Equity Design Considerations for Federal Funding

This document serves as a companion piece to the *Federal Funding Opportunities for Local Decarbonization (FFOLD)* tool, which is intended to help cities identify and compare new and existing federal funding sources for clean energy projects and programs. Complementing the Biden Administration's efforts to centralize climate change mitigation, environmental justice, and equity in new projects, the tool aims to align funding sources with decarbonization and equity considerations to advance climate action, sustainability, and resilience plans.

Building off the tool's opportunity-specific considerations, this literature review and resource list highlights existing environmental and energy justice publications and tools from organizations that lead this work. It strives to help users of the funding tool better understand energy equity and how to create equitable projects (regardless of sector). It is organized into three main sections: Overall Principles for Energy Justice, Clean Mobility & Transportation, and Building Electrification. Equity is intersectional, so users will get an overview of general guidance and will find that the concepts and principles are cross-cutting and widely applicable. The resources below are by no means exhaustive and resource appendices provide direction for further learning.

1. **Overall Principles for Energy Justice**

    - *Equity & Buildings: A Practical Framework for Local Government Decision Makers,* written jointly by the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, Emerald Cities Collaborative, American Cities Climate Challenge, and Upright Consulting Services, begins with "Principles of Practice" (pg. 8-9), which underpin the framework and wider practice of equity across sectors. The resource then walks through the preparation and phases of centering the practice of equity in two "parts": "Part 1" establishes "Equity Fundamentals" (pg. 14-28), and "Part 2" builds on this, exploring critical intersecting issues with case studies and guiding questions (pg. 30-48).

    - *The Energy Justice Workbook,* authored by the Initiative for Energy Justice, provides an overview and history of "energy justice," synthesizing energy justice (and similar terms) as framed by practitioners in the field, as well as by scholars explicitly writing about energy justice (pg. 9-24). The workbook also includes a scorecard, which is applied to evaluate case studies.

    - Another resource from the Initiative for Energy Justice includes the *Justice in 100 Scorecard* which poses and answers the question "What can we each do to advance equity and justice in our field of work?" specifically in the context of renewable energy standards, a policy framework that is now central to the renewable energy transition. This includes a scorecard evaluating equity in 100% clean energy laws across states and territories.

    - The *Energy Democracy Scorecard* and the associated *Flipbook,* developed by Emerald Cities Collaborative, are designed to help community leaders advance policies and projects that sustain the goals of energy democracy on all geographical levels and are intended to be co-created through a participatory process leading to a collectively-owned product. Both the Scorecard and Flipbook present scenarios of energy democracy rated across four themes, including: social justice, moral economy, regenerative energy, and co-governance.

2. **Clean Mobility & Transportation**

- *Mobility Equity Framework: How to Make Transportation Work for People* from The Greenlining Institute proposes a framework designed to elevate the values of social equity and community power in all transportation planning and decision-making. This paper addresses structural inequities through an adaptable, customizable process for communities, advocates, and transportation decision-makers. It progresses from community needs assessments to mobility equity analysis with indicators, then establishes new strategies to enhance decision-making power at the local level through participatory budgeting and racial equity toolkits. The appendix (pg. 20) includes additional resources on Shared Mobility, Measuring Indicators and Performance Measures, Scorecard Tools, and Decision-Making Frameworks.

- *Making Equity Real in Mobility Projects Toolkit,* also developed by The Greenlining Institute, includes an overview of "4 Steps to Making Equity Real", which the authors state are needed to operationalize equity within a pilot project (based on its "Mobility Equity Framework" report listed above). The following parts provide supplementary information to complete these four steps in an equitable, inclusive, and culturally appropriate way: equity considerations with evaluation questions, community engagement best practices with activities and cultural considerations, and a mobility pilot project worksheet to develop and deploy an equitable project.

- *Equity in Practice: Developing a City Transportation Electrification Roadmap,* developed by Forth Mobility, provides recommendations and examples of equitable practices for cities that are developing and implementing their electric transportation roadmaps and strategies through needs assessments and stakeholder engagement. The report also guides cities on community empowerment, promoting strong public influence on decision-making as a core element to shape equity outcomes and directions for a city's transportation electrification pathway.

3. **Building Electrification**

- *Equitable Building Electrification: A Framework for Powering Resilient Communities,* written by The Greenlining Institute, presents a five-step framework and argument that electrification can be a transformative force for low-income residents. It also explains the steps that California must take to ensure that electrification helps close the state's clean energy gap to provide relief to millions of residents facing energy insecurity in the current system. Each step includes questions to consider, recommendations, and case studies.

- *Climate Equity & Community Engagement in Building Electrification: A Toolkit,* created by Emerald Cities Collaborative and PODER, is designed for both city officials developing building electrification policies and programs, as well as community-led organizations and climate justice organizations who can partner with cities and towns, who can become key leaders in the processes of community outreach, engagement, and strategy development. This toolkit is a living document that helps users create a unique community engagement strategy. The toolkit guides cities through steps for framing decarbonization in the context of equity and justice (see pg. 13 for its Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership) and offers tools and resources for work plan assessment, development, and implementation.

- *The Building Electrification Equity Project* report from Emerald Cities Collaborative shares a case study of its six-month organizing and planning process to engage the environmental and climate justice community on building electrification. This report reviews the project background, goals and methodologies, and major issues, and then presents recommendations for others to learn from to ensure equity issues and strategies are incorporated in state and local policies.

These considerations were compiled by Caitlin Macomber at World Resources Institute.