



Energy Equity Primer

Network of Mutuality

“We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”



-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

PARTNERSHIP FOR SOUTHERN

EQUITY

Mission:

Partnership for Southern Equity pushes for policies and actions that promote equity and inclusive prosperity in metropolitan Atlanta. Through forums, research, and organizing efforts, we bring together our regional community to lift up and encourage just, sustainable, and civic practices for balanced growth and opportunity.

Goals:

- Leverage our combined assets to advance and coordinate regional equity activities utilizing the Shared Prosperity framework as our platform.
- Influence how local and regional decisions are made as they pertain to growth, development, and opportunity structures in metropolitan Atlanta.
- Highlight and support opportunities for Equitable Development and their positive impact on low wealth populations and communities of color.
- Promote and encourage equitable opportunities for inclusiveness, quality growth, and regional competitiveness.
- Support, develop, and position a multigenerational cadre of leaders and policy innovations for Regional Equity.
- Grow a REGIONAL EQUITY MOVEMENT comprised of diverse stakeholders and organizations representing the ten (10) county metropolitan Atlanta region

What is Equity?

eq·ui·ty *ek-wi-tee*, noun. Just and fair inclusion.

An equitable society is one in which all can participate and prosper. The goals of equity must be to create conditions that allow all to reach their full potential. In short, equity creates a path from hope to change.



Energy Equity
is the fair distribution
of the benefits and
burdens from energy
production &
consumption.



Equity Impact Areas

1. Transportation Equity (Accessibility)

- Transportation has become either a barrier or gateway to opportunity in Metro Atlanta.

2. Equity of Opportunity (Vitality)

- Developing economic models that are lucrative, inclusive and just.

3. Equitable Development (Harmony)

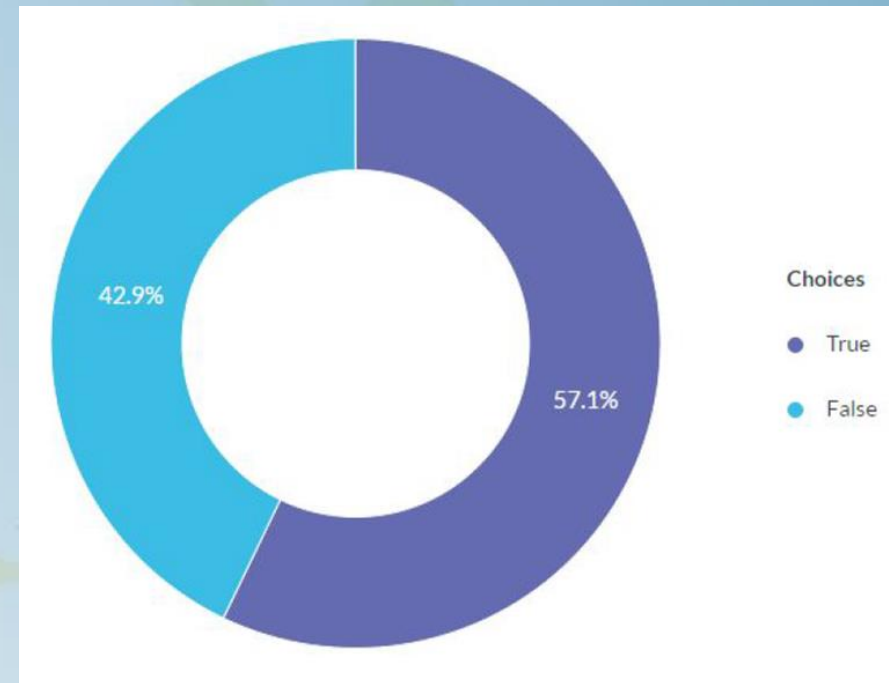
- Unbalanced growth and investment in our region have created a less sustainable and competitive region.

