Regional Collaboration for Equitable Climate Solutions

The Regional Collaboration for Equitable Climate Solutions (RCECS) initiative works to advance local and regional climate change planning and implementation that centers racial equity, and that embodies inclusive governance and collaborative processes and practices. RCECS ensures equity is a central component of local and metro-regional sustainability planning, implementation, and collaboration between community, government and other key stakeholders who are at the nexus of community and economic development, sustainability and resilience. RCECS positions our nation’s metropolitan areas for just, equitable, green transition to carbon neutral cities and communities.

CONTEXT

Over the past decade, the formation of metro-regional climate collaboratives has sought to align emission reduction and resilience building efforts across multiple adjoining jurisdictions. Compelled by the logic that metro-regions share regional economies, regional workforce, built infrastructure, and natural systems that provide the ecosystem services that make urban life possible. Despite innovative work, regional climate collaboratives’ governance and decision-making tables have tended to be insular and lacked equity-focus, existing largely of local government members with minimal community leadership. Thus, well-intentioned planning and decision-making processes have been lacking intentional strategies that marry the effective climate solutions with strategies that can also dismantle chronic disparities that make people of color more vulnerable to negative climate impacts.

APPROACH

The RCECS initiative will bring together multi-sector collaborations that acknowledge the intersection of systemic racism, and that believe in the wisdom and experience of those who are most impacted to inform effective, sustainable solutions. The RCECS will bring together multi-sector local and regional teams to think and work together on the advancement of equitable climate solutions. Rooted in the power of collaboration, teams will use equitable scenario planning, leveraging policy opportunities across jurisdictions, economic and community development strategies, team building opportunities and more, all rooted in achieving sustainable equity outcomes that make movement on climate change while solving persistent racial inequities.

People of color are leading community-based climate initiatives, advancing strategic actions, and informing policies and practices; but do not always receive the resources, support or recognition needed to foster transformative impact.

The Regional Collaboration for Equitable Climate Solutions initiative will bring together these diverse, multi-sector collaborations that will develop innovative regional solutions that are community-driven and equity-centered.

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