

Kansas City's Opportunities for the Environment

Environmental Management Commission - 2020

COVID-19

- Kansas City's adaptations to the COVID-19 pandemic provide a glimpse of a less auto-dependent, more digitally-connected community.
- Community institutions striving to close gaps in basic needs for food, shelter, public safety, digital access, and caregiving bring structural inequalities into sharp focus.
- Disruptions pause the status quo, making time for collaborative reflection and imagination, enabling Kansas City to realize a more regenerative future.

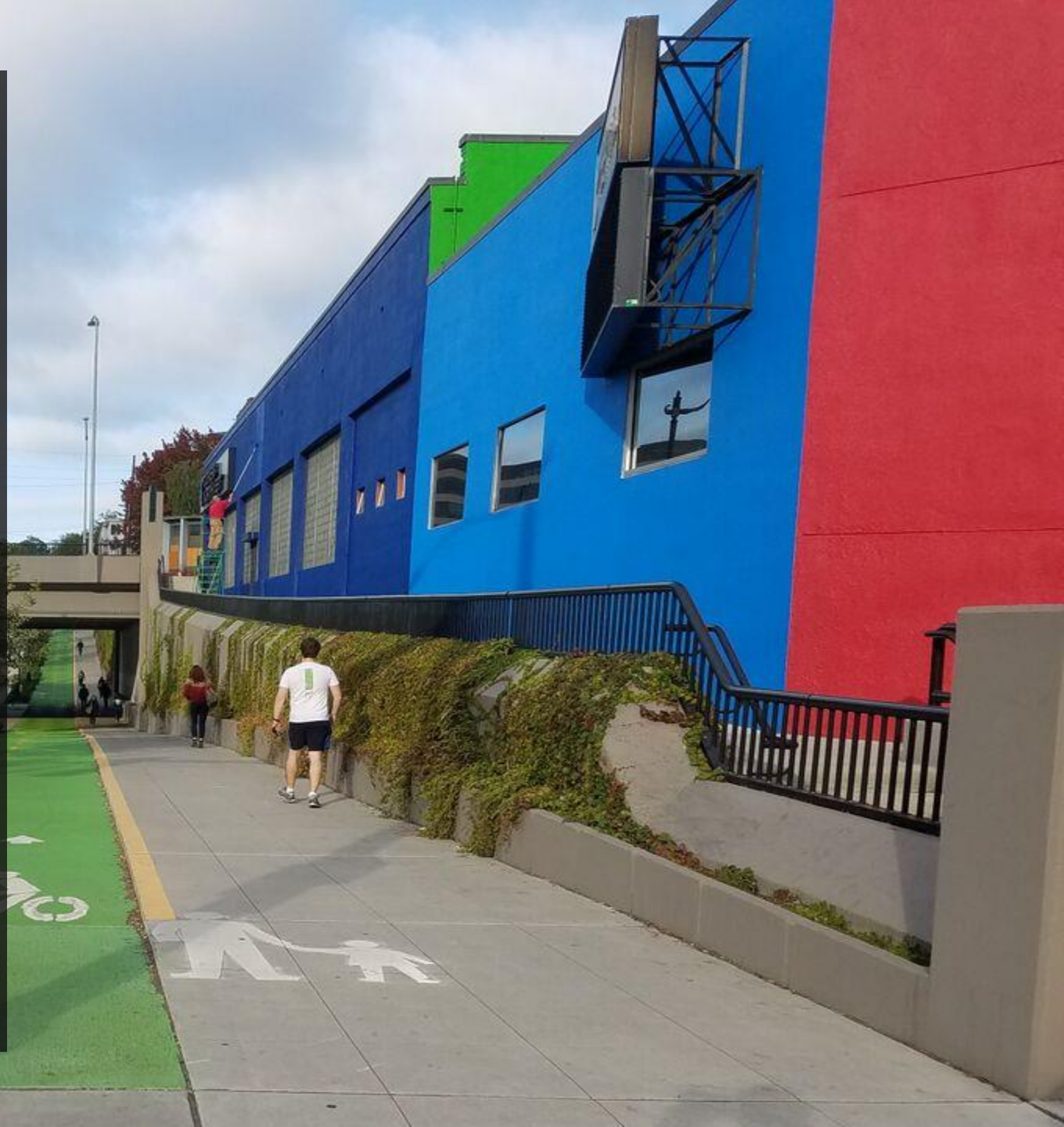
How this format works

- One slide identifies top three area shortcomings
- One slide identifies top three area opportunities
- Extrapolate and explain each point in the notes



