

Key Regional Equity Atlas Findings

Healthy Places

- There is a growing gap between minority home ownership and home-ownership rates by Whites. Rates for all communities of color, except Asians, are significantly lower than for Whites
- Only 8 of the 225 neighborhoods measured using the Atlas Housing affordability index were “affordable” to households making at least the region’s median income
- A growing number of poor people are relocating further from central Portland due to rising housing costs. As a result, access to quality transit is worsening for poor people
- Seventy percent of the neighborhoods where access to nature is poor have high poverty rates. Only 19% of wealthy neighborhoods have poor access to nature

Healthy People

- Many of the places where poverty increased between 1990 and 2000 were outside central Portland (For example, East Multnomah County - Rockwood, central Vancouver, and Hillsboro)
- Schools in the wealthiest communities tend to have more financial resources and better-trained teachers than those in communities of more modest incomes
- Between 1999-2003, poverty worsened in public schools, especially in those that began with high poverty rates
- While poverty rates in gentrified neighborhoods dropped, poverty in the neighborhood schools increased, indicating that few newcomers are sending their kids to nearby schools

Healthy Process

- Consistent sentiment from the thousands of people who participated in the Regional Equity Atlas Project that transparent and accountable public policy decision making and public participation are critical to equitable development, and yet are not fully in place
- Data limitations and funding prevent challenges for ongoing mapping of meaningful and equitable public participation

For additional information about progress on all the Initiatives, please go to www.equityagenda.wikispaces.com

History of CLF and Regional Equity Atlas

Coalition for Livable Future (CLF) has worked since 1994 to bridge the gap between the haves and have-nots in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region. In 2002, CLF initiated the Regional Equity Atlas Project, as equity and its relationship to sustainable development were not generally understood by the public or policy makers. The Atlas Project is based on critical partnerships with diverse community based organizations, academic institutions as well as many different regional and state governments. This collaborative effort aims to spark innovative ideas for ensuring that all residents of the Portland-Vancouver area have equal access to our region’s exceptional quality of life and can be healthy and prosperous.

CLF is grateful to the Kaiser Permanente Community Fund at Northwest Health Foundation for supporting the publication of this progress report.

We also want to thank our key partners in advancing the Equity Action Agenda initiatives:

Audubon Society of Portland	Oregon Action
Clackamas County	Oregon Housing Alliance
Coalition of Communities of Color	Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc
Community Health Partnership	Oregon Opportunity Network
Community Alliance of Tenants	Our Oregon
Groundwork Portland	Portland Impact
Human Solutions	Portland State University
Kaiser Permanente	College of Urban and Public Affairs -
Mercy Corps Northwest	Social Equity and Opportunity Forum
Multnomah County Health Equity Initiative	Urban League of Portland
Organizing People, Activating Leaders	Working Families Coalition



COALITION FOR A LIVABLE FUTURE

107 SE Washington Street, Suite 239
Portland, OR 97214

503.294.2889
www.clfuture.org
info@clfuture.org



Regional Equity Action Agenda Progress Report



eq·ui·ty means that all residents have access to the opportunities necessary to meet basic needs and advance their health and well-being.



Everyone deserves the opportunity to prosper – yet access to basic opportunities needed to survive and thrive are unequally distributed across our region, placing a heavy toll on individuals and communities. In 2007, Coalition for a Livable Future published *The Regional Equity Atlas*, which illustrates these challenges. In response to the Atlas, thousands of community members developed 16 initiatives to tackle these challenges. The following pages describe our progress.



