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#### **AUTHORS**

Tina Yuen, Raimi + Associates Eric Yurkovich, Raimi + Associates Lauren Grabowski, Raimi + Associates Beth Altshuler, Raimi + Associates

#### **CONTRIBUTORS**

Tracy Morgenstern, City of Seattle Garrett Fitzgerald, Urban Sustainability Directors Network Kristin Baja, City of Baltimore

#### **GRAPHIC DESIGNER**

Stephanie Miller, Raimi + Associates

#### **REVIEWERS**

Victoria Benson, Movement Strategy Center Rosa Gonzalez, Movement Strategy Center Jacqueline Patterson, NAACP Felipe Floresca, Emerald Cities Collaborative

#### **INTERVIEWEES**

Santiago Bunce, Catalyst Miami

Dionne Foster, Puget Sound Sage
Margaret Gordon, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project
Phoebe Seaton, Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability
Sudha Nandagopal, City of Seattle's Office of Sustainability and Environment

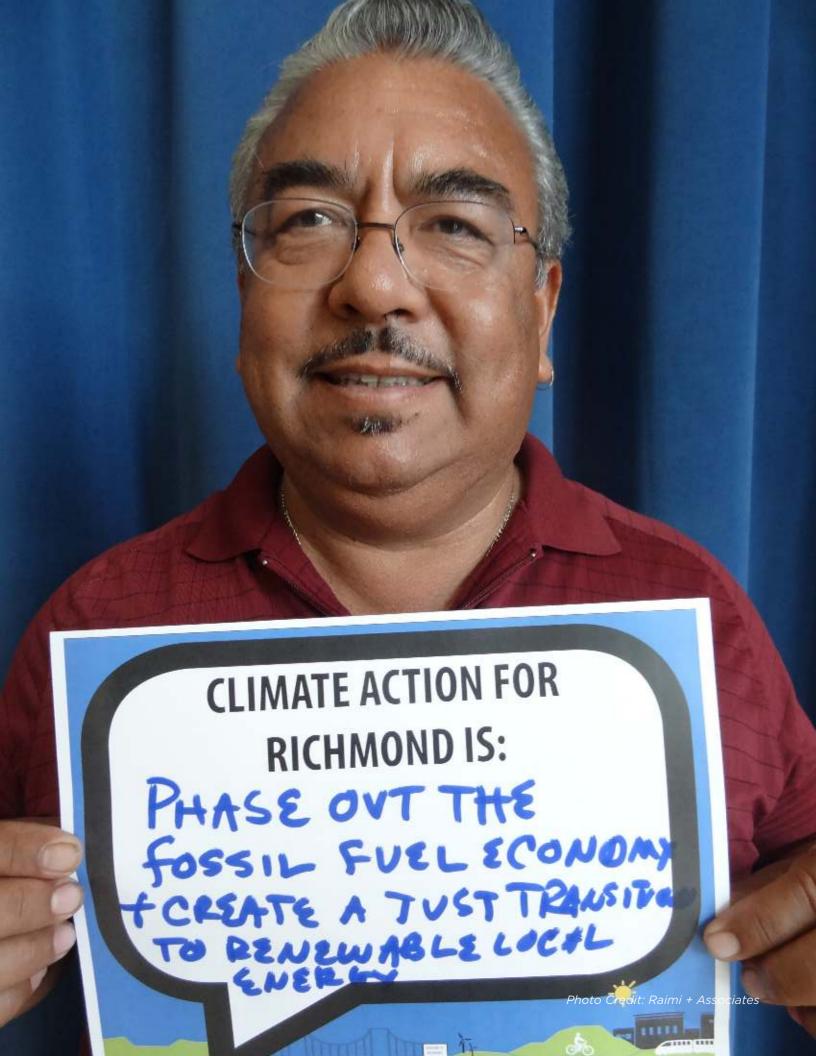
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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Climate change is one of the most critical and complex challenges that society faces today. Even while climate change affects everyone, not all people are impacted equally. People of color, immigrants, refugees, and lower-income populations experience increased exposure and sensitivity to climate hazards and a reduced capacity to adapt. As local governments plan and implement their response to climate change, an opportunity exists to create stronger, more equitable communities for everyone.

An inclusive, community-centered planning process can maximize the benefits of climate preparedness action among lower-income populations and communities of color, while creating greater resilience by empowering those most affected to shape the decisions that will impact their lives. Transformative actions, such as policies that address the root causes of persistent social inequities, can be paired with measures that prepare communities for future climate change impacts and reduce potential hazard vulnerability.

Delivering more equitable outcomes requires a different approach to planning. Many climate preparedness and adaptation guides exist and most acknowledge the importance of equity and public participation; however, few address equity issues by addressing specific adaptation solutions, tactics for inclusive community engagement, or the root causes of inequities in climate risk. This document addresses these gaps. The purpose of the Guide to Equitable, Community-Driven Climate Preparedness Planning is to provide guidance to local governments in designing and implementing a more inclusive, equitable planning process.



The Equitable, Community-Driven Climate Preparedness Planning Framework provides:

1 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

to the problem of increased climate risk among lower-income communities and communities of color, or frontline communities, and the need for an equitable climate preparedness planning process

- 2 Introduction to **SOCIAL INEQUITIES** and models to advance equity
- Overview of the EQUITABLE,
  COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CLIMATE
  PREPAREDNESS PLANNING
  FRAMEWORK, which builds on a
  conventional planning process
- EQUITABLE CLIMATE RESILIENCE SOLUTIONS that include typical adaptation strategies, equity considerations, equity solutions, and key practice examples

# CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

Many factors—such as racism, income and wealth, health status, and neighborhood conditions—influence a community's sensitivity to climate impacts and their ability to adapt. Lower-income populations and communities of color are often burdened with multiple, overlapping factors that cumulatively impact their ability to respond to hazards. Structural and institutional racism has resulted in the disproportionate distribution of benefits and burdens in our society, which results in increased climate risk.

# CHAPTER 2: PRIMER ON SOCIAL INEQUITIES AND THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

Institutions - particularly governments - and the structural system that they are part of, may function to sustain racial and social inequities that increase disproportionate risk to climate change. Race is a major determinant of life outcomes and is a reliable predictor of climate hazard risk. Institutions and structural systems can drive and perpetuate societal differences along racial lines. Several frameworks

and models exist to advance racial equity, and many local governments have begun to explicitly address racial and social inequities within their government operations and decision-making processes.

#### CHAPTER 3: EQUITABLE, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Chapter 3 introduces the Equitable, Community-Driven Climate Preparedness Planning Framework. Community partnership and collaboration are at the core of equitable climate resilience planning and are critical because they ensure that issues of greatest concern for communities disproportionately impacted by climate change are elevated throughout the process, the analysis reflects community expertise and experiences, and the adaptation and preparedness actions prioritize frontline communities. Community and local government readiness are also central to the Framework, as a strong foundation is needed to carry out a collective, cohesive planning process. The seven steps of the Framework are discussed in detail, including specific activities, resources, and examples for each step.

# CHAPTER 4: EQUITABLE CLIMATE RESILIENCE SOLUTIONS

Chapter 4 compiles typical adaptation strategies for different climate hazards, describes equity considerations for each, and defines specific planning solutions to address equity considerations. Participation and engagement of the community is central to many of the equity strategies discussed. To the extent possible, this chapter also describes ways to address the contributing causes of social and racial inequities through climate preparedness and adaptation strategies. Each discussion of climate hazards - extreme heat, urban flooding and coastal flooding, wildfires and air quality, and rising utility and food costs - includes a two-page vignette infographic depicting how climate change disproportionately impacts lower-income communities and communities of color, the contributing causes of disproportionate impacts, conventional strategies to address impacts, equity concerns, and solutions to address equity concerns. The chapter concludes with a table that illustrates typical adaptation strategies, equity considerations, equity solutions, and practice examples.

# BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

#### **BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION**

Climate change is one of the most critical and complex threats that society faces today, and some population groups and communities are at greater risk than others. Climate risk is a function of exposure to natural hazards, sensitivity to these hazards, and the ability to adapt. Systemic and institutional racism and classism have resulted in increased exposure and sensitivity to hazards and a reduced capacity to adapt among people of color, immigrants, refugees, and lower-income residents, often referred to as frontline communities.

By uncovering and addressing the contributing causes of disproportionate climate risk, local governments can best support community preparedness, while also advancing racial and social justice more broadly. Equitable climate preparedness planning strives to fairly distribute the benefits and burdens of climate change and climate actions through a community-driven planning process that empowers those most affected to shape the decisions that will impact their lives. An equitable planning process also builds social cohesion and social capital, as it brings communities together to address a shared challenge and identify strategies for improvement.

Delivering more equitable outcomes requires a different approach to planning. For the most part, existing government decisions and processes have not resulted in equitable outcomes for frontline communities. Across the United States, racial disparities in wealth continue to persist and are widening.<sup>2</sup> Differences in health outcomes by race and ethnicity, income, educational attainment, and geographic location continue to occur and are increasing for certain health conditions.<sup>3</sup> Similarly, disparities in impacts from natural hazards exist. Superstorm Sandy, a hurricane that hit New York and New Jersey in October 2012, disproportionately affected lower-income renters and left many vulnerable to housing instability. Sixty-eight percent of renters making claims to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) were low-income.4 While business-as-usual planning techniques may improve some outcomes, they may not achieve climate resilience, particularly in the communities and among the populations that stand to be affected the most.



