

Mayors' Commission on Climate Change

Equity Preliminary Strategies & Foundational Principles¹

Equity Preliminary Strategies

The following preliminary strategies for equity will be presented for discussion and input at the February 3rd meeting. These strategies will be further developed to include concrete tactics by the Equity Technical Advisory Committee, which will be finalized and presented for action at the March 11th meeting.

These equity strategies are intended for the cities and other entities of the Commission to make it a priority to undertake their commitments to address climate change through the lens of equity.

1. Make decisions that ensure the fair and proportional distribution of impacts, opportunities, resources, and costs.
2. Demand inclusivity, the practice of including relevant stakeholders and communities, particularly marginalized communities² and groups that have been historically left out, in the policymaking and governance process, in order to ensure fair and equitable outcome.
3. Authentically involve residents, businesses, and other key stakeholders, particularly marginalized populations, as co-creators in all phases of planning and implementation
4. Partner with cultural brokers and community-based organizations that have established relationships with marginalized communities to ensure authentic engagement; leverage existing community engagement efforts when possible.

Foundational Principles

The Commission recommends the following as the foundational principles that are necessary to effectively and timely address the climate crisis.

1. Urgency

- Take significant action to sustain and accelerate municipal and community carbon elimination in the short term, with maximum feasible efforts to implement emergency-speed greenhouse gas emissions reduction actions towards eliminating emissions by 2030 as much as possible.
- Adopt an “All Hands” approach by making carbon zero a priority across all city departments, programs, and initiatives working in partnership with regional agencies, local businesses, nonprofit organizations and community members.
- Create and strengthen regional alignment and partnerships to support multi-agency, cross-sectoral collaborations.

¹ The Commission will take action on the Foundational Principles at the February 3rd meeting. The Preliminary Equity Strategies will be discussed, but no action will be taken until the March 11th meeting.

² “Marginalized Communities” will be defined by the Equity Technical Advisory Committee.

2. Advocacy

- Advocate for State and regional policies that encourage and enable the investments and implementation measures needed to achieve carbon zero, starting in the greater Sacramento region and creating a model for statewide action.

3. Accountability

- Assign a senior-level position with a background in sustainability and equity in each city to oversee all aspects of climate change planning and implementation who reports directly to the mayor and city council.
- Report progress along defined metrics of success to the mayors, city councils, and the general public on a quarterly basis.
- Align each city department's mission, operating procedures, funding priorities, and planning documents with the carbon zero vision.

4. Education

- Continuously partner with regional agencies, local businesses, nonprofit organizations and community members to conduct robust education campaigns to encourage voluntary action prior to establishing mandates.
- Invest in workforce development and training programs, prioritizing marginalized communities.
- Pursue pilot projects to secure early wins and deliver tangible results in order to increase public support and capacity over time.

5. Financial and Economic Sustainability

- Prioritize actions that spur innovation, economic development and jobs growth and preservation in a growing low-carbon economy.
- Align capital improvement plans and investment decisions, including ballot measures, with achieving carbon zero.
- Seek solutions that balance incentives and disincentives.