



# ***Environmental Advisory Board***

## **Meeting Agenda**

April 23, 2025 3:00 P.M.

Centennial II HR Conference Room B

805 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Virtual Attendance through Microsoft Teams

### **Order of Business**

- I. Public Comment**
- II. Call to Order**
- III. Administrative Action\***
  - Approval of March 26, 2025 – Meeting minutes
- IV. Office of Environment and Sustainability Comments**
  - Seeds of Change Grants - Open Call for Applications due 4/30/2025
- V. Information/Updates**
  - City Budget process updates
  - Local funding/grant updates
    - i. GU, GWORV, State funding H2Ohio
- VI. Items for Vote\***
  - November & December meeting changes:
    - November: change from 26<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>
    - December: change from 24<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>
- VII. Presentations**
  - Regional Impacts from Federal Changes – Van Sullivan
  - NAACP EJ Committee: 3 Focal Points for Community Action – April Roush
- VIII. Open Discussion**
  - Comments on Action with Policy Focus:
    - i. Codifying Environmental Justice
    - ii. Green Infrastructure/Stormwater
- IX. Next Meeting**
  - May 28, 2025 at 3pm; Centennial II HR Conference Room B; 805 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
- X. Adjournment**

*\*Board Action Requested*

### **Agenda Packet Materials:**

- Draft meeting minutes from 3/26/2025
- NAACP Presentation Slides
- Fair Shake Slides

# Environmental Advisory Board

## Minutes of March 26, 2025

### Members Present:

- **In person:** Dave Schmitt; Douglas Walton; Emmy Schroder; Kylie Johnson
- **Virtual:** Andrew Musgrave; Ashlee Young; Monica Perdomo; Rico Blackman; Susan Sprigg; Van Sullivan

**Members Absent:** Ericka Copeland; Julie Shifman; Nathan Alley; Nayana Shah

**Staff Present:** Oliver Kroner; Amanda Testerman; Erin Kabel

**Meeting:** A meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board was held on March 26, 2025 at 3:00 PM at Centennial II HR Conference Room B, 805 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

### Meeting Agenda:

- I. **Public Comment**
- II. **Call to Order at 3:04 PM**
- III. **Office of Environment and Sustainability Comments**
  - Seeds of Change Grants: <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/oes/green-cincinnati-plan/seeds-of-change-grant-program/>
  - Federal Funding Updates
  - City Budget Updates:
    - <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/budget/budget-engagement/>
    - <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/sites/budget/assets/FYI-Memo---2.19.25-FY-2026-2027-Biennial-Budget-Process.pdf>
- IV. **Administrative Action\***
  - Approval of February 26, 2025 – Meeting minutes
- V. **Information/Updates**
  - Update on meeting with Councilmember Owens
  - Survey Results for April-December Meeting Schedule
- VI. **Items for Vote\***
  - April-December 2025 Meeting Dates:
    - Motion to schedule 2025 meetings as the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month from 3pm-4:30pm.
    - Yes – 10 votes; No – 0 votes; [MOTION PASSES]
- VII. **Presentations**
  - Building Performance Standards – Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
- VIII. **Open Discussion**
  - Policy Comments – drafts in agenda packet
  - Cincy on Track
    - Motion to approve comment with the following changes: Bold the sentence “This includes prioritizing electric vehicle charging infrastructure, energy efficiency upgrades, and continued investments in ecosystems and green infrastructure solutions” and adding “renewable energy” to this sentence.
      1. Yes – 10 votes; No – 0 votes; [MOTION PASSES]
    - Impervious Surface Fee
      - Motion to approve the comment.
        1. Yes – 8 votes; No – 0 votes; Abstain – 1 vote [MOTION PASSES]
- I. **Next Meeting**
  - Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 3:00 PM
- II. **Adjournment at 4:34 PM**



# Environmental Advisory Board

April 23, 2025





# Environmental Advisory Board

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# Public Comment

- Members of the public may provide comments to the Board or its committees in writing to OES staff or in person at a public meeting.
- Written comments shall be submitted to OES no later than 4:00p.m. on the business day before the meeting, and shall be distributed by OES to all Board or committee members.
- Comments made during a public meeting are referred to as “Public Comment”. A person providing Public Comment is limited to **two minutes**.
- Public Comment shall be limited to items of interest before the Board, and shall only be permitted prior to the commencement of the business portion of the meeting.

