

EQUITY PLANNING IN CLIMATE AND ENERGY

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Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)
Department of Environmental Programs

ACPAC Meeting
May 16, 2022

Equity at the COG Board Level

- In July 2020, the COG Board of Directors approved a resolution declaring equity a fundamental value.
- The Board affirms that COG's work together as the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments will be anti-racist and will advance equity; and
- The Board affirms that equity will be woven into COG's Region Forward Vision to ensure a more prosperous, accessible, livable, sustainable, and equitable future for all area residents and throughout COG's analyses, operations, procurement, programs, and priorities.

Equity at the COG Board Level

- [Metropolitan Washington Planning Framework for 2030](#)
 - Four planning priorities for the next decade related to equity, transit and land use, housing, and climate change
 - Planning Area: Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs)
 - Originally developed by the Transportation Planning Board to analyze potential impacts of long-range transportation planning, March 2017
 - Represents 350 of 1,200+ census tracts with high concentrations of low-income individuals and/or racial and ethnic minorities
 - Broadened to elevate equity and inform future growth and investment decisions in other programmatic areas – housing, energy, food systems



Equity at the COG Board Level

- Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) Cohorts
 - Launched in partnership with COG, 2019
 - Regional learning cohort of local government staff to advance racial equity and opportunities
- Racial Equity Learning Series
 - Four-part training series for elected officials, May-Sept. 2022
 - Series includes an examination of policies and practices from a racial equity perspective, provides definitions of key terminology
- Chief Equity Officers Committee
 - Formed in 2021
 - Purpose: to advance racial equity within COG programs, committees, and member jurisdictions, and regionally



Environmental Justice Toolkit, 2017

Guidance to policymakers on incorporating social equity, cultural sensitivity, and community health considerations into air quality, climate, and energy planning:

- **Approach #1:** Identifying Potentially Vulnerable Populations
- **Approach #2:** Providing Meaningful Engagement Opportunities
- **Approach #3:** Assessing Community Impacts and Needs
- **Approach #4:** Developing Metrics
- **Approach #5:** Providing Data, Information, and Resources for Communities
- **Approach #6:** Using Citizen Science
- **Approach #7:** Developing Community Leadership
- **Approach #8:** Supporting Economic and Workforce Development
- **Approach #9:** Mainstreaming Environmental Justice into Public Planning and Programs

<https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2017/07/27/environmental-justice-toolkit/>

Climate and Energy Leadership Awards



<https://www.mwcog.org/climateawards>

Climate Collaborative Guiding Principles

Principle	Description
1. Collective Action	We will continue to work together to leverage our impact and facilitate application at scale.
2. Effective Partnerships	We will continue to share best practices, learn together, and coordinate on implementation to advance regional transformation.
3. Lead by Example	We have a continued commitment to internal implementation of long-term solutions to reduce the climate impacts of our operations.
4. Integration	We understand climate action is inherently multidisciplinary and will promote cross-department coordination, including in areas such as equity, health, and economic development.
5. Flexibility	We understand the need for flexibility in how our public agencies and stakeholders across the DC, MD, and VA work to achieve regional GHG goals.
6. Transparency	We will continue to measure and report progress in a manner easily understandable by all.
7. Innovation	We support a just transition to a clean energy economy through the application of innovative technology, policies, and processes by public and private sectors.
8. Community Leadership	We will continue to educate, motivate, and empower action from our community's institutions, businesses, non-profits, and residents.
9. Inclusive Engagement	We commit to inclusive community engagement and equitable provision of climate and energy programs and services.
10. Advocacy	We will continue to support state and federal policies and programs that protect the human and environment health of our communities.

