

***MORE THAN JUST A CO-BENEFIT:
KEEPING PORTLAND'S
SUSTAINABILITY EDGE
THROUGH SOCIAL AND RACIAL
EQUITY***

Greg Schrock

Portland/Mult Co CAP Equity Scan 11/13/2013

About me ...

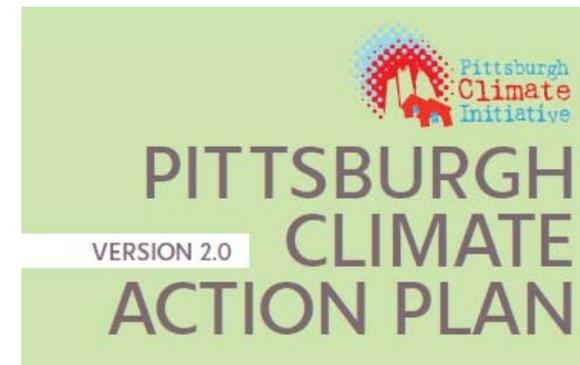
- My primary interest is in opportunity in the labor market
 - Workforce development programs
 - Policies for “opportunity targeting,” such as first source/local hire policies, linked to EcDev/job creation efforts

The logo for the Chicago Climate Action Plan features the words "CHICAGO", "CLIMATE", "ACTION", and "PLAN" stacked vertically. Each letter is filled with a different image related to the city's environment, such as skyscrapers, green fields, wind turbines, and urban scenes. The text is rendered in a bold, sans-serif font.

OUR CITY. OUR FUTURE.

Across the country...

- Schrock, Bassett and Green: Analysis of 28 recently completed CAPs and Sustainability Plans from large (top 100) US cities
- Only 11 of 28 (39%) made equity a prominent theme
- But nearly 60% of plans completed in 2009 or later
- Especially common among “second generation” plans



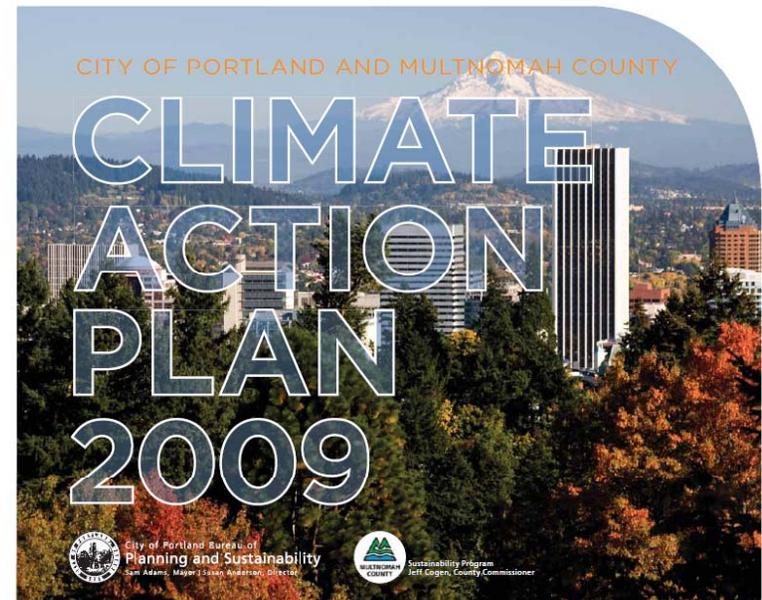
CAP Update Equity Scan

- *How well did the 2009 Portland/Multnomah County CAP address equity?*
 - *Were opportunities capitalized upon or not?*
 - *Were there unanticipated burdens from the CAP's actions?*
- *How can the 2013 CAP update **strengthen its focus on equity?***



2009 Portland/MultCo CAP

- Equity was a **prominent frame**, but largely **disconnected from actions** and specific disparities
- Equity “co-benefits” likely but not readily knowable
 - “Who/where” and “How” of implementation unclear
- No obvious equity burdens directly linked to CAP, indirect impacts possible but not addressed



2013 CAP Update Should:

- Make social and racial equity a **top-level commitment and priority**;
- **Connect the plan's strategies and actions** to documented disparities and community goals;
- **Articulate metrics for progress** on those disparities and equity goals; and
- **Facilitate implementation** by providing useful guidance for planners, policy makers and the involved public.

Building on progress...

