



# Agenda



Policy At-a-Glance



Community Input Highlights



Action Plan Assumptions & Framework



Racial Equity & Environmental Justice



Next Steps

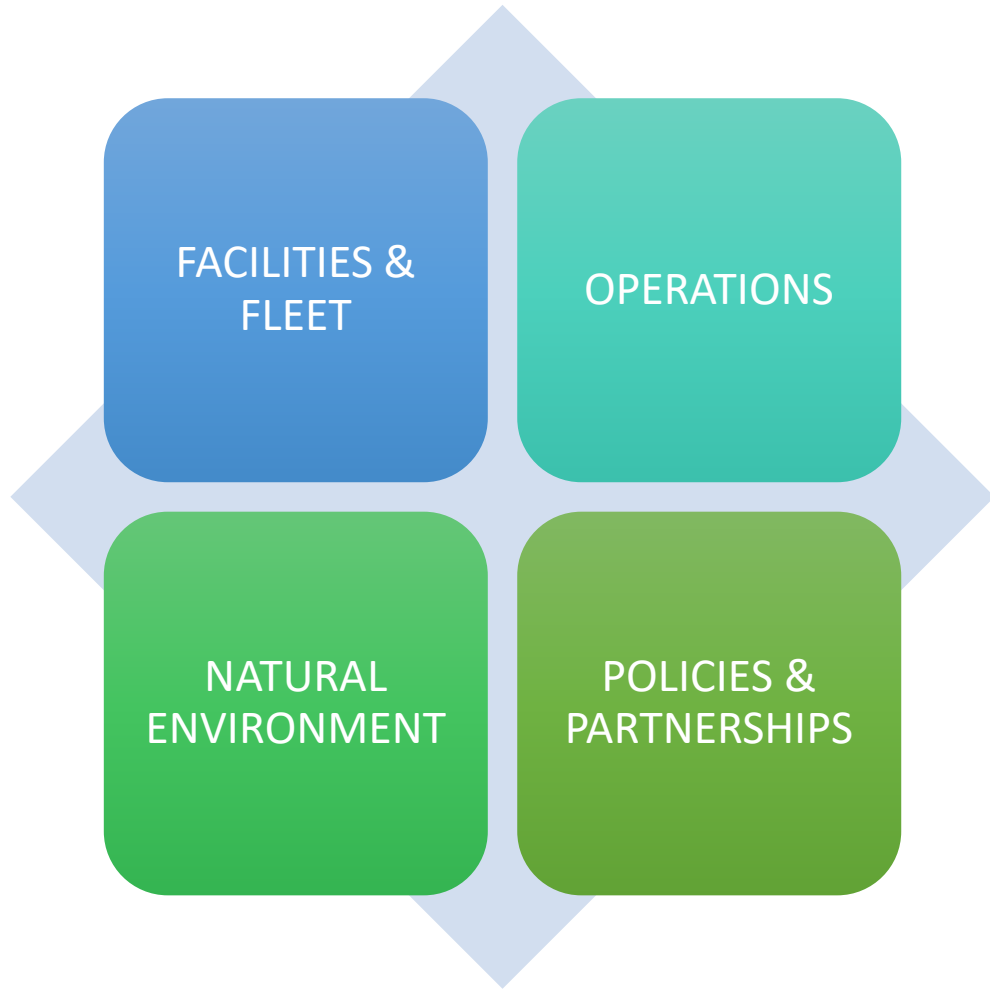


# Environmental Leadership Policy

- Collective Call for Action
- Connects with Health
- Action is a Priority
- Innovation is Key
- Advances Equity
- Commits to Justice
- Recognizes Resilience
- Minimum Standards
- Climate Change & Current Response
- Collective Expertise
- Past Policies Highlighted
- Holistic



