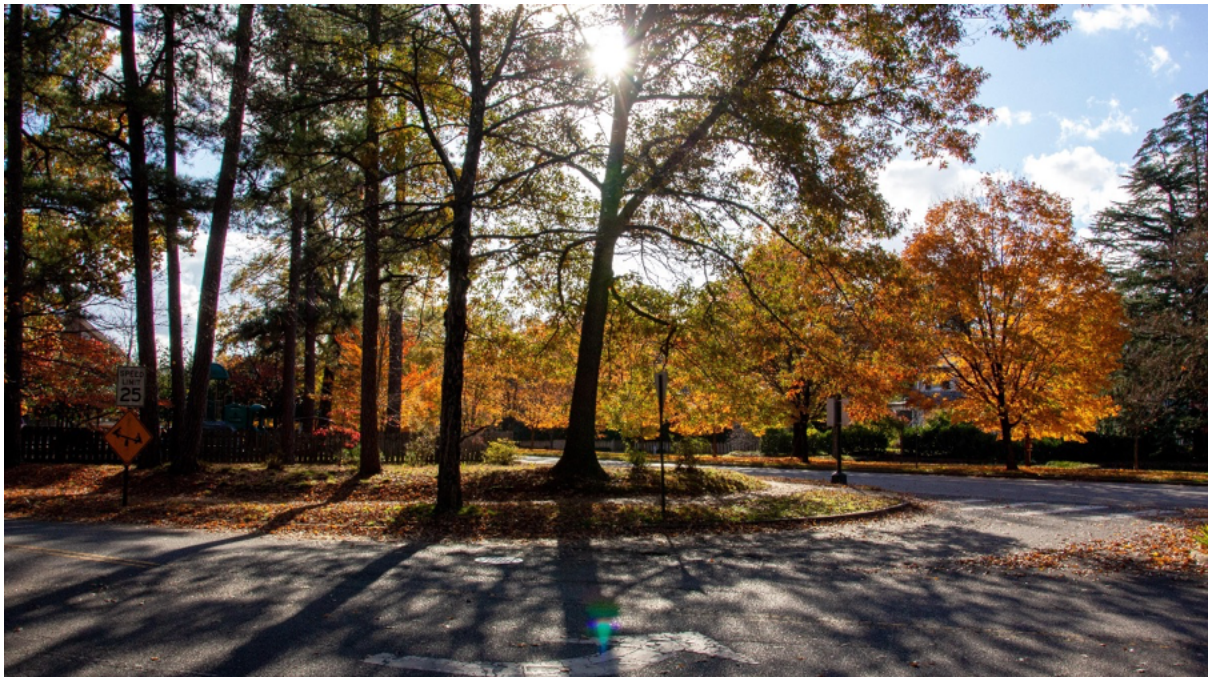


From: City of Richmond Office of Sustainability [rvagreen@rva.gov](mailto:rvagreen@rva.gov)  
Subject: RVAgreen 2050 August Update  
Date: Aug 31, 2021 at 12:16:15 PM  
To: [rcatrow@gmail.com](mailto:rcatrow@gmail.com)

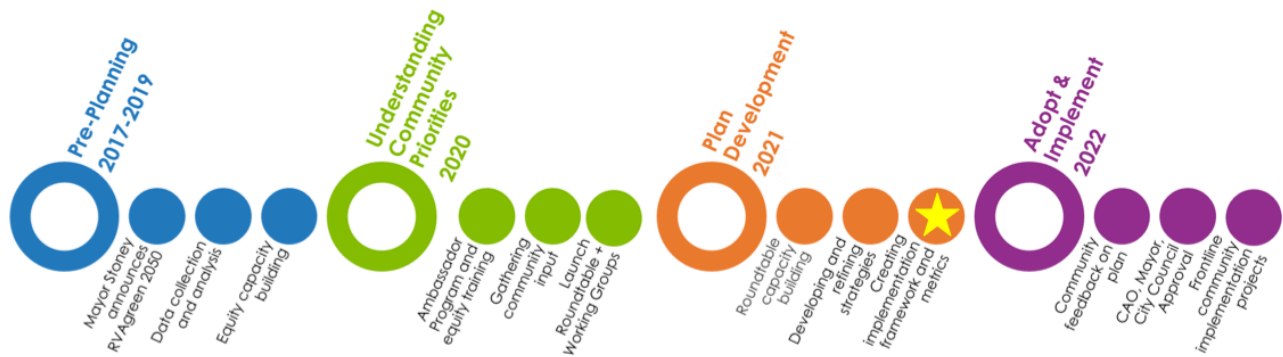
---

# City of Richmond RVAgreen 2050



## August Update

[RVAgreen 2050](#) is the City of Richmond's equity-centered climate action and resilience planning initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030, achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and help the community adapt to Richmond's climate impacts of extreme heat, precipitation, and flooding.