"Climate change affects all, but not all people are affected equally." - Jacqueline Patterson, Director of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program

#### PURPOSE OF THE PLANNING APPROACH

The purpose of the Equitable, Community-Driven Climate Resilience Planning Framework is to guide local governments in designing and implementing a community-driven, equitable climate preparedness planning process. Many climate preparedness and adaptation guides exist. While most state that equity and public participation are important, few address the root causes of disproportionate risk or detail specific equitable adaptation solutions or tactics for community-driven planning. This document addresses these gaps by taking an equity-centered

approach to adaptation planning, providing a framework for understanding and addressing the contributing causes of disproportionate climate risks, providing community-driven planning strategies, and presenting step-by-step actions and adaptation solutions. Through this guide, climate preparedness planning is redefined and reoriented toward building a more just and sustainable future.

Traditional planning practices are not well designed to understand and address how racial and social inequities intensify climate risk. As a result, climate adaptation plans may inadvertently perpetuate or exacerbate existing racial and social inequities. This guide provides approaches to planning as well as specific strategies that can support more equitable climate preparedness outcomes. The Equitable, Community-Driven Climate Resilience Planning Framework provides:

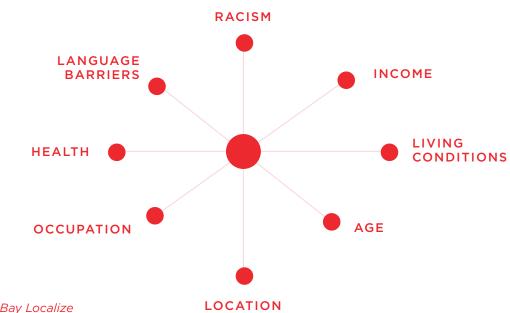
- BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION to the problem of increased climate risk among lower-income communities and communities of color, or frontline communities, and the need for an equitable climate preparedness planning process
- 2 Introduction to **SOCIAL INEQUITIES** and models to advance equity
- Overview of the EQUITABLE, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS PLANNING FRAMEWORK, which builds on a conventional planning process
- 4 EQUITABLE CLIMATE RESILIENCE SOLUTIONS that include typical adaptation strategies, equity considerations, equity

# CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY

Many factors influence community and individual sensitivity to climate impacts and their ability to adapt to climate change. Figure 1 shows some factors that can impact sensitivity and vulnerability to climate change.

For example, outdoor workers and people with preexisting health conditions are at greater risk from heat events, and those with lower incomes have fewer resources to repair flood damage and may live in poor housing conditions. Socially-isolated people may not have a personal network to help them out during an emergency, and people with limited English language proficiency are less likely to access programs that could help during or after an extreme weather event. Individual biological factors (such as age or health status) can amplify a population's sensitivity to climate change. Communities of color are often burdened with multiple, overlapping factors that cumulatively impact their ability to adapt or respond to climate change.<sup>5</sup> Racism is a key factor influencing climate vulnerability. Structural and institutional racism in our economic, government, and social systems has resulted and continues to result in the disproportionate distribution of the benefits and burdens of our society leading to increased climate risk. Figure 2 depicts how root causes, social factors, and biological factors interact to contribute to increased sensitivity to climate change.

Figure 1: Factors that can Increase Climate Vulnerability



Adapted from Bay Localize

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

The resources below provide more details on social and biological risk factors to climate hazards:

- Social Vulnerability to Climate Change in California (Pacific Institute)
- Social Cohesion: The Secret Weapon in the Fight for Equitable Climate Resilience (Center for American Progress)
- Climate Change, Health, and Populations of Concern (US Environmental Protection Agency)

Figure 2: Root Causes and Factors Affecting Sensitivity to Climate Change

#### **ROOT CAUSES**

- Racial segregation
- Poverty
- Income inequality
- Lack of living wage jobs
- Gaps in educational opportunities and attainment
- Concentrated neighborhood disinvestment
- Political disenfranchisement and low social capital
- Increased neighborhood violence and crime

#### **SOCIAL FACTORS**

- Ability to afford basic necessities and resources
- Access to affordable and quality housing
- Access to reliable and affordable transportation
- Access to affordable health care
- Access to green spaces, green infrastructure, and tree cover
- Linguistic isolation
- Social cohesion
- Residential location

# BIOLOGICAL FACTORS

- Age
- Chronic and acute illnesses
- Mental and physical disabilities
- Overall health status

INCREASED SENSITIVITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE



# PRIMER ON SOCIAL INEQUITIES AND THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

# PRIMER ON SOCIAL INEQUITIES AND THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

The root causes of the inequities that increase frontline communities' sensitivity to climate hazards result from institutional practices and structural systems. This chapter discusses how institutions—particularly governments—and the structural system that they are part of, typically function to sustain racial and social inequities, which increase disproportionate risk to climate change. This chapter also describes key concepts for countering structural and institutional biases in government planning.

#### STRUCTURAL AND INSTITUTIONAL RACISM

Race is a major determinant of life outcomes, and, in the United States, it is inextricably tied to income and wealth. Race is a reliable predictor of climate hazard risk, including vulnerability to many of the hazards projected to intensify under changing climate conditions and adaptive capacity. Racial discrimination is a critical lens for understanding how significant disparities in life outcomes and access to opportunities are strongly associated with race.

Institutions and structural systems drive and perpetuate societal differences along racial lines. Institutions — such as government agencies, schools, media, etc. — and the systems they operate within are the fundamental motivating forces that create and sustain the social, environmental, and economic conditions in which people live. In many instances,

governments — their decisions, processes, and practices — are important institutions that have underserved frontline communities and excluded them, whether intentionally and unintentially, from public decision-making processes. These discriminatory practices have resulted in the inequitable distribution of resources, access to opportunities, and poor life outcomes that many lower-income populations and communities of color face.<sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> The result is that social inequities can increase disproportionate climate risk in these communities.

There are two main types of racism that affect policymaking and how decisions are made: institutional racism and structural racism. These are described in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Root Causes and Factors Affecting Sensitivity to Climate Change

#### INSTITUTIONAL RACISM AND POWER

- Institutional racism is defined as discriminatory treatment, unfair policies, and inequitable opportunities and impacts based on race that are produced and maintained by institutions
- Individuals, with their own personal assumptions about race, take on the power of the institution when they act in ways that advantage and disadvantage people based on race

# STRUCTURAL RACISM

- Structural racism is defined as the system of institutions that interact with one another to generate and reinforce racial inequities
- Structural racism normalizes and reinforces existing dynamics that routinely advantage white people, while producing cumulative and chronic adverse outcomes for people of color

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

The resources below provide more detailed information on institutional and structural racism:

- powell, ja. 2007. Structural Racism: Building Upon the Insights of John Calmore. Berkeley Law Scholarship Repository.
- Rudolph, L, et al. 2015. Climate Change, Health, and Equity: Opportunities for Action. Center for Climate Change & Health.
- Jones, CP. 2000. Levels of Racism: A Theoretic Framework and a Gardener's Tale. American Journal of Public Health. 90(8):1212-1215.

# HOW STRUCTURAL AND INSTITUTIONAL RACISM IS PERPETUATED THROUGH GOVERNMENT PROCESSES

At times, government processes have been explicitly racist (e.g., redlining, exclusionary housing policies, etc.), while at other times discriminatory outcomes have been implicit. Whether explicit or inadvertent, government processes have been an important mechanism for creating and sustaining social inequities that increase climate risk in frontline communities. Communities of color and lower-income populations are more likely to be politically disenfranchised and marginalized in the democratic process, which influences how policy decisions are made.<sup>13</sup> When racial inequities are not openly acknowledged in climate action planning, it is likely they will be created, worsened, and/or perpetuated.

An example of institutional and structural racism producing social inequities is the set of federal economic and housing policies that historically helped to create enormous wealth and income gaps between white families and families of color.<sup>14</sup> Under the Federal Housing Administration loan program, economic financial institutions refused to back mortgages for African Americans, while redlining and racial covenants restricted where African American families could live and their financial opportunities to homeownership. These practices impacted the ability of African American families to increase their wealth through homeownership and pass those assets on to their families, which is central to wealth building. 15 Other federal programs, such as the Housing Acts of 1949 and 1954 (also called urban renewal), led to the demolition of neighborhoods of color and furthered disadvantaged and concentrated people of color into disinvested areas. Over time, these policies and programs led to racial segregation, and neighborhoods of color struggled with isolation, high concentrations of poverty, chronic disinvestment, high rates of crime and unemployment, and poor life

outcomes. Neighborhoods were created with vastly different living and social conditions and access to opportunities that were strongly connected to race. <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> The wealth gap between racial and ethnic groups grew wider.

As a result of these policies and laws, lower-income communities and communities of color are also more likely to reside in areas at greater risk of climate impacts, such as storm surges, flooding, urban heat islands, extreme heat, poor air quality, and other environmental pollution.<sup>18</sup> Frontline communities may also face disproportionate challenges that make it more difficult to respond to or cope with disasters or climate events, such as limited financial resources, which can inhibit the ability to evacuate during emergencies. Frontline neighborhoods may also lack the needed infrastructure to mitigate the effects of a changing climate, such as green spaces and green infrastructure. Communities most vulnerable to climate change are most likely to lack the resources to adapt.

