The ABCs of Equity: What You Need to Know About Prioritizing Equity Within Climate Action Planning

Chloe, Hannah, and Sophia
The Methow Valley is the traditional land of the Methow People.
Incorporating Equity

Create guidelines & recommendations for the Task Force and Planning Team to consider ensuring the implementation of equity and inclusion throughout the writing and implementation of the Methow Valley Climate Action Plan.

Equity means providing support to disadvantaged groups, so to ensure similar opportunities and benefits of actions for all.
Methodology

- Sustainable Lowell
- Oakland 2030 Equitable Climate Action Plan (ECAP)
- The Chicago Climate Action Plan (CCAP)
- The Chicago Climate Action Plan for Nature (CAPN)
- City of Rochester Climate Action Plan
- Our Climate Our Future City of San Diego Climate Action Plan
- Ashland Oregon Climate & Energy Action Plan
- The Integration of Equity in the Portland/ Multnomah County 2015 Climate Action Plan

Thank you Joshua Porter & Drew Katz, Sarah Brown, and Daisy Purdy.
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Accountability

- Honor the land and respect Indigenous knowledge by learning and listening without pushing an agenda.
- Work with the Colville tribe and compensate accordingly for their time and expertise.
- Scrutinize suggestions that impact natural resources farther downriver and recognize the implications of this plan beyond Methow Valley.
- Recognize the plan as a living document.
Addressing Hate

- Acknowledge systemic racism and discrimination and the position of power held by the taskforce in drafting and implementing the plan.
- Prevent stereotyping of groups or individuals and microaggressions in the plan.
Community Engagement

- Ensure enough time for an equitable process and transparency.
- Translate the plan into multiple languages,
- Represent the community without tokenization,
- Diversify leadership,
- Remain aware of various political perspectives
- Form diverse focus groups.
Economic Development

- Focus on jobs that are local, difficult to outsource, and support sustainable livelihoods.
- Create a food recovery program, promote the reuse and repair economy, and prioritize funding projects that help the most vulnerable populations.
Education

- Educate readers on the importance of equity within the plan, the urgency of climate change and carbon emission reduction
- Coordinate with local schools to improve climate literacy and emphasize climate justice and equity.
Employment and Labor

- Support programs that enable local contractors to diversify and compete in new markets
- Ensure disadvantaged communities are aware of and adequately trained to meet the needs of jobs in the new green economy
- Connect community members with green job opportunities.
Environmental Justice

- Support residents from a variety of backgrounds, identities, and financial statuses.
- Invest in areas that have been under-invested in,
- Prepare for natural disasters
- Highlight the different amenities available
Food Justice

- Limit carbon emissions from food transport
- Focus on health, equity, and local economic benefits of food by increasing community gardens and ensuring the health and safety of local farm workers.
Health

- Acknowledge and address public health risks by providing more opportunities for local health care, specifically for low-income groups.
- Enhance natural disaster-warning systems.
Housing

- Adapt to climate change without exacerbating the displacement of housing-insecure and cost-burdened residents
- Lower energy costs and improve energy efficiency in existing homes
- Increase affordable housing
- Maintain diverse housing options
- Incentivize second homeowners to support community housing
Identifying Opportunities for Change

- Support groups disproportionately impacted by climate change.
- Set up programs to create structural change.
- Be cautious of renaming/naming things, and places without recognizing the original names associated with the area.
Transportation

- Provide affordable, accessible public transit
- Make walking, biking, and carpool options more accessible
- Switch to more efficient or hybrid vehicles for company transportation
- Support new trail development.
Youth Development

- Provide opportunities for local youth to avoid displacement and continue engaging students in climate work.
Guidelines

- Know your readers
- Organize the plan in a way that is inclusive and understanding to all
- Write in short precise sentences
  - Remove extra words
  - Avoid clustering of nouns
  - Avoid Passive Voices
  - Turn nouns into verbs
  - Avoid jargon heavy language
  - Avoid Acronyms
  - Using simpler words/ wording
  - Explain all processes
  - Highlight main points

- Use lists
- Don't include a glossary
- Write in way that you will read
- Add colors, pictures, images, graphs, and tables to break up heavy text
- Include an Equity/Diversity section
Measuring Success

We hope this will open up dialogue and facilitate actions so that the Methow Valley Climate Action Plan does not directly or indirectly burden any marginalized communities and is used as an opportunity to leverage resources to advance equity issues.

To do this, the plan must:

1. Be accessible to all communities within the Methow Valley.

1. Take the current priorities of underrepresented communities into account, and allow for communication and collaborative partnership so these priorities can be expressed within the plan.

1. Create spaces for collaboration and facilitate long-term avenues of communication.
Thoughts & Questions