



SEATTLE OFFICE OF  
**SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT**

**RACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE**

**2016 Progress Report**

**Transportation & Sustainability Committee**

**April 18, 2017**



# SEATTLE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

## 2016 RSJI Accomplishments



**Foundational work to create an environmental justice framework, build capacity, deepen racial equity partnerships and investments, and shape environmental programs.**

Duwamish Valley program

Building Tune-Ups

Food Access / Fresh Bucks

Climate Preparedness

Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Urban Forestry

Transportation Electrification

Workforce Equity / Green Pathways / WMBE

# Blueprint to advance racial equity in Seattle's environmental work

## EQUITY & ENVIRONMENT AGENDA



# 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 Fund

**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



# Engaged over 800 community members

Activities were as unique as the communities they engaged.



Languages:



Ethnicities and populations:



# Landscape of Equity in Seattle

## #UpliftAll: Stories from the Equity and Environment Initiative



**Inspired by Seattle's motivation to change the status quo**

*by Travis Koster*

"We're inspired every day by Seattle's motivation to change the status quo"

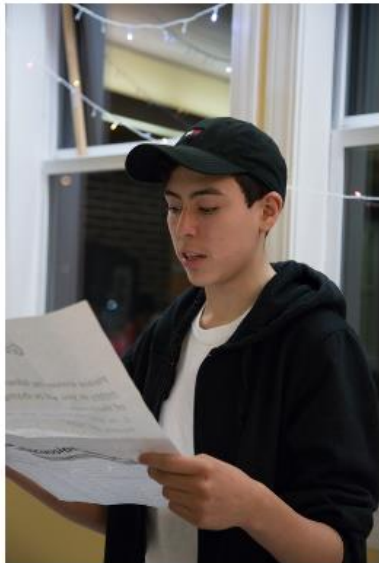
Mar 25, 2016



**"Our city needs diversity, so we need to keep Seattle affordable for everybody"**

*by Vy Nguyen*

"My American Dream was to find a job in the social justice movement, but the way things are going, I feel like I have to choose between working at a non-profit and being able to pay my rent."



**Transforming the "scary trail" into the "happy trail" in South Park**

*by David Pinto*

"The trail was so scary that kids would rather take their chances and run across the freeway than cross it at night."

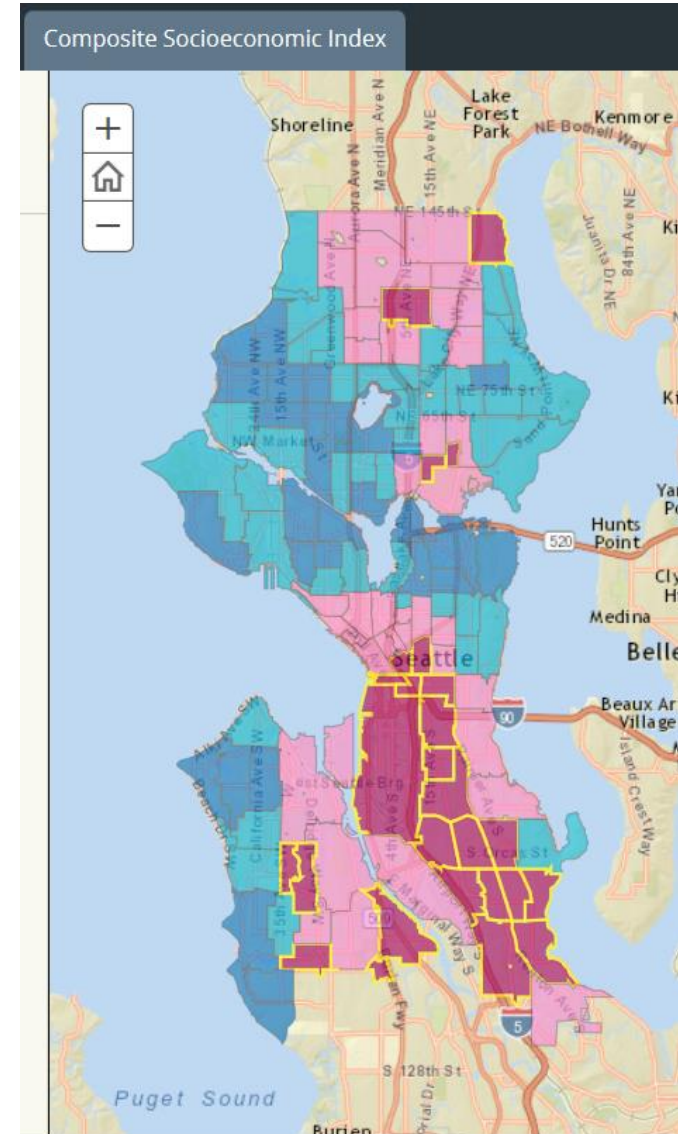


**The sudden loss of two neighbors shifts Leigh Michael's thoughts on the "big picture"**

*by Leigh Michael*

"Those big picture things that we think about are already impacting the people in our very own city"

## Environmental Equity Assessment



"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

38

"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

39

"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

36

"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 Soap



## ENVIRONMENTAL NARRATIVE & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

CELEBRATING STORIES AND INVESTING IN COMMUNITY

35

# Implementing the Agenda

## Leading with community, engagement, and experience

Contracted with community organizations to lead engagement: **Agenda** creation and report backs, **Fresh Bucks** outreach, and **Climate Preparedness** strategy.

