

Race and Equity Pocket Questions

Title and purpose of this initiative: Termination of Agreement to Grant Use of Public Works Site to Carolina Biodiesel, LLC, formerly Piedmont Biofuels, Inc.

Department: Public Works

What are the racial and equity impacts?

The racial impacts of municipal agreements with for-profit LLCs highlight the importance of equitable and inclusive practices in governance, economic development, and urban planning to address systemic inequalities and promote social justice.

Generations of racial discrimination in government policies, real estate practices, and rental markets have led to a disproportionate concentration of people of color in less desirable living areas, such as those located near highways or prone to flooding. Minority communities disproportionately bear the burden of environmental hazards or pollution leading to diminished quality of life and community well-being.

Who is or will experience community burden?

The following individuals may experience burden:

- Carolina Biodiesel, LLC due to the removal of the tank and loss in revenue.
- Individuals utilizing the biodiesel fuel tank due to an increase in travel distance to refuel.
- Individuals who hold a favorable view of the biodiesel fuel program.
- During removal of the biodiesel tank, Public Works employees might face challenges due to their inability to access the area around the tank and fueling equipment, which may hinder their ability to perform specific tasks.

Who is or will experience community benefit?

The following may experience community benefit:

- Individuals residing near Public Works or downstream will experience reduced risks of environmental contamination resulting from a potential leak or spill from the biodiesel tank.
- The Town, Public Works employees, and community members will experience enhanced security and safety at Public Works facility by eliminating public access.

What are the root causes of inequity?

Institutional policies, both intentional and unintentional, have created inequities for Black and other marginalized communities (for example, people with disabilities and refugee populations) in employment, housing, generational wealth, health outcomes, and can include shorter lifespan and higher susceptibility to cardiovascular and pulmonary disease caused by exposure to airborne particulates. These inequities will only be exacerbated by continued business-as-usual fossil fuel use and its associated greenhouse gas emissions and climate disruption.

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

Unintended consequences:

- Increase GHG emissions in Carrboro, as biofuels burn cleaner than gasoline, resulting in fewer greenhouse gas emissions.
- Loss in revenue for Carolina Biodiesel, LLC due to the removal of the tank.
- Extended distance to travel for individuals using the biodiesel tank also resulting in an increase in GHG emissions.
- Community members view removal of the biodiesel tank from Public Works facility as unfavorable.

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

Public Works will:

- Continue to monitor feedback from community members to identify any currently unforeseen burdens or inequities and address those with corrective measures as needed.
- Continue to evaluate and implement energy and climate protection strategies and enhancements; collaborate with the Environmental Sustainability Coordinator to identify additional projects for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.