KING COUNTY EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

Working toward fairness and opportunity for all

Communities of Color in Multnomah County:
An Unsettling Profile

**EQUITY AND
EMPOWERMENT
LENS
2012**

**RACIAL EQUITY
STRATEGY
GUIDE**

the
State of Black
OREGON

 Urban League
of Portland

PROSPEROUS. EDUCATED. HEALTHY. EQUITABLE.

**THE
PORTLAND
PLAN**

A Framework for Equity

Regional Equity Atlas

The Portland Metro Region's Geography of Opportunity

Some examples

UPDATE REPORT

A Climate of Progress

City of Boston Climate Action Plan Update 2011

Implementation of the climate action recommendations should not exacerbate existing social and economic inequalities and should, whenever possible, contribute to reducing those inequalities.



PRIORITY ONE

Air Quality

VISION

Newark will take action to understand and improve the relationship between air quality and human health in all city neighborhoods. The City will work with community partners, state and federal agencies, researchers, health professionals, and the business community to mitigate existing sources of air pollution, with priority on the types of pollution most dangerous to human health. New development projects will be required to meet performance standards for air quality so they do not add to the cumulative impact of air pollution affecting the city. In Newark's sustainable future, children will not face a disproportionate health burden from air pollution relative to their counterparts state-wide.

CHALLENGES

Newark's air quality is among the worst in New Jersey, due to a combination of factors. A dense transit network that includes seaport, airport, trains and several highways, concentration of industrial uses, the region's processing facilities for waste and wastewater, high volumes of diesel trucks traveling through residential areas and older building stock all contribute to air quality problems. Air pollution is linked to increased illness and death from problems such as asthma, hypertension, heart disease, and cancer. According to the Coalition for Healthy Ports, more Newark residents die from illnesses associated with air pollution than from gun violence in Newark every year. The various pollution sources contribute to a total cumulative impact that can be more dangerous to human health than any one pollutant alone. The EPA has designated Newark as an "Environmental Justice Community of Concern" as a result of these factors.

ACTION SUMMARY

- Convene an air quality taskforce to identify, monitor and address health-harmful local sources of air pollution
- Reduce diesel pollution from trucks and other vehicles
- Develop and implement a Cumulative Impact Ordinance and Zoning Amendments to minimize and mitigate new pollution
- Strengthen partnerships and advocacy work on major emission sources
- Phase out use of Number 6 and Number 4 heating oil in building boilers
- Roll out a "Green and Healthy Homes Initiative" for Newark focused on homes with children with asthma

The City of Newark

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

CHALLENGES

Newark's air quality is among the worst in New Jersey, due to a combination of factors. A dense transit network that includes seaport, airport, trains and several highways, concentration of industrial uses, the region's processing facilities for waste and wastewater, high volumes of diesel trucks traveling through residential areas, and older building stock all contribute to air quality problems. Air pollution is linked to increased illness and death from problems such as asthma, hypertension, heart disease, and cancer. According to the Coalition for Healthy Ports, more Newark residents die from illnesses associated with air pollution than from gun violence in Newark every year. The various pollution sources contribute to a total cumulative impact that can be more dangerous to human health than any one pollutant alone. The EPA has designated Newark as an "Environmental Justice Community of Concern" as a result of these factors.

Making a Commitment to Equity in the 2013 CAP Update

| An equitable Portland is... | Present inequities and disparities | How the CAP will promote equity and reduce disparities |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| <p>Healthy</p> | <p>Communities of color and low-income populations suffer disproportionately from acute and chronic illness due to social, economic and environmental factors, reducing their opportunities and life chances.</p> | <p>The CAP will mitigate environmental factors leading to health disparities, such as barriers to active lifestyles and transportation, pollution exposure, disparate access to greenspace and other natural amenities.</p> |
| <p>Safe and Livable</p> | <p>Communities of color and low-income populations live disproportionately in housing that is unaffordable and neighborhoods that are unsafe, reducing their quality of life.</p> | <p>The CAP will promote investments in housing energy efficiency that will make them safer, more comfortable and affordable, and in community infrastructure that enhances pedestrian and bike safety, and other elements of livability.</p> |