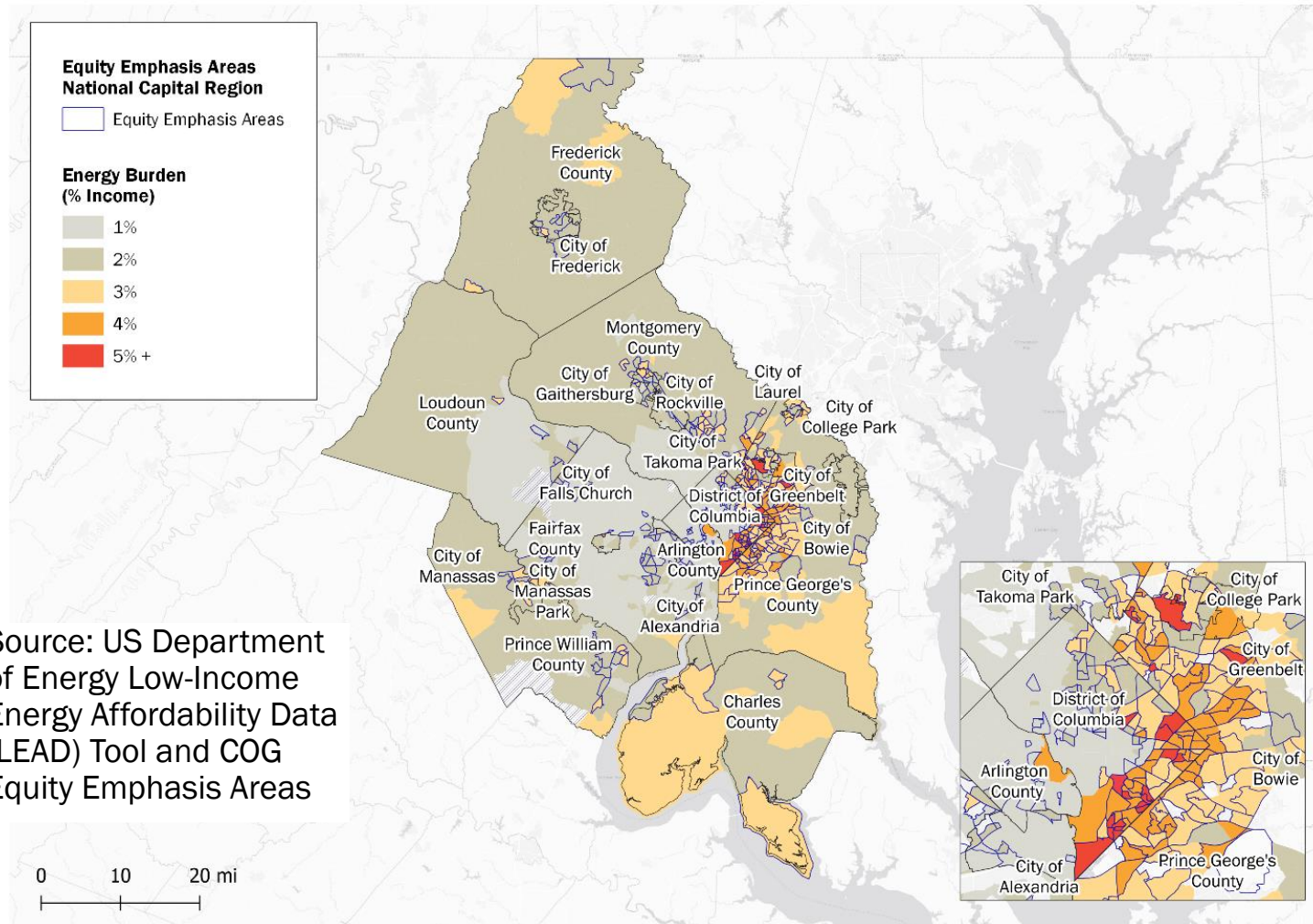
Potentially Vulnerable Populations

Potentially vulnerable populations may include:

