

Equity Guardrails

2022 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP)

The 2022 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) defines climate equity as **both protection from environmental impacts and hazards as well as access to environmental benefits for all, regardless of income, gender, race, age and other characteristics.**

The 2022 CAAP recognizes the disproportionate impacts of climate change on under-invested communities and communities of color; the people and places least responsible for causing climate change. The 2022 CAAP provides equity guardrails to ensure that the strategies translate into specific actions necessary to realize climate justice.

Under-invested communities and populations include the following:

- People who spend a significant amount of their workday outside
- People who live and sleep outdoors
- People of color and lower income
- People with disabilities
- People with pre-existing health conditions
- Children and the elderly
- Single mothers

Applying Equity Guardrails

The equity guardrails were initially used to integrate equity considerations directly into the strategy development process. Each strategy has a sequenced set of objectives that must be taken in order to secure the desired outcome.

The equity guardrails analysis was conducted after the CAAP strategies were developed. Potential collaborators in the analysis process were carefully considered in order to include all the relevant concerns and options. Equity considerations will also become fully integrated into implementation and through monitoring and evaluation in order to maintain equitable progress in CAAP objectives.

Table 1 County of Santa Cruz CAAP Equity Guardrails

Equity Guardrail	Criteria
1. Improves Health and Safety	<p>Each Strategy must be supported by Objective that either mitigate potential negative outcomes, or improve the following for under-invested communities and populations with disproportionate vulnerabilities to climate change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • individual and population health • Life and property safety • Quality of life
2. Includes Appropriate Financial Options	<p>The Strategy must be supported by Objectives that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • do not place additional disproportionate financial burdens or hardships on under-invested communities and • are designed with funding and financing options that address their specific needs.
3. Aligns with Social and Cultural Needs and Values	<p>Each Strategy must be supported by Objectives that address the following for under-invested communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • culturally relevance • needs of the community • values of the community ⁱ • Include partnership with community-based organizations that are equipped with the valuable relationships, knowledge, and trust to succeed
4. Reduces potential for displacement	<p>Each Strategy must be supported by Objectives that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect under-invested communities from potential financial or environmental displacement • support adaptive capacity and resilience for under-invested community members • protect under-invested communities from cost-of-living increases.
5. Continues Investment and Engagement	<p>Each Strategy must be supported by Objectives that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue engagement with under-invested communities over the course of implementation • include engagement with under-invested communities during implementation to address unforeseen barriers and constraints
6. Provides local and accessible green job development	<p>Each Strategy must be supported by Objectives that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support local and accessible green job development • support green job employment for people experiencing barriers to employment.

¹ Values of the Community are identified through dialogue when assessing how to design financial tools that further the types of climate mitigation and adaptation changes that promote adoption of multi-modal transit options, electrification, etc. (See the Berkeley Electrification Strategy for info on how values among other things informed the strategy).

