Climate Action Plan 2.0

Appendix 4

Eugene Community Climate Action Plan 2.0 Equity Panel Recommendations

Eugene Community Climate Action Plan 2.0 Recommendations

The Climate Action Plan 2.0 (CAP2.0) Equity Panel met 10 times between January and June 2019 to provide feedback on the City of Eugene's Climate Action Plan and related work. Representatives included individuals from the Food for Lane County, Huerto de la Familia, Lane Independent Living Alliance, NAACP, National Alliance on Mental Illness Lane County, and Sapsikwala.

Eugene's Triple Bottom Line Vision

The Equity Panel was guided by As we work to implement the City of Eugene's Climate Recovery Ordinance and to increase our community's resiliency towards climate change, we will be using the City Council's vision to guide our work. The vision describes the three legs of the Triple Bottom Line framework.

<u>Social Equity</u>
Value all people, encouraging respect and appreciation for diversity, equity, justice, and social well-being. We recognize and appreciate our differences and embrace our common humanity as the source of our strength.

<u>Environmental Stewardship</u>
Be responsible stewards of our physical assets and natural resources. We will sustain our clean air and water, beautiful parks and open spaces, and livable and safe neighborhoods; and foster a vibrant downtown, including a stable infrastructure.

<u>Economic Prosperity</u>
Encourage a strong, sustainable and vibrant economy, fully utilizing our educational and cultural assets, so that every person has an opportunity to achieve financial security.

Climate Action Plan Social Equity Lens

The Climate Action Plan Equity Panel developed the following Equity Lens to guide Eugene's Climate Work.

Guiding Questions:

1. **Stakeholder Involvement:** How have we intentionally involved stakeholders, technical experts, and vulnerable impacted community members affected by this decision? What's the mechanism for including vulnerable and underserved communities throughout the process? Who else do we need to invite?

2. **Engagement of Protected Classes:** Have we engaged "protected classes"[1], vulnerable and underserved communities, to determine who is most negatively or positively impacted? Have we effectively collected data on impacted or vulnerable communities for this decision or investment?

3. **Implementation Strategies:** What are the strategies for implementation proposed? How will we modify or enhance our strategies to ensure vulnerable communities' individual and cultural needs are met? If there is an investment or resource allocation, how does it advance social equity in Eugene? In other words, does it advance the social equity leg of the Triple Bottom Line? Does the decision acknowledge and improve existing disparities?

4. **Addressing historical disparities:** What are intended and unintended consequences? Do those benefit some communities and further marginalize historically underserved ones? Have we created mechanisms to address such disparities?

5. **Planning for equitable outcomes.** What outcomes do we expect? Are they equitable? What are the barriers to more equitable outcomes? (e.g. mandated, political, emotional, financial, programmatic or managerial) What are opportunities that arise to better serve vulnerable communities?

6. **Proper Follow-Up:** Does the proposed action include an equity evaluation process throughout decision-making and implementations? Are equity check-ins embedded

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[1] City of Eugene protected classes are based on race, national origin, sex, gender, religión, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, membership to labor organization, age, economic/social status, familial status, marital/domestic partner status, source of income; the equity lens also considers migrant status, undocumented status, country of origin, chronic illness, mental health status, unhoused status or people experiencing homelessness.

in the proposed action? Do the equity check-ins include consultation with equity advisory bodies?

7. **Outreach**: Does the proposed action include funding for appropriate outreach with communities of color, migrants, people with chronic illness and disabilities, people with mental health conditions, and other underserved communities? Is information provided in accessible formats, multiple languages, and various medium such as fliers, radio, internet, television, door-to-door, community ambassadors/advocates, businesses?

8. **Accessibility**: Have city officials and stakeholders held public forums to discuss the action in spaces that are geographically and physically more accessible to working peoples, low-income families, communities of color, migrants, people with chronic illness and disabilities, people with mental health conditions, and other underserved communities? Has translation and interpretation been provided? Has transportation been offered if appropriate?

9. **Historical Awareness**: Does the proposed action include an analysis of why a community is more vulnerable to climate change and policies meant to mitigate it than others? Is there attention to local histories of marginalization, silence and violence that render a specific community more vulnerable to climate change?

10. **Education**: Does the proposed action include providing education about proposed mitigation and adaptation to climate change policies pertinent for low-income families, communities of color, migrants, people with chronic illness and disabilities, and other underserved communities?

Recommended Equity and Climate Actions

Buildings

1. Incentives and education for people to create rain and stormwater gardens at home.

2. Stakeholders offer incentives for employees to attend workshops on waste management, composting, energy use, climate change, gardening, transportation, carpooling.