# Policy to Action

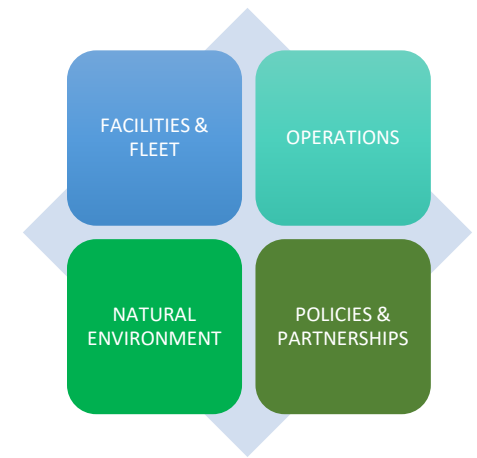


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that an affiliated Environmental Leadership Action Plan (ELAP) guide the activities of County government; such that the County may take result-oriented steps; and align operations in support of current and future pollution reduction, resource conservation, and climate preparedness initiatives; ....



# Advisory Board & Public Comment

- Advisory Boards were consulted throughout the process
  - Air Quality Commission
  - Park and Recreation Commission
  - Storm Water Advisory Committee
  - Waste Management Advisory Board
- 30 Day Public Comment: December 9, 2020 - January 8, 2021
  - Disseminated via website and promoted via social media
  - 156 individuals submitted the survey
  - 44 supported proposed policy with no comments
  - 122 comments



# Survey Respondents

- Cabarrus, Gaston, Iredell, Mecklenburg, York counties (**138 Mecklenburg residents**)
- **14 organizations:**

## Advisory Boards & Staff

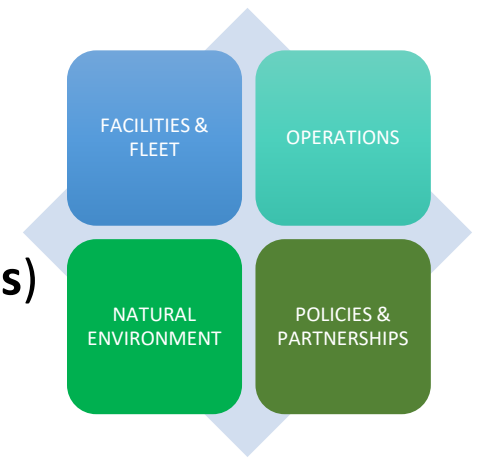
- Waste Management Advisory Board
- Mecklenburg County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Air Quality Commission
- County Employees (5)

## Advocacy & Community Organizations

- Keep Charlotte Beautiful
- Citizens Climate Lobby
- Charlotte Climate Leaders
- Bike Walk
- Silverwood Community Association
- UMC Creation Care Ministry

## Industry & Trades

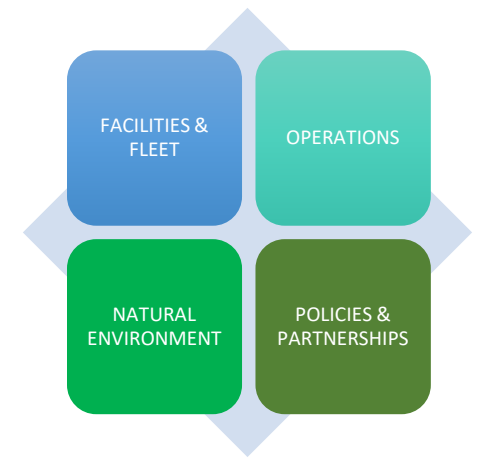
- American Society of Civil Engineers
- Home Builders Association
- Transit
- HVAC



# Overall Sentiments

Overall, the sentiment seemed neutral. Residents provided comments focused on equity, climate change, built environment, local leadership and environmental stewardship.

