INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: Policy Problem:

Create one policy that will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the next 15 years for a state legislature. The objective is to embed equity throughout the policy's goal, process, outcomes, and evaluation. Feel free to draw inspiration from ideas you heard in earlier sessions.

Step 2: Identify Political Constraints

- As a group, identify the top 1-2 Political Constraints (Grey) that you are facing related to advancing equity work. Choose from the list below or write your own in the blank "Political Constraints" cards.
  - Political Constraint: State Budget Deficits & Federal Funding Cuts
  - Political Constraint: Backlash on DEI Disincentivizes Equity Work
  - Political Constraint: Federal Deregulation & Rollbacks
  - Political Constraint: Lack of Trust in Public Institutions Impacts Political Efficacy
  - Political Constraint: Political Partisanship, Cultural Divides, & Socioeconomic Tension
- Your policy should be realistic and responsive to your chosen political constraints for each stage: Goal, Process, Outcomes, and Evaluation.

Step 3: Select Equity Component Cards

- Set Your Policy Goal:
  - Select the Top 1-2 Equity Values (Blue) Component Cards.
    - Values guide the goals of a policy and its design.
- Set the Process, Outcomes, and Evaluation of Your Policy
  - Select the Top 1-2 Equity Component Cards for Process (Yellow), Outcomes (Green), and Evaluation (Teal) of your policy.

Step 4: Write Your Policy Language (Legislative Language Cards)

- Start with the Goal Legislative Language Card.
  - When writing your policy language for your Goal:
    - Make sure to address the prompt.
    - Reference your equity values.
    - Specify *which* communities your policy aims to uplift.
- For each Goal, Process, Outcome(s), and Evaluation Legislative Language Card, write your policy that addresses the prompt, responds to political constraints, and incorporates your chosen component cards.
  - You may reference the Words That Win Section (page 2) from the Embedding Equity Into Policy Toolkit for ideas on strategic framing and language.
- Allocate time at the end of the session to read your policy out loud from Goal to Evaluation to discuss with your group together: "The bill would…"
- **You may refer to the illustrative example on the back of the instructions as a guide for these steps.**

Purpose of Write-Your-Own Component Cards

- If none of the component cards reflect your desired policy, you may write-your-own component card for each category: Political Constraints, Goal, Process, Outcomes, and Evaluation.

Reflection Questions

- Please share and explain to the audience your completed legislative proposal: How does your legislation advance equity?
- How did you adapt your chosen equity components to meet the political constraints?
- Think about the equity component cards you selected for your legislation, where do they fall on the foundational to transformative equity spectrum?
  - How can the foundational equity components lay the groundwork for more transformative equity components in future policy?
- Did this activity feel relevant to the political challenges in your state?
- What ideas do you have to bring back to your colleagues?

EMBEDDING EQUITY INTO POLICY

Political Constraints
Choose up to 2 component cards and place here.

POLITICAL CONSTRAINT
Backlash on DEI Disincentivizes Equity Work

POLITICAL CONSTRAINT
State Budget Deficits & Federal Funding Cuts

Goal
Choose up to 2 "values" component cards and place here.

VALUE
Racial & Social Equity

Transform the institutions and systems that harm marginalized communities.

VALUE
Transparency & Accountability

Build trust through openness, accountability, and shared governance.

Process
Choose up to 2 component cards and place here.

PROCESS
Establish Community-Driven Decision-Making and Collaborative Stakeholder Structures

California's A.B. 2722 has created the Transformative Climate Communities program, empowering the most pollution-burdened communities to design and implement tailored climate projects with health, economic, and emission-reduction benefits. The bill requires a Collaborative Stakeholder Structure to ensure shared decision-making between local government and community partners.

Outcomes
Choose up to 2 component cards and place here.

OUTCOME
Set An Investment and Benefits Target for Disadvantaged Communities

Washington's Climate Commitment Act and Virginia's H.B. 1526 both establish target investment goals that would direct a set percentage of funds to overburdened communities, economically disadvantaged communities, and tribal communities.

Evaluation
Choose up to 2 component cards and place here.

EVALUATION
Track Real-Time Impact of Benefits for Target Communities and Use Data to Inform Future Equitable Investments

New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and California's S.B. 535 not only require climate investment targets to benefit disadvantaged communities of color, but also require the tracking of investments and benefits reporting for state compliance.

GOAL: LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE

For the goal of the policy, write how equity will be advanced. Reference the values you selected, specify the communities that will benefit, and adapt the language as needed in response to the political constraints.

GOAL — *Write your own legislative language.*

This bill would...

Require the state agency to track and report how transportation investments have delivered benefits to communities, including disadvantaged communities, such as pollution reduction, multi-modal infrastructure, and access to public transit for transportation-burdened populations.

PROCESS: LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE

For the process described in the policy, write how equity will be embedded. Adapt the language as needed in response to the political constraints.

PROCESS — *Write your own legislative language.*

This bill would...

Require the state agency to engage with stakeholders and impacted communities to help track and prioritize transportation funding that would benefit target communities in future projects.

OUTCOME: LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE

For the outcomes described in the policy, write how equity will be achieved. Adapt the language as needed in response to the political constraints.

OUTCOME — *Write your own legislative language.*

This bill would...

Result in fiscally responsible spending of state transportation dollars to increase access for cleaner green jobs, improve community health outcomes, and build public infrastructure for transportation-burdened communities at least by 15%.

EVALUATION: LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE

For the evaluation of the policy, write how equity will be ensured. Adapt the language as needed in response to the political constraints.

EVALUATION — *Write your own legislative language.*

This bill would...

Require the responsible agency to report, display, and update the data periodically on an online dashboard for greater public accountability.

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