



Climate Resilience Strategy Questions and Answers:

We have some zip codes that are being targeted and others that are being left out – is that correct?

Yes, we've selected zip codes that are more likely to be hit harder by climate impacts than other areas of the City. We would like all interested residents to apply but we will be prioritizing representation from the named zip codes.

Half of the seats are open city-wide and not tied to a particular zip code, if your organization fits the topical criteria.

Can you explain the process for selecting the zip codes?

Equity requires that we target those who have been left behind, those who have experienced the greatest harm and those who are most vulnerable. Zip codes were determined based on an approach that integrated data about characteristics of tracts that indicate vulnerability, such as percent seniors and low income, with including zip codes throughout the city in every council district.

I appreciate your approach in this regard. And, I also hope that and believe that there will be resources that all communities can benefit from on a more broad basis. Is this the case?

The mini-grant program will be open to communities across the city. We are also working on creating an equity tool that the CEAC can use to assess and weigh in on elements of the Detroit Climate Strategy. This makes the inclusion of equity transparent.

Are measures being taken to ensure species diversity in the tree canopy so when an invasive species like the emerald ash is less likely to wipe out a tree canopy?

Yes, species list for planting as well as a "do not plant" list are established taking into account climate shifts, in addition to diversity requirements to address this issue.

My question is about the Public Resources that were mentioned, specifically "resilience grants and tool kits". Do those already exist or are they just intended to be created?

These resources will be created based on the input received through the engagement process and the CEAC.



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Are there other major cities that already have well-implemented Climate Strategies that we can benchmark and/or shamelessly "steal" from? :-)

Yes, absolutely. Some examples we like are:

- Chicago: <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/progs/env/climateaction.html>
- Houston: <http://greenhoustontx.gov/climateactionplan/CAP-April2020.pdf>
- Providence, RI: <https://www.providenceri.gov/sustainability/climate-justice-action-plan-providence/>
- Oakland, CA: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/projects/2030ecap>
- Indianapolis, IN: <https://www.thriveindianapolis.com/>

Will the 2017 Detroit Climate Action Plan serve in this strategy building process?

Absolutely, we are using the GHG assessment there as a baseline and the strategies outlined as a source of strategies to build on.

Will there be any aspect of green construction materials in this mainly in housing?

Green building, both for commercial and residential sectors will be addressed, in addition to opportunities for energy and water saving retrofits.

Q&A – panel highlights:

How will you ensure that resident engagement is effective and outcome oriented?

We will engage residents in a longer-term dialogue through the CEAC. Communities that have been most affected historically have been less engaged. BIPOC communities need stronger relationships with leadership, but also a stronger voice because they haven't been invited to the table despite bearing the brunt of the impact. Too often we see white-dominated boards and policy-makers.

We also need a forum for uplifting voices of longtime Detroiters and holding leaders accountable and a sustainable platform to take into account what people value. We don't want to make assumptions about what people know or care about. We want to knock down barriers and make sure this is a transparent, inclusive process for engaging people.

How will equity be embedded in the CEAC and representation?

We used analysis from Larissa Larsen at U of M around high heat events in the City to identify 9 zip codes as areas that we see being more impacted by climate change: less tree canopy, higher percentage of seniors, closer to flood plains, proximity to polluting facilities. So it was a blend of science and what we know about these areas.

Thinking about representation, we wanted to be intergenerational (youth and seniors), longtime environmental justice advocates, health advocates. We want to represent subgroups who are not always at the table.



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How will format look different with Covid?

There will be some opportunities to do some outdoor, distanced and masked in-person engagement, but likely to still be limited.

How do you envision the experience for CEAC members?

We have been surveying what's happening in other cities, learning from places like Chicago and California. Seems like an ideal time to be engaged in shaping the recovery and connecting that to climate resilience and a just transition. We wanted to revamp a pathway to equity, want to be a bridge between the City (Office of Sustainability) and the Green Task Force, and community.

We want to allow people who have been impacted by flooding, by living next to polluting facilities – it's time to allow them to come forward and voice their opinion, to support them in doing that. We have an opportunity as a community to start strategizing together, developing a specific plan and timeline, the pilots, the analysis, the strategies. There's not one answer, none of us have *the* answer. We start by launching, by getting the word out. We also need to involve some of the larger corporate, commercial and industrial stakeholders, find where they align but holding them accountable when they don't.

It is important to connect the work that comes out of the CEAC, especially the resilience strategies and toolkits, and connect to City departments so they can support implementation.