- **Supportive:** Spoke highly about the County’s environmental work, **19%**
- **Suggestive Opportunities:** Additional considerations within the County’s control, **32%**
- **Collaborative Opportunities:** Made suggestions to improve the County’s environmental work that are outside the purview of the County or suggested collaborating with local, city, state or federal partners on environmental work, **19%**
- **Other:** Comments and recommendations that do not fall within the County or surrounding community’s purview, **30%**



# Assumptions for Implementation

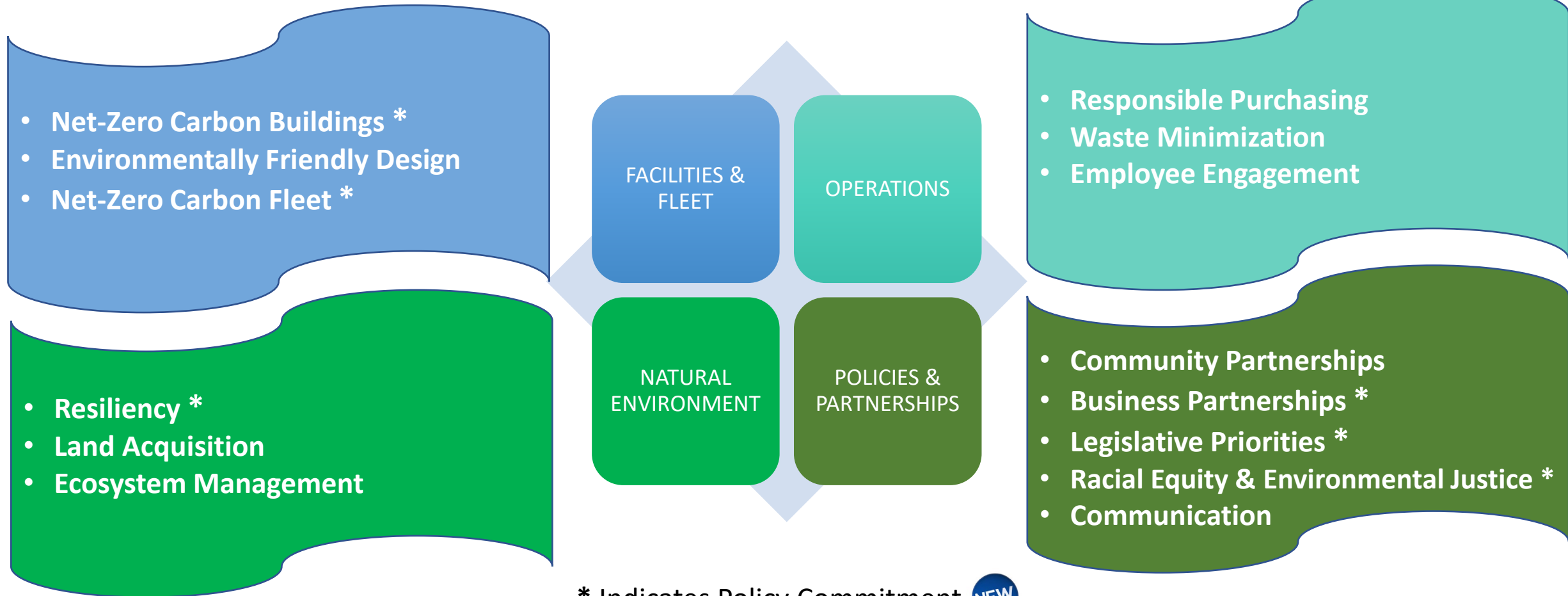
- Strive to Achieve Local Co-Benefits
- Purchase Renewable Energy Credits As Needed to Achieve Goal
- Align Capital Improvement Projects to County's CIP Cycles
- Adjust timelines as technology and cost efficiencies are realized
- Progress is dependent on funding allocations