## **Public Comment Open:**

- In-person Attendees
- Online Attendees



# Administrative Action

- Approval of March 26, 2025 Meeting Minutes



# OES Updates

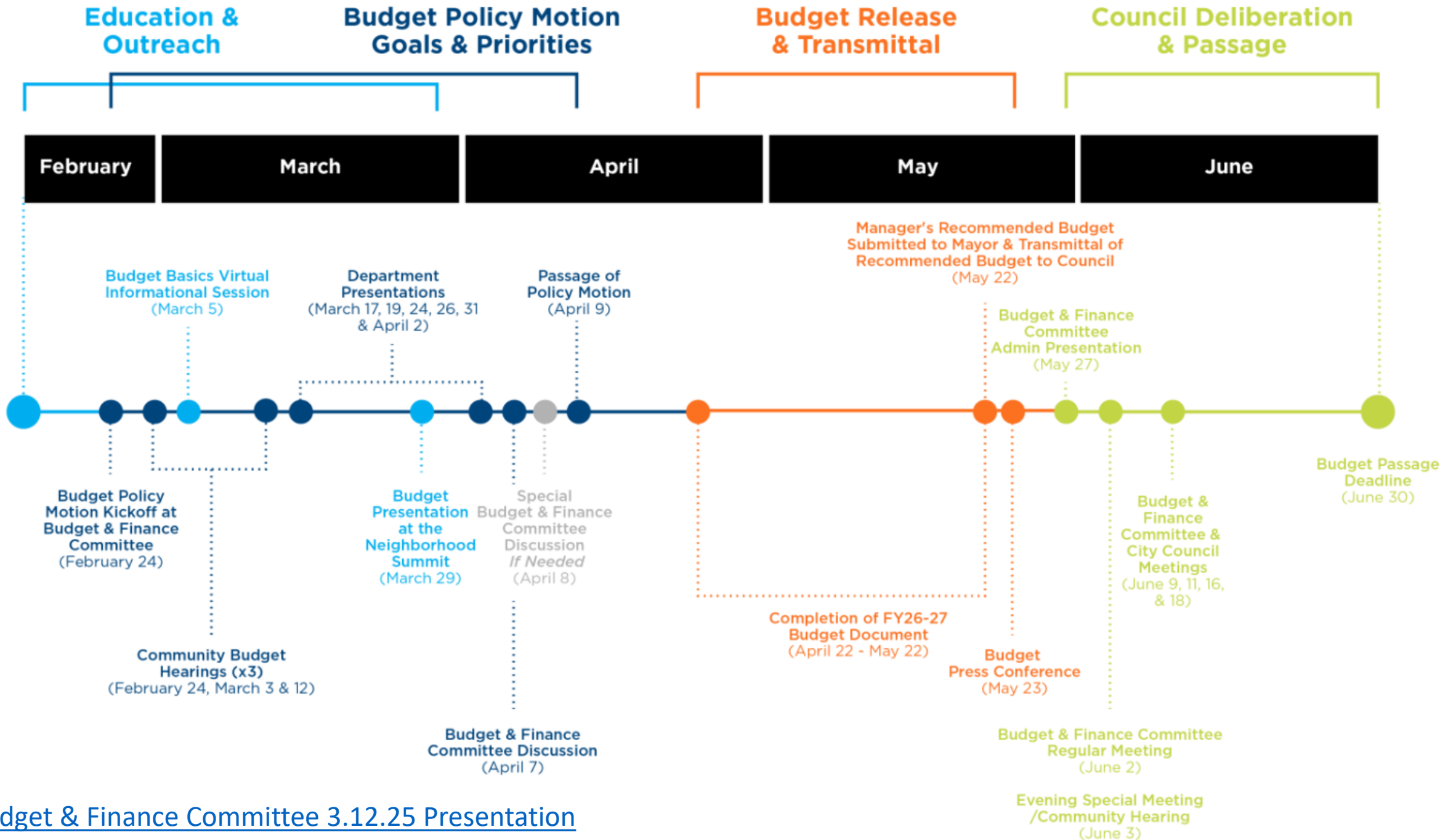
- [Seeds of Change Grant](#) - Applications open through 4/30/2025
- **Green Workforce Landscape Analysis** – Press Release 1PM, May 7, City Hall Rm 115
- **Energy Prices**



# Information & Updates

- City Budget Process Update
- Local Funding Updates







# Items for Vote

## **November & December Meeting Changes**

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- December: change from 24th to 17th



# Presentations

- Regional Impacts from Federal Changes – Van Sullivan
- NAACP EJ Committee: 3 Focal Points for Community Action – April Roush