4. Energy Equity (Democracy)

- Elevating and connecting the voices of vulnerable populations to ensure equity ensure clean energy decisions for everyone

What you told us

- All are involved in some level of programming directed towards vulnerable communities
- All view equity issues as a key ingredient to realizing a more resilient/sustainable city
- 14% see Mayor/City Council are **not** supportive in general of equity efforts in my city



43% of you feel energy decisions are not being made with vulnerable populations in mind

Your Perspectives

“...we give away energy efficiency kits but it has been difficult to reach vulnerable communities”

“... I would like more examples of how to embed equity within specific programs or policies that cannot always accommodate public participation”

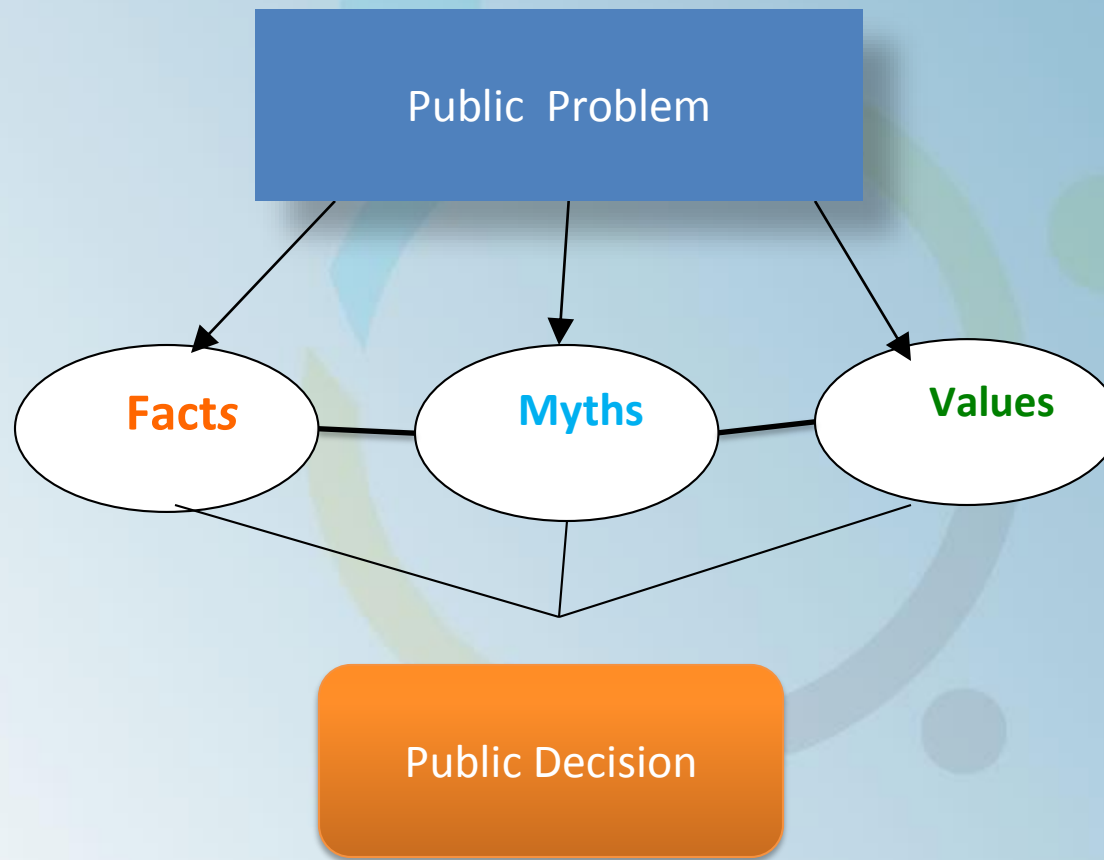
“There is an element of healing that must be allowed to take place in order for a community to move forward in this very personal dialogue.”

“If you start approaching equity through the racial lens, then you will advance these other inequities. If you start with economic or if you start with gender, then you’re going to miss a lot of them because they are so dependent on race. *You start with race as the foundation of the pyramid.*”

What is a Public Issue?

