



SEATTLE OFFICE OF  
**Sustainability & Environment**

# Race and Social Justice 2014 Progress Report



# 2014 RSJI Areas of Focus



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- **Staff training and engagement**
- **New community partnerships to advance RSJI activities**
- **Focused work to advance racial equity in the green economy, access to healthy food, climate action, and urban forestry**
- **New Initiative to advance equity in Seattle's environmental work more broadly**



RACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE  
INITIATIVE

# RSJI Progress: Training & Engagement



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## Supported increased training of staff

- Most staff participated in at least one RSJI event, many attended multiple events
- OSE staff have started a RSJ book/discussion group

## Engaged more deeply in citywide RSJI efforts

- RSJI Subcabinet and Equitable Development Initiative

## Formed new partnerships to advance RSJI activities

- Equity & Environment Initiative
- Climate justice cross-training with Got Green
- Climate justice/white privilege training with Sierra Club and 350.org.
- Planning with Puget Sound Sage and Got Green to coordinate 2015 climate justice work

### *RSJI Trainings, Talks & Workshops*

*RSJI Change Agent Anti-Racism Training*

*RSJI & Cultural Competency*

*Race: The Power of Illusion*

*Lunch & Learn with NAACP President Gerald Hankerson*

*Delivering on Social Equity through the Comprehensive Plan*

*Got Green/OSE climate justice cross-training*

*Climate-Change-Mind-Set: Why a Critical Racial Justice Mindset Is Essential for Effective Climate Justice*

# RSJI Progress: Climate Action



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## Expanded key partnership with Got Green

- **Cross-training:** Capacity building for Got Green Leadership & relationship building among city staff and EJ groups
- **Forum:** 85 people, majority people of color and SE Seattle residents, to discuss climate impacts on communities of color and concrete action steps

## Invested nearly \$45,000 in RSJ communities through climate grants

- Rainier Valley Urban Forestry Project
- Good Food Bag Expansion
- Car-Free Sundays
- Vulnerable populations outreach with OEM & Parks





# RSJI Progress: Economic Opportunity



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## Fostered green economic opportunity

- Promoted living wage jobs through Community Power Works
- Supported Got Green in their research on youth employment and green jobs
- Supported Got Green with leadership training to 25 young adults

## Utilized woman and minority-owned businesses (WMBEs) in purchasing and contracting

- Progress made, but challenges remain:
  - **7% WMBE use for OSE General Fund < 15% goal**
    - ✓ *46% WMBE for purchases > 45% goal*
    - ✓ *4.9% WMBE for consultant services < 10% goal*

## CPW Home

- ✓ *Contractor Pool is 16% MBE, 11% WBE, and 5% Veteran-owned*
- ✓ *100% compliance with High Road wage standards*
- ✓ *114 low-income loans, totaling over \$1.4M*



# RSJI Progress: Healthy Food & Trees



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## Increased access to healthy food

- Grew the Fresh Bucks program – over 3,700 low-income shoppers
- Provided critical support in expanding Farm to Table and the Good Food Bag programs
- Created a new partnership to pursue a \$2 million Federal food access innovation grant



*Low income shoppers spent more than \$200,000 at Seattle farmers markets this year—a 42% increase over last year.*

## Leveraged City programs and new approaches to plant trees in Rainier Beach

- Coordinated efforts between SPU, DON, SDOT, and SCL to address higher tree removal rates
- Engaged over 85 volunteers in tree planting, mulching and on-going care for street trees
- Conducted door-to-door and bilingual outreach to foster interest in fall street tree offerings



# RSJI Progress: Equity & Environment Initiative



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## Identified challenges/opportunities

- Equity and Environmental Justice were the weakest areas of the STAR Communities assessment
- Lack of a clear understanding of who is and is not benefiting from Seattle's environmental progress
- Many people and communities are not involved in setting Seattle's environmental priorities and strategies

## Launched Equity & Environment Initiative

- All people and communities benefit from Seattle's environmental progress
- Communities most impacted by environmental injustice are engaged in setting priorities, designing strategies and tracking progress
- People of color, immigrants and refugees, low income residents and limited-English individuals have opportunities to be part of the environmental movement



# Looking Forward: 2015



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## Community Power Works

- Expand workforce opportunities
- Increase availability of low-income energy loans
- Expand multicultural outreach

## Food Access

- Expand Fresh Bucks year-round and to select King County sites
- Expand Fresh Bucks beyond farmers markets, with successful USDA grant
- Support food economy work in Rainier Beach and Delridge

## Equity & Environment Initiative

- Hire Equity Manager in early 2015
- Establish Community Partnership Steering Committee
- Engage communities of color, immigrants, refugees, limited-English populations, and low income residents
- Assess environmental progress through a racial equity lens
- Develop Equity & Environment Agenda & Implementation Plan

