

# *Building Capacity for Energy Resilience in Richmond's Public Housing Communities*

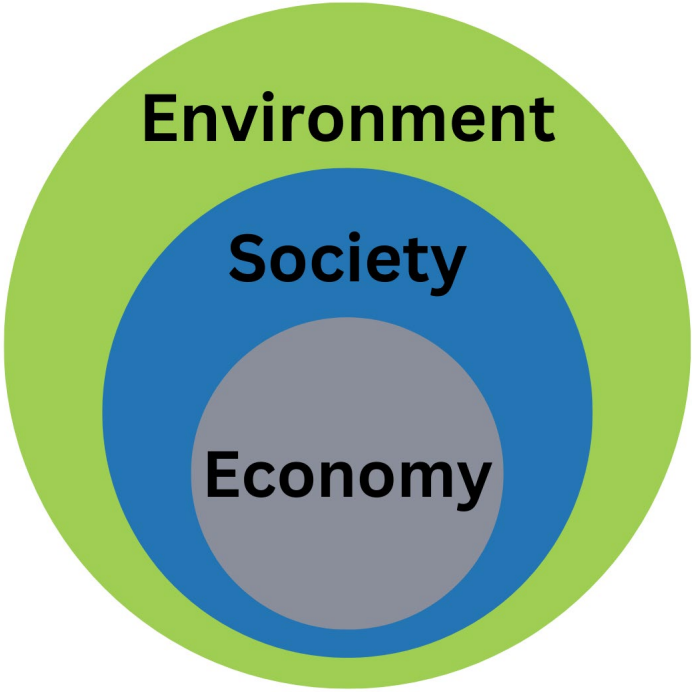
**Presented by Dawn Oleksy  
Energy Program Manager  
Office of Sustainability**



