

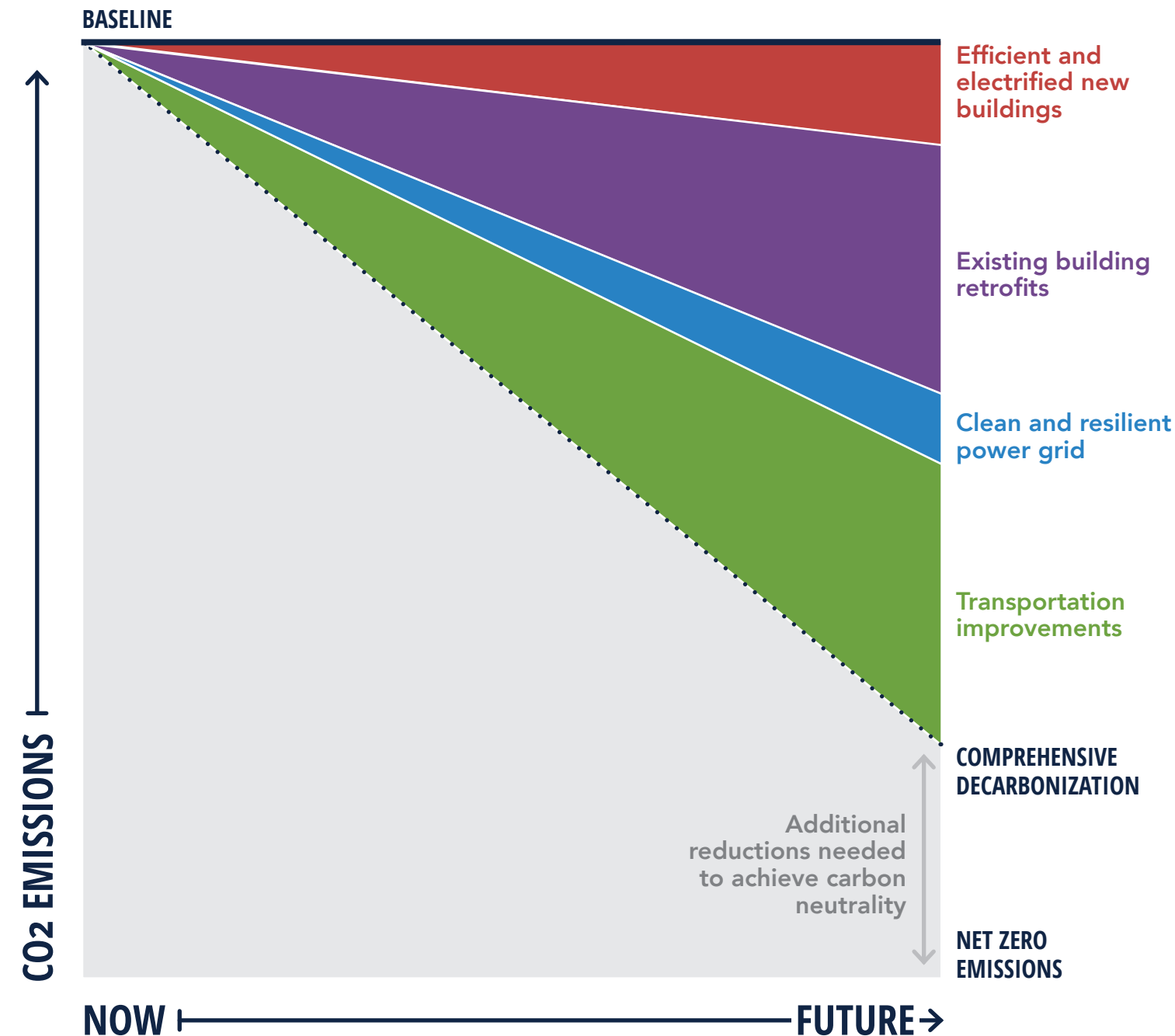


# DEFINING A CITY'S PATH TO NET-ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS:

In order to prevent the worst impacts of climate change, carbon emissions have to stop—reducing them is not sufficient. This means global carbon emissions need to reach net zero.

**NET-ZERO EMISSIONS**, sometimes also called carbon neutrality, is the achievement of balance between the carbon output and the carbon reductions of a given entity, like a city. Net-zero emissions cannot be achieved without decarbonization.

**DECARBONIZATION** is the process of phasing out fossil fuel use in buildings, transportation, and energy systems. At a community level, this includes everything from generating renewable power and electrifying buildings and vehicles, to creating bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly streets that reduce residents' need to use gas-powered transportation.



