

# EQUITY IN AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE PLANNING

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## Proposed Approach

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Department of Environmental Programs (DEP)

MWAQC

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# Background

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- In May of 2023, the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) adopted its FY24 work program including an objective to include a racial equity lens in work activities. The committee also included a goal of developing a new document to address environmental justice in air quality planning.
- As part of COG's work:
  - ACPAC is to update its 2017 EJ Toolkit.
  - The Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) climate plan program for the MSA requires significant new community engagement, emphasizing J40 and LIDAC. Consultant proposals currently under review include EJ/Equity/Community Engagement.

# Proposed Approach

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- What is MWAQC Planning to Do?
- Recommend a multi-pronged approach
  1. Partner with COG – EJ Toolkit
  2. Partner with COG - CPRG grant program
  3. NEW - Resource Guide document, joint exercise of COG and MWAQC
- This approach would be consistent with:
  - MWAQC Resolution from May
  - COG’s Region United Framework
  - Requirements for the CPRG Plan

# Resource Guide Document

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- What will resource guide be about?
  - Potential outline for EJ resource
  - Look for best practices in different sectors
  - How identify and quantify inequities in all sectors that are attributable to environmental policies, programs, and projects
    - Drivers causing in equities
    - Opportunities to address inequities
  - How factor them into policies, programs, and policies to help address criteria or GHGs or other environmental issue.

## Immediate Actions/Next Steps

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- Survey and hold focus group discussions with COG member staff and experts to identify resource and assistance needs
- Plan and hold community engagement
- Hire consultant to assist:
  - Update EJ Toolkit
  - Develop EJ Resource Guide Document
  - Member, expert and community engagement with emphasis on low-income disadvantaged communities.

# Seeking Input

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- Input from MWAQC, State Air Agencies, Local Government
  - Update EJ Toolkit
  - Develop Regional EJ Resource Guide
  - Member, expert and community engagement with emphasis on low-income disadvantaged communities (LIDAC)/Equity Emphasis Areas.

# Public Participation Encouraged

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- To engage on Equity and EJ for air quality and climate planning, share your thoughts and ideas:
  - email [MWAQCPublicComment@mwkog.org](mailto:MWAQCPublicComment@mwkog.org)
  - Sign up in advance for public comments
  - Observe technical committee meetings
- Website update pending
- Please share resource ideas, recommend experts to participate in focus group, community engagement, etc.

# COG Staff Resources

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- COG Chief Equity Officers (CEOC)
  - Monica Beyrouti
- MWAQC
  - Jen Desimone
  - Sunil Kumar
- ACPAC
  - Leah Boggs
- COG DTP
  - Sergio Ritacco



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