OFFICE OF  
**SUSTAINABILITY**

City of Richmond  
**RVAgreen**  
2050

# Sustainability & Resilience



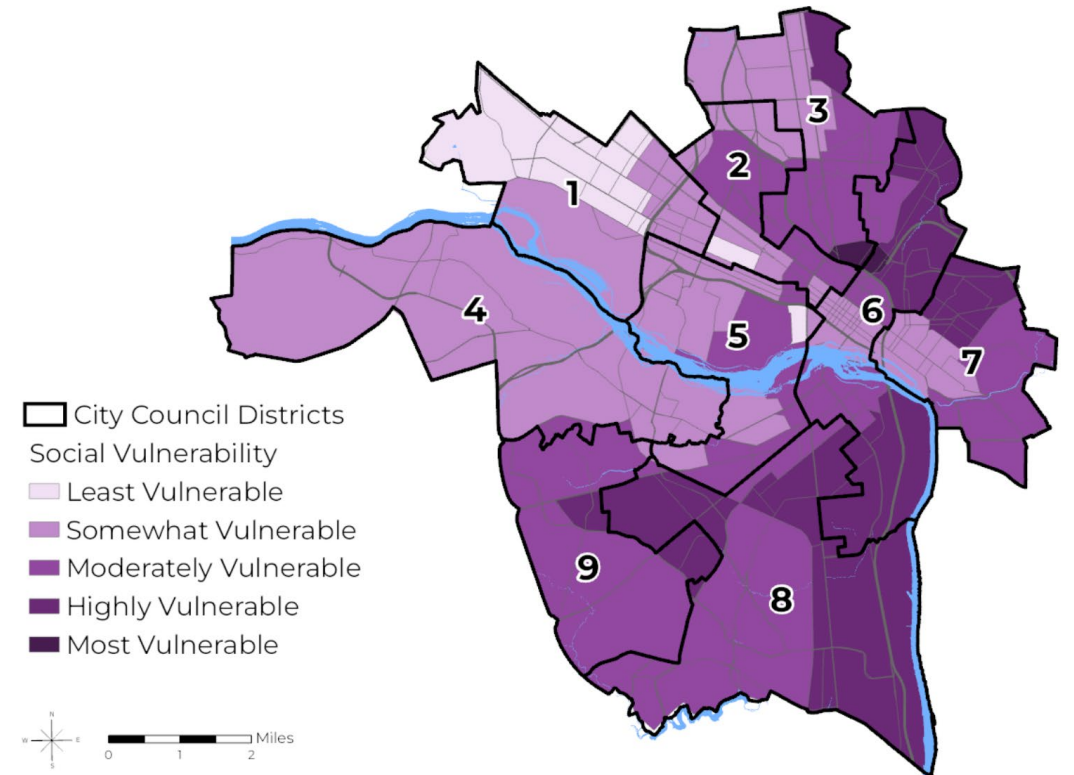
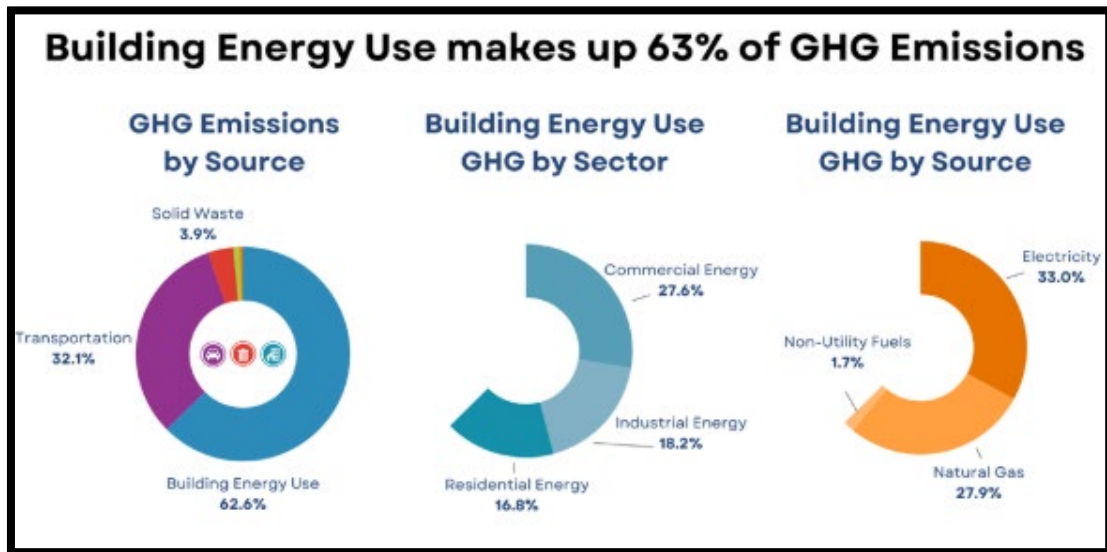
**Nesting Model of Sustainability**