#### RACIAL EQUITY

The achievement of "racial equity" is when race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes, and outcomes for all groups are improved. - Government Alliance for Racial Equity

Hurrican Katrina is a salient example of how social inequities increase the risk of natural hazards and climate events among frontline communities. In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall in New Orleans, Louisiana, a city that was already struggling with racial segregation, high poverty rates, failing education systems, and substandard housing. Many communities there were underprepared for a disaster, as infrastructure and living standards in communities of color were already vulnerable before the storm hit.19 <sup>20</sup> Hurricane Katrina was one of the costliest (total damage is estimated at \$108 billion) and deadliest natural disasters in U.S. history. Over 80 percent of New Orleans was flooded after the levees broke, and thousands of lower-income residents that were unable to evacuate before the storm took up shelter in the Superdome. Over 1,800 fatalities were directly or indirectly linked to the storm across the Gulf Coast states, with about 1,500 occurring in Louisiana alone.<sup>21</sup> Lower-income communities and communities of color in New Orleans and the surrounding region were disproportionately affected.<sup>22</sup> Many people left or were evacuated from the city in the aftermath

of the hurricane. In the decade after the storm, the percentage of African Americans in New Orleans has not rebounded to pre-storm levels compared to other races and ethnicities.<sup>23</sup> Residents most impacted by Hurricane Katrina were at the greatest risk and had the fewest resources to return to the city and rebuild.<sup>24</sup>

In addition to explicitly discriminatory policies and government practices, many well-meaning government policies have resulted in unintended consequences. Although unplanned, these indirect outcomes of policies and plans can have similar effects of increasing social inequities. For example, targeted neighborhood improvements, such as enhancements to public transit, can lead to increased property values and housing prices. As a result, lower-income renters in these neighborhoods can become vulnerable to housing instability and displacement. It is important to identify potential inadvertent consequences of policies and plans and work with those most affected to minimize impacts.

#### FRAMEWORKS FOR ADVANCING EQUITY

The frameworks described in this section provide a structure for understanding equity and the basis for how government institutions can improve equitable outcomes through its decision-making processes. Examples are also provided to showcase how these frameworks can be operationalized in local governments.



#### **EQUITY VS. EQUALITY**



Equity and equality are often used interchangeably, but equity and equality do not mean the same thing. Equality is about sameness - meaning that everyone receives the same thing regardless of any other factors. However, equality is only useful if everyone starts from the same place, which is often not the case. Lower income populations and communities of color often have less access to healthy and energy efficient housing, transit, or safe bicycling and walking routes. Equity, on the other hand, is about fairness, which is about ensuring that people have access to the same opportunities and have what they need to thrive and succeed. Equity is needed before equality can be reached. This understanding recognizes that people may have different starting points and may need different types and level of support to flourish.

#### EQUITY OBJECTIVES: PROCEDURAL, DISTRIBUTIONAL, AND STRUCTURAL EQUITY

Equity can be further defined and characterized into three objectives: 1) procedural, 2) distributional, and 3) structural. These three objectives represent different dimensions of equity, each requiring distinctive strategies to be achieved. Figure 4 below further details the three equity objectives.<sup>26</sup>

Figure 4: Equity Objectives

#### **PROCEDURAL**

- Create processes that are transparent, fair, and inclusive in developing and implementing any program, plan, or policy
- Ensure that all people are treated openly and fairly
- Increase the civic engagement opportunities of communities that are disproportionately impacted by climate change

#### **DISTRIBUTIONAL**

- Fairly distribute resources, benefits, and burdens
- Prioritize resources for communities that experience the greatest inequities, disproportionate impacts, and have the greatest unmet needs

#### **STRUCTURAL**

- Make a commitment to correct past harms and prevent future unintended consequences
- Address the underlying structural and institutional systems that are the root causes of social and racial inequities

Transparency and a commitment to democratic principles are central to the goal of inclusive government and procedural equity. It requires that local governments share decision-making processes publicly and that all stakeholders understand in how and why decisions are made. Multiple community engagement strategies exist to increase the accessibility and inclusivity of government processes, as will be described in later chapters of the report. In many communities, a historic lack of transparency between local government and communities of color and lower-income communities is a barrier to

creating procedural equity. Previous discrimination or shortcomings must be acknowledged and addressed through the planning process to move forward. Although public participation and a fair and inclusive government are necessary components for equity, these tactics alone are not sufficient. Strategies to attain distributional and structural equity are also required to ensure that outcomes are fair and that root causes of inequities are addressed through improved government processes.

#### FRAMEWORK FOR INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF RACIAL EQUITY

The Framework for Institutionalization of Racial Equity conceptualizes three ongoing tactics for achieving equity within governmental organizations.<sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup>

- 1. NORMALIZING: For racial equity to be advanced, especially in governments that may unintentionally create or sustain social inequities, explicit discussions of race and racism are vital. Normalizing these conversations around race and the effects of racism creates a shared understanding of organizational priorities, viewpoints, and values.
- 2. ORGANIZING: Organizing builds partnerships and mechanisms for engagement. This is about organizing staff and partners to mobilize and engage people to get the critical feedback and support they need to grow and continuously advance the work through an iterative and cyclical process. This phase also involves developing an internal infrastructure to address racial inequities.
- **3. OPERATIONALIZING:** The operationalization of strategies uses data and tools that enhance institutional operations to advance racial equity within institutions. This phase operationalizes racial equity by providing staff and leadership with the tools they need to make conscious choices that will advance equity.

#### TALKING ABOUT RACE

Normalizing race through conversations establishes shared values and a common understanding. A common language creates a story that then makes it easier to communicate a commitment to racial equity, both internally and externally, and creates a platform for coordinated work towards equitable outcomes.

Resources around normalizing race include:

- Race Equity and Inclusion Action Guide: Embracing Equity (Annie E. Casey Foundation)
- Let's Talk About Race: How Racially Explicit Messaging Can Advance Equity (Center for Social Inclusion)
- Racial Equity Tools (Racial Equity Tools.org)
- Framing the Dialogue on Race and Ethnicity to Advance Health Equity (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine)
- Films and curricula (World Trust Educational Services)



# ADVANCING RACIAL EQUITY THROUGH GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

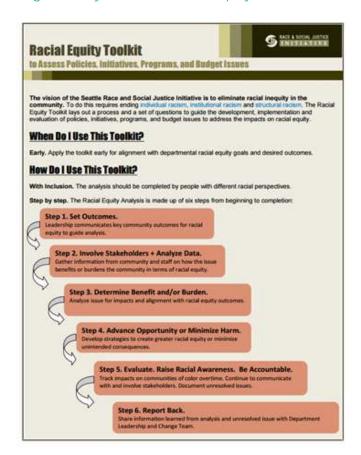
A racial equity lens can be used to address institutional and structural inequities resulting from government operations. An example of operationalizing equity is the City of Seattle's mandated use of their Racial Equity Toolkit. The Racial Equity Toolkit is a six-step analysis applied to the City of Seattle's policies, programs, and budget decisions to understand how decisions made will impact equity. The assessment is driven by community stakeholder involvement and identifies program, partnership, and policy strategies for addressing impacts. Emphasis is also placed on evaluation and raising awareness about racial inequities. Seattle City Council passed an ordinance in 2009 that directed all City departments to use the Toolkit to inform decision-making, including all budget proposals.<sup>29</sup> Figure 5 depicts the six steps of the Toolkit.

A racial equity lens can highlight unseen community problems and offer solutions. The neighborhoods in Southeast Seattle, a predominantly lower-income community of color, had a high rate of non-functioning streetlights, potentially affecting neighborhood safety and quality of life. After some investigation, it became apparent that the complaint-based system the City had in place for replacing burnt-out streetlights was not working for all residents. Some residents in Southeast Seattle tended to avoid interacting with government and, therefore, did not report burnt-out streetlights. As a solution, the public utility shifted from a solely complaint-based system to working proactively to replace light bulbs. As a result, not only did Southeast Seattle get better lighting, but customer satisfication improved overall. 30

The City of Portland and Multnomah County's 2015 Climate Action Plan (CAP) centers equity as a guiding vision and a primary outcome. The Plan takes a broad view of equity and incorporates procedural, distributional, and structural equity into the CAP's objectives. With guidance from their Equity Working Group, composed of representatives from community-based organizations representing the interests of lower-income communities and communities of color, the CAP incorporates equity throughout and highlights the use of an equity lens to prioritize the needs of frontline communities. Successful implementation of the CAP will also include targeted investments in areas that have seen

under-investment in the past, as well as investments in youth and adult job opportunities, which fulfill actions in the plan. Additionally, the City and County will develop climate-equity metrics to track and monitor how equity considerations are integrated into the Plan's implementation. The process of developing an equity-centered climate action plan also became a catalyst for City and County learning. Many staff members noted that hearing community concerns enables them to see their work differently and better understand the equity implications of their actions.<sup>31</sup>

Figure 5: City of Seattle's Racial Equity Toolkit



#### WHOLE GOVERNMENT APPROACH

Advancing structural equity can also be addressed through a whole-government approach. With an understanding of institutional racism and structural systems that create and perpetuate social inequities, cross-sector or across-government collaborations are needed to address the root causes of disproportionate social and environmental impacts. This "inside" local government approach parallels the "outside" government strategy of equitable partnership with community members most impacted by climate risks. Complex issues, such as increased social vulnerabilities to climate hazards, rarely have a singular solution that can be implemented by one sector or government agency alone. Addressing the root causes of social inequities that disproportionately impacts frontline communities presents both a challenge and an opportunity to improve government processes.