Making a Commitment to Equity in the 2013 CAP Update

| An equitable Portland is... | Present inequities and disparities | How the CAP will promote equity and reduce disparities |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Accessible | Communities of color and low-income populations live disproportionately in “ low opportunity ” and “ incomplete ” neighborhoods, and are disproportionately transit-dependent. | The CAP will promote investments that improve neighborhood accessibility , by bringing services to underserved neighborhoods and supporting equitable expansions of public transit and active transportation infrastructure . |
| Prosperous | Communities of color experience persistent disparities in poverty, incomes and wealth relative to White populations, and they and other low-income populations encounter significant economic, spatial and institutional barriers to opportunity, upward mobility and wealth creation. | The CAP will promote the creation of employment and small business opportunities with potential to lift up and empower households and communities, and maximize that potential through equitable hiring and contracting policies that target those opportunities toward historically underrepresented populations. |

Making a Commitment to Equity in the 2013 CAP Update

| An equitable Portland is... | Present inequities and disparities | How the CAP will promote equity and reduce disparities |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Inclusive | Communities of color and low-income populations have lacked representation and power in planning and other public decision-making processes , resulting in a bias toward the goals, priorities and perspectives of White, middle- and upper-class residents. | Communities of color and other historically underrepresented populations will be included in every step of the CAP process , from the definition of goals to implementation. Proactive, culturally-appropriate strategies will be undertaken to reach out to these populations and involve and empower them through the CAP's actions and programs. |

Facilitating Equity-Oriented Implementation

- Developing a specific set of “equity lens” questions for types of actions and policies in the CAP
 - Regulations
 - Public programs, investments and government operations
 - Market transformation
 - Planning and public outreach and education

Regulations

- Limit the activities of private actors that generate excessive carbon emissions, or threaten natural systems important to preparation and adaptation to climate change.
- *Does the regulation generate cost burdens, either directly or indirectly, to communities of color and low-income communities?*
- Equity considerations:
 - Is the activity or outcome being regulated related to a documented disparity? Does it mitigate that disparity?
 - What are the costs? How are they borne?
 - To the extent the costs fall disproportionately on low-income households, can this be mitigated?

Public programs, investments, gov't operations

- Range of activities that includes shorter-term programmatic efforts but also longer-term capital investments in infrastructure.
- *Can the benefits be targeted in progressive ways to reduce historical and current disparities?*
- Equity considerations:
 - Do benefits of program relate to documented disparities?
 - Are LI/COC stakeholders being involved and empowered?
 - Can benefits be targeted to particular neighborhoods or communities of need?
 - Who is doing the work? What is the quality of jobs?
 - How is program funded? Is it funded through regressive source?
 - Do investments potentially contribute toward displacement?

Market transformation

- Attempt to stimulate/catalyze market for “climate preferable” goods and services, through subsidies, tech assistance, etc.
- *Are benefits of this new market’s goods and services broadly accessible to households throughout the community?*
- Equity considerations:
 - To what extent would provision of this good address documented disparities/inequities facing LI/COC?
 - Does market transformation have potential to negatively affect market for existing goods and services that LI/COC population depends on?

Planning and public outreach

- Actions calling for planning, assessment, public outreach, and education.
- *Are low-income communities and communities of color, and other vulnerable, impacted populations, being engaged and empowered in a meaningful, authentic and culturally appropriate manner?*
- Equity considerations (from BPS Decision Support Tool)
 - What strategies are to be undertaken to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including LI/COC populations, and to enhance their power?
 - How will racial and social impact criteria be used in stakeholder decisionmaking processes?
 - Is the language used to market programs geared toward a mainstream, educated, middle and high income audience? Is there a direct plan on how to market the program to historically under-represented communities of color?

Measuring progress



- Chapter-level crosswalks to documented disparities and equity goals
- Goals and metrics relating to:
 - Equitable provision of services and benefits
 - Reduction of disparities

Measuring Progress

| Chapter | Disparities | Potential Goals/Metrics |
|--|--|---|
| 1) Buildings and Energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housing cost burden• Housing quality and safety• Underrepresentation of women and minorities in building trades occupations/ contracting | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equitable provision of publicly-subsidized energy efficiency services• Improvements in home energy performance/energy savings by neighborhood• Improvements in indoor air quality / reduction in asthma morbidity rates• MWESB contracting goals for EE/RE programs• Underrepresented population hiring targets for EE/RE contractors |