# Environmental and Climate Justice Committee Cincinnati NAACP

“Environmental and Climate Justice is a civil rights issue” -  
Jacqueline Patterson

# NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Efforts: US

## Protecting Black Communities:

### NAACP National

Environmental injustice is about people in Detroit, Ohio, Chicago, Memphis, Kansas City, and so many other locations who have died and others who are chronically ill because of exposure to toxins

Climate change and environmental injustice: we work to address the many practices that are harming communities nationwide and worldwide

We fight for the policies needed to rectify these impacts and advance a society that fosters sustainable, cooperative, regenerative communities that uphold all rights for all people in harmony with the earth

**Reduce harmful emissions, particularly greenhouse gases**

**Advance energy efficiency and clean energy**

**Strengthen community resilience and livability**

## **Strengthen community resilience and livability using the “sustainable square mile” model**

**The Committee for Environmental Climate Justice shall:**

- 1) amplify free or fresh food and community garden initiatives in the Greater Cincinnati Area;**
- (2) provide practical access and experiences for Environmental Climate Justice jobs, practices, and educational opportunities including higher ed and community learning; and**
- (3) be a voice for the NAACP membership and community in civic spaces towards healthy practices and policies marginalized communities demand and deserve.**

**In everything we do, our committee will highlight to Environmental community partners the work of the Cincinnati NAACP leading to synergy and action.**



**(3) be a voice for the NAACP membership and community in civic spaces towards healthy practices and policies marginalized communities demand and deserve**

*Regarding* food deserts and gentrification,  
low air quality for kids and elders,  
lack of tree canopy and heat island effects,  
excessive noise and light pollution,  
practical increases for efficiency in our homes and transportation,  
as well as job and educational opportunities needed



# Current Committee Projects

Food  
Jobs  
Policy

Chef Collaboration Videos

Amplify food projects via monthly mailing


Partner with Education Programs and Job  
Boards

“See it and Be it” Interviews

Grant and Advisory capacities

2025 Membership Survey





**“People are seeing that the solution to the climate crisis is shifting away from a society rooted in exploitation and domination to one rooted in caring and cooperation - a true notion of all for one and one for all.”**

Jacqui Patterson

Thank you for the time to  
frame our engagement

Contact us:

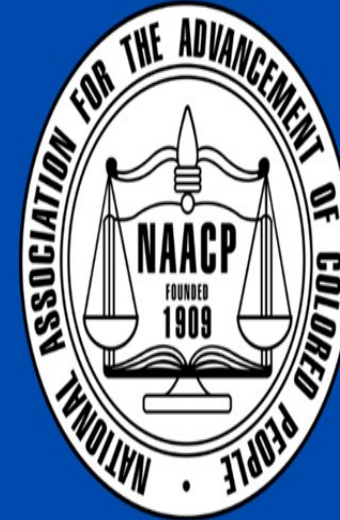
[info@cincinnatiacp.com](mailto:info@cincinnatiacp.com)

513 281 1900

ECJCommittee Chair April Roush

**“All that you touch you change. All that you change changes you.”**

**-Octavia Butler**



**CINCINNATI NAACP**

Environmental Climate Justice Committee

(513) 281-1900

<https://cincinnatiacp.com>



# Open Discussion

- Comments on Actions with Policy Focus:
  - Codifying Environmental Justice
  - Green Infrastructure/Stormwater