"The common threat is getting government out of silos. Nothing [in the community] is experienced in silos."

- Non-profit advocate

A whole-government approach, such as Health in All Policies (HiAP)<sup>32</sup>, is a transformative approach toward addressing the systems, institutions, policies, processes, and practices that create and reinforce unjust differences in exposures to environmental and natural hazards by considering health and equity in decision-making processes. This approach requires a longer-term view of addressing inequities through a commitment to working across government agencies that run outside any specific planning process.

An example of a whole-government approach was used by the City of Richmond, California. Richmond adopted a HiAP strategy and ordinance in 2014, which established a framework for collaboration within the City's departments and with community-based organizations and other government agencies to address community, health, equity, and sustainability. In 2015, Richmond developed its climate action plan with a focus on health equity, which is consistent with Richmond's HiAP strategy.<sup>33</sup>

Although this may be outside the traditional scope of planners, opportunities may arise to collaborate with other public agencies, departments, or offices on shared goals. Utilizing a whole-government or HiAP approach, planners should take advantage of opportunities as they present themselves and remain open to new ways to partner outside of their sector in non-traditional ways. For example, any action around weatherization of older homes may present an opportunity for planners to work with key staff from the housing, community and economic development, and public utilities sectors on preserving housing affordability and lowering the cost of utilities for lowerincome households. By working together, benefits can be further maximized while also mitigating any unintended consequences.



EQUITABLE, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS PLANNING FRAMEWORK

# EQUITABLE, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Community collaboration is foundational for advancing equitable climate preparedness outcomes and is the bedrock of the Equitable, Community-Driven Climate Preparedness Planning Framework. Community-driven climate preparedness planning refers to the engagement of residents most vulnerable to climate change in identifying the impacts they may face and recognizing the potential solutions most relevant to their unique contexts.<sup>34</sup> The objectives of the Framework are to empower the communities experiencing the greatest climate-related risks to codefine the most appropriate solutions. The Framework is intended to be flexible and can be applied before planning is initiated, at the beginning of the planning process, or mid-stream.

The Framework addresses and incorporates the equity objectives introduced in Chapter 2. Procedural equity is accomplished in the Framework through community engagement, shared decision making, and transparency in government processes. Distributional equity is achieved by ensuring that the plan reflects community concerns and priorities and that there are mechanisms in place to review and monitor the implementation of actions. Structural equity occurs by taking a whole government approach to addressing social inequities, changing organizational norms around racial equity, and instituting other transformative actions, such as normalizing and operationalizing racial equity within government processes.

Local governments can employ this framework in whole or in part. Many may find it challenging to apply these concepts and strategies at first or all at once, and different local jurisdictions will have varying starting points and abilities to implement equity considerations. Implementing organizational culture and process changes to prioritize equity requires a long-term commitment on the part of local government agencies. Further, equity considerations that work in one local jurisdiction may not be feasible or may look differently in another. Local context - which is driven by community priorities, relationships, capacity, and political dynamics - will ultimately determine how equity will be incorporated in government operations and actions taken to accomplish goals.

Government planning processes are rarely community-driven or centered on equity. Public outreach is often reactionary and conducted after the planning process has been structured or is used to inform the community about the planning process. Many public engagement strategies are conducted to comply with laws and other requirements, rather than viewed as a method for collaboration and partnership with an expectation that more community collaboration will yield better ideas and results. Many public agencies also tend to value technical expertise above lived, experiential knowledge that community members possess. Public processes are also often confined to tight timelines and budgeting constraints that necessitate limiting community engagement. Furthermore, many communities distrust government institutions and/or feel that they have provided input in the past that has not been implemented. These factors make it difficult to conduct effective. authentic community engagement and collaboration.

In this chapter, the Equitable, Community-Driven Climate Preparedness Planning Framework is compared to a conventional planning process. This chapter also describes opportunities to incorporate equity into each phase of the climate preparedness process and additional information on specific strategies, activities, and key examples.



"There is a tendency toward political expediency. It's hard to step outside of personal experiences and preferences,"

- Local government official

# WHAT IS EQUITABLE, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS PLANNING?

In a community-driven climate preparedness planning process, frontline community members most impacted by climate change share decision making power with the lead government agency and help produce strategies focused on their priorities and concerns.35 Community partnership and collaboration are at the core of equitable climate resilience planning. Community involvement is critical because it ensures that issues of greatest concern for communities disproportionately impacted by climate change are elevated throughout the process, analysis reflects community expertise and experiences, and adopted preparedness and adaptation strategies prioritize frontline communities and help to build resilience in communities with the greatest risk to climate impacts.

Engaging frontline communities can yield benefits to the planning process, but can also be challenging due to various constraints including timelines, resources, language barriers, levels of trust, and geographic scope. Effective community engagement

by public agencies is also dependent on the history of existing relationships between community residents and local government agencies. For example, community mistrust of government can be a barrier to collaboration. Engaging with existing groups, such as neighborhood associations or community-based organizations who already directly work with those most at risk, may be a more successful alternative to directly engaging individual residents.

## COMMUNITY CAN BE DEFINED IN MULTIPLE WAYS:

- Community residents
- Community-based organizations
- Local non-profits and advocacy groups
- Community organizing groups
- Local businesses and merchants
- Other community stakeholders



#### CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EQUITABLE, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS PLANNING PROCESS

An equitable climate preparedness planning process is defined by these characteristics.

- 1. IDENTIFIES INEQUITIES: The planning process actively identifies and addresses the contributing causes of climate vulnerabilities. It also highlights the experiences and expertise of marginalized populations and is responsive to their needs.
- 2. ENGAGES WITH COMMUNITIES MOST IMPACTED: Climate resilience requires a collaborative partnership approach to the development of solutions that is grounded in shared values and an understanding of the problems impacting communities experiencing disproportionate risks.
- 3. PROMOTES DEMOCRACY AND TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT:

Processes support equitable decision-making by building the capacity of residents to participate in planning efforts, nurturing a culture of civic participation, and ensuring transparency in how decisions get made. Community stakeholders must be able to trust the planning process to fully participate. Decision-makers should also be educated to better understand the resiliency needs and interests of the populations they serve.

4. ADDRESSES INEQUITIES: Adaptation strategies are developed in partnership with the communities most impacted by climate change. Solutions and strategies should be focused on deriving multiple co-benefits and should aim to alleviate contributing causes of social vulnerabilities that augment climate risks.

#### 5. SUPPORTS INTEGRATIVE GOVERNMENT:

Process engages multiple sectors and disciplines and takes a "whole-system" approach to understanding the causes of vulnerability and developing solutions. As the causes of climate vulnerability and climate change are not the fault of any one sector or organization alone, no one sector can solve these integrated and complex problems.

6. FOSTERS SUSTAINABILITY: Sustainability considers current and future climate change impacts, and the need to ensure a better quality of life for all, while living within the limits of supporting ecosystems.

Adapted from Movement Strategy Center



The Equitable, Community-Driven Climate Preparedness Planning Framework has several benefits. The planning process is defined by the community and informed by their priorities and concerns. By centering on community priorities, there is a greater likelihood of addressing the

concerns most relevant to equity. Opportunities exists to create resilience through the very process of developing a community-driven plan by increasing social cohesion, civic engagement, and social capital. A community-driven preparedness process can also build community power and leadership by increasing

community capacity to engage in plans and policies that will have a direct impact on their lives. Effective community engagement can also increase the plan's reach, defined as the degree that knowledge is disseminated to diverse audiences and translated into

useful and understandable implementation tools and materials. Authentic engagement and partnership with communities can also lead to increased buyin of the plan and support for implementation of strategies.

#### CONTINUUM OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement is often depicted as a continuum increasing in the level of engagement and partnership from left to right, as shown in the figure below. Within any given planning process, various strategies for community engagement may be employed at different points in time.

INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	SHARED LEADERSHIP	COMMUNITY- DRIVEN	
Local government initiates an effort, coordinates with departments, and uses a variety of channels to inform the community to take action	Local government gathers information from the community to inform local government-led interventions	Local government engages community members to shape government priorities and plans	Community and local government share in decision-making to co-create solutions together	Community initiates and directs strategy and action with participation and technical assistance from local government	
CHARACTERISTICS O	F ENGAGEMENT				
<ul> <li>Primarily one-way channel of communication</li> <li>One interaction</li> <li>Term-limited to project</li> <li>Addresses immediate need of local government</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Primarily one-way channel of communication</li> <li>One to multiple interactions</li> <li>Short to medium-term</li> <li>Shapes and informs local government programs</li> </ul>	Two-way channel of communication Multiple interactions Medium- to long-term Advancement of solutions to complex problems	Two-way channel of communication Multiple interactions Medium- to long-term Advancement of solutions to complex problems	Two-way channel of communication Multiple interactions Medium to long-term Advancement of solutions to complex problems	
STRATEGIES					
Media releases, brochures, pamphlets, outreach to population groups, translated information, new and social media	Focus groups, interviews, community surveys, public hearings, public comment periods	Forums, advisory boards, stakeholder involvement, coalitions, policy development and advocacy, including legislative briefings, and testimony, workshops, community-wide events	Co-led community meetings, advisory boards, coalitions, and partnerships, policy development and advocacy, including legislative briefings and testimony	Community-led planning efforts, community-hosted forums, collaborative partnerships, coalitions, policy development and advocacy including legislative briefings and testimony	

Adapted from King County, Washington and IAP2

A community-driven equitable climate preparedness planning process involves collaboration and shared decision-making between local government staff and the community with the aim of co-creating an equitable climate preparedness plan. In terms of the levels of engagement continuum depicted above, this approach most aligns with shared leadership and community-driven, where there is an emphasis on a shared decision-making and co-ownership over the development of the plan.

# APPROACH TO EQUITABLE, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

Figure 6 presents a sample set of steps that are often utilized in a conventional planning process. Although there is no singular defined way to create a plan, many planning efforts are tailored to fit a similar set of process steps.

Figure 6: Conventional Planning Process

#### Understand problem and define project objectives Scope the project **PROJECT** Hire technical experts INITIATION Review background reports Collect data COLLECTION Conduct technical analysis and create maps and graphics AND ANALYSIS Identify key issues, opportunities, and trends Present existing conditions Define vision for plan or project with community VISIONING AND ALTERNATIVES Generate alternatives or options with community Analyze alternatives Identify preferred alternative Prepare draft plan Confirm draft plan with community PLAN Finalize plan **DEVELOPMENT** Identify priority actions PLAN AND Update plans with implementation actions PROJECT **IMPLEMENTATION** Review progress Reprioritize actions MONITORING

AND REVIEW

Figure 7: Equitable, Community-Driven Climate Preparedness Planning Framework

#### COMMUNITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT READINESS

Develop community and local government readiness. Build social cohesion, greater understanding of the topic, and power within the community before the project begins. Public agencies should also examine organizational readiness and commit time and resources towards building trust with the community. Strategies include establishing transparent government processes and embedding racial equity into broader organizational practices.

# PROJECT INITIATION

Co-create a project plan with the community, especially communities of color or lower-income communities that will be impacted by the outcomes of the plan. Strategies include involving community (or representatives of the community) on the leadership team or steering committee, which sets the goals of the plan and makes decisions. Co-create the engagement strategy, which could include non-traditional engagement techniques.

#### DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Collaborate with community to identify neighborhood strengths, assets, and climate hazards, including an assessment of social and environmental vulnerabilities, adaptive capacity, climate risks, and the underlying causes of increased climate risks.

#### VISIONING AND ALTERNATIVES

Collaborate with community to determine the guiding principles and vision for the plan's development. Include an understanding of unintended consequences of actions and potential impacts on equity in the alternatives analysis (i.e. creation of new inequities, or worsening, improvement, or neutral impacts on existing inequities).

#### PLAN <u>DEV</u>ELOPMENT

Design and prioritize strategies to benefit communities and populations impacted by climate change and mitigate potential negative impacts. Also consider opportunities for enhancing co-benefits across sectors. For example, weatherizing older homes would also decrease energy costs and improve housing quality, which can also generate equity benefits when actions prioritize communities of color and lower-income households.

#### PLAN AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Partner with community during implementation to reduce the risk of creating new inequities or worsening existing ones. Prioritize actions that focus on communities and populations with the greatest climate risk and geared towards addressing the contributing causes of increased climate risk. Involve community in the implementation and communication of the plan. Strategies inlcude working with trusted service providers to implement programs.

#### MONITORING AND REVIEW

Monitor and review plan implementation to ensure that actions are implemented as planned and with the desired outcomes. Engage community in monitoriting to help maintain accountability as part of a review board or advisory panel. Update strategies in collaboration with the community based on information gathered regarding implementation, outcomes, and feedback from stakeholders. Share data and information regarding ongoing monitoring of the plan's implementation and outcomes with the community.

Lower-income communities and communities of color usually play a limited role in a conventional planning process. Local agencies inform the community about the plan or project, gather information from the community to inform decision making, and, at times, work with the communities to shape the plan or project. Rarely does the community share in decision making to co-create solutions or co-lead planning efforts.

An Equitable, Community-Driven Climate Preparedness Planning Framework is a departure from this conventional planning process. It is fundamentally different because it focuses on the co-creation and co-ownership of the plan between the community and local government partners. The planning process begins with laying the groundwork

for partnership between the community and local government agencies. Equitable collaboration with communities at greatest climate risk is viewed as an essential component throughout the planning process, starting in project initiation and continuing through to project implementation and monitoring. Figure 7 illustrates specific actions that can be taken within each step of the planning process to ensure an equitable, community-driven process is achieved.

Using the Equitable, Community-Driven Climate Preparedness Planning Framework as a foundation, the following sections provide practical process steps, examples activities, and resources local government planners can use to center a climate preparedness process on equity.

#### COMMUNITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT READINESS

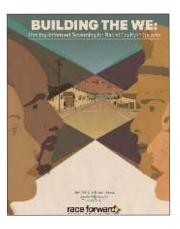
This pre-project initiation phase seeks to ensure that the community and local government are prepared to begin a collective planning process. An equitable, community-driven preparedness planning process requires a strong foundation for community engagement, which is based on trust and transparency. Building a basis for ongoing community partnership often requires that effective partnership is built over time and is based on nurturing relationships. Time and resources are needed to develop trust. In municipalities where trust is eroded, more work and time would be necessary to rebuild avenues of communication and transparency between local governments and the community. In this instance, to proceed head-on with community engagement without first addressing the legacy of mistrust, hurt, and harm between local government and the community would not yield the development of relationships, sharing of knowledge, and coownership of the plan that an equitable, communitydriven process entails. These early investments in relationship building will hopefully pay off in creating stronger bonds, trust, and more effective partnerships over time.

A strong basis for community engagement requires two main components: local government and community readiness. Local government readiness requires an investment on the part of public agencies to ensure that their staff possess the knowledge and skills to effectively engage and collaborate with the community. This could include trainings on racial equity,<sup>36</sup> cultural humility approaches,<sup>37</sup> communication strategies, or new methods for effective community engagement and partnering.

A racial equity framework can be embedded into broader organizational practices and policies. This could also include internal ongoing discussions about differential power dynamics within the conventional planning process and methods for addressing this. Most importantly, local government readiness requires acknowledgement by local governments that the conventional planning process, as effective as it may be in many ways, has not been successful in creating equitable and sustainable communities for all residents, especially populations at the greatest risk from climate hazards.

#### **BUILDING THE WE**

In Building the We: Healing-Informed Governing for Racial Equity in Salinas, California, Race Forward shares how community residents and City of Salinas staff are co-creating a process that supports racial healing and systemic equity.



# THE RACIAL EQUITY EVALUATION TOOL

The Racial Equity Evaluation Tool, developed by Equity Matters, is an interactive tool to assess who holds comfort and control by race in the climate preparedness planning process. It is designed to be used throughout the planning process to assess and provide insight into areas for changes or enhancement. Early usage of the tool can help inform a more effective process form the start. Participants chart real actions into four stages: business-as-usual, access and inclusion, programmatic racial equity, and structural racial equity.



66

"People need to trust the process...You can't talk about anything without trust."

- Community organizer

Internally, local government agencies should also invest time and energy to assess their level of readiness. Most importantly, local government staff should begin to understand the power and privilege they wield within the planning process, receive training on racial equity, work to unlearn counterproductive assumptions about community engagement, and incorporate strategies that build authentic and equitable partnerships. Local government should also remain open to continual learning and reflection, and acknowledge past missteps and mistakes. Rules of engagement or a project charter developed with the community can outline appropriate channels of communication and methods to resolve conflict should they arise between the community and local government.

Similarly, frontline communities also need to be ready and willing to participate in the planning process. This often involves trainings, education, and outreach on what climate change is, associated risks the community faces, and the importance of planning for a changing climate. Strategies should also be employed to support community leadership development and increase their comfort and ability to partner with local government agencies. Community readiness also means that the community feels heard and acknowledged throughout the process. As previously noted, this may require a discussion of past mistakes and oversights by local government that have eroded trust with the community and steps to rebuild trust and communication.

