

# **DRAFT Sebastopol Climate Action Committee Climate Justice & Equity Principles, Assessment Matrix, and Resources<sup>1</sup>**

## **Principles**

Projects, programs, and policies proposed by the Sebastopol Climate Action Committee (SCAC) will be assessed through the following set of principles:<sup>2</sup>

1. **Acknowledging local indigenous peoples and communities.** We acknowledge that for thousands of years southern Pomo and Coast Miwok people lived in the Sebastopol area. We will cultivate respectful and collaborative relationships with local indigenous communities with the intention to understand, highlight, and integrate their community needs, climate action priorities, and ecological insight and values into our climate actions.
2. **Advancing equity.** We affirm that the benefits and burdens of addressing the climate crisis must be shared equitably. Those least capable of bearing the burdens should not be expected to pay the same costs as those more able to absorb the burden. There is a moral imperative in prioritizing climate-related actions and policies that promote social, racial, environmental, economic, disability, and public health justice in communities disproportionately impacted by climate change. Historically underserved communities are already experiencing a disproportionately higher impact from climate disruptions and have fewer resources available with which to address those impacted. Integration of these communities' feedback and participation in Sebastopol's climate action programs is crucial.
3. **Catalyzing robust and meaningful public participation, inclusion, access, diversity, and collaboration.** A community thrives when all members benefit from actions and policies that increase awareness, education, collaboration, and engagement.

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<sup>1</sup> Draft originally submitted for discussion by full committee and open to public comment (3/24/21)

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from the Petaluma Climate Emergency Framework "Values and Considerations," with input from committee members and others.

4. **Ensuring accountability, transparency, responsibility.** Sebastopol must explain clearly why it is taking action on the climate issue, what those actions involve, timelines for when they will take place, and how they will demonstrate the City's commitment to addressing its piece of the climate crisis. In order to be good stewards of the environment and to ensure the prosperity of future generations, the City must set an example, by acting responsibly to its neighbors, the global community, and all species by eliminating reliance on resources and products that exacerbate the crisis both within and outside Sebastopol city limits.
5. **Acting with urgency and integrity.** Climate inaction has a compounding effect. The longer emissions continue unabated, the greater the amount of reduction within a shorter time frame is required to offset the increases. Swift action that is rooted in integrity is necessary to ensure that City actions and policies contribute to improved climate justice, mitigation, sequestration, adaptation, public health, and social resilience outcomes and meet our mandates and targets. *While we will be urgent in this work, we will not be so urgent that we do not make the necessary time and effort for vulnerable communities to be able to provide genuine input into the process.*
6. **Creating ecosystem protection and social resilience and together.** Holistic thinking can identify synergies that would be overlooked when examining individual systems or policies. For this reason, preference should be given to actions and policies with multiple benefits that align sustainable economies with thriving ecologies, including sustainable economic benefits, reduction of pollutants and toxics, restoration of ecosystems, and improvements in public health, community cohesion, and wellbeing.
7. **Funding accessible and effective action.** Sustainable, progressive funding sources must be developed to fund climate-smart measures that also help meet the needs of vulnerable communities. Some actions will pay for themselves, but many may result in new costs or may require upfront funding which vulnerable communities may not be able to afford. For action to be effective, to the extent the information is available, decision-makers, including the City Council and individual households, need the information to evaluate and balance the cost of implementation with potential cost savings and the avoided costs of inaction.
8. **Working collectively with leading regional, statewide, and international bodies.** Sebastopol is a small city. It must do what it can to leverage external resources. Sebastopol can learn and borrow from the successes and failures of other cities and jurisdictions in addressing the myriad challenges and impacts of

climate change so that cross-jurisdictional coordination regarding climate action can magnify the effectiveness of the City's efforts.

**Six questions to consider (from our friends at Portland Sunrise):**

1. Who is positively and negatively affected by your action and how?
2. Are we making this decision from a place of scarcity or fear rather than a place of abundance and courage?
3. Are people traumatized or re-traumatized by your action and how? How do we know?
4. Will your action ignore or worsen existing disparities or produce other unintended consequences? How do we know?
5. Where, within the decision-making process, can we bring in the voices of those who are affected by the decision?
6. Who is accountable for ensuring equitable outcomes?

## Sebastopol Climate Action Committee Equity Assessment Matrix

Project/Program/Policy: \_\_\_\_\_

Working Group/Lead Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Timeline Summary: \_\_\_\_\_

Who might be affected by this project?*	Potential benefits of project	Potential harms of project	How has this affected group been involved in designing this project?	How has this community been able to provide feedback regarding this project?	Comments/analysis/plans and proposed mitigations, if any

Are fiscal implications regressive or progressive in nature?	Analysis:	Commentary:
Will this project/program/policy serve a predominantly low-income or minority neighborhood?	Analysis:	Commentary:

\*Please review this list when discerning potential effects of projects (but also include any other groups not listed here): local tribes/indigenous groups, Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) persons, non-English speakers, undocumented persons, renters, unhoused persons, labor groups, youth, Latinx persons. ADD LINES TO TABLE AS NEEDED.

## **Sebastopol Climate Action Committee Climate Justice & Equity Resources**

Below are a few environmental justice & equity related organizations and resources. This is just a short sampling of some of the many social and environmental justice-related organizations, mostly in California, that social equity.

[Climate Justice Alliance](#)

[California Environmental Justice Alliance](#)

[Greenlining Institute](#)

[North Bay Jobs with Justice](#)

[North Bay Organizing Project](#) (see especially the [just recovery section](#))

[Petaluma's Climate Emergency Framework](#) (see "Values and Considerations" that starts on page 5)

[add more]