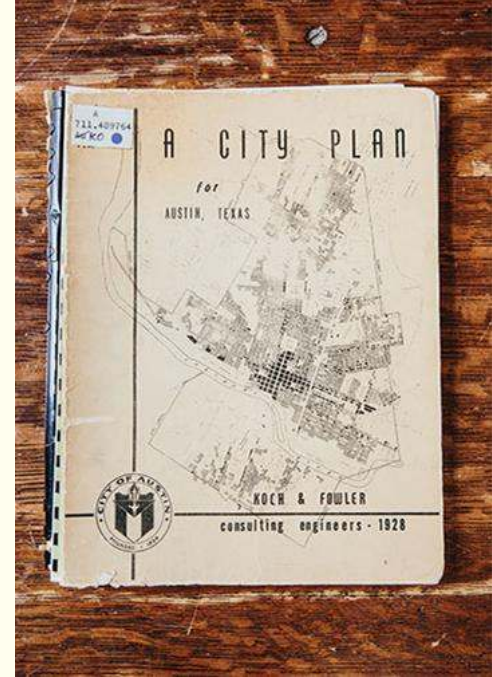
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# Equity Training

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# Understanding History

- The Austin 1928 Master Plan divided the city along racial lines, **forcibly displacing Black residents into specific, undesirable areas.**
- Under the 1957 Industrial Development Plan, **property in East Austin was zoned as “industrial,”** including existing single-family residential areas.
- The Tank Farm fuel storage facility, Eastside Landfill, and the Holly Power Plant **exposed people of color to toxic pollution in East Austin neighborhoods.**
- Local Environmental Justice and Community-based organizations have examined the impact of the City of Austin’s historical land use and planning policies and how they have **harmed residents in East Austin.**
- **Gentrification is happening** in areas of the city where low-income people and people of color have been forced to live, and **the African-American share of the Austin population is declining,** from 12% in 1990 to 7.7% in 2010.



# The Justice Litmus

Led by Dr. Tane Ward, Equilibrio Norte

Justice Litmus adapted from: Tema Okun's White Supremacy Culture

The following issues were highly discussed and brought up throughout our process:

1. Is there a **sense of urgency** in our work?
2. Are we using **either/or** thinking or decision-making?
3. Is our work displaying signs of **paternalism**?
4. Is there **fear of open conflict** in our work?
5. Is the **right to comfort** being prioritized in our work?
6. Are leaders being nurtured and developed **horizontally**?



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# Equity Tool

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# Equity Process for Advisory Groups



# Evaluating Equity

*Our strategies must  
prioritize low-income  
communities and  
communities of color  
in these ways:*

**Health** — Improving mental and physical health.

**Affordability** — Lowering and stabilizing living costs.

**Accessibility** — Increasing access to opportunities, transportation and a healthy environment.

**Just Transition** — Ensuring that benefits reach these communities first.

**Community Capacity** — Elevating and strengthening community skills, abilities and resources.

**Cultural Preservation** — Deliberately honoring cultural history to maintain past and present heritage.

**Accountability** — Ensuring government and institutional accountability for equitable implementation.



<b>Theme 1: Health</b> Strategy improves health (physical and mental) outcomes for low-income communities and communities of color. The strategy upholds the fundamental human right to clean, healthy and adequate air, water, land, food, education, transportation, safety, and housing.	Impact		
	Harm -1	Neutral or N/A	Benefit +1
Does the proposed action reduce air pollution (Ozone, VOC, NOx, etc.) and reduce asthma and other respiratory-related hospital visits?			
Does the proposed action extend expected longevity and/or quality of life for populations experiencing health disparities?			
Does the proposed action reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, i.e. improve mental health?			
Does the proposed action help restore or protect ecosystem health (air, land, water, soil)?			
Overall response to these questions with justification:			

# Plan Summary

**17 Goals** - What needs to be accomplished by 2030 to keep us on track

**75 Strategies** - What should be implemented in the next 5 years to make progress

Centered on Equity Throughout

- **Prioritize incentives and target communications** towards low-income communities and communities of color
- Specific focus on **anti-displacement**
- Focus on a **just transition** (training and jobs) for new industries and technology
- **Prioritize health and other benefits** for the Eastern Crescent
- **Center communities of color** in ongoing learning and data collection

**Next steps: Seek council approval, continue relationship-building, explore funding options**

# Thank you!

## Contact:

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## More information:

- [austintexas.gov/climateplan](https://austintexas.gov/climateplan)
  - [SpeakUp Austin!](#)
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