Emphasis Areas:

- Communication
- Emergency Preparedness
- Fiscal Policy
- Food Systems
- Housing
- Resource Management
- Transportation



Communication

Developing a message that is urgent and activating

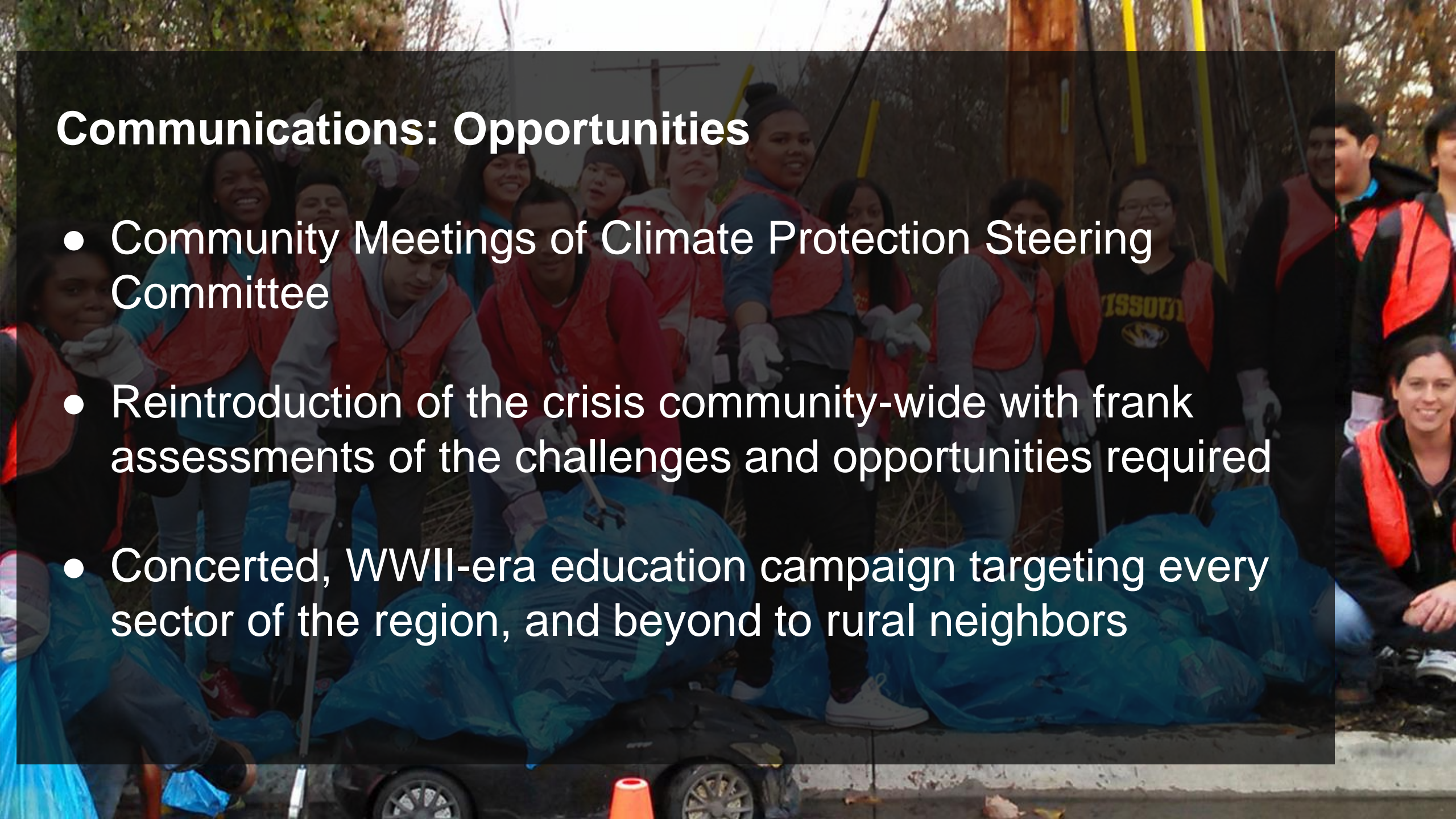
Communications: Shortcomings

- Not conveying the severity
- No application of historical lens
- Ineffective calls for action



Communications: Opportunities

- Community Meetings of Climate Protection Steering Committee
- Reintroduction of the crisis community-wide with frank assessments of the challenges and opportunities required
- Concerted, WWII-era education campaign targeting every sector of the region, and beyond to rural neighbors



Emergency Preparedness

Ensuring regenerative action in the face of increasing disaster

Emergency Preparedness: Opportunities

- Microgrids with a central utility plant can provide district heating, reduce emissions, save costs, improve energy security, and add resilience.
- Stakeholders (KCMO, Evergy, Veolia, businesses, residents) can collaborate to define needs & designs.
- Current codes are being updated; city staff & stakeholders can include microgrid issues in the process.

Fiscal Policy

Using green to make green to save what's green

Fiscal Policy: Shortcomings

- Preempted by the state on several opportunities
- Most revenue instruments are regressive
- Playing 'catch-up' with big portions of expenditures



Fiscal Policy: Opportunities

- Many ways to 'green' existing outlays
- If regressive, reinvest in disproportionately affected areas
- Work with lawmakers for climate carve out on preemption

