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

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

Health
- Affordability
- Accessibility
- Cultural Preservation
- Community Capacity
- Just Transition
- Accountability

If we’re not proactively addressing equity, we’re perpetuating injustice
Community Involvement
Climate Plan Revision Structure

Steering Committee

- Transportation Electrification AG
- Transportation and Land Use AG
- Sustainable Buildings AG
- Consumption AG
- Natural Systems AG

Community Climate Ambassadors

AG = Advisory Group
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

- Climate Resilience
- Centering Racial Equity
- Pollution
- Outreach + Awareness
- Education
- Interrelation of Services/Benefits
- Access
- Materials
- Jobs + Economy
- Green Lifestyles
- Inclusive Programming
- Gentrification
- Utilities
- Healthy Food
- Safety
- Parks + Recreation
- Investment and Action
- Families
- General Health and Wellness
- Extreme Weather
- Transportation + Traffic
- Local Agriculture
- Climate and Equitable Growth
- Green Solutions
- Business Solutions
- Small Business Assistance
- Transportation and Traffic
- Investment and Action
- Government/Community Relations
- Healthy Food
- Community Cohesion
- Decision Making + Power Shift
- Community
- Access
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Priorities & concerns

Ambassadors helped identify these high-level community concerns, which will be detailed further in the next section.
Equity Training
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**?
Equity Tool
Equity Process for Advisory Groups

1. What is the history, and where are the inequities?
2. What does the data tell us?
3. Does the goal include a climate and equity component?
4. Develop strategies with equity and historical context in mind.
5. Does the strategy meet our shared values?
6. How can we ensure accountability and communicate results?

Review and revise as needed.
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.
**Theme 1: Health**  
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Harm</th>
<th>Neutral or N/A</th>
<th>Benefit</th>
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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:
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
- SpeakUp Austin!