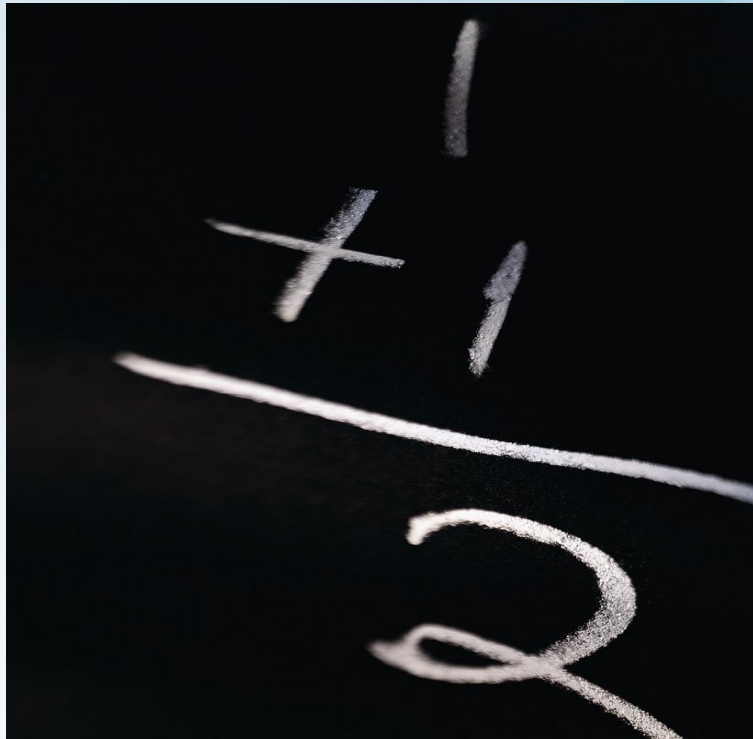
- ◎ A public issue:
 - i. Has a broad interest or concern
 - ii. Requires a group decision
 - iii. Is controversial
 - iv. Is recognized by key decision-makers as a problem
 - v. Involves value judgments to arrive at solutions





What are Facts and Myths?

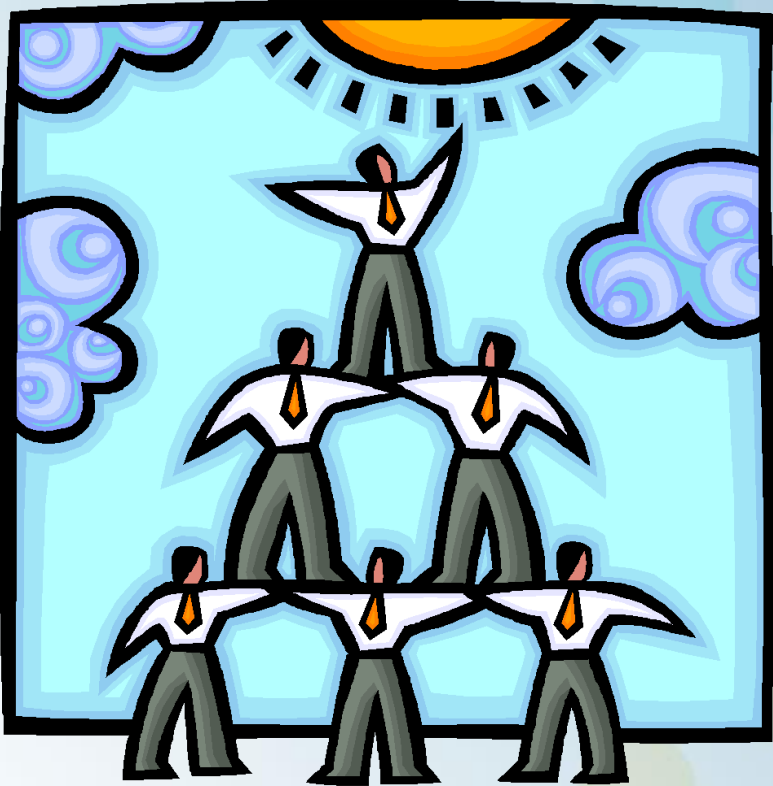
Fact: A verifiable statement of what is true.