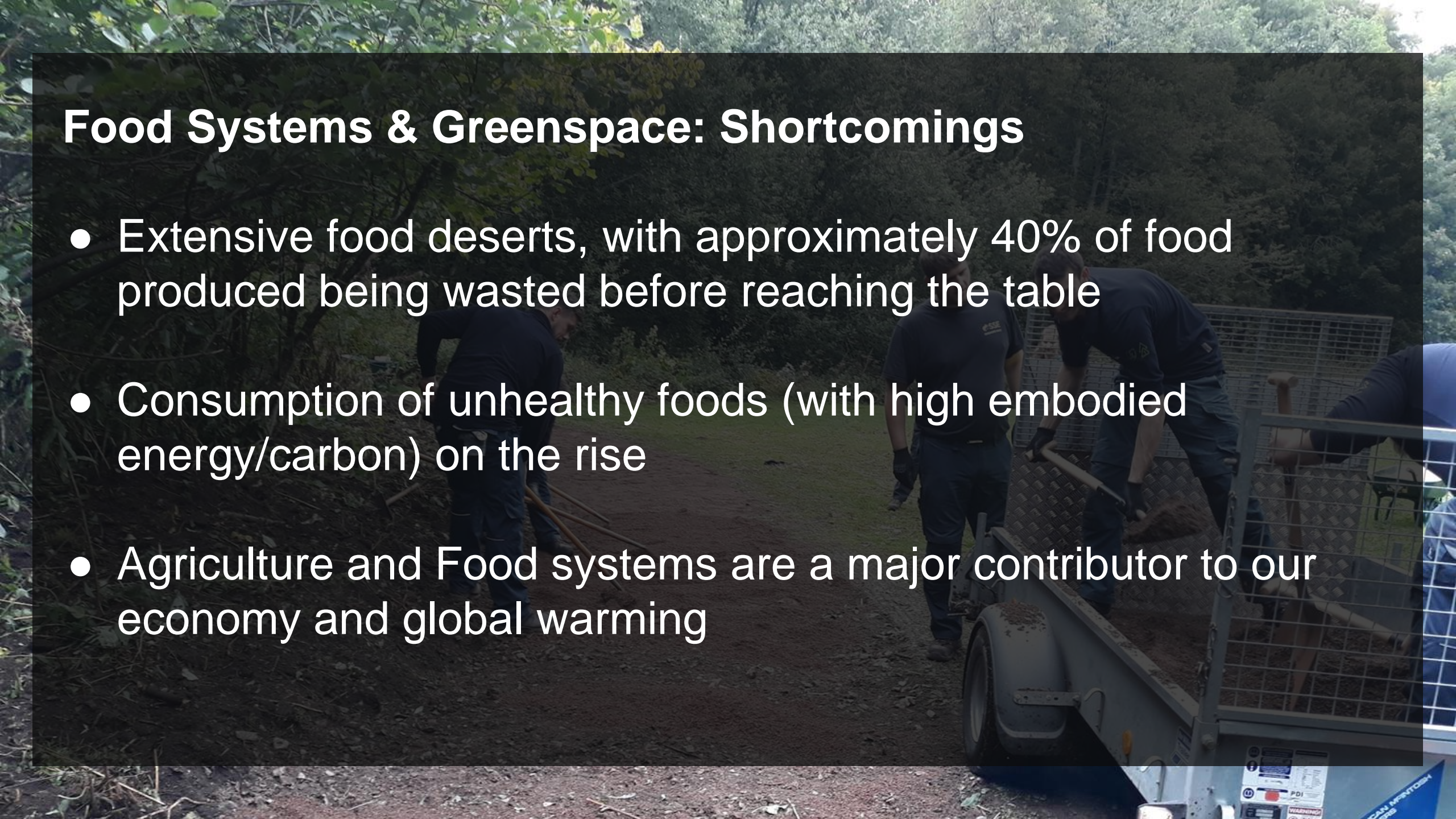


Food Systems & Greenspace

Farming and functioning in greater harmony with nature

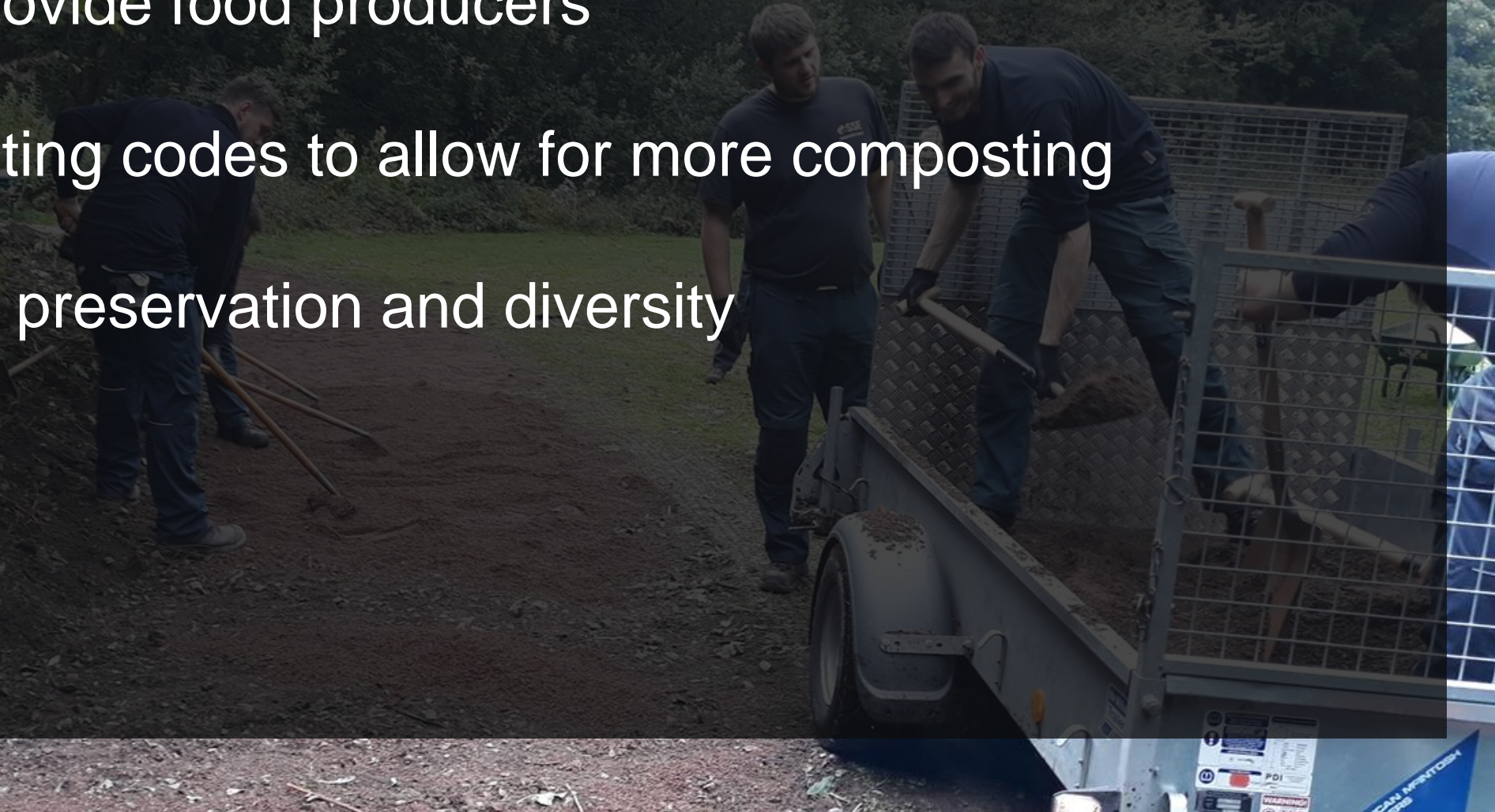
Food Systems & Greenspace: Shortcomings

- Extensive food deserts, with approximately 40% of food produced being wasted before reaching the table
- Consumption of unhealthy foods (with high embodied energy/carbon) on the rise
- Agriculture and Food systems are a major contributor to our economy and global warming



Food Systems & Greenspace: Opportunities

- City could provide food producers
- Change existing codes to allow for more composting
- Support tree preservation and diversity



Housing

Building an affordable and regenerative future

A photograph of a modern, multi-story apartment building with a light-colored facade and dark window frames. The building features balconies with glass railings. The image is partially obscured by a dark, semi-transparent overlay that contains the text.

Housing: Shortcomings

- Limited supply of healthy, affordable housing