This phase is foundational for an equitable partnership. These steps are ongoing and do not necessarily begin or end with a specific project or plan. One of the main outcomes of laying the foundation for partnership is the development of genuine relationships built on trust and transparency, which requires dedication, openness, honesty, and a longer-term view. Partnership moves at the speed of trust, 38 and a gap in trust between frontline communities and local governments should be addressed. Community and local government partners must be willing to have these hard, uncomfortable, and honest conversations with each other. 39 Many processes and tactics can be used to build and maintain community partnership, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Steps, Activities, and Resources for Building Community and Local Government Readiness

PROCESS STEPS	SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES AND PRACTICE EXAMPLES					
BUILD LOCAL GOVERNMENT READINESS							
<ul> <li>City or local government staff undergoes education, training, and knowledge-building on how to effectively participate in an equitable, community-driven planning process</li> <li>Understand the power dynamics between community members, City government, and other organizations</li> <li>Embed racial equity into broader organizational practices and examine organizational readiness</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Conduct race equity trainings for local leaders</li> <li>Develop a departmental/agency and/or jurisdiction-wide racial equity action plan</li> <li>Develop and use racial equity analysis to inform government decisions</li> <li>Establish multi-departmental race equity teams</li> <li>Conduct listening sessions at trusted community facilities</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Race Equity and Inclusion         Action Guide (The Annie E.         Casey Foundation)</li> <li>Advancing Racial Equity and         Transforming Government: A         Resource Guide to Put Ideas         into Action (Government         Alliance on Race &amp; Equity)</li> <li>Racial Equity Toolkit: An         Opportunity to Operationalize         Equity (Government Alliance         on Race &amp; Equity)</li> <li>City of Seattle Racial Equity         Toolkit</li> <li>How are Equality and Equity         Different? Exercise (Just Health         Action)</li> <li>City of Seattle Inclusive and         Public Engagement Guide</li> <li>Racial Equity Evaluation Tool         (Equity Matters)</li> </ul>					
BUILD COMMUNITY READINESS							
<ul> <li>Dedicate time to build community capacity around climate change and the importance of preparedness planning</li> <li>Develop partnerships with local community-based organizations to facilitate education, engagement, and community collaboration</li> <li>Cultivate community leaders to participate in and co-lead the preparedness planning process</li> <li>Create methods for increasing understanding, communication, transparency, accountability, and trust between community members and local government staff</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Host and conduct a community leadership training program</li> <li>Integrate learning and training into every meeting with the community</li> <li>Host pop-up stands regarding climate change awareness at community events</li> <li>Work with community leaders, civic groups, neighborhood associations, and community-based organizations to connect with hard-to-reach populations</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Cleveland Climate Ambassador Program (Cleveland Climate Action Fund)</li> <li>Community Leadership Programs: Empowering Future Leaders (Institute for Local Government)</li> </ul>					

#### PROJECT INITIATION

PROJECT INITIATION

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

ALTERNATIVES

PLAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND PROJECT MPLEMENTATION MONITORING

In the project initiation phase, the community and public agency define the community-driven planning process and identify appropriate engagement and empowerment techniques. Many processes and actions can be used to ensure that the project is cocreated and co-owned by the community, as shown in Table 2.

One of the most important outcomes of this phase is the establishment of a shared decision-making

structure and defined set of expectations for involvement and participation in the planning process. A project charter can be used to explicitly outline the roles of partners, expectations, decisions to be made, levels of review and feedback required, and effective communication and outreach strategies. Additionally, community partners should be compensated for their time and expertise, and resources, such as food and childcare, should be provided at community meetings.



"If the community doesn't have the resources, capacity, and bells and whistles to be part of the decision making, writing, and implementing of the plan, then the plan doesn't count."

- Community resident



#### RESOURCES AND PRACTICE PROCESS STEPS **SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES EXAMPLES CO-CREATE THE COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PLANNING PROCESS** Collaborate with the Develop a project or plan New York City participatory community in designing and charter that outlines roles of budgeting (New York City implementing the planning stakeholders, participation, Council) process responsibilities and expectations, **Detroit Climate Action** methods of communication. Collaborate with the Collaborative community to define the issues and strategies for group conflict and problems, and to define resolution goals, vision, and principles for Establish a shared decisionmaking structure between the project Ensure appropriate racial and/ the local government and or geographic representation community leaders on core planning team Recognize and compensate community members and organizations for their expertise and time Collaborate with the community to identify funders and write grant proposals to obtain sufficient funding for the project CO-CREATE APPROPRIATE ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION TECHNIQUES TO BE USED AT DIFFERENT PHASES OF THE PLANNING PROCESS Ensure outreach and Conduct power analysis Circles of involvement exercise communication reach intended and circles of involvement (National Association of audience exercises to determine potential County & City Health Officials) Use culturally appropriate stakeholder involvement Power analysis exercise methods and materials in Contract with and seek volunteer (Alternatives for Community & relevant languages support from local community Environment) Ensure meetings are groups and/or trusted community A Story of Resilience: What convenient and accessible leaders to communicate the plan Will the Future Hold for Little Identify potential stakeholder and lead outreach efforts Marcel (Resilient NOLA) involvement Employ a "no wrong door" City of Portland Equity Work Ensure that community strategy at all community Group members feel welcomed. events and interactions with the included, and heard during community<sup>40</sup> meetings and other community Co-lead resiliency meetings engagement opportunities and forums with communitybased organizations, community leaders, or other trusted individuals Establish community advisory committees to be an intermediary between the community and local government Provide resources at community meetings, such as childcare and food, and host meetings at convenient times and locations

# PROCESS STEPS SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES RESOURCES AND PRACTICE EXAMPLES

# DEVELOP NON-TRADITIONAL ENGAGEMENT TECHNIQUES TO INVOLVE GROUPS NOT TYPICALLY INCLUDED IN PLANNING

- Find ways to reach out to groups and individuals who do not typically participate in planning processes
- Incorporate innovative techniques for engagement
- Engage youth and/or older adults in climate preparedness planning to support leadership development and for their unique perspectives
- Employ a train-the-trainer model that augments existing community expertise
- Work with community leaders and community groups to conduct outreach and communication
- Use arts, music, and storytelling to engage people in conversations about climate risk and resilience and build social cohesion
- Attend existing community meetings and events to increase outreach

- Wellington Resilient mural (Wellington Resilience Strategy)
- Participatory Climate
   Communication Through
   Performance for Community
   Engagement (Climate CoLab)
- Y-Plan Richmond, CA: 5 years of authentic youth engagement in city planning (Center for Cities & Schools)

#### DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

PROJECT

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

VISIONING AND ALTERNATIVES

PLAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND PROJECT MPLEMENTATION

MONITORING

Data collection and analysis is an important phase in the planning process. Many opportunities exist to ensure that this step is driven by community priorities and reflects community knowledge. Data collection and analysis should ensure that the impacts of climate change are understood for different population groups and/or neighborhoods. Most importantly, this step consists of a shift in who are considered experts and what information is considered valuable to the planning process.

A mixed-methods approach may be utilized to capture both qualitative and quantitative data. Community residents and community-based organizations can provide lived, experiential expertise that provides context and a greater depth of understanding of social vulnerabilities and increased climate risks beyond

what can be measured quantitatively. Methods such as community-based participatory research (CBPR)<sup>41</sup> and photovoice<sup>43</sup> <sup>44</sup> provide alternative approaches that can enhance community engagement in data collection and analysis. This builds off community residents' knowledge and experiences. Moreover, a community-driven process ensures that residents and organizations can articulate their own priorities and assess their own strengths and gaps in capacity. Many processes and tactics can be used to establish a community-driven data collection and analysis phase, as shown in Table 3.



#### **RESOURCES AND PRACTICE** PROCESS STEPS **SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES EXAMPLES** WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY TO UNDERSTAND HISTORIC HAZARDS AND COMMUNITY ASSETS • Establish a citizen science Use participatory research Detroit Urban Research Center program to co-create techniques, such as community-Miami Science Barge (Philip knowledge related to natural based participatory research methods (CBPR) and photovoice, and Patricia Frost Museum of hazards Evaluate the historical causes to capture community Science) of inequity in the community perspectives Participatory Asset Mapping Identify and map community Create an asset map to identify (Advancement Project and assets and strengths organizations, places, structures, Healthy City) or institutions that can support East Palo Alto Map Your Future climate resilience or are (Youth United for Community vulnerable to climate change Action) impacts Map the extent of historic hazards using community knowledge, input, and photos UNDERSTAND SPECIFIC EXPOSURES OF RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND COMMUNITY ASSETS TO CLIMATE Understand existing conditions Hidden Hazards: A Call to Partner with local communitybased on race, income, and based organizations and Action for Healthy, Livable other important demographic individuals to ground-truth Communities (Los Angeles and socio-economic analysis the exposures and community Collaborative for Environmental assets. Health and Justice) Community Resilience Toolkit (Bay Localize) IDENTIFY SOCIAL VULNERABILITIES, ADAPTIVE CAPACITY, AND DISPROPORTIONATE CLIMATE RISKS Assess climate vulnerability Partner with the community to City of Seattle's Environmental by neighborhood and/or examine vulnerability to climate Equity Assessment Pilot population group risks City of Oakland's Community Identify the underlying causes Popularize technical information Resilience Fact Sheets of greater climate risk about local climate impacts Mapping your Future: A Work Share information with the to make it more accessible to Plan for Public Engagement & community residents community Equity in Climate Adaptation Map or analyze vulnerability in Planning in the San Francisco lower-income communities and Bay Area (Bay Localize) communities of color Social Vulnerability to Climate Assess post-disaster capacity of Change in California (California the local business community Energy Commission)

#### VISIONING AND ALTERNATIVES

PROJECT

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PLAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND PROJECT MPLEMENTATION

