Reflections on apply Guiding Principles to Climate Action Plan Strategies

Strengths

What worked well in applying the Guiding Principles to a strategy?

Which questions were helpful?

The explanation in the beginning and the tables and graphics are helpful

Rubric is helpful (but long)

Funding and data section is helpful

Identifying impacted or frontline communities

Implementation questions are important

Weaknesses

Which questions are hard to answer?

What frustrated you?

Length of document (entirety and individual parts ex. rubric)

The document is not in plain English

Requires person applying the guiding principles to have familiarity or experience in this type of work

Sometimes the answer is "it depends" because of all of the moving parts and how decisions are made (ex. decisions about where invests go)

Complexity of Climate Action Plan is not accessible to people without a lot of training and experience

Challenging to apply equity lens to ideas and strategies that are not easily understood

Time constraints to develop a comprehensive climate action plan (there isn't enough time)

There are underlying injustices in the "status quo" - only new initiatives are being evaluated for equity

Opportunities

How to improve questions?

What other information is needed?

Reframe questions. Simplify

Use Guiding Principles document and a reference

Strategies can be more specific to ensure that they are as equity advanced as possible (ex. cap and trade and how the revenue was spent)

Equity work may be more relevant/useful during the implementation phase

Pooled resources would be helpful

Office of Racial Equity Training and Tools (reach out for training)

We have the opportunity to build and design programs

Equity assessment of the status quo before making recommendations

Could divide up assessment questions depending on what stage in the process (planning vs. implementation)

Threats

What challenges did you encounter?

What are anticipated challenges to implementation?

Challenges to implementation because of what is in control of the council

People may not participate because of the complex plans, language—there is a barrier to participation that does not center equity

Need to act quickly vs. acting deliberatively to include parts of the Guiding Principles