Healthy Places: Increasing Access to Health Communities

Initiatives	Progress Actions	Progress
1. Affordable Housing Funding		
	Passage of Housing Opportunity Bill, creating a dedicated revenue source for affordable housing. (\$15 million will be generated between 2009-2011)	★
	Passage of funding bill to preserve existing multi-family housing (\$16.3 million) and manufactured home parks (\$3.1 million)	★
2. "20 minute" Communities		
	Preserved public park access and affordable housing funding in Portland's Lents neighborhood, when the City considered locating a new baseball stadium in the neighborhood	★
	Creation of an \$850,000 Regional Housing Fund, the first at Metro. [Setback: More recently, Metro reallocated the funding]	★ ⊖
	New relationships built among equity, conservation, and agriculture interests to influence Metro's process to designate lands for future urbanization and protect lands as rural for the next 50 years. [Setback: Final designations in Washington County were so extensive that they nearly overwhelm good designations in the other two counties]	⊖ 👤👤👤
	Allocation by Metro of \$10.8 million for bicycle and pedestrian improvements, particularly in low-income areas, as well as bus stop infrastructure and reductions of toxic emissions around children	★
	Authored "Economic Recovery as a Transformative Opportunity", resulting in a \$2 million allocation of stimulus funds for new sidewalks in low-income East Portland neighborhoods	★
3. Parks & Nature in Neighborhoods		
	Expansion of Nadaka Nature Park in Gresham, adding green space to low-income neighborhoods	★
4. Improve Substandard Housing		
	New tenant protection law requiring landlords to give 60 days notice for no cause termination	★
	New legislation to improve rental housing conditions in unincorporated Multnomah County	★
5. Redevelop Brownfields		
	Partnership with key organizations to redevelop polluted properties	👤👤👤
6. Advance Climate Justice		
	Collaboration with University of Oregon Climate Leadership Initiative and initiated inventory of regional climate policymaking efforts	👤👤👤
7. Redesign Schools for Health		
	Joined Multnomah County Health Department collaboration: "Communities Putting Prevention to Work"	👤👤👤

Healthy People: Improving Access to Education, Jobs, and Assets

Initiatives	Progress Actions	Progress
1. Wealth Building		
	New law passed allocating a portion of federal transportation funding to pre-apprenticeship and other programs aimed at increasing diversity in construction trades	★
2. Expand Earned Income Tax Credit		
	Built key partnerships resulting in two hearings of the proposed bill to expand the EITC during 2009 legislative session	👤👤👤
3. Create Foreclosure Protection		
	Instrumental in passage of new foreclosure and home lending protections for homeowners and tenants	★
4. Affordable & Green Projects		
	Creation of Emerson Street Garden Project with ground breaking in summer 2010	★
5. Increase Ridesharing		
	Successfully advocated for a statewide rideshare program in Oregon, funded at \$1.9 million over two years. Rideshare, also known as carpooling or vanpooling, provides an affordable commute option while decreasing the amount people need to drive	★
6. Culturally Competent Schools		
	Identifying key partners	👤👤👤
7. Create Good Green Jobs		
	Adoption of ground-breaking Portland Clean Energy Works Community Workforce Agreement, establishing fair access to jobs by groups that have historically encountered discrimination in construction trades	★

Inspiration for creation of Regional Equity Atlas

Atlas data influences development of Metro's 2006 greenspaces bond

Atlas data supports 30% of Portland's urban renewal district funding dedicated to affordable housing

2002	2003	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
	Participatory research on Atlas indicators begins		Voters pass a \$227.4 million greenspaces bond, including measure prioritizing a portion to renature low-income neighborhoods		Atlas results shared with thousands of community members		First Equity Agenda Progress Report published. Work on Equity Atlas 2.0 begins

Healthy Process: Improving Accountability and Transparency

Initiatives	Progress Actions	Progress
1. Health Equity Decisionmaking		
	Effective visibility and influence with Metro and other decisionmakers, resulting in Metro including equity as one of six objectives in its "Making the Greatest Place" regional vision	★
	Metro adopted new transportation performance measures focusing on affordability, access to daily needs, and transportation choices by disadvantaged populations	★
	Agreement by Metro to create equity subcommittee for integration of equity and social justice principles into transportation funding decisions	👤👤👤
	Addition of equity criteria to Regional Transportation Options grants. As a result, this funded a project to research cultural and economic barriers to bicycling and to design a pilot project to overcome these barriers	★
2. Culturally Appropriate Analysis		
	Published article by Coalition of Communities of Color on research to identify culturally specific recommendations on data use and analytical methods	👤👤👤

 Partnership Building	 Policy Success (includes new policy adopted or successful policy implementation)	 Setback
---	--	--

Regional Equity Atlas published

Regional Equity Action Agenda developed by community is launched