

Equitable Outcomes for Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities

Every Mile Counts

To ensure that the actions in the Every Mile Counts work plan do not result in negative impacts or place burdensome outcomes on traditionally disadvantaged or underserved communities, the Every Mile Counts agencies are committed to advancing equitable outcomes for communities in Oregon. The equitable outcomes will allow agencies to make measurable progress toward achieving the statewide greenhouse gas reduction targets while also advancing social equity and environmental justice objectives. The equitable outcomes are the specific results that will enable the Every Mile Counts agencies to achieve Oregon’s climate and equity goals.

The basis for these equitable outcomes is grounded in the definition of “equity” presented by Governor Kate Brown in the State of Oregon Equity Framework:

“Equity acknowledges that not all people, or all communities, are starting from the same place due to historic and current systems of oppression. Equity is the effort to provide different levels of support based on an individual’s or group’s needs in order to achieve fairness in outcomes. Equity actionably empowers communities most impacted by systemic oppression and requires the redistribution of resources, power, and opportunity to those communities.”

The Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities Rulemaking action will support these **equitable outcomes**:

Future Vision

We are building a future where:

- All Oregonians live in safe, livable, friendly and healthy neighborhoods
- All Oregonians have access to clean air and water, quality housing, healthy food, convenient and affordable transportation options, health care and living wage jobs
- Systemic and institutional inequities based on race, income and disability no longer exist
- Historically marginalized communities including Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC), low income and low wealth individuals, limited English proficiency communities, people experiencing homelessness, renters, single parents, undocumented community members, LGBTQIA+ and people with disabilities no longer bear the largest burdens of pollution, environmental and natural hazards, and environmental degradation
- Local decision-making ensures people of historically marginalized communities 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 Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities rules, guidance and technical assistance will create and further state and local decision-making *processes* that:

1. Prioritize community-led engagement, with specific attention to communities most impacted by climate pollution¹
2. Are inclusive and center historically marginalized communities
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 historically marginalized communities
6. Are in languages and formats that can be used by everyone
7. Are accessible to people with disabilities
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

Climate Outcomes

Those processes should result in these *climate outcomes*:

1. Reduction in transportation-related greenhouse gas pollution that meets Oregon's targets, including reduced driving
2. Increased resilience to the effects of climate disruption
3. Good air quality and increased carbon sequestration, particularly through tree canopy and parks in urban areas

Equity Outcomes

And these *equity outcomes*:

1. More inclusive, complete communities
2. Increased stability of historically marginalized communities, lowering the likelihood of displacement due to gentrification through public and private investments
3. Reversal of historic patterns that disadvantage historically marginalized communities
4. Improved information with which communities can prioritize investments to address inequitable outcomes

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

5. Better and more racially equitable health outcomes, particularly connected to transportation choices, air pollution, and food
6. 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, and community centers)
7. Adequate housing with access to employment, education, and culturally appropriate food, goods, services, recreational and cultural opportunities, and social spaces²
8. Increased safety for people in vulnerable conditions or communities in public spaces, transportation and community development
9. Fairly-distributed benefits to residents and local governments across cities and counties within metropolitan areas
10. Equitable access to quality nature, parks, open spaces and public spaces³

² *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.

³ Once defining these words later in the process, consider: [Seattle's 2035 Growth and Equity](#) (p.4) defines "access to opportunity" as "living within walking distance or with transit access to services, employment opportunities, amenities, and other key determinants of social, economic, and physical well-being."