



SEATTLE OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT



RACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE



2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Sustainability & Transportation Committee

March 6, 2018



SEATTLE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

2017 RSJI Accomplishments

Advancing environmental justice, building community capacity, deepening racial equity partnerships and investments, and shaping environmental programs.

Environment: Equity across race in the environmental well-being of all communities – no racial disproportionality in the impacts of pollution, toxins, lack of access to healthy food, and other environmental-based decisions.

Service Equity: Eliminate racial disproportionality in how Seattle City government delivers services, allocates resources, and develops Citywide initiatives and projects.

Equitable Development: Equity across race in Seattle's economic development – no racial disproportionality in transportation, parks, open space, infrastructure and economic vitality, and full community inclusion in the City's decision-making and planning processes.

Job/Economic Justice: Equity across race in employment throughout the community, including throughout City government – no racial disproportionality in unemployment, barriers to employment, access to living wage jobs and career advancement.



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EQUITY & ENVIRONMENT

An Initiative of the City of Seattle

Blueprint to
advance racial
equity in
Seattle's
environmental
work





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"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, S&E Gossett



HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL

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



"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



"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



"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 South



**ENVIRONMENTAL NARRATIVE &
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

CELEBRATING STORIES AND INVESTING IN COMMUNITY



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Environmental Justice Committee

Action: Establish Environmental Justice Committee to guide implementation of Equity & Environment Agenda

Result:

- Established Environmental Justice Committee with 13 members
- Developed pilot project with Ethiopian Community Center
- Created and adopted Principles of Public Space for Communities of Color
- Reviewed Drive Clean Program Options and Seattle Resilience Strategy





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Inclusive Engagement

ACTION: Develop and implement inclusive engagement process for OSE programs that focuses on environmental leadership and centering voices of people of color in environmental work.

RESULT: Inclusive engagement plan created. Communities of color engaged in creative strategies in partnership with Resilience and Food teams.



Portraits of Resilience: University District

by Karen Maniraho

Karen Maniraho shows what resilience in the University District looks like.

Dec 11, 2017



Portraits of Resilience: Central District

by Gavin Amos-Lopez

Gavin Amos-Lopez speaks to people in the Central District to talk about resilience in a changing Seattle.

Dec 8, 2017



Portraits of Resilience: Chinatown-International District

by Aaron Jin

Aaron Jin went to Chinatown-International District to speak with people about change and resilience.

Dec 12, 2017



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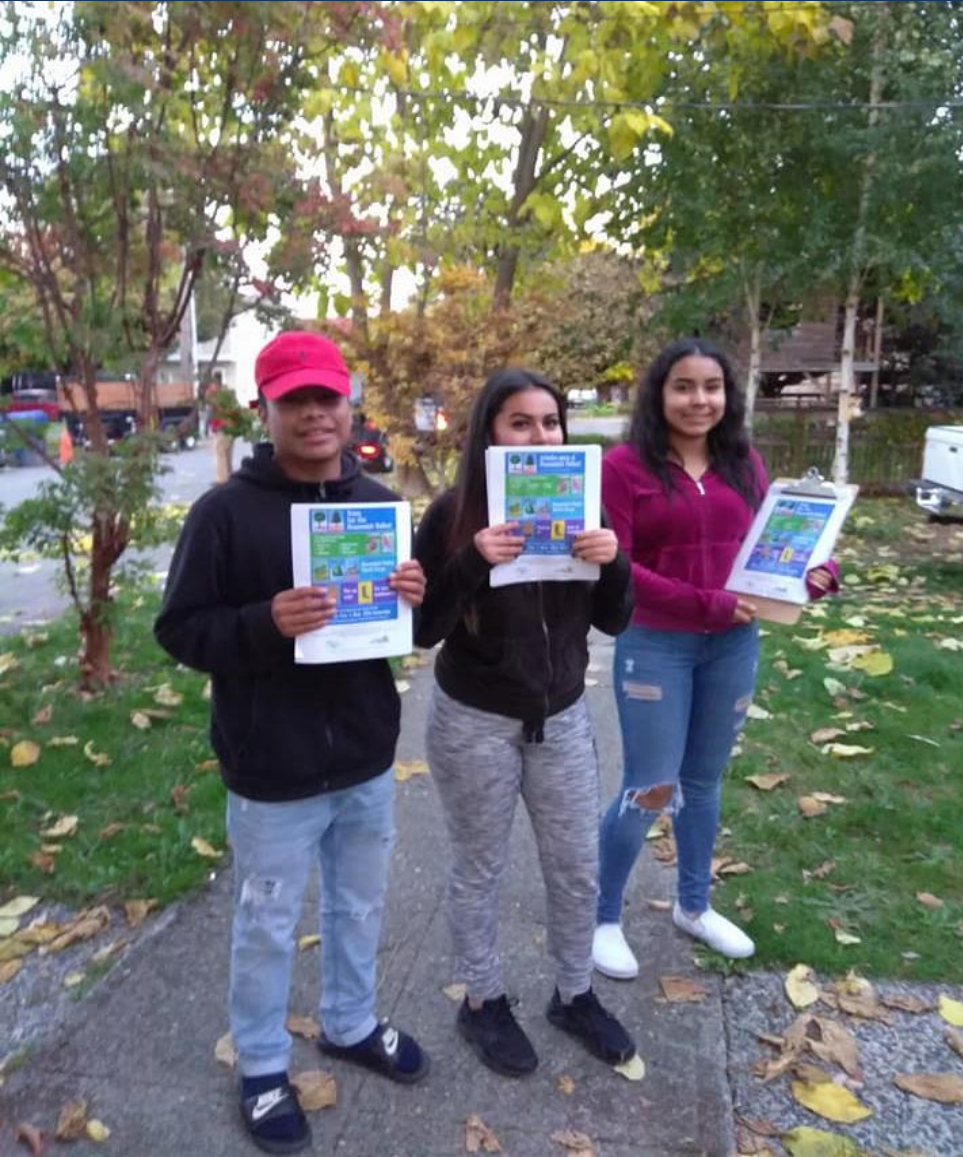
Duwamish Valley

