

EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL
March 2021

Purpose and Responsibilities

VISION 2050, the region's long-range plan for population and employment growth, centers equity in working to ensure that Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities have access to the resources necessary for them to reach their full potential and race can no longer predict life outcomes. To accomplish this goal, VISION 2050 calls for the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) to collaborate with marginalized community voices that are often overlooked in regional planning, to develop a regional equity strategy.

The Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) is a cross-sector working group composed of residents as well as governmental and community-based organizations in the Puget Sound region representing BIPOC communities. The Committee will co-create products (e.g., data tools and planning resources) for the Regional Equity Strategy and other agency projects with staff and the Executive Board as well as advise PSRC committees and policy boards on policies and programs with an equity lens.

Relationship to PSRC Boards, Committees, and Staff

The Committee will report to the Executive Board. The Committee will provide briefings to other PSRC committees and policy boards as needed. Board members may attend Committee meetings if they are invited to listen and answer questions. The Committee is an advisory group responsible for making recommendations and not a PSRC policy-making board.

Subcommittees

The Committee may create working subcommittees to work on specific issues. When appropriate, PSRC staff and board members will work with Committee members to provide support. At the discretion of the Committee, the subcommittees will dissolve when the work is completed. Subcommittees may include community members and subject matter experts not on the EAC but each subcommittee shall include at least one member of the EAC.

Meeting Schedule

The Committee will meet once a month on a day and time that accommodates the needs of members. To meet the Committee's needs, PSRC may also provide virtual or in-person meeting accommodations. Meetings may be cancelled, or additional meetings may be scheduled, by the Committee as needed.

Membership

The Committee will have up to 20 members, composed of residents, elected officials, and staff from governmental and nongovernmental organizations focused on equity issues around the region. Members will be selected through an application process, with the initial roster determined by PSRC's Executive Committee and approved by the Executive Board. Subsequent rounds of member selection will be completed by EAC co-chairs, informed by the goals of member selection outlined in these operating procedures, and approved by the Executive Board.

To maintain a healthy balance of experience and fresh ideas, the EAC will stagger terms by allowing members of the first applicant pool to choose the length of their term, from one to three years. After this initial term, members will serve two-year terms with an opportunity to re-apply. Vacancies on the Committee shall be filled during the next application window.

Committee members are expected to attend the regularly scheduled meetings and actively participate through sharing insights from their lived experience and areas of expertise. Committee members are also expected to review documents to prepare for and potentially accomplish tasks between regularly scheduled meetings.

Membership Composition

The composition of the Committee should provide a full range of voices and perspectives that reflect the diversity of the central Puget Sound region. Emphasis will be made to include members of communities that are not often reflected in decision-making at PSRC.

Demographic representation: Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities, low-income residents, people with disabilities, youth

Trade representation: small businesses, service providers, educational institutions

There will be at least two members from each of the four counties in the region: King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish. The remaining seats will be at-large.

Recommendations

The Committee seeks to identify all sides of key issues. Recommendations are reached through consensus taken by a vote of the Committee when a majority of the Committee is present. When the Committee is not able to reach consensus, minority positions may be presented, along with the majority recommendation.

Leadership

The Committee will have two co-chairs selected annually by members of the EAC. The role of the co-chairs will be to facilitate discussions, delegate responsibilities to the committee, identify needs for subcommittees and help PSRC staff prepare agendas for each meeting.