- Ineffective land use and deteriorating housing stock and neighborhoods
- No comprehensive plan or integrated strategy for housing, transportation/access to education, jobs, food

A photograph of a modern, multi-story apartment building with balconies and large windows, set against a clear blue sky. The building is the background for the text overlay.

Housing: Opportunities

- Integrate affordable housing with new market-rate housing
- Survey for and import future-looking Best Housing Policies/Practices/Systems
- Expand and enforce TOD policy

Resource Management

Being more efficient and regenerative with the resources we use

Resource Management: Shortcomings

- Human and Natural resources are not highly valued
- No whole system resource management program in place
- No comprehensive system in place to eliminate waste, and the increasing waste stream that continues to increases our land, transportation and management costs

Resource Management: Opportunities

- Prioritize resources to inform investments, governance and management
- Human health and wellbeing, and air, water, soil and food systems must move to the top as global warming increases the stress on those resources
- Eliminate human waste by design! Design for longer use and/or reuse

Transportation

Moving in a multimodal direction

Transportation: Shortcomings

- Disjointed transportation approach
- Limited transit service
- Driving is a big portion of carbon emissions



Transportation: Opportunities

- Better Planning
- Improving transit
- Encouraging Less Driving



A street scene with a dark overlay and the text "Questions?" in the center. The street has a red-paved bike lane with white directional arrows and bicycle symbols. A stop sign is visible on the right side of the road. In the background, there are buildings, including one with a mural of a woman's face and the text "THE KING'S HEARTBREAK HOTEL". A sign for "Tracy's FOREIGN CAR SERVICE Inc." with the phone number "526-1644" is also visible. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

Questions?