**Resilience as Social Determinants of Health**

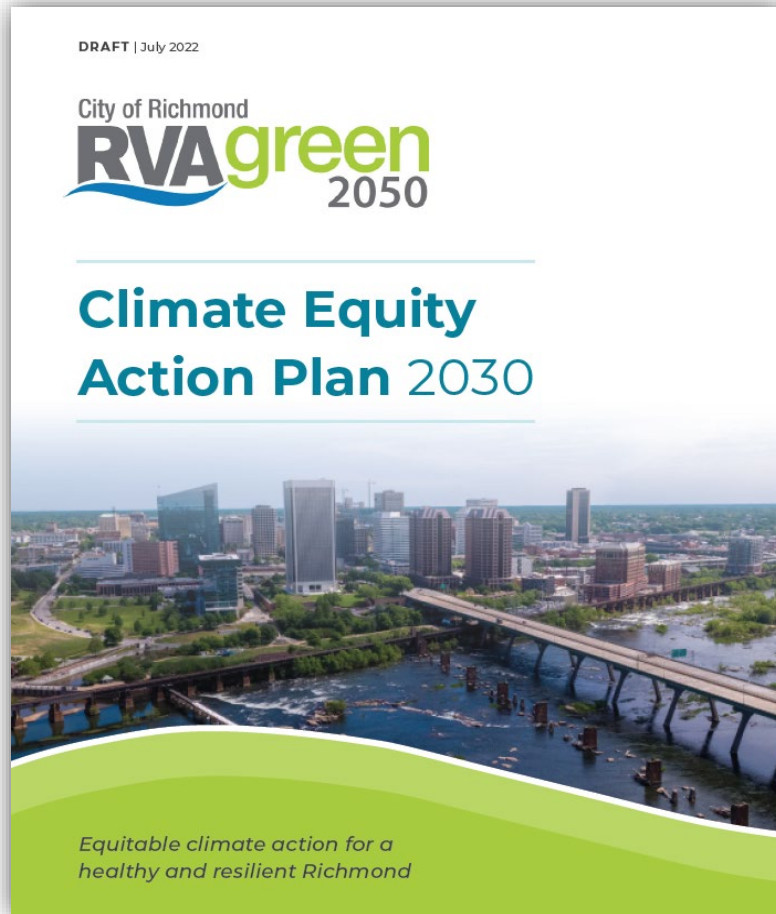
# Frontlines of Climate Change

- Population (race, children, elderly, etc.)
- Household (renters, elderly living alone, etc.)
- Income & Education (SNAP, public assistance income, etc.)
- Housing & Transportation (internet access, vehicle access, etc.)



**Figure 3.6. Social Vulnerability to Climate Change (RVAgreen 2050 Climate Equity Index, 2019)**

# RVAgreen 2050



**1 Vision:** all Richmonders, regardless of their identity or neighborhood, thrive in a climate-resilient and climate neutral community

**2 Goals:** 45% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2050; Prepare for, adapt, and improve the community's resilience to local climate impacts



» **Buildings & Energy -**



» **Environment -**



» **Transportation & Mobility -**



» **Community -**



» **Waste Reduction &  
Recovery -**

# The City of Richmond's Energy Program: FY25 Progress & Reporting

## Residential & Commercial Community Energy Partnerships:

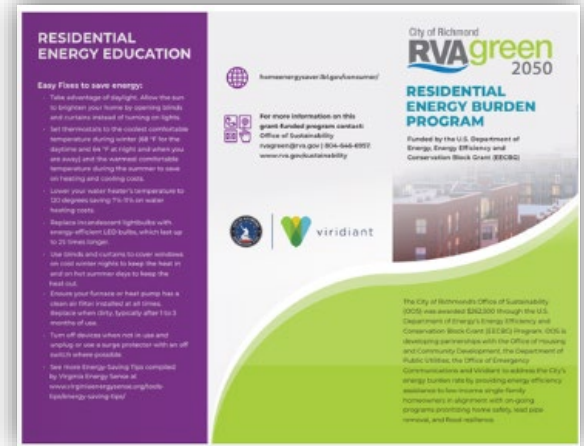
- Residential Solar Campaigns: Switch Together (SUN) / Solarize Virginia (LEAP)
- Healthy Homes Energy Audits – EECBG, HCD, Viridiant, DPU
- DOE Communities LEAP Small Business Energy Efficiency Mapping – NREL, C3

## Municipal Energy Projects:

- Installation of 10 Electric Vehicle Chargers
- National Electric Fleet Cohort (OOS, Fleet, VA Clean Cities, RMI, NREL)
- LED Streetlighting Retrofits
- Engineering study conducted to convert WWTP waste biogas to energy

## Accomplishments:

- 1st city-owned onsite solar installation - TB Smith Community Center
- NAFA awards: Ranked #15 Green Fleet & #1 Best EV Policies
- 100% GS outdoor lighting converted to LED
- 47% city-owned streetlights converted to LED
- 56% municipal electricity usage from renewable sources





# The City of Richmond Joint Energy Team

## MISSION

To provide trustworthy leadership and high-quality services that meet the needs of our vibrant city.

## VISION

Richmond: A city where all people and places thrive.

