

Springfield Climate Justice Initiative

SPRINGFIELD CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCE PLAN
NEW INFRASTRUCTURE FACT SHEET NO. 1

RACE & HEALTH EQUITY ASSESSMENT

A SYSTEMATIC
EXAMINATION
OF HOW
DIFFERENT
RACIAL AND
ETHNIC GROUPS
WILL BE
AFFECTED BY A
PROPOSED
ACTION OF
DECISION



Adopt a local Race & Health Equity Assessment Requirement for all developments, city plans, and policies.

USED TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS OF MANY THINGS:
PROPOSED POLICIES, INSTITUTIONAL PRACTICES,
PROGRAMS, PLANS AND BUDGETARY DECISIONS, ETC.

LOW
reduction in
GHG
emissions



32 CITIES IN THE UNITED STATES
HAVE ADOPTED SIMILAR POLICIES,
INCLUDING SAN FRANCISCO.



LEARN MORE!
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Springfield Climate Justice Initiative

Race and Health Equity Assessment

What is the Policy?

- A Race and Health Equity assessment is a systematic examination of how different racial and ethnic groups will likely be affected by a proposed action or decision.
- This tool would be applied across departments, from housing to education, transportation, public health, and beyond.

Why support this policy?

- **Equity**
 - Because we need systematic change to undo the impacts of racism and white supremacy.
- **Health**
 - People of color have poor health outcomes because of structural racism.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**
 - People of color are the most vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis.

Where will the funding come from?

EOEEA has made a small grant to advance this. The city could make this a requirement for all new development and the developers will pay.

How do we advocate to make this happen?

We advocate to the Mayor and the new Office of Race & Health Equity.

What momentum is there?

- The Mayor has declared Racism a public health crisis; this is the time now, more than ever, to assess how decisions are made in the city and how it will have an impact on people of color. The city just secured an MVP action grant to advance this.
- Other cities have already developed plans to address this issue--we have an existing road map to do this here in Springfield.
- There is other funding available nationally from the Government Alliance on Race & Equity.



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Springfield Climate Justice Initiative

SPRINGFIELD CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCE PLAN
POLICY FACT SHEET NO. 3

FREE PUBLIC TRANSIT

HIGH
reduction in
GHG
emissions



PVTA
Pioneer Valley
Transit Authority

WORK WITH LOCAL TRANSIT

to cover the cost of ridership, making public
transportation free

IMPROVE EQUITY AND ACCESS TO PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION WITHIN SPRINGFIELD



THIS PLAN HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN
LAWRENCE MASSACHUSETTS TO IMPROVE AIR
QUALITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE.



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Springfield Climate Justice Initiative

Free and Safe Public Buses

What is the Policy?

Free bus usage for all residents of Springfield for a set period of time or forever

Why support this policy?

We support free buses because it will increase the likelihood that people will take a free bus versus driving their personal vehicle.

- **Equity**
 - Low income people and people of color are more likely to not have a car and to be dependent on riding the bus. Many people rely on PVTAs as their primary mode of transportation to go grocery shopping, work, and doctor's appointment. Roads are subsidized more than public transit. It's not fair.
- **GHG emissions**
 - Buses are more efficient and produce less greenhouse gas emissions, especially electric buses.
- **Health**
 - Springfield area is the Asthma Capital of the US for the second year running. Fewer cars and more buses mean better air quality and improved health for people with respiratory disease like asthma and cardiovascular disease.

Where will the funding come from?

The City Budget, the Federal Government, Grants.

How do we advocate to make this happen?

We advocate to the City Council, PVTAs and the Mayor to make this change. We can also advocate to the Governor, Legislators and the President.

What momentum is there?

Lawrence did it and Springfield piloted this project before during COVID, with the MGM Shuttle and the Fare-Free Senior Ride Tuesday.



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Springfield Climate Justice Initiative

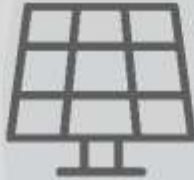
SPRINGFIELD CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCE PLAN
POLICY FACT SHEET NO. 1

**HIGH
reduction in
GHG
emissions**

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION

The City of Springfield would switch all renters' and homeowners' electricity bills to a new supplier, who would use only renewable energy.

Implementation
would take
1-3+
years



CARBON FREE | FOSSIL FREE | CLEAN ENERGY

**ALL HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS WOULD
HAVE CLEAN, GREEN ENERGY FOR THEIR
HOMES!**



**HEALTH BENEFITS FOR EVERYONE IN
SPRINGFIELD, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH
ASTHMA, HEART AND KIDNEY DISEASE.**



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Community Choice Energy

What is the Policy?

Community Choice Energy, also known as Community Choice Aggregation, is a program where the city of Springfield could set up to switch everyone in the city on basic Eversource electricity service over to clean energy like solar, wind, and hydropower

Why support this policy?

- **Equity**
 - Low income people may not be able to afford solar on their homes or invest in clean energy. People of color are more vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**
 - We can switch to 100% clean electricity, reducing our city's GHG emissions by XX%.
- **Health**
 - Electricity from natural gas, oil, or coal produces air pollution that impacts health, particularly respiratory and cardiovascular disease. People of color already experience poorer health outcomes
- Community Choice Energy is part of the policy agenda for the City Council.

Where will the funding come from?

Grants or the municipal budget.

How do we advocate to make this happen?

We advocate to the Mayor and the City Council

What momentum is there?

- If we join the proposal already developed by 3 cities in our region, the cost would be minimal.
- There are city councilors already in support of this.



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Springfield Climate Justice Initiative

Glossary

Climate justice

- a civil rights movement centered around black and brown communities most at risk for climate impacts

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- **Greenhouse gases** keep our planet livable by holding onto some of Earth's heat energy. Too little greenhouse gas makes Earth too cold, too much greenhouse gas makes Earth too warm.

Equity

- **Equity** means that all people have equal value and fair opportunity to live their life

Climate change and Health

- **Climate change impacts people of color's health in real ways.** For example, asthma is connected to both poor air quality and hot weather. Being exposed to poor air quality can result in more doses of asthma drugs, emergency treatment, reduced lung function, and make it more difficult to breathe deeply while high heat and humidity can cause asthma flare-ups. A long history of segregation means people of color and people with low incomes bear a larger impact of climate change than would be expected given their population size. It is important for us to address the ways climate change amplifies social, racial, economic and health inequities in order to create effective and long lasting solutions.