# A DECARBONIZED CITYSCAPE COULD LOOK LIKE...

Efficient all-  
electric new  
buildings



Existing buildings  
retrofitted and  
electrified



Clean and  
resilient power  
grid



Electrified  
and accessible  
transit



# WHY CENTER EQUITY?

## The equity imperative for local governments

With any new policy, there is an imperative that local governments center equity in process, goals, and outcomes. Status quo government action often creates, codifies, and exacerbates inequities.

When approaching decarbonization, communities should investigate the specific 'why' for doing the work equitably. The answer, different for every community, should provide the guiding charge for resulting initiatives.

Some imperatives might be:



To understand and repair past harm

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To shift power and upend codified inequity

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To improve people's lives

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To expand the tent to win on climate

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To work smarter and de-silo solutions

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# GOING BEYOND CARBON REDUCTION:

## Equitable process and outcomes

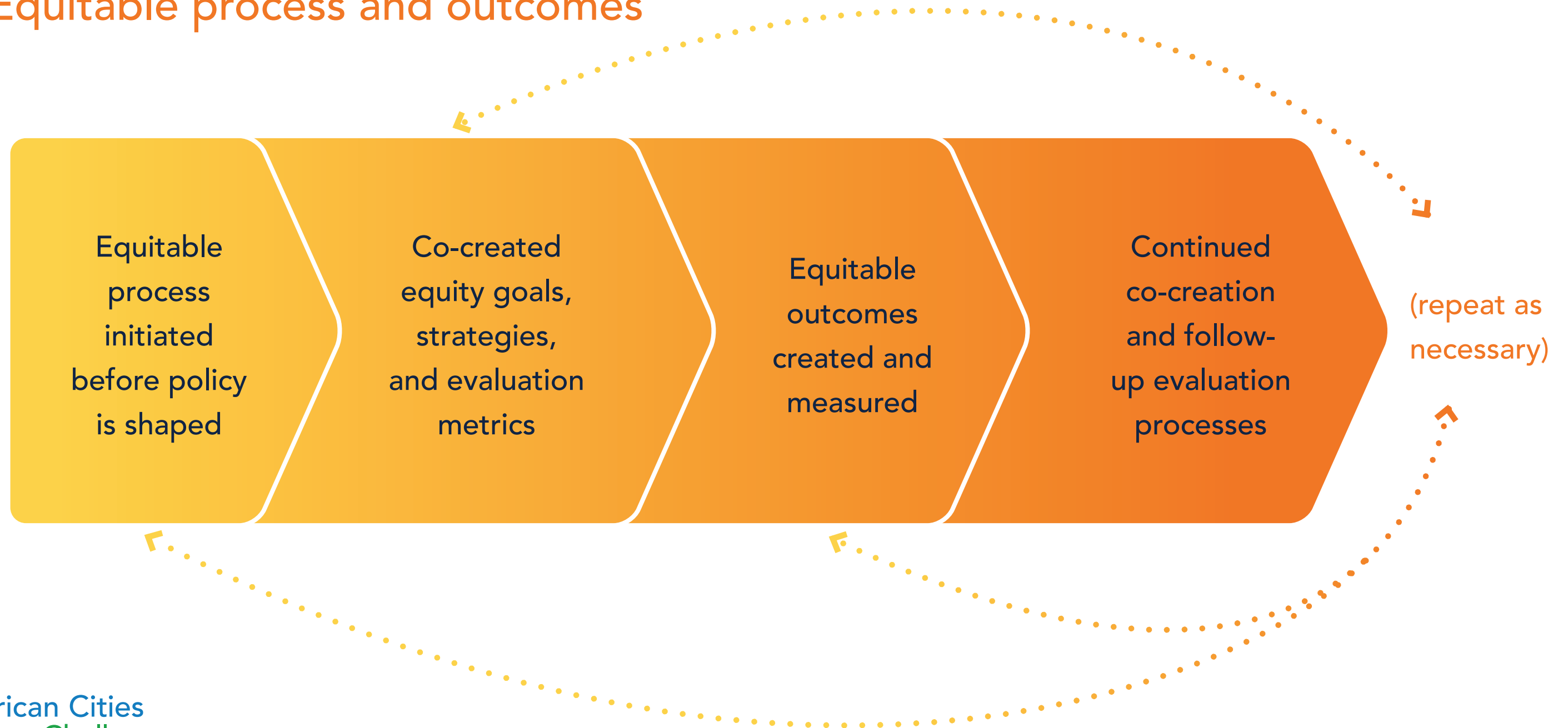
Equitable outcomes require equity-centered processes that prioritize the unique expertise and perspective of communities.