[Click](#) to view larger image

## Milestone

First and foremost, we want to say how grateful we are to all the members of our Technical Working Groups and our Racial Equity & Environmental Justice Roundtable for all the time, thoughtful input, insight, and dedication that they have provided to the RVAgreen 2050 process so far. These members represent a wide range of perspectives, talents, and backgrounds and we are honored to have had all that lived experience and brain power working with us over the last year!

We've reached a big milestone in our process! Our Working Groups met in August to finish developing the Equitable Implementation and Accountability Framework that will guide us on how to meet our goals through an accountable, transparent, and equitable process. Together with the RVAgreen 2050 team and Racial Equity & Environmental Justice Roundtable, the Working Groups developed indicators and equity indicators that will measure progress towards 12 community-identified outcomes for a more resilient, healthy, and equitable Richmond.

They also helped identify mechanisms to formalize an accountability structure

and enhance transparency in implementation and communication during the next phase of RVAgreen 2050 and beyond. Over the Fall and Winter, the RVAgreen 2050 team will be hard at work compiling the content from the entire planning process including input we heard from the community and drafting the plan deliverable. Our Working Groups and Roundtable members will be helping us with this effort.

Finally, make sure to [check out](#) our amazing #RVAgreeners! RVAgreeners are the hardworking folks involved in the development of the RVAgreen 2050 equity-centered climate action and resilience planning initiative. We will be adding new profiles regularly. So, check back often for new opportunities to get to know these amazing Richmonders working to make the city a safer and more equitable place to live. If you would like to be featured, please reach out to us at [rvagreen@rva.gov](mailto:rvagreen@rva.gov).

---

## Climate Action Alert

As we turn toward drafting the plan and planning for implementation, we've heard from many who are aware that citizen advocacy is an important way of getting climate change on the public agenda and have asked how they can find opportunities to act on items aligned with RVAgreen 2050. We'll pass along opportunities and you can decide if you'd like to make your voice heard on these important issues.

### *1. Climate Emergency Resolution*

During its September 13 [meeting](#), City Council will be voting on [Resolution 2021-R049](#) to declare the existence of a climate and ecological emergency that threatens the city of Richmond, the surrounding region, the Commonwealth of Virginia, civilization, humanity, and the natural world. The Resolution contains a number of provisions that support RVAgreen 2050 strategies. If you'd like to voice your support, you can email the Mayor at [RVAMayor@rva.gov](mailto:RVAMayor@rva.gov) and visit the [City of Richmond website](#) for contact information for your councilperson! You can also register to provide comments via teleconference/

videoconference or via email at the Sept. 13 Council meeting. To do so, you must be before 10am on Sept. 13 either by calling the City Clerk's Office at (804) 646-7955 and selecting option 3 or emailing comments to [CityClerksOffice@rva.gov](mailto:CityClerksOffice@rva.gov). Written comments will be provided to all Council members before the start of the meeting and included in the meeting record.

## *2. American Rescue Plan Act Funding*

Localities across the state, including the City of Richmond, are receiving federal funds designed to assist in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on the economy, economic development, and citizens. These funds are allocated based on the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). Local leaders are encouraging all citizens to reach out to their elected officials, including the mayor and city council to advocate that those funds are spent on climate resiliency, mitigation, and adaptation projects in the city. Email the Mayor at [RVAMayor@rva.gov](mailto:RVAMayor@rva.gov) and visit the [City of Richmond website](#) for contact information for your councilperson!

## *3. ConnectRVA 2045*

The draft version of ConnectRVA 2045, the long-range regional transportation plan, was recently released for public comment. To watch a video of the key elements of the plan, visit [this website](#). As noted by a citizen advocate, one of the main takeaways is that 66% of the funding and 69% of the projects are highway-related. This means that planned spending is almost three times as much on road widening projects than on transit. Public meetings on the plan run through September and there is a [short survey](#) you can fill out with your feedback. If local transit is an important issue for you, look for ways to participate in the next phase of ConnectRVA 2045!

---



## Partner of the Month: Bike Walk RVA

Bike Walk RVA, a program within Sports Backers, has a mission to advocate for comfortable and connected places for Richmonders to bike and walk. The organization's priorities include protected bike lanes, paved shared-use paths, safe intersections, and calm neighborhood streets, all of which have been proven to encourage more regular biking and walking and which are key priorities of RVAgreen 2050. These priorities also foster a safer environment for cyclists, which supports the city's Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.