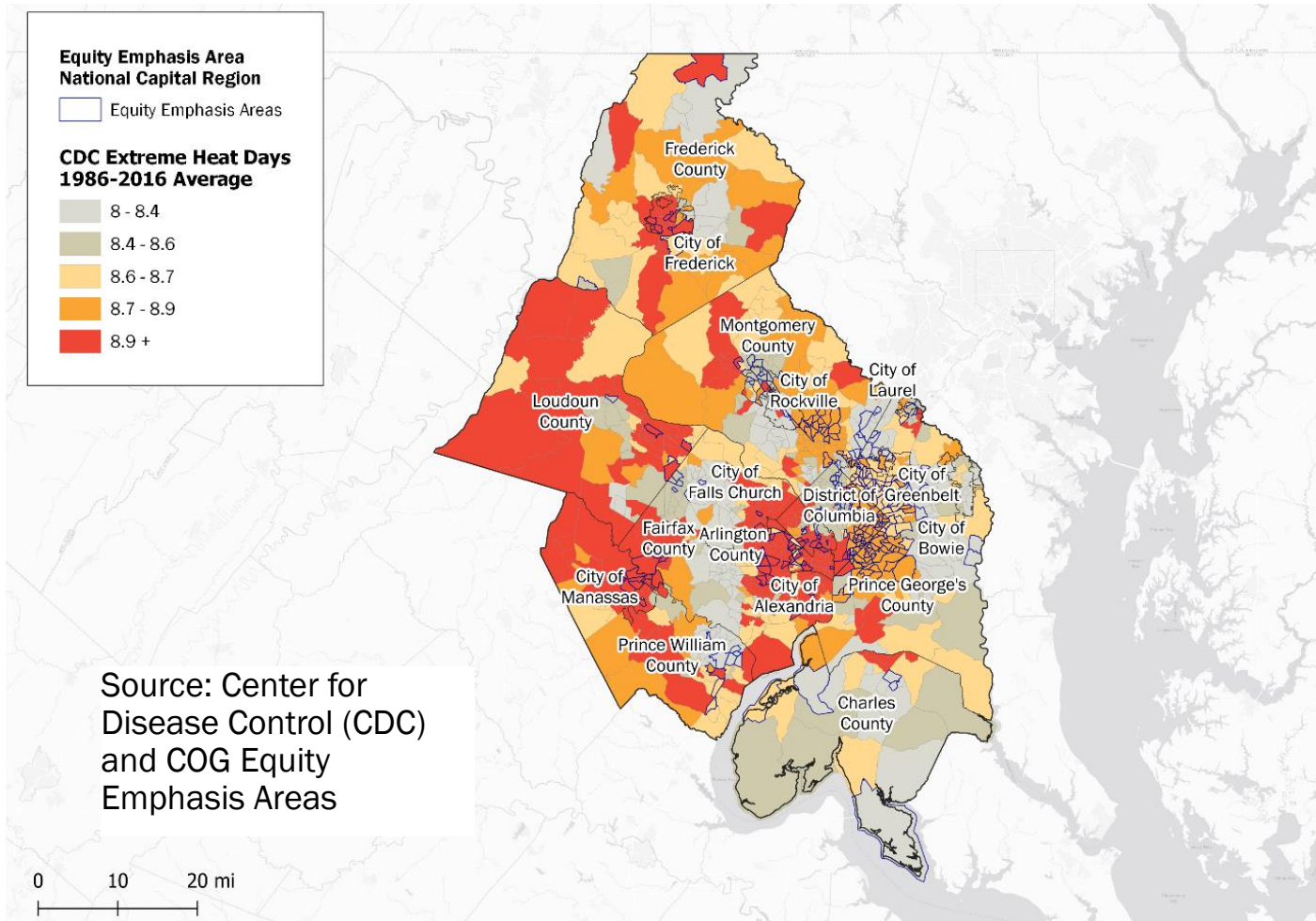
- Low-income
- Minority
- Marginalized groups
- Women and girls
- Persons in sub-standard housing
- People with limited English proficiency
- The elderly
- Children
- People with chronic health problems
- Disabled persons