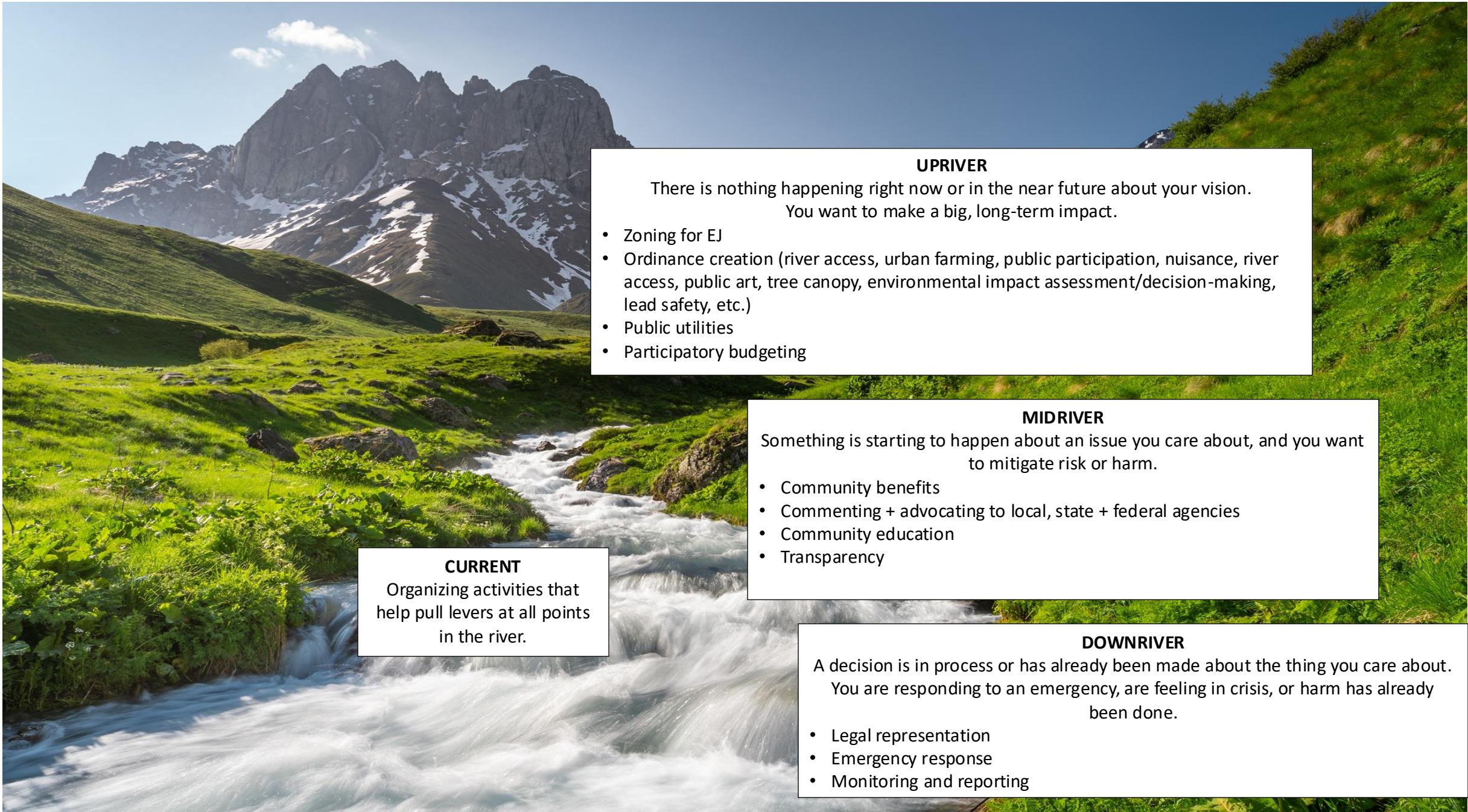
# Because everyone deserves a Fair Shake.

- We believe that all communities should have access to the tools of change, and that everyone has the right to make decisions about their air, water, and the places where they live, work, and play.
  - **Client-centered legal representation** – at pro-bono and sliding-fee-scale rates for all types of environmental legal issues. Licensed in PA, OH, WVA
  - **Community Democracy** – providing [education](#), support, resources, and technical assistance for communities to drive their environmental futures.
    - Power Play
  - **Legal services education** – providing education and hands-on-learning to support the next generation of environmental attorneys and organizers.



**Fair Shake**<sup>®</sup>

Environmental Legal Services



### **UPRIVER**

There is nothing happening right now or in the near future about your vision.  
You want to make a big, long-term impact.

- Zoning for EJ
- Ordinance creation (river access, urban farming, public participation, nuisance, river access, public art, tree canopy, environmental impact assessment/decision-making, lead safety, etc.)
- Public utilities
- Participatory budgeting

### **MIDRIVER**

Something is starting to happen about an issue you care about, and you want to mitigate risk or harm.

