

# Advance Portland Climate and Equity Lens

## 1. Introduction

### Climate & Equity Lens Goals

The Advance Portland Climate and Equity Lens establishes a series of questions intended to place racial equity, climate resilience, and inclusive growth as driving principles in shaping and implementing the strategy's priorities and recommendations. Goals of implementation include:

- Greater **economic well-being and resilience** with Black, Indigenous, Latine, Asian American and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (AANHPI), people of color, LGBTQIA2S+, and for vulnerable populations based on disability, income, national origin, and gender;
- Developing a **workforce** that is prepared for a changing environmental climate and to participate in emerging industries;
- Increasing **ownership and representation** by **Black, Indigenous, and all entrepreneurs of Color** in the green economy and growing industries;
- Enhancing the **competitiveness of the businesses and industries** that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build environmental resilience, and provide employment opportunities for Portland's diverse workforce; and
- Supporting **local businesses to transition** and grow into low-carbon industries, adapt more inclusive practices, and connect to the global market.

### Utilizing the Climate & Equity Lens

The lens builds upon and adapts existing efforts and policy<sup>1</sup> designed to support an equitable, inclusive, and zero-carbon economy. The questions are relevant for the early development of draft recommendations, the iterative process of arriving at the final strategy, evaluating how the strategy is implemented, and in establishing and reporting on outcomes by which to evaluate the strategy's implementation.

The **Decision Criteria** creates a threshold for identifying if a potential intervention advances Climate and Equity Goals. An intervention must have the potential to advance one or more of these goals to be considered for the Inclusive Economic Development Strategy.

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<sup>1</sup> The development of a Climate & Equity Lens for the Inclusive Economic Development Strategy adapts and builds upon work completed to date, which includes: [City of Portland Climate Emergency Resolution](#) (2020), [Climate Emergency Declaration Workplan](#) (2022), The City of Portland's Climate Change Preparation Strategy (2014), Multnomah County 100% Renewable Energy Resolution (2017), The Sustainable Consumption and Production Report and two-year workplan (2021), City of Portland COVID-19 Equity Relief and Recovery Toolkit (2020), Prosper Portland COVID-19 Equity and Vulnerability Lens (2020) and The Portland Plan (2012).

The **Process Considerations** inform decision making by making clear what is known, and unknown, about the implications of a particular choice. The Process Considerations are used to help prioritize and document known challenges and considerations to help identify opportunities for further refinement by asking who was engaged and who benefits from the intervention. The Process Considerations also help identify where more information is needed to make an informed decision.

The **Implementation Expectations** are focused on how the strategy will be implemented as opposed to developing the strategy itself. It creates a framework around how to embed the Climate & Equity Lens considerations for maximizing advancement of these goals through implementation and evaluation.

## 2. Climate & Equity Lens Decision Criteria

The **Decision Criteria** below create a **threshold** for validating that potential interventions could advance climate and/or equity goals before potentially being included in the Advance Portland strategy.

*Does the intervention:*

- Prioritize participation of and engagement with those most impacted by economic disparities and/or climate change-related risks and impacts in Portland?
- Align with economic and climate priorities shared in the community engagement process?
- Build local environmental, and/or community resilience?
- Create economic growth opportunities that could be leveraged to advance climate and/or racial equity goals?

If yes to one or more of the above, proceed to the next section.

## 3. Climate & Equity Lens Process Considerations

During the **process** to develop the Advance Portland strategy, each potential intervention should be assessed for the following criteria for **prioritization** of final interventions within the strategy. These questions help to frame what specific disparities or climate risks are being addressed and who benefits from the intervention.

### 3a. Climate Considerations:

- How does this intervention increase opportunities for local economic growth within the local or global low-carbon economy or the circular economy, including in connection to the global market?
- How does this intervention leverage or build upon local economic assets that are also “climate” assets (or represent climate-related opportunities)?

- How does the activity address the needs of those most impacted by climate change-related risks and impacts<sup>2</sup>?
- How does this support existing businesses to transition and grow into low-carbon industries, and/or in what ways might this increase local economic and environmental resilience?

#### 2b Equity Considerations:

- What communities (Black, Indigenous, Latine, AANHPI, and other people of color and vulnerable communities - disability, low income, LGBTQIA2S+, national origin, and gender) were engaged and how?
- What factors will this recommendation address to help close the economic disparities faced by communities of color and vulnerable communities? In what ways?
- How does this intervention leverage or promote the unique qualities of our diverse communities?
- What measurable accountability metrics are embedded that can be disaggregated by race?

Pause to consider potential negative externalities that could exacerbate existing economic disparities or accelerate climate change. If these exist, document actions taken to mitigate them.

### Chapter 3: Implementation Expectations

When the strategy development is complete and the project moves into implementation, the framework below grounds the **implementation of the strategy** in climate and equity goals and embeds **accountability** in the implementation.

#### Climate & Equity Implementation Expectations:

- Ensure those most impacted by the strategy are **partners** in designing the interventions
- **Sustaining engagement** with impacted communities before, during, and after implementation of the strategies
- **Establish and evaluate impact** for this recommendation and develop **feedback loop** to make changes based on learnings, including intended and unintended results
- Acknowledge harm in the historical relationships between the City and impacted communities and **connect direct actions** to address harm caused

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<sup>2</sup> E.g. Supporting workers in preparation for a changing climate or opportunities, or increasing participation by BIPOC business owners and a diverse workforce in the green economy