3. Provide education about the climate impacts of having a large, single family home. Land use policies that encourage density and smaller, multifamily homes result in lower emissions and should be encouraged.

4. City land use policies should encourage higher density land use. Higher density housing results in more walkable, rideable, or roll-able communities.

Fuel and Transportation

5. Subsidies for Ride Source transportation; it is currently financially inaccessible for a community that already faces multiple economic challenges.

6. Provide bike, electric bikes and electric vehicles on loan station.

7. Multi-use, mixed-income residential and commercial zoning provides access to affordable housing, ADA-compliant infrastructure, culturally diverse food supply, access to public transportation.

8. Improve public transportation efficiency.

9. Public campaign on racism, homophobia, sexual violence, ableism in public transportation and bus stations to foster a better social climate for all to use public transportation.

10. Government subsidies and no-interest loans for electric bikes and electric vehicles, especially for low-income people and people with disabilities.

11. Sufficient solar-powered lighting for bike paths.

12. Protect Ride Source and public transportation—needed by many for daily activities, including life-sustaining one such as dialysis.

Adaptation for Climate Change and Natural Disasters

13. Cooling stations and charging stations for unhoused people and people who need electricity to operate health care and disability-related equipment; as well as people with conditions such as multiple sclerosis and nerve disorders.

14. City starts preparing itself for emergencies by considering how low-income communities will not be able to pay for unexpected emergency services, such as private fire fighters, if local fire stations are not prepared for increased summer fires.

15. Emergency stations well distributed where food, water and medical equipment will be accessible.

16. Ensure that people who need power wheelchairs for mobility, refrigeration of medicines, for hearing aids, for screen reading software have access to electricity if the power grid is compromised.

17. Trauma-Informed Training for first responders in an emergency, as well as training on supporting people on the autism spectrum and mental health diagnoses, such as PTSD, chronic anxiety, chronic depression, panic attacks, etc.

18. Train first responders on how to address concerns of communities who have been negatively targeted by police and other government agencies historically, such as migrants, Black, Native, Pacific Islander, low income, undocumented, unhoused, LGBTQ+ communities. First responders must have protocols to name and address people's fears with respect to the state in order to be effective in an emergency.

19. Train multilingual first responders.

20. Establish a citywide protocol to support organizations that deliver food to low income communities in an emergency, such as snow storm. Make sure food supplies are accessible to those who need it most.

21. In the event of an emergency, activate a network of community advocates to share information within underserved communities.

22. Have information available in multiple languages, including Spanish, Mandarin, and other pertinent languages and ensure information is accessible to those who use ASL.

23. Create a confidential list that lets first responders know which households must be contacted or visited during an emergency because inhabitants' health and capacity to receive information has been compromised due to failed power grid.

24. In the case of an evacuation, develop protocol to move and support all those who are dependent on public transit, have limited mobility, and do not have driver licenses.

25. Put in place fire and flooding drills in schools.

26. As heat and fires increase, provide access to asthma and other lung related medicines for people with compromised lungs.
27. Provide incentives for Psychological First Aid trainings for first responders and other public officials mindful of deploying them for natural disasters. Ask CAP stakeholders, such as the universities, to provide trainings for their employees and general public.

28. Support and foster accessible mental health services for underserved communities.

29. Edible forests in public areas with drought-resistant Native plants.

30. Ensure survival of Native food sources.

31. Rain and Stormwater gardens in public areas and stakeholders' lands.

32. Engage Tribal Traditional Ecological Knowledge in decision-making about land and water use.

33. Creation of a standing Climate Change Equity Advisory Committee that consults the people they represent when policies on climate change come up in the City. Remuneration provided for time commitment.

34. Host public hearings in multiple locations that increase access to information to working peoples.

35. Create a database of networks and information for appropriate inclusive outreach.

36. Create climate change education for public schools on mitigation and adaptation.

37. Stakeholders offer incentives for employees to attend workshops on waste management, composting, energy use, climate change, gardening, transportation, carpooling.

38. EWEB subsidies for organizations providing garden education to underserved communities as water needs increase due to droughts.

39. Award and monetary incentive for organizations working primordially with low income communities, migrants, communities of color, and people with disabilities on mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

40. City partnerships with those organizations on specific projects. For instance, making city land accessible for migrant garden education.

41. City hire and train advocates and leaders in underserved communities who serve as ambassadors that provide education on the city's decision-making processes, how to provide input to or make demands of city council, climate change and related practices at the individual and collective levels.