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The guiding principles and vision for the plan should be developed in concert between the community and local government and expanded to develop a vision that integrates goals related to equity and resilience. Alternatives should be developed and a preferred alternative planning scenario can be selected in partnership with the community. Methods can be developed to better understand the potential

impacts of adaptation actions on equity, including identifying unintended consequences and assessing whether adaptation actions are likely to produce new inequities, or worsen, improve, or have no impact on existing ones. Many actions can be implemented during the visioning and alternatives phase to ensure a process is community-driven, as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Steps, Activities, and Resources for Visioning and Alternatives

PROCESS STEPS	SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES AND PRACTICE EXAMPLES					
DEVELOP AN EQUITY FRAMEWORK, VISION, OR GUIDING PRINCIPLES							
Develop an equity framework, vision, or guiding principles for the plan development	<ul> <li>Conduct visioning sessions with community members and groups</li> <li>Translate the vision developed with the community into specific adaptation actions and an evaluation framework</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>City of Seattle's Equity &amp;         Environment Agenda</li> <li>Climate Action Through         Equity (City of Portland and         Multnomah County)</li> <li>Creating a Community Vision         (MRSC Local Government         Success)</li> </ul>					
ASSESS THE POTENTIAL EQUITY IMPLICATIONS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES FOR ALL ALTERNATIVES							
<ul> <li>Ensure that alternatives do not create new inequities or worsen existing ones</li> <li>Understand how alternatives will impact social equity</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Translate the vision developed with the community into indicators that can be used to monitor and evaluate implementation of actions</li> <li>Engage with the community to evaluate policy or project alternatives based on the equity implications</li> <li>Assess the equity implications for the preferred alternative</li> </ul>	Equity evaluation exercise (City of Portland)					

### PLAN DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

VISIONING AND

PLAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND PROJECT MPLEMENTATION

MONITORING

The primary objectives and strategies identified in the plan should seek to enhance community resilience and improve the quality of life of all residents, while explicitly identifying and prioritizing the needs of frontline communities. Specific example strategies are identified in Chapter 4.

Methods for assessing the equity impacts developed in the Visioning and Alternatives phase are used here to evaluate specific preparedness and adaptation actions. Those actions that improve equity while also addressing climate vulnerabilities should be prioritized for inclusion in the plan. Several steps can be taken to develop the climate preparedness and adaptation plan in an equitable manner, as shown in Table 5.

One strategy for equitable plan development is the co-creation of policy solutions in partnership with frontline communities. The co-creation of policy solutions challenges notions of expertise and rejects the idea that it is the exclusive role of government and paid technical consultants to identify potentially viable solutions. <sup>45 46</sup> An example of this occurred in the Greenpoint/Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York. Residents teamed with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency scientists to jointly develop novel methods for understanding neighborhood residents' cumulative exposures to multiple pollutants (i.e. air and water contaminants) and ways to address these increased risks. <sup>47</sup>



Table 5: Steps, Activities, and Resources for Plan Development

PROCESS STEPS	SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES AND PRACTICE EXAMPLES
IDENTIFY STRATEGIES THAT PRICE CHANGE OR THAT MITIGATE AN EX	PRITIZE BENEFITS TO COMMUNITIES	AT GREATEST RISK TO CLIMATE
<ul> <li>Prioritize strategies based on equity analysis</li> <li>Identify potential community benefits (co-benefits) and costs associated with strategies under consideration, with an understanding of how community members value those respective benefits and costs</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Develop methods for assessing equity implications of potential preparedness actions</li> <li>Work with the community to conduct equity assessment and evaluate actions</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>City of Portland's 2015 Climate Action Plan</li> <li>City of Seattle's Racial Equity Toolkit</li> </ul>
DESIGN STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS	THE CONTRIBUTING CAUSES OF DISP	ROPORTIONATE CLIMATE RISK
<ul> <li>Identify potential equity considerations / concerns in the implementation of climate solutions and adjust the solution to address those considerations</li> <li>Develop strategies to lessen the unintended consequences of climate action</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Scan strategies to ensure equity goals are not subordinate to climate goals</li> <li>Assess potential strategies to understand whether they may be catalysts for unintended consequences, such as displacement</li> <li>Include strategies that address the contributing causes of inequities, such as economic inclusion strategies for jobs, contracting, and procurement</li> <li>Assess the institutional or structural barriers to an equitable implementation of the strategies</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>City of Portland's Climate         Action Plan equity scan</li> <li>Washington DC's Water Works!         Local hire initiative</li> <li>Urban Displacement Project         (UC Berkeley)</li> </ul>

### PLAN AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

PROJECT

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

VISIONING AND

PLAN DEVELOPMENT



MONITORING AND REVIEW

This phase focuses on plan implementation and identifying and prioritizing actions that ensure lower-income communities and communities of color benefit from new projects and programs. Specific adaptation solutions for different climate hazards are discussed in Chapter 4. Strategies should also be instituted to ensure that the community participates in the plan's implementation. For example, a strategy to weatherize older homes could include a training

program and a local hire policy to ensure that economic benefits and job creation are prioritized for frontline communities. Local government agencies should also partner with trusted community service providers to implement actions. Several processes and tactics can be utilized to ensure that the plan and project implementation are focused on equitable outcomes, as shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Steps, Activities, and Resources for Plan and Project Implementation

PROCESS STEPS	SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES AND PRACTICE EXAMPLES
IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR CIMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS	OMMUNITY MEMBERS AT GREATEST	CLIMATE RISK TO BENEFIT FROM
Design program     implementation to prioritize     distribution of benefits     in neighborhoods with     populations at the greatest risk     to climate change and mitigate     any unintended consequences   DEVELOP WAYS FOR COMMUNITY MOF PROJECTS	<ul> <li>Prioritize contracts with local organizations, firms, and people of color to implement climate projects and programs</li> <li>Link education and training facilities with people of color to train them in future green jobs</li> <li>Develop community-driven financing models or partnerships with local financial institutions</li> <li>Identify trusted service providers to implement programs that increase community resilience</li> </ul> EMBERS TO BE INVOLVED IN THE IMPLE	City of Richmond's BUILD Academy Solar Richmond Evergreen Cooperative (City of Cleveland)  EMENTATION AND COMMUNICATION
Develop avenues for community members to become involved in the plan implementation process     Identify short-term actions that residents can take to build resiliency and adaptive capacity     Ensure frequent communication regarding updates on the planning process	<ul> <li>Implement a community advisory board to help guide plan and project implementation and communication of initiatives</li> <li>Collaborate with community-based organizations and resident leaders to seek funding for project implementation</li> </ul>	City of Cleveland's Climate Ambassador Program

### MONITORING AND REVIEW

PROJECT

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

VISIONING AND

PLAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND PROJECT MPLEMENTATION MONITORING AND REVIEW

In this phase, the plan's implementation is monitored and reviewed to ensure that the actions are enacted as planned and are producing the intended outcomes. A community advisory board can help to monitor the implementation of projects. Steps can also be taken to define and measure equity impacts using indicators and metrics. Data collected should be publicly accessible. Additionally, avenues for holding public agencies accountable for the implementation of actions and projects should be clearly defined. Strategies can be updated based on evaluation data and lessons learned and in concert with the community. Many steps can be taken to monitor and review the plan's implementation, as shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Steps, Activities, and Resources for Monitoring and Review

PROCESS STEPS	SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES AND PRACTICE EXAMPLES
ENSURE THAT THE PLAN IS IMPLEMAINTAIN ACCOUNTABILITY	MENTED AS DESIGNED AND THAT THE	RE ARE MECHANISMS IN PLACE TO
<ul> <li>Explore opportunities for the community to play lead roles in the monitoring and review phase</li> <li>Identify responsible departments, offices, agencies, or organizations for implementation of projects and actions</li> <li>Ensure clear avenues for recourse and accountability of project implementation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Institute a community advisory board to help monitor the implementation of projects</li> <li>Identify mechanisms for holding agencies and departments accountable</li> </ul> DRMATION SHARING BETWEEN LOCA	<ul> <li>City of Seattle's Equity &amp;         Environment Agenda</li> <li>Climate Action Through         Equity (City of Portland and         Multnomah County)</li> <li>Creating a Community Vision         (MRSC Local Government         Success)</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Use "open data" approaches         to sharing climate, project         implementation, and equity         information with community         members</li> <li>Assess impact on equity</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Define and regularly measure a series of equity-related indicators</li> <li>Develop an open data online platform to share data publicly</li> </ul>	Equity in Building Resilience in Adaptation Planning (NAACP)     Applying Social Determinants of Health Indicator Data for Advancing Health Equity (BARHII)
USE INFORMATION TO UPDATE STI	RATEGIES AND ACTIONS	
Collaborate with the community to update strategies and program implementation based on lessons learned from monitoring	<ul> <li>Ensure that lessons learned and outcomes from review and monitoring of implementation are publicly available</li> <li>Use data to inform plan updates and/or make any needed course corrections</li> </ul>	



# EQUITABLE CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLANNING SOLUTIONS

## EQUITABLE CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLANNING SOLUTIONS

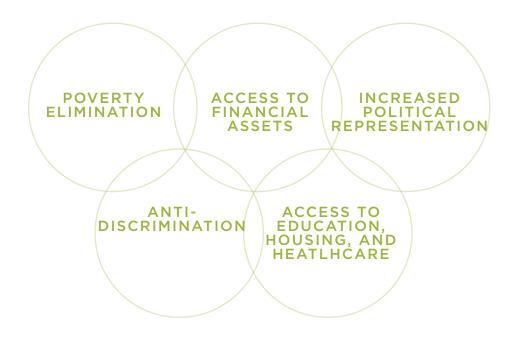
Local governments play an important role in developing public policy and implementing solutions that address community vulnerability and build climate resilience. Local jurisdictions routinely take steps to reduce people's exposure to natural hazards, ensure systems are in place to respond to emergencies, and improve assistance after a hazard event. However, these preparedness and response solutions are often not enough to address the social inequities described in Chapters 1 and 2. Equitable climate resilience necessitates consideration of the contributing causes of climate vulnerability to foster better resilience. Unequal access to education, employment, and health care services, lack of political representation, social isolation, and institutional discrimination aggravate the exposure and vulnerability of different population groups to climate hazards.