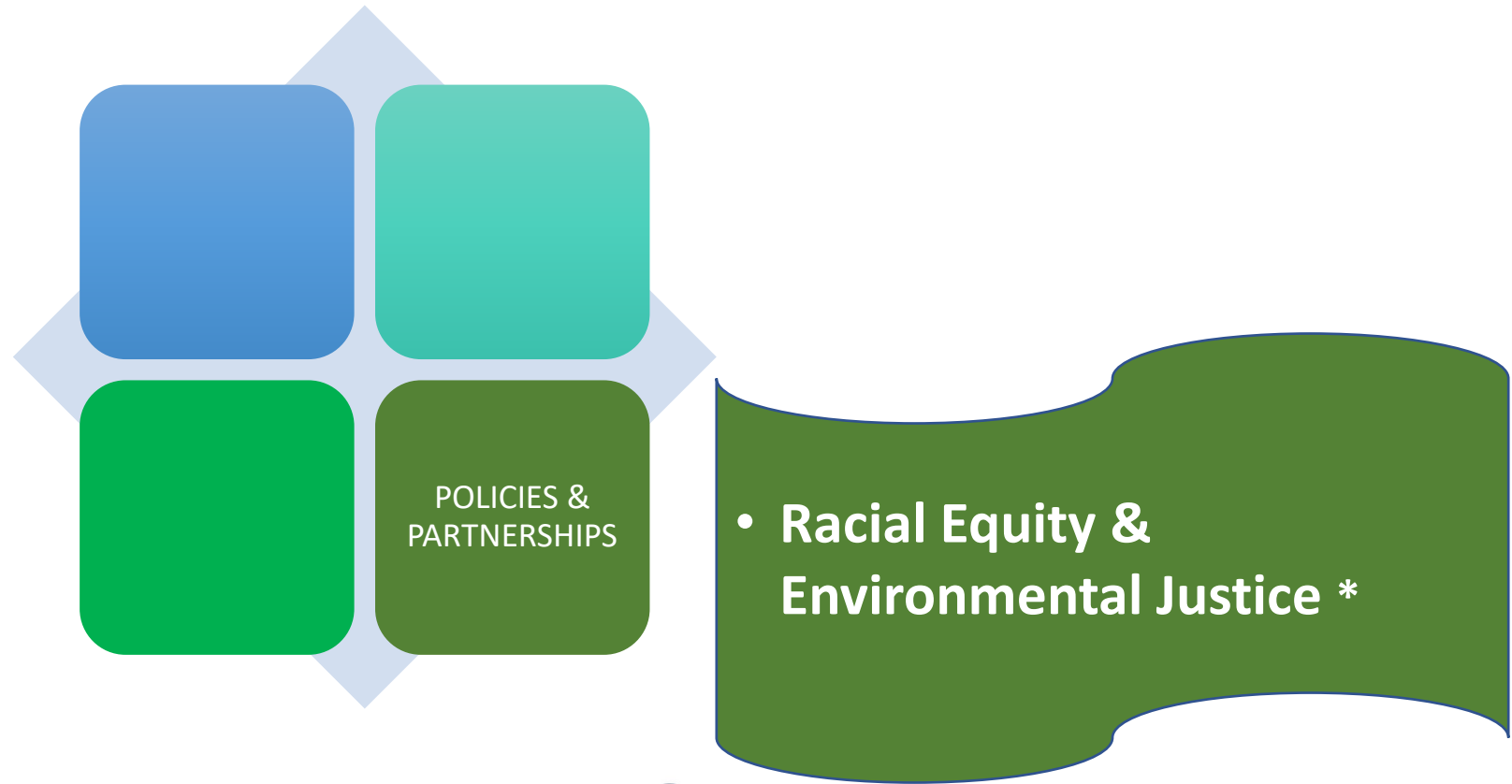
# Framework for Action Plan

(Policy Commitments)



# Framework for Action Plan

(Policy Commitments)



