

Race and Equity Pocket Questions

Title and purpose of this initiative:

2025 North Carolina Clean Fuels Advanced Technology Grant

This agenda item seeks approval from council to apply for the 2025 North Carolina Clean Fuels Advanced Technology Grant to off-set costs for Fleet EVs and anti-idling technology for one fire engine.

Department: Climate Action

What are the racial and equity impacts?

Applying for a state grant to replace internal combustable engines with zero-emission electric vehicles has the potential to significantly advance racial and equity goals by reducing the impacts of climate change, improving air quality, creating economic opportunities, and empowering communities. Historically marginalized communities suffer and will suffer disproportionately larger impacts due to climate disruption. Improved air quality serves to improve overall health, and community awareness can empower communities to advocate for further sustainable initiatives.

Who is or will experience community burden?

No community burden will be experienced through applying for a grant.

Who is or will experience community benefit?

The residents of the Town of Carrboro have the potential to benefit from the program if the program is chosen for an award. No benefits will be experienced through applying for a grant. Reducing the community's greenhouse gas emissions levels will lessen the burden that historically disadvantaged groups will face because of climate change.

What are the root causes of inequity?

Root causes of inequity as it relates to zero emission vehicles includes income inequality, including access to financing, as low-income families may struggle to afford electric vehicles. Disproportionate distribution of infrastructure investment has led to infrastructure inequity. Historical and systemic racism results in biased policies and effects low-income individuals' education, housing, financing opportunities, health, and environmental impacts.

What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy?

Unintended consequences include the opportunity costs of this project. Town spending towards climate action and reducing greenhouse gas emissions could instead be spent to directly benefit disadvantaged communities in other ways.

How is your department planning to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences?

The finance department, specifically the grants manager, will facilitate the grant application process. Transparency and accountability will be maintained throughout the grant application process. If issues arise, the Town will address.