“Centering equity” in decarbonization policies means that there are emission reduction goals AND explicit, specific, and co-equal equity goals. This is done to address the priorities and pain points of historically marginalized communities that have borne the burden of inequities



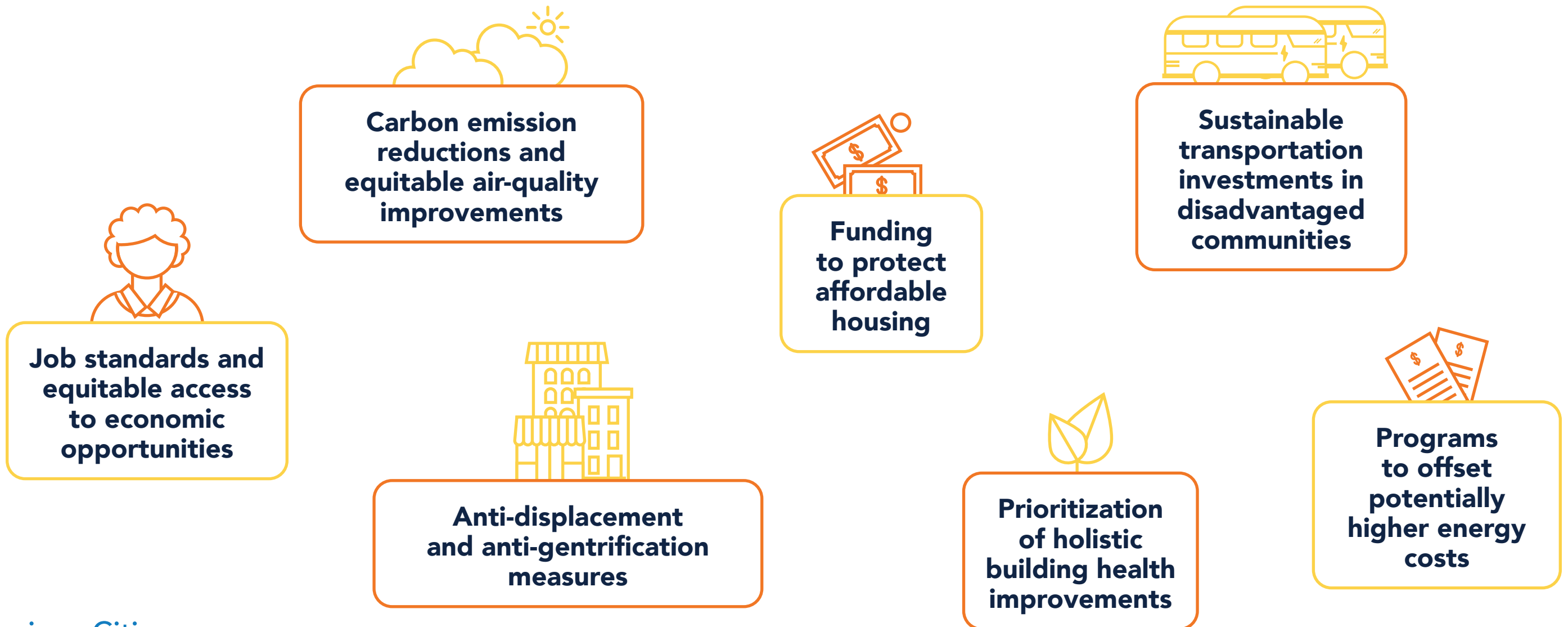
# GOING BEYOND CARBON REDUCTION:

## Equitable process and outcomes



# EQUITABLE OUTCOMES:

Community protections and opportunities in decarbonization



# TRANSPORTATION

Provide communities with low-cost, convenient, and safe low- or no- carbon transportation options

- Widespread and safe bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
- Electrified, accessible public transportation
- Electrified municipal and/or commercial fleet policies
- Congestion pricing analysis
- Electric Vehicle infrastructure
- Transit oriented development (TOD)
- Zero carbon freight requirements





# RENEWABLE ENERGY

Clean up the energy grid through distributed energy resources and best-practice resilient energy systems