\* Indicates Policy Commitment **NEW**



# Foundational Commitments:

## Policy Commitments

## Recommended Actions

**Racial Equity  
& Environmental  
Justice**

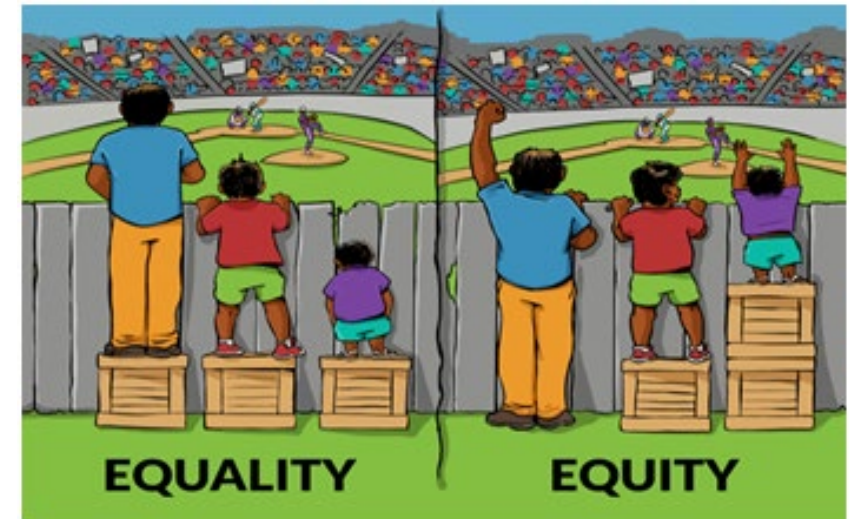
*Embrace justice through equal protection and enforcement of environmental laws...*

- **Apply the Racial Equity Toolkit and other frameworks to policies, procedures and practices**
- Use best practices for community engagement to ensure all community members, especially marginalized groups, have access to information and opportunity to provide input
- Strive to attract candidates from underrepresented populations so that advisory boards reflect the diversity of our community and offer varied perspectives



# What is Racial Equity?

The fair treatment, access, opportunity and advancement for all people while at the same time striving to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some groups



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# What is Environmental Justice?



## **Fair Treatment**

Same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards

and

## **Meaningful Involvement**

Equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment



*United States Environmental Protection Agency*



# Racial Equity Toolkit Guiding Questions

What are the ***racial equity impacts*** of this decision/policy/program etc.?

Who will ***benefit or be burdened*** by the decision/policy/program etc.?

Are there ***unintended consequences***?



# Racial Equity Toolkit



## Proposal

What is the policy, practice, program or budget decision under consideration?  
What is the desired outcome?



## Data

What does the data tell us?



## Community Engagement

How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?



## Analysis & Strategy

Who will benefit or be burdened? What strategies will advance racial equity or mitigate unintended consequences?



## Implementation Plan

What is our plan for implementation?