**Bike Walk RVA** @BikeWalkRVA · Jul 26

By this day last year, there had been 0 bike riders killed in traffic in the Richmond Region. We've had 3 in the last month. Statewide, there were 5 last year at this time, up 80% to 9 this year.

**Slower speeds, trails and bike lanes, and wider passing distances will save lives.**

Connect with Bike Walk RVA on Twitter: @BikeWalkRVA

To that end, bicyclists in Virginia achieved a recent legislative victory in the form of several new bike laws that went into effect on July 1, 2021:

1. Drivers are now required to change lanes when passing cyclists unless the lane is exceptionally wide; and
2. Two bike riders are allowed to travel side-by-side without having to form a single line when a vehicle approaches.

Organizations across the Commonwealth like Bike Walk RVA consider these new laws a big win for multi-modal transportation. The Virginia Bicycling Federation, for example, expects these laws to reduce crashes and deaths. In 2020, the Virginia DMV reported 560 bicycle crashes statewide resulting in eight fatalities. Biking advocates hope that the new laws will reduce those numbers and create a safer biking culture in Richmond.

*Each month we'll highlight community groups and partners creating a more equitable, healthy, and resilient Richmond. [Email us](#) if you have an organization or opportunity we should feature!*

---

## Upcoming Opportunities and Events

As the RVAgreen 2050 planning process continues, there are many opportunities to get involved in efforts across the city to make our community more sustainable, healthy, and resilient. Here are just a few:

- **Get ready for Household Hazardous Waste Take-Back Day:** On September 11, 2021, RVAH20 and the Department of Public Works will host Household Hazardous Waste Take-Back Day for residents to safely shred personal documents, discard electronics (various fees), and drop off household hazardous waste items and oil-based paint to help keep our rivers & streams clean. [Get all the info here!](#)
- **Apply for a Dominion Energy Environmental Grant:** Dominion Energy is encouraging nonprofit and educational organizations to apply for \$1.5 million in environmental grants to be distributed this year through the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation. This competitive grant process is designed to support work to improve the environment and provide educational experiences in communities served by Dominion Energy. [Apply for the grant here!](#)
- **Walk with RVAgreen 2050 and the Science Museum of Virginia:** Join members of the RVAgreen 2050 Racial Equity & Environmental Justice

Roundtable and Working Groups on Monday, September 13 to learn about our equitable climate action and resilience planning initiative while gathering air quality data with the Science Museum of Virginia! [Find more information here!](#)

- **Help clean up the James River with JRAC**: Join the James River Advisory Council on September 11, 2021 in its 22nd year of cleaning up the James River and its shorelines! The cleanup is a cooperative, regional event spanning more than 75 miles of the James River at 13 sites. Walkers, powerboats, paddle craft, and hikers will participate in a limited capacity, social distancing. [Register here!](#)
- **Participate in Conserve & Create with the Friends of Bellemeade Park**: The Friends of Bellemeade Park are hosting a Conserve and Create workday at Bellemeade Park on September 11, 2021. The purpose of the Conserve and Create event is to continue to create an Outdoor Learning Campus and Green Space for the families in the south side community. We will be targeting the removal of invasive plants, other gardening activities, riparian/stream side restoration, pruning, mulching, and general cleanup near the Bellemeade Community Center. [Sign up to volunteer here!](#)
- **Donate to Renew Richmond's Farmstrong**: Several years ago, Renew Richmond worked with community members to transform a 1.5-acre parcel of land into a youth farm, which they call Farmstrong. Today, they are expanding the farm, and your support will help unlock its full potential. [Donate here!](#)
- **Fill out a volunteer form with Southside ReLeaf**: Southside ReLeaf is a community organization committed to building a healthy, equitable and sustainable environment for all residents in South Richmond. They are always looking for field, advocacy, admin, and partnership volunteers. [Register here!](#)

*Share your upcoming events and opportunities with us at [rvagreen@richmondgov.com](mailto:rvagreen@richmondgov.com).*

---







---

*Copyright © 2020 City of Richmond Office of Sustainability, All rights reserved.*

**Our emailing address is:**

rvagreen@va.gov

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

---

This email was sent to [rcatrow@gmail.com](mailto:rcatrow@gmail.com)

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

City of Richmond Office of Sustainability · 730 E Broad St Fl 8TH · Richmond, VA 23219-1861 · USA



**mailchimp**