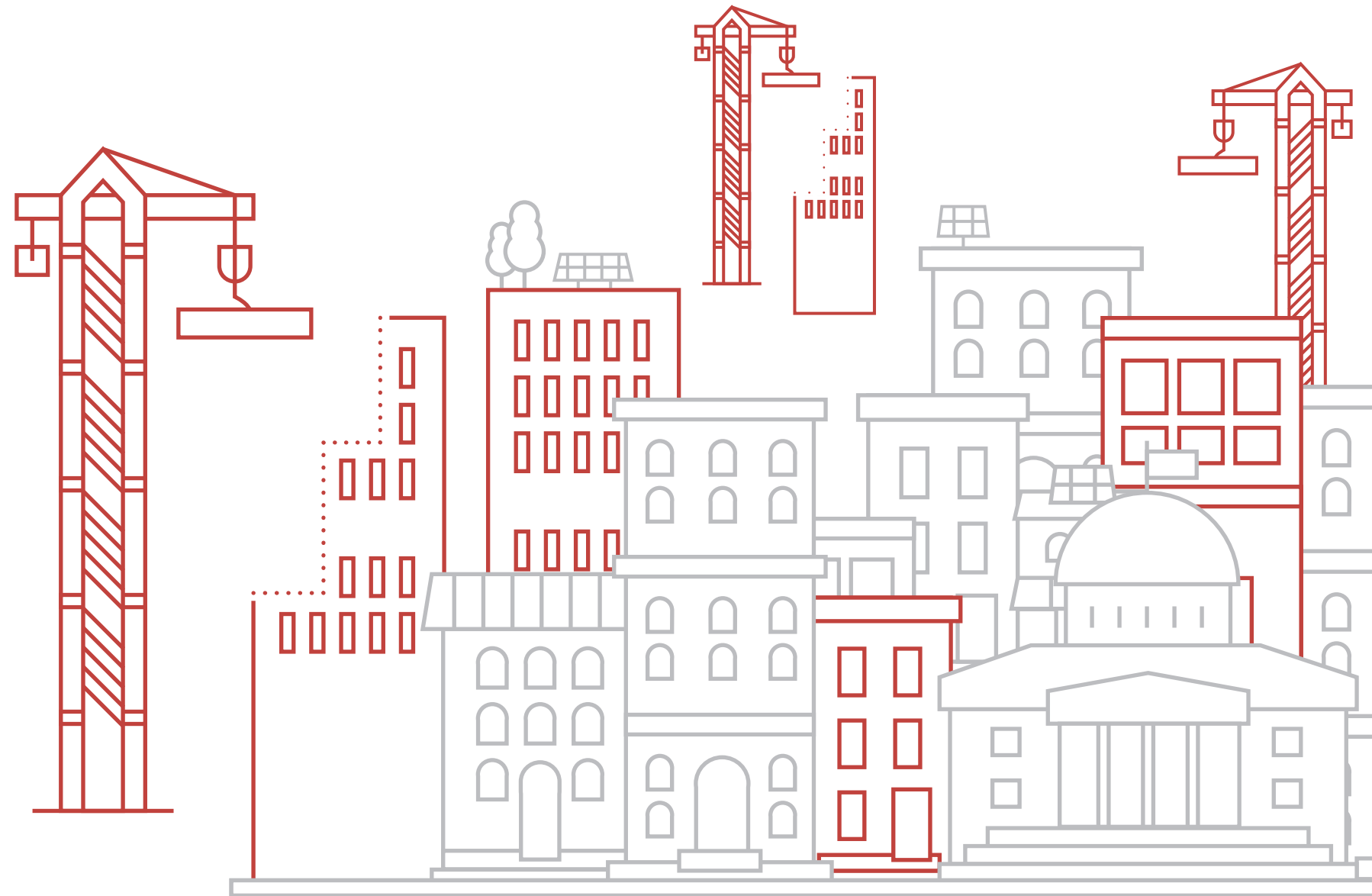
- Large, off-site renewable energy projects
- Power purchase agreements
- Rooftop solar installation and/or readiness requirements
- Battery storage and grid connectivity
- Community choice aggregation
- Community solar projects
- Grid-interactive efficient buildings



# NEW BUILDINGS

Ensure newly constructed buildings are highly efficient and electrified

- Building code updates/overlays
- Reach or stretch codes
- Green building standards or incentives
- Fossil gas infrastructure prohibition ordinances



# EXISTING BUILDINGS

Require or incentivize electrification and efficiency improvements for existing buildings

- Point of sale/rental energy disclosure requirements
- Benchmarking and Transparency
- Beyond Benchmarking policies (audits, retuning)
- Building Performance Standards
- Incentives to replace gas appliances with efficient and electric appliances at end-of-life
- Indoor air quality standards and incentives