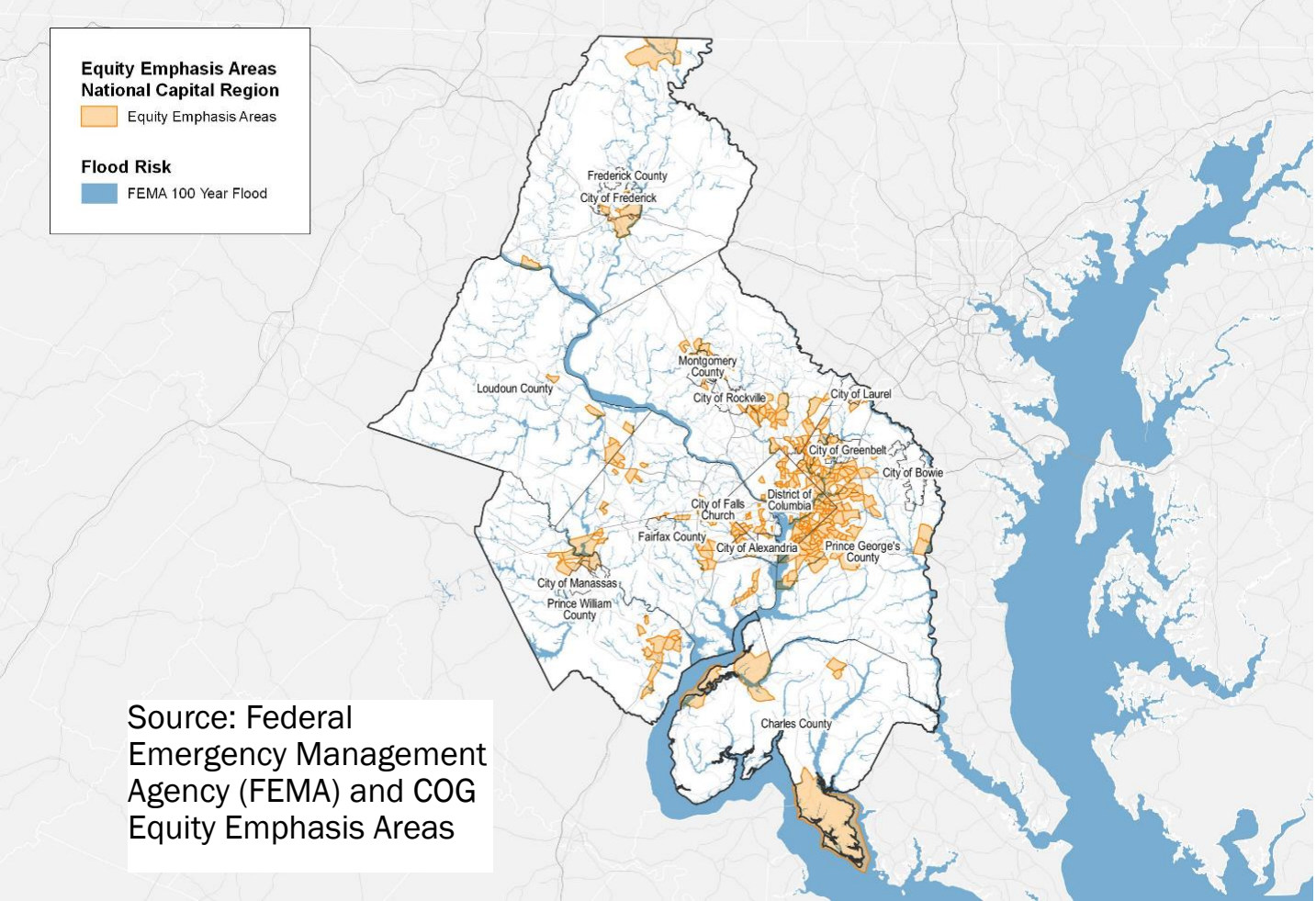
Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs) and Energy Burden