Myth: What people think is a fact.



What are values?



- ◎ Webster's II New Riverside Dictionary
- ◎ **Value(s):** A standard(s) or principle(s) regarded as desirable or worthwhile.
- ◎ *Values are opinions about how things should be.*
- ◎ Principles are the formal avenues by which values are shared and realized by responsible entities within organizations, initiatives, communities, campaigns, or movements.

Facts, Myths, Values

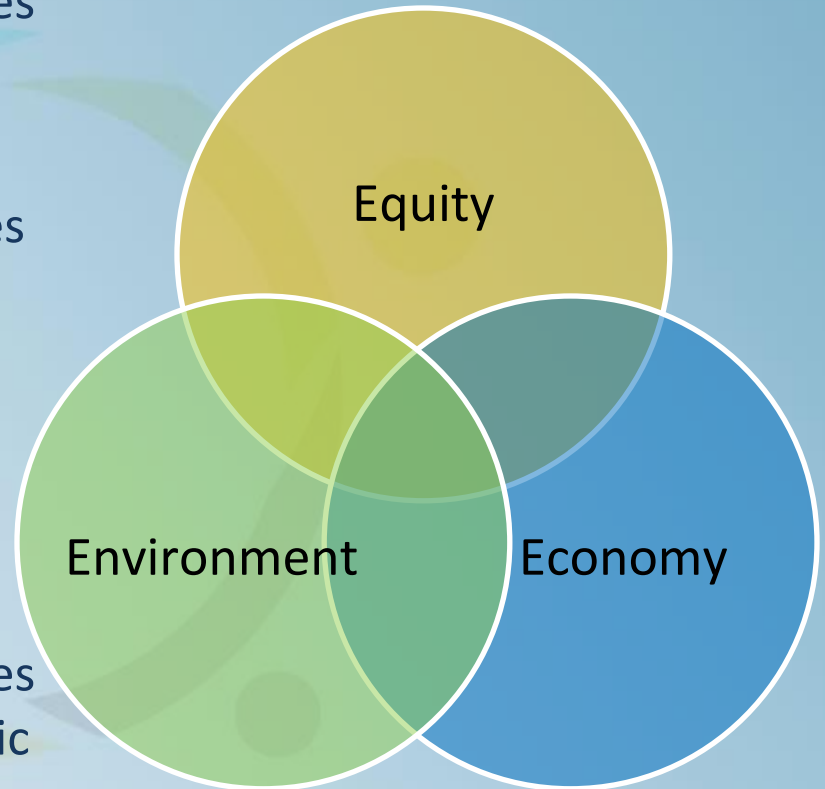
- Play a role in how decisions are made that affect your community.
- When we do not have a universally accepted measuring stick (facts) or standard of how things should be, we settle public issues with value judgments.
- These collective value judgments (principles) are realized through public policy decisions

PUBLIC DECISIONS REFLECT THE VALUES OF INFLUENTIAL INTERESTS (FOLKS IN POSITIONS OF POWER)



Equity Matters!

- Sprawling growth has led to imbalance of development and opportunity structures
- Affecting not only communities of limited opportunity but creating environmental and economic challenges for all (water, air, jobs-housing imbalance, energy, etc.)
- History of racial and spatial inequity in the American South has exacerbated these issues
- Incorporating equity indicators/practices promote balanced growth and authentic community engagement (Systems Change)
- **EQUITY IS THE SUPERIOR GROWTH MODEL**





POWER

is the

ABILITY TO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN.

CHANGE

is created by collectively

USING POWER.