Partnered with Department of Neighborhoods/POELs to reach building owners on **Tune-Ups Director's Rule**

Partnered with Community Partner Steering Committee to inform and shape **Drive Clean Seattle**.

Formed the **Environmental Justice Committee**





# Implementing the Agenda

## Centering racial equity analysis in environmental goals, investments, and outcomes

Assessed **tree canopy cover** by race, income, and EEl focus areas

Elevated racial equity at regional **Green Stormwater Infrastructure Summit**

Increased Fresh Bucks use by **14%** and **new users by 13%**, with **40%** people of color

Launched **Fresh Bucks Rx**, serving **59 participants** from two health clinics

Achieved **47% WMBE utilization** for **purchases** and **10.5%** for **consulting services** (*statistics do not include contracts with many community-based organizations and individuals*)



# Racial Equity Toolkits

**Equity & Environment Agenda**—foundation for racial equity outcomes

**RET teams**—subject lead and members of RSJ, EEI and OSE Management teams

**Shared learning** with OSE Leadership and entire office

**Duwamish Valley Program:** Embedding racial equity and environmental justice into cross-department and sector partnership in the Duwamish Valley

**Drive Clean Seattle:** Maximize air quality and cost-savings benefits of electric transportation for communities of color

**Moving the Needle:** Elevating racial equity and environmental justice in the City's environmental progress report



# Duwamish Valley Program

## Leadership Action of the Equity & Environment Agenda

Environmental justice outcomes based on Agenda and Equitable Development Initiative

Duwamish Valley Advisor

Duwamish Action Team

Phase 1: Responsiveness, trust building

Phase 2: Partnerships for deeper change





# driveclean

s e a t t l e

**Drive Clean Seattle is a broad initiative to accelerate the transformation of the region's transportation sector away from oil and to City Light's carbon-neutral electricity.**

## **Racial Equity Outcomes**

1. Improve air quality in the places where EEI communities live, learn, work and play.
2. Bring economic benefit to EEI communities through an increase in green transportation jobs and a decrease in transportation costs.
3. EEI communities have equitable access, accountability, and decision-making power in Drive Clean Seattle.
4. Highlight the clean transportation stories and experiences of EEI communities.



# driveclean

s e a t t l e

## Community Stakeholder Partnerships

- Drive Clean Seattle provided an opportunity for partnership with EEI early in the program's development.
- Workshop with EEI Community Partners Steering Committee in November, 2016, which included interdepartmental Drive Clean staff
  - Shared goals, identified existing connected work, identified and shared creative and unusual ideas to advance E&E Agenda
  - Surfaced barriers, assumptions, and questions regarding participation in DCS from communities of color
  - Began to establish a collaborative relationship with community leaders
- Transitioning work to Environmental Justice Committee to dig deeper into several aspects brought forward from initial stakeholder conversations



# driveclean

s e a t t l e

## Key Actions Moving Forward

- Utilize creative, culturally relevant strategies and foster community cohesion by connecting EV and transportation programs to cultural anchors. *Ex. City Light DC fast charging stations*
- Understand more about how code and policy changes which could increase EV infrastructure may unduly burden EEI populations and have unintended consequences around displacement and gentrification.
- Partner directly with community-based organizations, work in close collaboration with the EEI, and build partnerships with service industry anchors to develop a suite of policy and program actions which will work in tandem to address racial equity in transportation electrification
- Racial equity analysis for each major project within Drive Clean Seattle with nested outcomes of the broader DCS toolkit.

# MOVING THE NEEDLE



PREPARED BY SEATTLE OFFICE OF  
**SUSTAINABILITY  
& ENVIRONMENT**

[www.seattle.gov/environment](http://www.seattle.gov/environment)

## ***2014 Moving the Needle report***

Broad, aggregate environmental goals and outcomes

Did not reflect experiences of people of color, immigrants, refugees, and people with low incomes

## ***2017 Moving the Needle update***

Equity & Environment Agenda Goals guided racial equity outcomes for the report content – centering people in the data

Includes environmental justice, by assessing – where available – racial and demographic data related to our environmental progress

# MOVING THE NEEDLE



PREPARED BY SEATTLE OFFICE OF  
**SUSTAINABILITY  
& ENVIRONMENT**

[www.seattle.gov/environment](http://www.seattle.gov/environment)

- 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.**
- 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.
- 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.



# MOVING THE NEEDLE



PREPARED BY SEATTLE OFFICE OF  
**SUSTAINABILITY  
& ENVIRONMENT**

[www.seattle.gov/environment](http://www.seattle.gov/environment)

## Stakeholder Engagement

Used the specific feedback from communities of color provided about the 2014 MTN report and community-generated information such as Puget Sound Sage's and Got Green's report – [Our People, Our Planet, Our Power](#).

Incorporated some qualitative data and direct community report back heard during Equity & Environment Agenda process

Utilized data and analysis from the Environmental Equity Assessment

**Challenges:** Data with racial and demographic analysis is still not the norm in city practices, especially for environmental metrics

# MOVING THE NEEDLE



PREPARED BY SEATTLE OFFICE OF  
**SUSTAINABILITY  
& ENVIRONMENT**

[www.seattle.gov/environment](http://www.seattle.gov/environment)

## Key Actions Moving Forward

Work with departments (OPCD leading) to create a standard, citywide data set/GSI layer to ensure equity analysis is consistent across the city.

Use this report as the baseline in our engagement with the community in shaping future updates

Continue asking for and supporting departments utilizing bringing a race-based lens to data collection and analysis