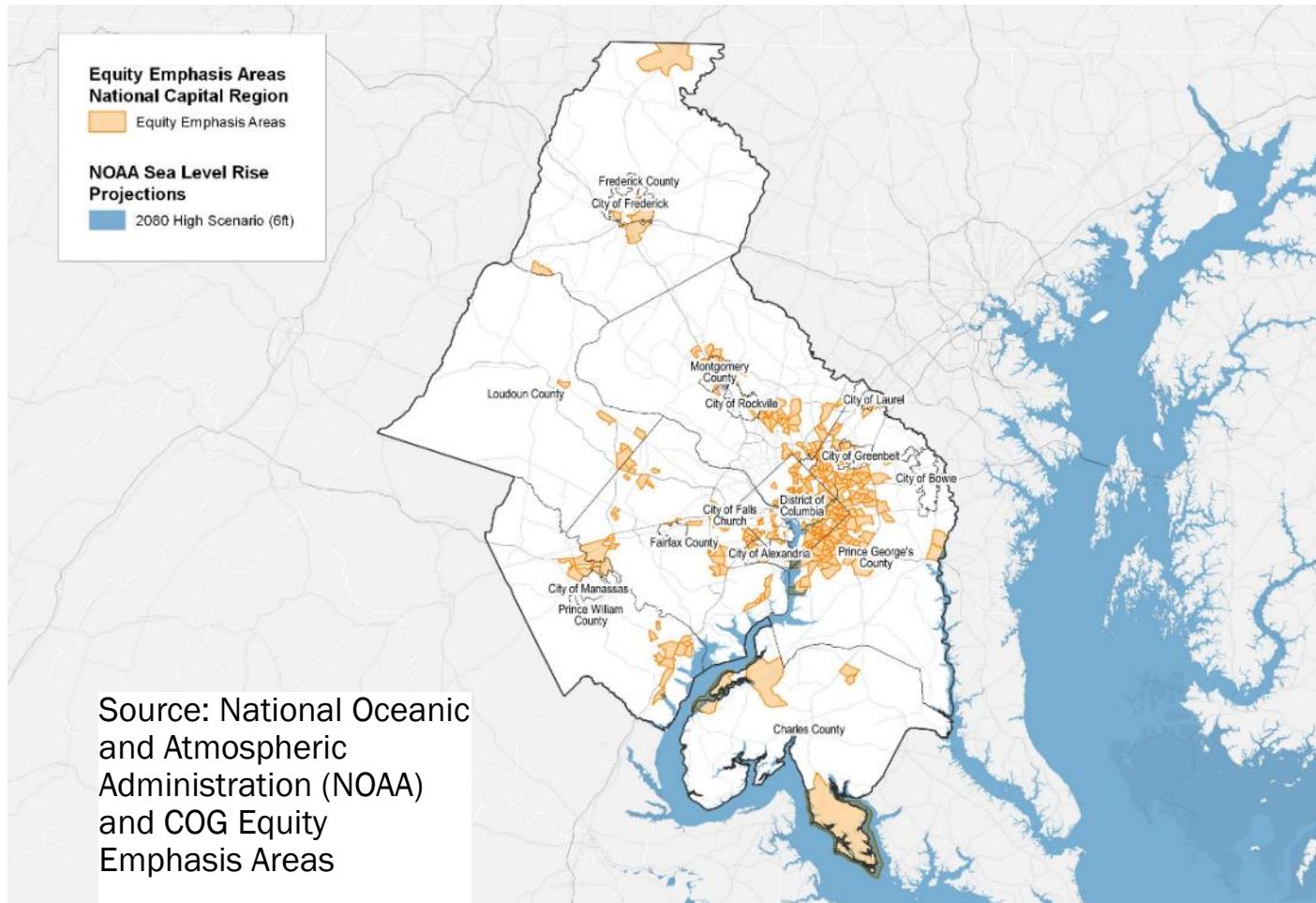
EEAs and Extreme Heat



EEAs and Flash/Riverine Flooding



EEAs and Sea Level Rise



Climate Actions and Equity

- Climate and Energy Action Plan outlines 35 collaborative actions (25 mitigation + 10 resilience) for area governments and partners.
- Climate Action Area = Equity
 - Enable Equitable Planning Practices
 - Prioritize Sustainable Energy Access for All
 - Support Equitable Secure Energy Access
 - Support Engagement of the Public on Climate Risks, with a Particular Emphasis on Potentially Vulnerable Populations
- Equity is woven throughout all the climate actions and equity co-benefits were identified. Examples:
 - Support Establishment of Resilience Hubs
 - Implement Measures to Equitably Address Urban Heat Island

<https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2020/11/18/metropolitan-washington-2030-climate-and-energy-action-plan/>

To Be Continued....

1. All committee meetings, no matter the topic to address equity
2. Support equity planning in local climate and energy plan development
3. Equity-focused Climate and Energy Leadership Awards
4. Continue to apply for grants that provide benefits for EEA communities
5. BEEAC 2022 priority = Energy Equity

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