- Community benefits
- Commenting + advocating to local, state + federal agencies
- Community education
- Transparency

### **CURRENT**

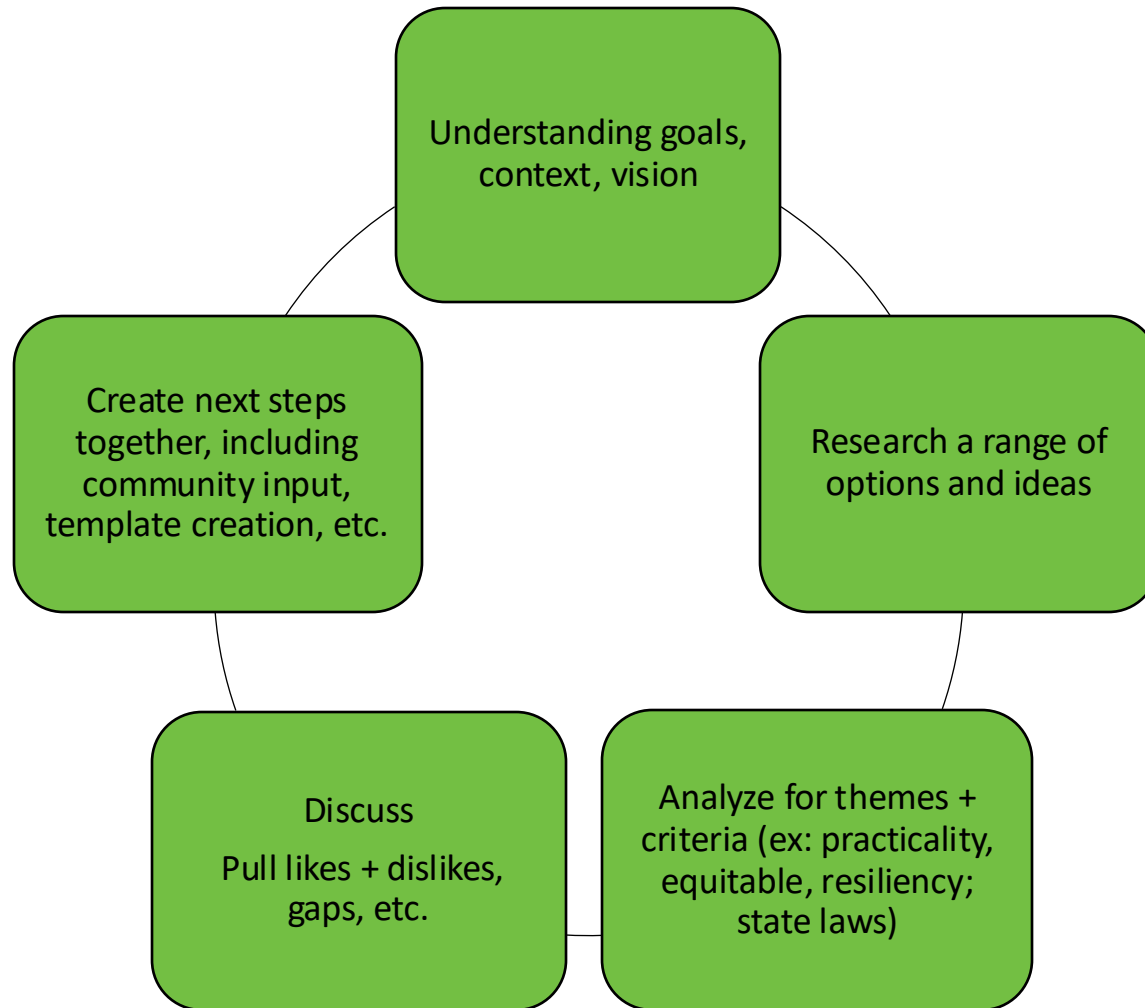
Organizing activities that help pull levers at all points in the river.

### **DOWNRIVER**

A decision is in process or has already been made about the thing you care about.  
You are responding to an emergency, are feeling in crisis, or harm has already been done.

- Legal representation
- Emergency response
- Monitoring and reporting

# Research Examples



- Public Participation Ordinance Examples
- Zoning for EJ Examples
- Lead-Safe Ordinance Options
- Community Benefits Guide + CBO Info
- EJ Advisory Boards – a Scorecard for States



**Goal:** explore codification of racial equity and climate justice in City decision-making mechanisms (a priority action in the Community Activation chapter of the [Green Cincinnati Plan](#)).

- 5 years from now, how can you tell if this goal's been successful?
- What do you feel like is needed to get there?
- What have been the challenges to city decision-making process in the past? How has that impacted EJ outcomes?
- [EJ Ordinance](#) (2009): What problem did this seek to solve? Why hasn't it been successful? Is there anything you want to take forward from this?
- Are there any specific criteria which would be most helpful to know about the various options?



# Next Meeting

- May 28, 2025 at 3pm  
Centennial II HR Conference Room B  
805 Central Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45202