ACTION: Release Action Plan to advance environmental justice and equitable development in the Duwamish Valley.

RESULT: Engaged more than 500 Duwamish Valley residents, workers, and small businesses to shape community priorities and racial equity actions for the Action Plan (to be released in 2018).



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Urban Forestry

ACTION: Assess canopy cover results and other data to address racial disparities in neighborhoods.

RESULT: Seattle has a 28% canopy cover citywide, but only 20% canopy cover in EEL communities—areas of the Seattle where people of color and people with low incomes tend to live.

Partnered with Duwamish Valley Youth Corps to engage 1,100+ households in the Duwamish Valley around tree planting and tree maintenance.



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Energy Efficiency

ACTION: Assess potential for improved energy efficiency in municipal buildings that house community service organizations.

South Park Neighborhood Center
Neighborcare At Columbia City
Central Area Senior Center
Byrd Barr Place (Centerstone)
Greenwood Senior Center
Northwest Senior Center

RESULT: Completed audits and secured \$350,000 from Department of Commerce to improve energy efficiency and upgrade equipment (coolers, freezers).



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Food Access

ACTION: Pilot Fresh Bucks program in Somali and Latino grocery stores to increase participation among communities of color and support small businesses.

RESULT: Six Somali and Latino-owned stores redeemed \$36,728 in Fresh Bucks between July–Dec 2017. **Owners reported increased produce purchases and revenue as a result of the pilot.**





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Women & Minority-Owned Business Enterprises (WMBE)

ACTION: Develop and implement WMBE plans, strategies, and trainings to achieve WMBE purchasing goal of 50% and consultant goal of 13%.

RESULT: Achieved 77.7% WMBE utilization for purchasing and 22.5% for consultants—31% overall. **Significant increase over last year.**

(Statistics do not include contracts with community-based organizations and individuals)



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Racial Equity Toolkits

Equity & Environment Agenda—foundation for racial equity outcomes

RET teams—subject lead, racial equity expertise, and OSE leadership

Shared learning—engagement and communication with entire office

King Conservation District Grants: Refine natural resource grant program to increase reach to communities of color, immigrants, refugees, people with low-incomes, youth, and limited-English proficient individuals.

Resilient Seattle: Center and advance people of color-led strategies that reduce pollution, prepare for climate impacts and increase access to open space in communities of color.

Office spending priorities: Elevate racial equity and environmental justice goals in OSE investments in community and partner organizations.



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Seattle Community Partnership Grant Program

Racial Equity Outcomes:

Expand grant distribution and impact to reach communities of color, immigrants, refugees, people with low-incomes and limited-English proficiency individuals.

Support community in addressing inequities in green spaces, natural resource benefits, and fresh, healthy, culturally appropriate food.

Approach:

- Reflected on Agenda creation feedback to identify benefits and burdens
- Integrated Agenda goals into grant guidelines and application.
- Worked with KCD and City staff to refine grant criteria and processes and reduce barriers.
- Expanded communications about grant opportunity through networks.





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\$391,000

Awarded

Na'ah Illahee Fund: Seattle Native Food Systems Initiative

Sustainable Seattle: Fairview Christian School Depave & Raingarden

Chinese Information and Services Center: Green Life—Green Family—Green Community

Seattle Parks Foundation: Greening Concord Elementary

InterIm Community Development Association WILD: Youth Program Stipends for Environmental Justice

Asian Counseling and Referral Service: New Beginning for Seattle Community Farm

Rainier Beach Action Coalition: Rainier Beach Community Farm Stands



100% of 2017 grantees represent communities of color or target impact in communities of color, compared to 9% in 2016 and 8% in 2015.



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Resilience

Racial Equity Strategies:

Center on the stories and experiences of communities of color. Build on local cultural assets, creativity, and expertise of local residents.

Involve communities most impacted in decision-making process.

Promote solutions that reduce pollution, prepare for climate impacts, and increase access to open space in communities of color.

Advance economic opportunity, particularly high-quality jobs, strong small businesses and entrepreneurial opportunities.





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Strategy:

Engaged racial equity expert to facilitate toolkit process.

Environmental Justice Committee served as advisory body

Partnered Community Liaisons to engage residents about key questions related to Seattle's resilience.

Partnered with the Globalist to have 10 young people of color document Seattle's resilience through photos.

