

1. What are the racial impacts?

Historically marginalized communities suffer and will suffer disproportionately larger impacts due to climate disruption. By pursuing renewable electricity for Town buildings, the Town will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 16%, showing a commitment to reducing climate disruption and lessening the burden that historically disadvantaged groups will face as a result of greenhouse gas emissions. Increasing the Town's use of renewable energy will reduce its reliance on electricity and the fossil fuels used in its generation. This will improve air quality, which also has a disproportionate impact on the health of marginalized communities, especially children.

2. Who is or will this experience burden?

Companies not selected to perform the solar installation will not be receiving business from the Town. Staff ensured that all Town procurement procedures were followed throughout the process. Staff released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Town-wide solar development in February 2022. On March 10, 2022, the Town received two responses to the RFP. Proposals were received from Southern Energy Management and Eagle Solar & Light. Both firms' proposals were responsive and complete. A staff evaluation committee was formed across multiple departments and a subsequent interview was held with each firm in order to determine a path moving forward.

Installation of rooftop solar on Town buildings may result in temporary street closures and loss of parking spaces during the delivery of materials and site staging that would impact area residents and nearby businesses. Town staff may also be impacted due to potential temporary loss of parking spaces and temporary road closures.

3. Who is or will this experience benefit?

All residents of Carrboro, including historically marginalized and low-income communities, which suffer and will suffer greater impacts due to climate change, will benefit from improved air quality and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Eagle Solar and Light has partnered with Action Solar & Electric, a Carrboro-based minority-owned business, on this contract.

The Town will benefit by taking advantage of rebates from Duke Energy and one-time payments from the Federal government as a result of the Inflation Reduction Act. This will allow the Town to obtain solar PV systems for lower cost, maximizing reductions in greenhouse gas emissions while keeping Town funds available for other programs that may benefit historically marginalized communities and all residents.

In future years, the Town will spend less on electricity allowing Town funds that would normally have gone to Duke Energy to fund other Town programs.

4. 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 and continued business-as-usual electricity production and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

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

Opportunity costs from using Town funds to install solar PV systems could prevent funding of other programs that would directly benefit our Black and other historically marginalized and low-income communities.

The Town will be responsible for operations and maintenance of the solar PV systems once installed and this could add expenses to the Town’s budget in some years which could prevent funding of other programs that would directly benefit our Black and other historically marginalized and low-income communities.