

# Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities Rulemaking Equitable Outcomes Statement

Version 5

## Context and Purpose

Governor Brown's [Executive Order 20-04](#) directed the Department of Land Conservation and Development and the Land Conservation and Development Commission to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve equitable outcomes for priority populations. This Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities rulemaking initiative aims to do just that – provide rules to support a program to reduce climate pollution and improve outcomes for Oregonians as a whole, and for specific priority populations. These populations are described in this document below.

To successfully develop these rules, staff and the Commission are relying heavily on the thoughtful, informed guidance from Rulemaking Advisory Committee (RAC) members, including members of these priority populations.

This statement has been developed to guide development of the rules, guidance documents, and technical assistance the Department provides as local governments implement these rules over time.

## Future Vision

We are building a future where:

- All Oregonians live in safe, livable, and healthy neighborhoods
- All Oregonians have access to clean air and water, stable housing, healthy food, convenient and affordable transportation options, health care and living wage jobs
- Systemic and institutional inequities based on race, income, age and disability no longer exist
- Priority populations no longer bear the largest burdens of pollution, environmental and natural hazards, and environmental degradation
- Local decision-making ensures priority populations directly benefit from quality housing, jobs and transportation choices
- Communities are held accountable for the achievement of racial equity and other dimensions of equity

## Equity-Driven Processes

The rules, guidance and technical assistance will create and further state and local decision-making processes that:

1. Prioritize community-led engagement and decision-making, with specific attention to communities most impacted by climate pollution<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Reference: [17 Principles of Environmental Justice](#) from 1<sup>st</sup> National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit in 1991

2. Center the voices of people and organizations representing priority populations
3. Recognize where and how intersectional discrimination compounds disadvantages
4. Value lived experience and qualitative data, not just quantitative data
5. Assess, document, acknowledge and address where past policies and effects of climate change have harmed and are likely to perpetuate harm to priority populations
6. Are in languages and formats that can be used by everyone
7. Are accessible to people with disabilities<sup>2</sup>
8. Are accessible to people without computer/internet access, with limited transportation and child care options, and with schedule constraints around employment or other critical responsibilities
9. Build the ability of people and governments to work together and access opportunities regionally
10. Monitor and evaluate the effects and actions of local and regional policies and decisions, ensuring transportation and other community development and public investments move communities towards the future vision above

## Priority Populations

Climate pollution reduction efforts will prioritize actions that result in more just and equitable outcomes for all Oregonians, with a focus on historically and currently marginalized communities,<sup>3</sup> using an intersectional approach that leads with race.<sup>4</sup>

Members of these communities include:

- Black and African American people
- Indigenous people (including Tribes, American Indian/Alaska Native and Hawaii Native)
- People of Color (including but not limited to Hispanic, Latina/o/x, Asian, Arabic or North African, Middle Eastern, Pacific Islander, and mixed-race or mixed-ethnicity populations)
- Immigrants, including undocumented immigrants
- People with limited English proficiency
- People with disabilities
- People experiencing homelessness
- Low-income and low-wealth community members
- Low- and moderate-income renters and homeowners
- Single parents
- LGBTQIA+ community members
- Youth and seniors

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<sup>2</sup> Different populations will need different solutions for accessibility. This goes far beyond ramps and includes issues such as providing information in alternative formats (Braille, accessible Word/PDF documents, accessible websites, etc.), provision of sign language interpreters, the need for simplified texts, and so on.

<sup>3</sup> Historically and currently marginalized communities are those people who have been denied power, respect, and resources that historically and currently have been given to others. These groups have been explicitly and implicitly disempowered, disrespected, and discriminated against. People within these populations have been confined to the lower income and/or peripheral edges of the society, and have been explicitly or by default denied involvement in economic, political, cultural and social activities enjoyed by those in power.

<sup>4</sup> The initial populations were identified by the Governor, staff and LCDC. In the context of operationalizing the rules, RAC members reviewed and added to these populations to include youth, seniors and people unfairly excluded from resources due to employment, homeownership, experience with the justice system, or other life status.

- People unfairly excluded from resources due to employment, homeownership, experience with the justice system, or other life status

These priority populations should not just be considered in isolation, but with consideration of intersecting or compounding harms and disadvantages. *Intersectionality* refers to the way many people are part of multiple communities, and experience multiple forms of discrimination and disadvantage based on their identity. For example, one person could have compounded disadvantages based on their gender, disability, and socio-economic class, as well as their racial and ethnic background. These disadvantages result in reduced access to resources and opportunities, and make achieving outcomes at the same level of privileged community members much more difficult.

## Outcomes

The core of this work aims to *both* reduce climate pollution and increase equity by reducing driving, improving transportation choices, and creating communities where daily needs can be met by walking, biking, remote access, or taking transit.

## Climate Outcomes

This work aims to further these climate outcomes:

1. Achieving Oregon’s transportation-related greenhouse gas pollution reduction targets
2. Increased resilience to the effects of climate disruption
3. Healthy air quality and increased carbon sequestration, particularly through tree canopy and parks in urban areas

## Equity Outcomes

This work aims to further more inclusive communities, and these principal equity outcomes:

1. Increased stability of priority populations, lowering the likelihood of displacement due to gentrification from public and private investments
2. More accessible, safe, affordable and equitable transportation choices with better connectivity to destinations people want to reach (e.g. education, jobs, services, shopping, places of worship, parks and open spaces, and community centers)
3. Adequate housing with access to employment, education, and culturally appropriate food, goods, services, recreational and cultural opportunities, and social spaces<sup>5</sup>

The effort also aims to further these equity outcomes:

4. Increased safety for people put in vulnerable conditions in public spaces, transportation and community development
5. Equitable access to welcoming parks, nature, open spaces and public spaces<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> *Adequate housing* in this document refers to the [seven UN housing elements](#): legal security of tenure, availability of services/materials/facilities/infrastructure, affordability, habitability, accessibility, location and cultural adequacy.

<sup>6</sup> This outcome is meant to include not merely reaching the destination, but safety, comfort and design, so people who want to enjoy these spaces use them.

6. Better and more racially equitable health outcomes [across the lifespan], particularly those connected to transportation choices, air pollution, and food
7. Recognizing and remedying impacts of past practices such as redlining, displacement, exclusionary zoning, and roadway and other public infrastructure locating that harmed priority populations
8. Fairly-distributed benefits to residents and local governments across cities and counties within metropolitan areas

## Action and Accountability

The staff and Commission will work towards these outcomes using administrative rules, agency guidance documents, and technical assistance. A few implementation guidelines follow:

- **Success requires resources.** Achieving these more equitable process and outcomes will require allocation of significant resources at the state and local level.
- **Information must be improved.** The State and its partners must work to improve quantitative and qualitative information so communities can prioritize investments to address inequitable outcomes.
- **Investment is critical.** Budgets and spending are clear statements of priorities, and increased investment in communities of priority populations is a required step to achieve the desired long-term outcomes.
- **Outcomes must be measured, and the Commission and Department must develop a clear system for implementation and accountability.** Staff will discuss performance measures, timelines, and responsible parties for these outcomes in rulemaking and associated guidance documents. Some elements of the listed outcomes are outside the scope of the rulemaking and LCDC/DLCD's statutory authority, but are important to describe our desired future.