



## **Race and Equity Pocket Questions**

**Title and purpose of this initiative:** Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to create the Intergovernmental Orange County Climate Council

**Department:** Planning

### **What are the racial and equity impacts?**

The Orange County Climate Council (OCCC) is an intergovernmental group focused on climate action, information sharing and collaboration. Historically marginalized communities suffer and will suffer disproportionately larger impacts due to climate disruption. By facilitating communication and collective efforts, the Town will address emissions reduction within Carrboro and on a larger scale throughout the County. The Town's commitment to reducing climate disruption will lessen the burden that historically disadvantaged groups will face because of greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Who is or will experience community burden?**

The Orange County Climate Council is a public body. Its meetings are subject to North Carolina Open Meetings Law and will be open to the public. At the meetings, the public will receive information about how the Towns and County are addressing climate change, climate justice, and resiliency. The Towns and County will engage with the public on these topics and will provide updates to the full Council. Those who are unaware of the meetings may not have a chance to attend. The OCCC will coordinate with the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners to notify the public of how they may access all meetings.

### **Who is or will experience community benefit?**

All residents of Carrboro and Orange County will benefit from reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

### **What are the root causes of inequity?**

Historic and deliberate institutional policies at all levels of government and unintended consequences of "race-neutral" policies have created inequities for Black and other marginalized communities in employment, housing, generational wealth, and health outcomes. These inequities will only be exacerbated by ongoing climate disruption.

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

At the [4-18-23](#) Carrboro Town Council meeting, Council members considered the OCCC's potential lack of diverse representation and suggested that the non-governmental membership be expanded to include several organizations and students to offer diverse perspectives.

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

The overall purpose of the Council is to provide a formal structure through which the Towns and the County can communicate, exchange information, and coordinate on climate-related topics. One of the specific goals of the Council identified in the MOU is to share public education and outreach opportunities conducted by member entities. The Towns and County worked together to develop the [One Orange Racial Equity Framework](#) in 2022 and have all committed to addressing racial equity. Community engagement was identified as one of the five pillars of this document. Engagement is



integral to planning climate action initiatives as most are focused on education and helping community members and partners change behaviors. The Towns and County will utilize strategies identified in the Framework to guide community outreach moving forward.