Asheville's Climate Justice Initiative

City Council Update

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Key Takeaways ...

- Built a community-defined understanding of Climate Justice + Climate Equity
- Creation of the Climate Justice Data Map
- Developed a Climate Justice Guide + Screening Tool to support climate justice and equity decision-making within the City of Asheville
- The importance of continued education on equity + climate justice for both the organization and the public

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Climate Emergency Overview

In January 2020 Asheville City Council declared a Climate Emergency. Resolution 20-25 states that a Climate Justice Plan be created to consolidate the various separate sustainability goals and department initiatives.

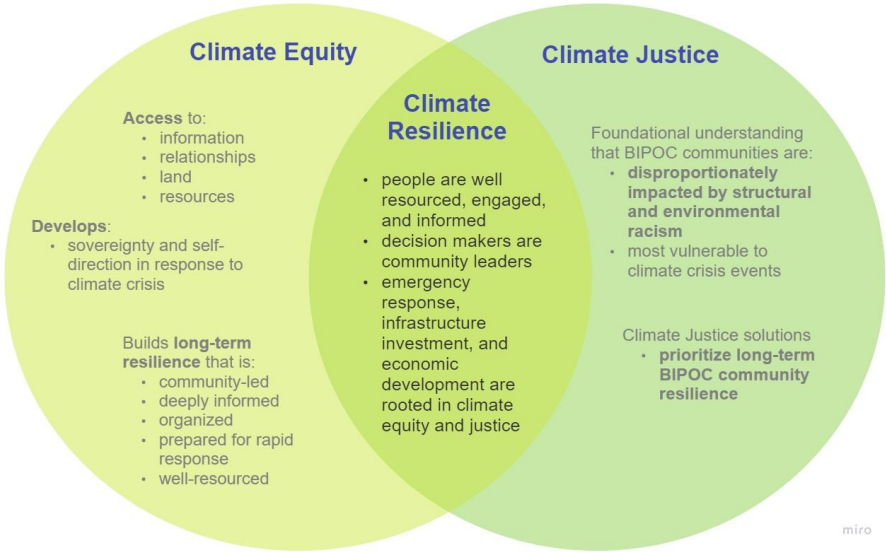


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Climate Justice Plan

Asheville's Climate Justice Plan

- Defined Climate Justice and Climate Equity with BIPOC community members,
- Creation of the Climate Justice Data Map, and
- Created a Climate Justice Screening Tool to complement the work of the GARE Racial Toolkit + Asheville's adopted plans.



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Climate Justice Initiative

TEPEYAC CONSULTING

	Mapping climate vulnerability
PHASE I	Frontline 1:1 interviews
	Story circles
	City of Asheville: Listening + Learning
PHASE II	Climate Justice Guide + Screening Tool
	Voices of Our Youth Public Art Project

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Voices from the Frontline

Climate Justice is having access to information, relationships, land, and resources needed to have sovereignty and self-direction in response to climate crisis events and long-term sustainability that is community-led, deeply informed, organized, prepared for rapid response, and well-resourced.

Community Resilience

- Economic power
- Healthy environments
- Strong social networks

Climate Justice Concerns

- Displacement
- Inequitable evacuation plans and emergency responses
- Impacts of structural racism
- Access to healthy food and transportation
- Lack of conversation about how to prepare and respond
- Lack of awareness of the impacts on BIPOC homes and neighborhoods



Voices of the City: Recommendations

- Integrate the GARE Toolkit and the Climate Justice Screening Tool
- Collaborate with departments
- Commit resources to racial equity and climate justice efforts
- Invest in community engagement capacity

The Climate Justice Screening Tool

- Follows guidance about key climate and equity choice points identified by frontline leaders and city staff
- Offers a framework for applying a climate justice lens to planning and implementation of proposed climate and resilience actions
- Support staff in identifying the policies and practices where they can focus their work towards advancing climate justice
- Incorporate the lessons learned from their experiences with the GARE toolkit



Gallery Showing: Spring

YOUTH ARTISTS EMPOWERED

YOUTH (14-20)
Ariel
Khavah
Cielo
Gloria
Sydney

TEACHING ARTISTS
Cynde Allen
Tarah Singh
Tiffany Debellott

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