County of Albemarle
OFFICE OF EQUITY & INCLUSION
DEPARTMENT OF FACILITIES & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Office of Equity & Inclusion | Climate Protection Program, Department of Facilities & Environmental Services

DATE: May 15, 2023

RE: Equity and Climate Action Lens Presentation

We are pleased to present the Equity and Climate Action (ECA) Lens to the Planning Commission. The presentation will cover the development of the ECA Lens and how it will be used in the AC44 Comprehensive Plan update, as well as other potential uses in the organization's work.

In planning for the future development of Albemarle County, equity and climate action must be central to our vision, mission, and practice. We can start by using equity and climate action as a lens to enhance our work as an organization, and to see a fuller picture of the communities impacted. This tool will aid our organization in examining proposed policies, programs, or projects with respect to climate change and equity impacts.

Merely stating that we need to prioritize equity and climate action in our service to the community does not guarantee successful outcomes. Achieving these outcomes requires effectively integrating an understanding of equity and climate impacts across the organization. To ensure that our service is equitable, staff throughout local government must be able to assess the probable implications on different groups in our community of any given initiative.

This tool is a method of revealing information to create opportunities for the benefit of our community. By incorporating the perspectives of equity and climate action in our work now, we will be setting ourselves up for a resilient, equitable, thriving community in the coming decades.

Presentation Agenda:

- How the Office of Equity & Inclusion (OEI) defines equity as both a concept and action
- Understanding climate change, climate action (mitigation and resilience), and biodiversity
- The purpose/inception of the Equity and Climate Action Lens
- How the tool will be used in the AC44 Comprehensive Plan and elsewhere
- Q&A with the Planning Commission

Attachments

1. Attachment 1. Equity & Climate Lens Presentation
2. Attachment 2. Equity & Climate Lens Manual