42. City dedicates a staff person (with training and community-based experience and connections) to build trust with members of vulnerable communities on issues of climate change-not relying on small, under-staffed and underfunded organizations to do outreach work for the city; and/or increase capacity of organizations to do the outreach work through allocated funding.

43. Have information available in multiple languages, including Spanish, Mandarin,, and other pertinent languages and ensure information is accessible to those who use ASL .

44. Since neighborhood associations are often spaces where people of color and low-income people do not feel welcomed, foster other avenues for community involvement. For instance, provide capacity building to empower community advocates from underserved communities to represent the needs of their communities in political processes and lead community-based emergency response. Activate schools as meeting sites in an emergency or a place to share information with community members.

Perspectives on Key Policy Issues: Natural Gas, Electric Vehicles and Reducing Consumption

Equity Panel Members provided feedback on each of the following policy questions. These notes represent different voices in the conversation, not consensus from the group.

Natural Gas: How would adding a fee for using natural gas or raising prices impact you?

Price Increases:

- Additional fees on natural gas would be passed on to renters who do not have any control over their heating/cooking source.
- If offsets are required, subsidies should be offered for income constrained population or a sliding scale should be created based on income levels.

Business Impacts

- Concerned that commercial accounts are not feasible to convert—it may lead to increase in costs at restaurants.

Transitioning from Gas to Electricity

- Consumers are price sensitive; they want cleaner sources of energy until the price becomes too high.
- Keeping gas stoves is not a priority; people are willing to switch to electricity.
- Renters do not have control over efficiency or electricity source.
- Education would be more beneficial than raising prices.
- Converting to natural gas is expensive; financial assistance in the form of grants or no interest loans would be necessary. Include incentives for rentals as well.

Policy Suggestions

- Target policies to focus on the largest consumers of natural gas.
- City should work towards policies that incentivize more efficient homes.
- Require all new developments to be natural gas free and limit new natural gas infrastructure.

Other Concerns

- Hydro is "clean" but dams are destructive. Impact with dams is also felt in communities of color, tribes, and rural communities. Be aware of trade-offs.
- There is a danger of disasters from natural gas in communities.

Consumption:

What do you find the most challenging in curtailing your consumption?

Food

- Many types of food are part of culture and tradition; it will be challenging to reduce meat and dairy consumption in particular.
- Lack of access to land is a challenge. By providing more community gardens there would be less consumption of meat and dairy because people would be able to grow their own food.

Other Topics

- Health Care consumption is needed and it is difficult to reduce your demand.
- Educational programs reminding people that while electronics and other devices are necessary, you do not always need the latest "thing".
- More education regarding the greenhouse gas impact of online shopping vs traditional in store shopping.

How does it make you feel when you are told to reduce consumption?

- Carbon emissions due to consumption is a corporate responsibility, not personal. Corporations should take actions which will limit the need for individuals to take action.
- Low income people are already constrained in their consumption; upper income people are the real problem.
- People want to eat healthier and local, but the cost is prohibitive.
- People feel frightened when they hear they need to reduce their consumption; there are essentials for daily lives. People need education about the relationship between consumption and emissions
- People feel under resourced and cannot do more without support—doing all they can to reduce consumption, they need help.
- There are other critical issues so reducing consumption is not the highest priority.
- People feel hopeful because individuals can make a difference—there are possibilities.

Electric Vehicles

What are the barriers to using or owning an electric vehicle (EV)?

- More education regarding EVs is necessary, but the gas industry opposes and has put out misinformation. Provide pros and cons, target young people, and use local news.
- People cannot afford EVs due to high costs
- The perception is that travel is limited to in town—many communities of color have a long distance to travel to get to work.
- Charging stations at apartments are extremely limited. Charging takes a long time and there are not enough chargers.
- People believe electricity costs will go up and charging costs would be prohibitive.
- People without driver's license cannot purchase the cars or get parking spaces.
- EVs are realistically only an option for upper/middle class.
- There is not enough charging infrastructure downtown.
- No current EVs with wheel chair accessibility—there is a demand but no supply.
- EVs may not meet the cultural needs of Latino community.
- EVs are very quiet, they may be dangerous for bikes.

What are the opportunities around EVs?

- Mass transit is good but not always easily accessible.
- Rentals and Rideshares incentives and have EVs in those programs.
- E-Bicycles need to be promoted more—pedal assist would solve a lot of access problems.
- Push car companies to develop/sell more electric cars.

Comments about Active Transportation

- Biking is not accessible, some people do not bike, probably never will.
- Develop separate biking and walking lanes away from cars.
- City should develop infrastructure so that walking should be the first priority, then biking, then rideshare.
- Bus takes too long. Need better routes, expand EMX.