## PILLARS

A thriving and sustainable built environment (planned for future generations)

- Net-zero GHGe local economy
- Improved transportation
- Stewardship of natural resources
- Greening infrastructure
- Strong commitment to sustainability across all departments

## What is JET?

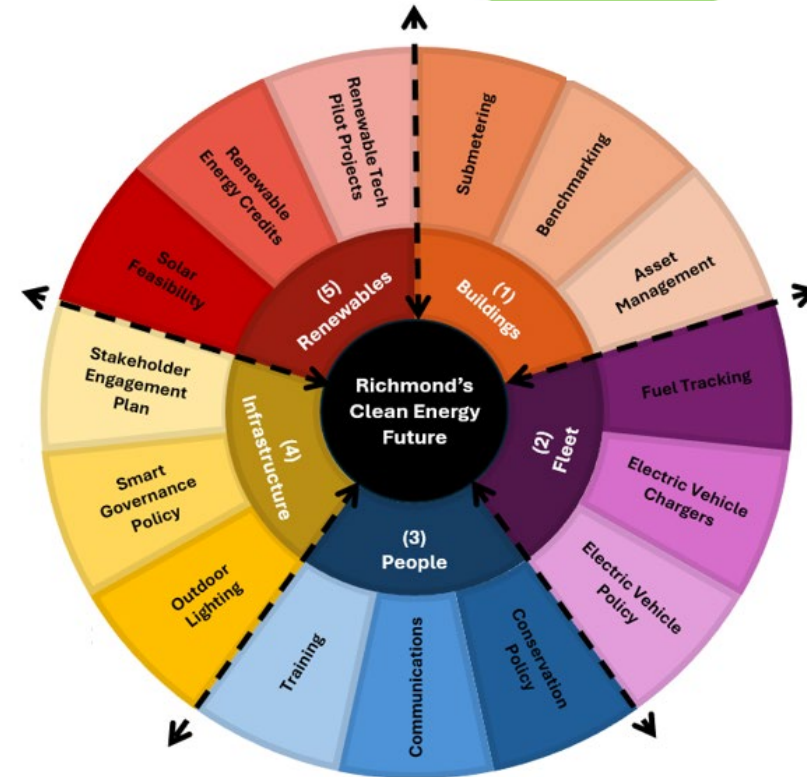
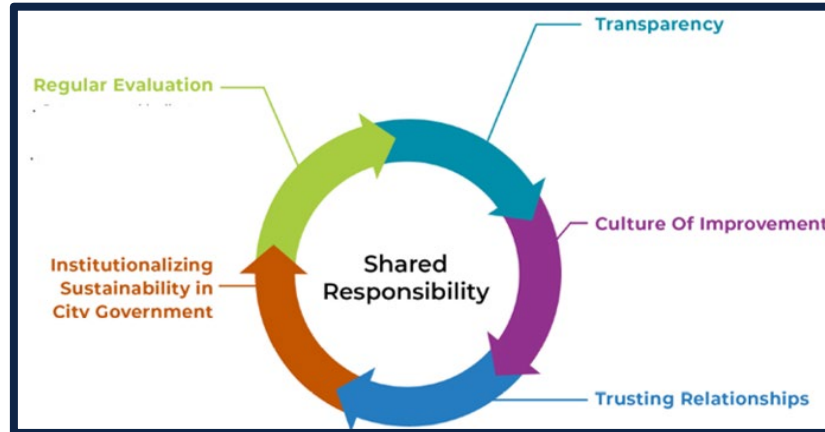
- Strategic planning body for clean energy initiatives
- Sets annual goals based on fiscal budget cycle

## How was JET created?

- Established in FY24
- Founded by Executive Leadership

## Who is on JET?

- Led by OOS Energy Program Manager



# Community Education: Sustainability Workshop & Guide

*Addressing climate change can be overwhelming. To assist, our Office offers a Sustainability Workshop and Guide for our community.*

Our guide covers:

1. What are Sustainability, Climate Change, and Environmental Justice?
2. Introduction to RVAgreen 2050
3. Where Do I Start?
4. Building Your Toolbox
5. Staying Connected and Getting Involved



The flyer features a background image of the City of Richmond skyline. A blue speech bubble in the top right contains a circular icon with a building, a leaf, and a recycling symbol. A large blue box in the center contains the text 'SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP' in white and green. Below this, a smaller blue box contains the text: 'Whether you're new to sustainability or looking to deepen your knowledge, this workshop offers valuable resources and community support to help you learn, connect, and contribute to a greener future for all in the City of Richmond!'. A yellow hand icon with a lightbulb is positioned to the right of the text. Below the text, a list of three items is preceded by green checkmarks. At the bottom left is the 'City of Richmond RVAgreen 2050' logo. At the bottom right, a green box contains the text 'Questions? Email us!' and 'rvagreen@rva.gov' next to an envelope icon. A yellow circular button with a hand icon and the text 'REGISTER NOW' is also present.

**SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP**

Whether you're new to sustainability or looking to deepen your knowledge, this workshop offers valuable resources and community support to help you learn, connect, and contribute to a greener future for all in the City of Richmond!

**Discover the following:**

- ✓ Practical Sustainability Tips
- ✓ Actionable Climate Strategies
- ✓ Community Resilience Resources

City of Richmond  
**RVAgreen**  
2050

Questions? Email us!  
[rvagreen@rva.gov](mailto:rvagreen@rva.gov)

**REGISTER NOW**

# How can the city's efforts help



???

## USDN Catalyst Fund: RRHA Energy Resilience Project Goals

1. Energy tracking & analysis at Whitcomb Court
2. Strengthening partnerships
3. Community education
4. Research other municipal low-income residential energy efficiency programs
5. Recommendations for energy conservation improvements
6. Improve thermal comfort
7. Lower energy bills
8. Identify future opportunities for collaboration

RVAgreen 2050 | Climate Equity Action Plan 2030

### Strategy BE-2.1

#### Residential Energy Burden:

Implement measures to reduce the energy burden of Richmond's most vulnerable communities and improve residential resilience to climate change.

One of the most direct ways in which RVAgreen 2050 can fulfill the City's equity objectives is by weatherizing and electrifying the existing housing stock and reducing residents' energy bills. Richmond's average energy burden is 8.4% (4.5% from electricity and 3.9% from natural gas), which is well above the national average energy burden of 3.3%. Successful implementation of this strategy will improve the quality of life for frontline communities and reduce inequitable energy costs at the same time.

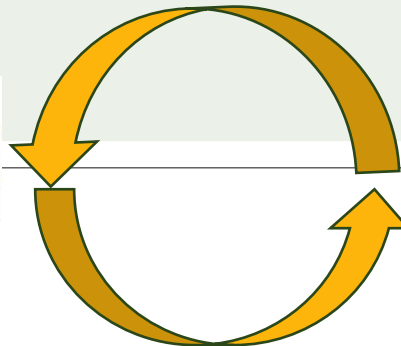
Illustration created by Liam Harrison.

ACTIONS	STATUS	CITY STEWARD	COST	TIME	GHG REDUCTIONS	RESILIENCE	EQUITY
Facilitate energy efficiency upgrades through community-based programs, advocacy, partnerships, and low/no-cost financial options.	👍	Housing & Community Development	\$\$\$	2022 - 2025	↓↓↓	🏠⚡🌿	👤🏠🏡
Establish partnerships to provide equitable thermal comfort through immediate cooling relief in the way of equipment, tree canopy, and utility bill assistance to low income residents and/or residents of formerly redlined neighborhoods and heat islands.	✅	Sustainability	\$\$	2022 - 2025	↓↓↓	🏠⚡🌿	👤🏠🏡
i. Educate all residents about the benefits of electrification by sharing targeted case studies in the areas of highest utility burden.	✅	Sustainability	\$	2022 - 2025	↓↓↓	🏠⚡🌿	👤🏠🏡

# What is next?

## Project Overview

Month	OOS Activities	RRHA Activities
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene OOS &amp; RRHA stakeholders</li> <li>• Gather buildings &amp; energy data</li> <li>• Discuss community education meeting &amp; outreach recommendations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Provide energy bills, building data, &amp; facilities equipment assessments</i></li> </ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct energy analysis</li> <li>• Share findings &amp; additional needs assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Provide additional energy information as needed</i></li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene OOS &amp; RRHA to report on progress</li> <li>• Hold initial resident meeting to introduce initiative</li> <li>• Conduct research into low-income energy efficiency programs</li> <li>• Perform energy assessments &amp; install minor efficiency improvements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Schedule follow up meetings</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Allow access to units upon approval from occupants</i></li> </ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present findings to RRHA and resident community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Brainstorm ideas with us for future projects</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Help support ongoing occupant energy and sustainability education initiatives</i></li> </ul>



# Thank You

...for partnering with us!



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