**Homework for Video 1 – Introducing the Professional Development Series**

The Opportunity for Government to Advance Racial Equity: Lessons learned from Seattle

**Objectives**

Participants will:

1. Gain increased understanding of the historical role of government in relation to race;
2. Learn about the experiences in the City of Seattle, both leading up to the Race and Social Justice Initiative and with the launching and implementation of the Initiative, including key decision points, challenges and successes; and
3. Consider key factors for success in advancing racial equity within sustainability in their own jurisdictions.
4. Create a group for peer learning to complete the worksheets and view material with.

\*\*\*USDN members have the option to receive feedback on their homework. To do so submit the worksheet to dwr@desireewilliamsrajee.com \*\*\*

**Name** **Jurisdiction**

**E-mail       Phone**

**Membership** [ ]  Core [ ]  Associate [ ]  Staff [ ]  Unknown [ ]  Not a member

**Homework**

**Part I**

1. Watch Video 1

[ ]  I watched the video [ ]  Even better, I watched the video with colleagues

1. With your team, identify 3 to 5 examples of the historical role of government in creating and maintaining racial inequity, with at least two from your own community.

1. With your team, identify two to three reasons why it is important for government to proactively advance racial equity. In addition to reasons that are compelling to you, think about reasons that might be compelling to others. Do you and your colleagues have a shared understanding of equity?

**Part II: Your Jurisdictional Context**

Identify two to three key factors for success in advancing racial equity in your own work. Factors you might want to consider are:

1. What is the racial demographic of your jurisdiction? Are there specific racial disproportionalities you might be able to impact?
2. What has been the historic relationship between communities of color, and other marginalized communities around topics of sustainability and/or environment?
3. What is the level of support of your elected officials to do the work of sustainability or equity? Who are your key allies? Do you have detractors? What are your partnerships?
4. If not yet mentioned above, what challenges do you currently face, or anticipate facing, in advancing an equity lens in your work?