

# Equity & Environment Agenda

*A resolution establishing the shared city and community goals and strategies of the Equity & Environment Agenda as City policy and a critical aspect and foundation for all environment and sustainability work in Seattle*

Presented by the Office of Sustainability & Environment  
Jessica Finn Coven, OSE Director | Sudha Nandagopal, EEI Program Manager

# Community Partners Steering Committee

Abdullahi Jama – East African Community Leader & Advocate

Alberto Rodriguez – Duwamish River Clean Up Coalition

Dionne Foster – Puget Sound Sage

Hamda Yusuf – UW Student & Poet

Jamie Stroble – InterIm WILD

Jill Mangaliman – Got Green

José Manuel Vasquez – Latino Community Fun

Karia Wong – Chinese Information Service Center

Leika Suzumura – Seattle Tilth, Rainier Beach Urban Farm

Lisa Chen – FEEST

Lylianna Allala – Environmental Leadership Program

Nate Moxley – Solid Ground, Lettuce Link

Paulina Lopez – South Park resident

Roshni Sampath – Statewide Poverty Action Network

Roxana Norouzi – OneAmerica

Yalonda Allen-Sinde – Umoja Peace Center



“When my car broke down, I took two buses and walked uphill to get all my groceries home, perishable items from EBT. The healthy stuff is heavy. It’s hard to carry on the bus. And heavy groceries with my three year old kid, it was a source of stress.”

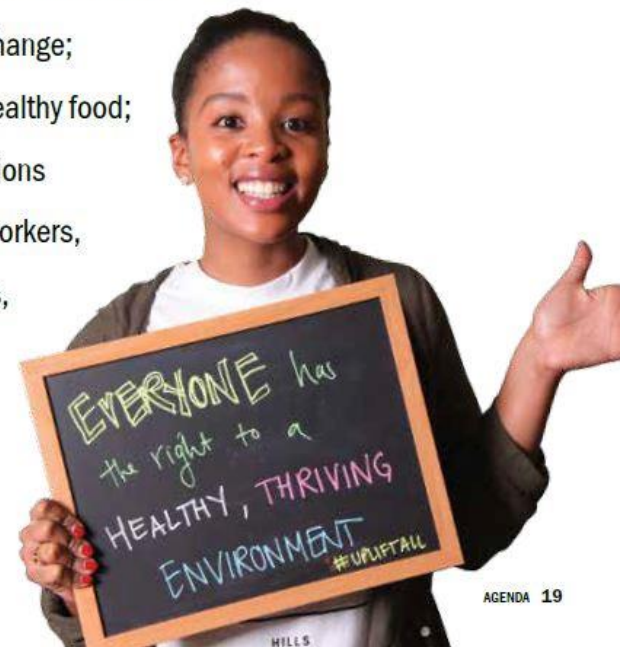
— Community member, Solid Ground



## HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL

AIR, WATER, GREEN SPACE, FOOD, SAFETY & QUALITY OF LIFE

Seattle ensures clean, healthy, resilient, and safe environments in the places where communities of color, immigrants, refugees, people with low-incomes, youth, and limited-English proficient individuals live, learn, work, and play. Environmental policies and programs leverage community assets; address cumulative impacts of multiple environmental hazards, social, economic and racial burdens; prepare communities to adapt to climate change; increase access to healthy food; and support connections between residents, workers, government agencies, and industries.



“We want mentorship opportunities across all levels of career (entry, mid, and senior level) set up in workplaces. We want this to be the norm and not the exception.”

— Community member, Environmental Professionals of Color



## JOBS, LOCAL ECONOMIES & YOUTH PATHWAYS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL GREEN CAREERS

Communities of color, immigrants, refugees, people with low-incomes, youth and limited-English proficiency individuals have **pathways out of poverty through green careers**, including careers related to environmental policy and program development. Environmental policies and programs **invest in young workers**, youth pathways, prioritize local hires and small businesses, and **create local, living-wage economies**.



“We believe that transformative and meaningful change at a large scale needs to be led by those most affected by injustice.”

— Latino community member,  
South Park



## EQUITY IN CITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

INCREASING COMMUNITY ACCESS AND DECISION-MAKING

Communities of color, immigrants and refugees, people with low-incomes, youth and limited-English proficiency individuals have equitable access, accountability, and decision-making power in environmental policies, programs, and services. These policies and programs achieve universal environmental gains while maximizing benefits for these populations by building community wealth, leveraging cultural hubs, preserving affordable housing, and minimizing displacement.



“We know that ‘environmentalism’ has a long history of exclusion; shifting the framing and language around environmental issues is an important first step in engaging our communities in environmental decision-making.”

— Community member, Puget Sound Sage



## ENVIRONMENTAL NARRATIVE & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

CELEBRATING STORIES AND INVESTING IN COMMUNITY



The environmental movement is led by and **centered on the stories** and experiences of communities of color, immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes, youth and limited English-proficiency individuals. Environmental policies and programs invest directly in the community, **support community leaders**, lift up existing culturally appropriate environmental practices, and **leverage the creativity of residents** to find solutions.



# **EQUITY & ENVIRONMENT**

**An Initiative of the City of Seattle**