Measuring Progress

| Chapter | Disparities | Potential Goals/Metrics |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 2) Urban form and mobility | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neighborhood “completeness”• Transit access• Walkability and Bikability• Pedestrian safety• Obesity rates | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equitable provision of transportation and transit infrastructure and safety improvements• Reduction in neighborhood disparities in “completeness”, transit access, ped safety, walkability, bikability• Changes in bike counts by neighborhood, or other measures of active transportation utilization |

Measuring Progress

| Chapter | Disparities | Potential Goals/Metrics |
|--|--|--|
| 3) Consumption and Solid Waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure to solid waste processing/ municipal recycling facilities • Recycling program access/utilization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equitable utilization of recycling and composting services • Equitable siting/expansion of solid waste/recycling facilities |
| 4) Urban forestry and natural systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree canopy cover • Ambient air quality (number of times above benchmark level) • Asthma rates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equitable provision of urban forestry investments • Reduction in neighborhood disparities in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ tree canopy cover ◦ air quality ◦ ER visits for respiratory distress |

Measuring Progress

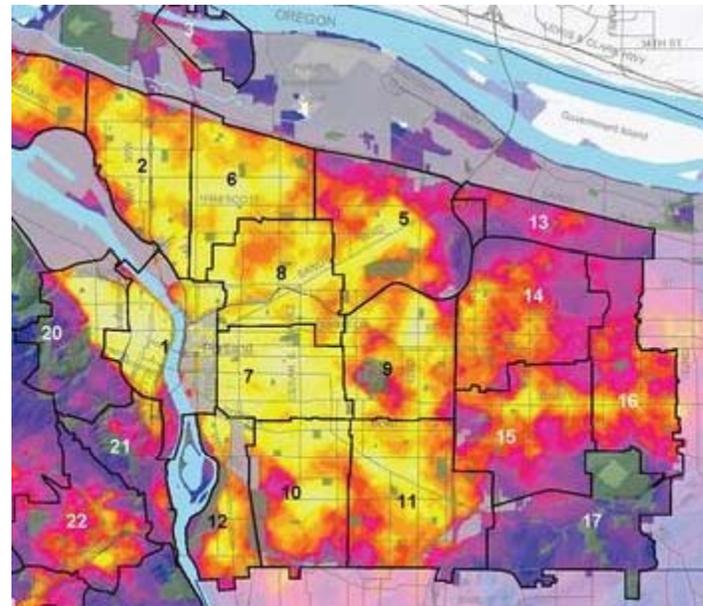
| Chapter | Disparities | Potential Goals/Metrics |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| 5) Food and Agriculture | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food insecurity rates• Access to healthy food sources/ exposure to unhealthy food sources• Health disparities related to diet: Obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease rates | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduced neighborhood disparities in access to grocery store or fresh food sources• Share of SNAP users participating in farmer's markets, CSAs and food buying co-ops• Equitable access to community gardens/urban ag infrastructure |
| 6) Community engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Underrepresentation/lack of empowerment of LI/COCs in planning processes• Inaccessible/inappropriate public engagement materials | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equitable representation of high-need and vulnerable communities in CAP process• Reduced disparities in participation of high-need and vulnerable communities in CAP-related events |

Measuring Progress

| Chapter | Disparities | Potential Goals/Metrics |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 7) Climate change preparation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerability to extreme weather events/social vulnerability • Urban heat island effect impacts • Incidence of heat-related illness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced neighborhood disparities in Green Infrastructure access • Reduced disparities in heat island effect impacts • Reduced disparities in heat related illness • Equitable distribution of emergency preparedness infrastructure (e.g., cooling centers) |
| 8) Local government operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disparities in government contracting • Workforce diversity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MWESB goals for public contracts related to greening government operations |

Measuring Progress

- Key issues:
 - Linking spatial data to social and racial disparities
 - eg, disparity indices of neighborhood completeness by demographic and socioeconomic categories
 - Collecting, tracking, and analyzing program data



Conclusion

- Bringing equity (back) into sustainability
 - Top-level commitment is critical – every plan, every investment is a good opportunity to address equity
 - Think, talk about distributional impacts – not just by class but also by race/ethnicity – and then act!
 - Go beyond “green ribbons” in the process
- Bringing sustainability into equity
 - Recognize where equity/disparity concerns overlap with climate/sustainability concerns
 - Build long-term community capacity for engagement in sustainability conversations