## Accountability & Communication

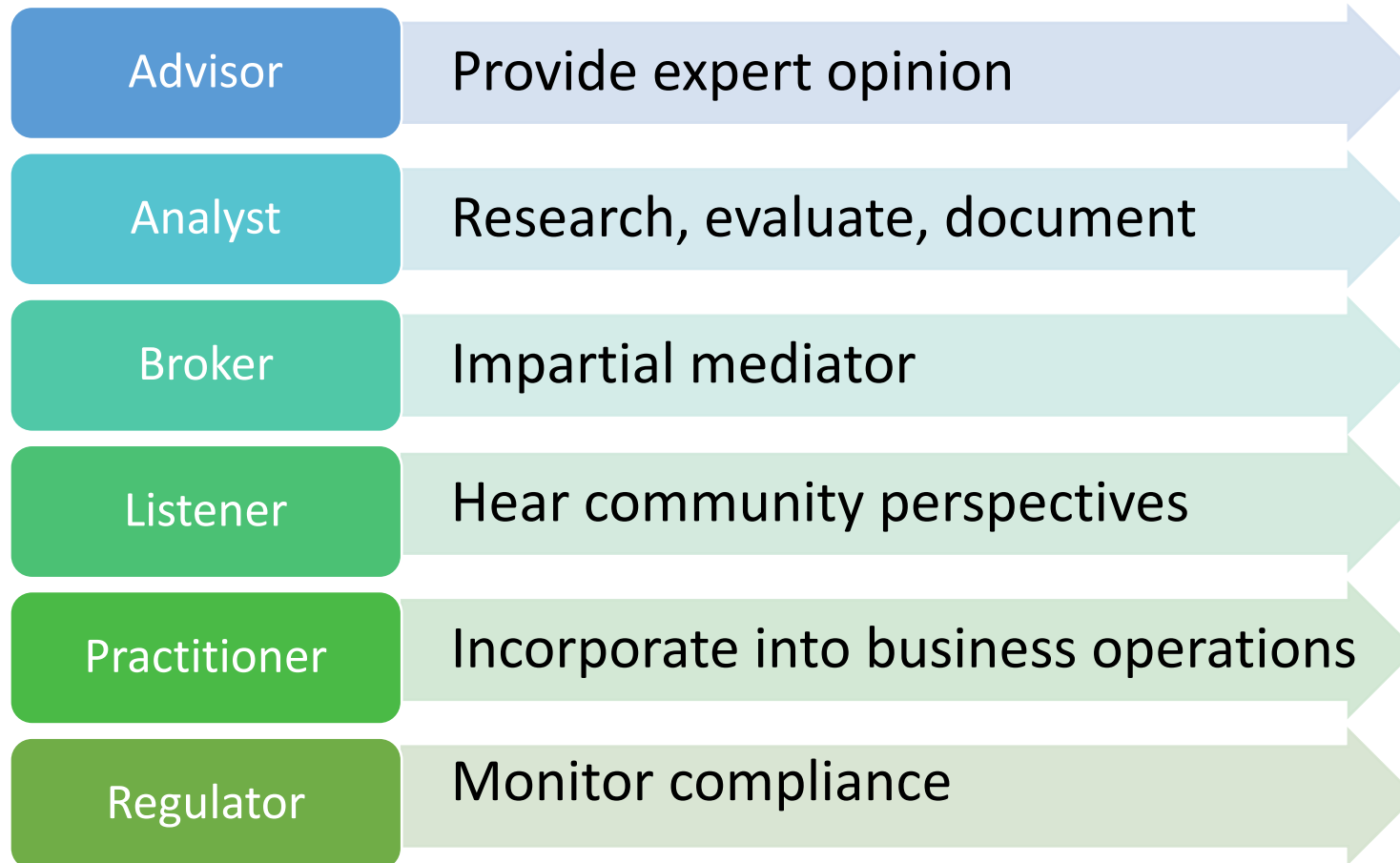
How will we ensure accountability, communicate, and evaluate results?



# Environmental Leadership

## Racial Equity & Environmental Justice Roles

(Examples)





# Peer Municipalities Best Practices

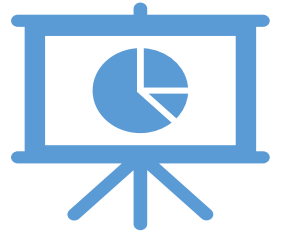
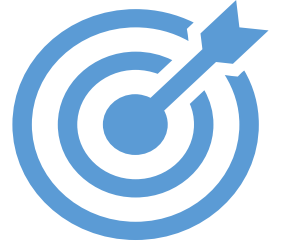


- King County, Seattle, Washington
- Honolulu County, Oahu, Hawaii
- Montgomery County, Maryland
- North Carolina DEQ



# Racial Equity and Environmental Justice: Initial Actions

- Establish an internal Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Task Force to evaluate current practices to identify CIP projects and pilot new methodologies for inclusion of equity lens
- Assess known demographic and environmental resident data to establish baseline of environmentally unjust areas throughout the County
- Lead community engagement strategy to provide county residents a platform to provide input and guidance related to racial equity and environmental justice
- Define the County's controllable and influential roles, as it relates to racial equity and environmental justice within the County



***Note: The Racial Equity and Environmental Justice implementation plan will be created and enacted in partnership with the Office of Equity and Inclusion.***



# Next Steps



## **Racial Equity and Environmental Justice Framework**

(Ongoing)



## **Community Input Gathering & Implementation Plan Development**

(April 2021-November 2021)



## **BOCC Adoption of Budget**

(June 2021)



## **Implementation & Evaluation**

(July 2021 - Ongoing)