Addressing the contributing causes of social inequities enables the building of resilience to climate hazards. This requires a continuum of actions that:

- Provide actions to reduce hazard risk, e.g., early warning systems and cooling centers;
- Improve assistance after a climate hazard, e.g., creation of shelters and preparedness hubs;
- Help communities adapt to changing climate conditions, e.g., conserve and use water and energy more efficiently; and
- Focus on reducing social inequities related to poverty, discriminatory institutional practices, and political representation.

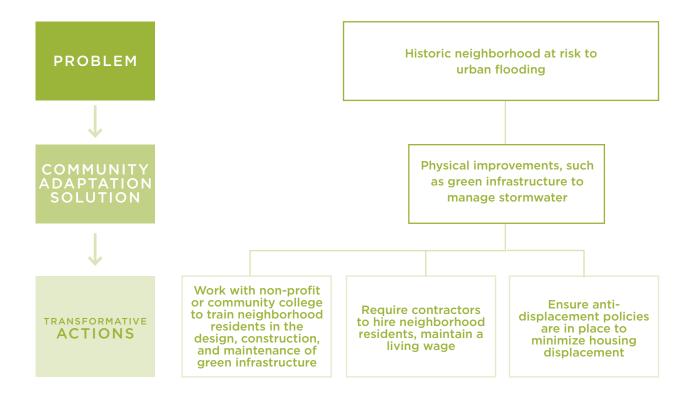
Climate planning traditionally focuses on preparedness, recovery, and adaptation. However, specific short-term measures that prepare communities and reduce hazard vulnerability will be more effective when coupled with long-term actions aimed at addressing institutional and structural inequities that are the sources of increased climate risk in frontline communities. Addressing social inequities further develops community resilience to climate change. Figure 7 illustrates a number of transformative actions that address many of the root causes of climate vulnerability.

Figure 7: Examples of Transformative Actions



Solutions designed to build community resilience through hazard preparedness and climate change adaptation, and by reducing social inequities should be pursued concurrently. These solutions often require inclusive, cross-sector, whole-government solutions to implement. For many climate planners, these policies may seem outside their purview or scope of work. Nonetheless, understanding these relationships and developing solutions with these transformative actions in mind can help produce co-benefits and address underlying root causes of inequity.

Figure 8: An Example of Community Adaptation Solutions and Transformative Actions



#### **EQUITABLE SOLUTIONS**

Equitable. Community-Driven The Climate Preparedness Planning Framework provides a structure to help define the solutions necessary to build community resilience. This chapter compiles typical adaptation strategies for different climate hazards, describes equity considerations for each, and defines specific planning solutions to address equity considerations. The section includes equitable climate resilience solutions categorized by climate hazard. This list does not include all possible climate hazards, but it does represent some of the most common hazards and impacts that many cities are addressing. These impacts include:



**EXTREME HEAT** 



**URBAN FLOODING AND COASTAL FLOODING** 



WILDFIRES AND AIR QUALITY



RISING UTILITY AND FOOD COSTS

Each climate hazard includes a brief introduction and a two-page vignette infographic depicting how climate change disproportionately impacts lower-income communities and communities of color, the contributing causes of disproportionate impacts, conventional strategies to address impacts, equity concerns, and solutions to address equity concerns. Table 8 illustrates typical adaptation strategies, equity considerations, equity solutions, and practice examples.

### **CLIMATE HAZARDS**

Extreme heat events, coastal flooding, wildfires, poor air quality days, and utility and food costs are anticipated to increase in the future due to climate change. These hazards and impacts are likely to disproportionately affect lower-income communities and communities of color. This section provides a brief summary of these climate hazards and potential equity impacts.

#### ADAPTATION EQUITY PORTAL

The Equity Adaptation Portal, developed by the Georgetown Climate Center, organizes and showcases resources aimed at addressing climate adaptation using a social justice and equity lens. Resources also highlight case a number of case examples from cities.



### **EXTREME HEAT**

Extreme heat days and heat waves are becoming more frequent, more intensive, and longer lasting than in the past. Extreme heat can directly

impact human health, deaths, and illnesses, while also impacting communities indirectly through energy disruption, spikes in energy prices, and subsequent inability of lower-income populations to afford basic services. Certain populations such as older adults, young children and infants, pregnant women, and people with chronic illnesses are more susceptible to warmer temperatures and heat-related illnesses. For example, older adults may be at higher risk due to reduced ability to acclimatize to changing temperatures, diminished thirst response, and a higher likelihood of chronic health conditions.<sup>48</sup>

Lower-income communities and communities of color are also more susceptible to the effects of extreme heat due to existing social inequities. Lower-income areas and communities of color are more likely to live in urban areas lacking sufficient park

space or tree canopy coverage<sup>49 50</sup> and are, therefore, more prone to suffer from urban heat island effect, which increases the magnitude of extreme heat events. 51 52 Additionally, lower-income populations may not be able to afford to purchase and/or operate air conditioning within their homes. Lower-income populations are also more likely to live in substandard housing that may provide little protection during heat emergencies and in neighborhoods where residents may not feel safe leaving their windows or doors open during the day or night. Undocumented immigrants and other marginalized populations may also not feel comfortable accessing cooling centers if they are not operated by trusted community partners. Linguistically-isolated households and older adults living alone may have fewer social interactions and connections that put them at greater danger from extreme heat events.53 Altogether, stark social inequities highlight increased risks from heat waves.



### URBAN AND COASTAL FLOODING

Climate change can increase coastal flooding as sea level rises and affect the intensity, frequency, and duration of precipitation, such as heavier rainstorms. The potential impacts from flooding include injuries, drownings, and other flood-related health effects. In addition, stormwater runoff from periods of intense rainfall can impair water quality as pollutants from the land wash into water bodies.54 Many low-lying flood-prone urban areas tend to correlate with lowerincome areas. Lower-income households also have fewer resources to prepare for and recover from such disasters.<sup>55</sup> Additionally, lower-income families are also more likely to reside in substandard housing, which increases the risk of mold, mildew, and poor indoor air quality, which can occur from intense rain and flooding events.



### WILDFIRE AND AIR QUALITY

Lower-income communities and communities of color often live in areas with higher concentrations of poor air quality. 56 57 58 Climate change can diminish air quality in a number of ways. Atmospheric warming has the potential to increase the concentration of certain types of pollutants that can impact human health, like ground-level ozone. 59 A warming climate and drier weather patterns can also increase the frequency of wildfires and the length of the fire season, which can have direct impacts on worsening regional air quality. 60 Rising temperatures are also expected to increase the concentration of aeroallergens, such as pollen, which can intensify the severity and prevalence of allergic and respiratory diseases. 61



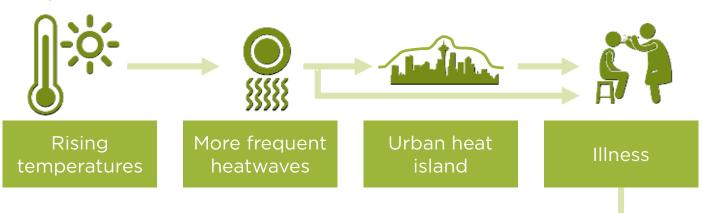
### RISING UTILITY AND FOOD COSTS

The pricing of utilities and food is complex, but climate is one of many factors affecting the price of goods and basic services. Many power generation facilities are vulnerable to climate change, and the cost of supplying water to residential users is also expected to increase under climate change. For example, changes in the amount and frequency of precipitation may affect hydropower production.<sup>62</sup> Likewise, changes in weather patterns may impact growing conditions and yields for crops.<sup>63</sup> These impacts may raise the price of basic goods and services, increasing stress on lower-income communities. Lower-income households have less money to spend on these essential goods and services, and spend a greater proportion of their income on food and utilities.



### **EXTREME HEAT & EQUITY**

Climate change affects everyone, but certain populations are at greater risk to climate impacts. Institutional and structural inequities, such as poverty and racial segregation, are the contributing causes of disproportionate climate risks. This vignette describes inequities in climate impacts from extreme heat and possible equitable climate resilience solutions.



### **RISK FACTORS**



Lack of green spaces and tree cover and poor housing quality



Lack of air conditioning



Limited English proficiency



Social isolation



Older adults, children, and people in poor health or with chronic diseases

- · Racial segregation
- Chronic poverty
- Lack of access to affordable health care
- Income and wealth inequality
- Gaps in educational opportunities and attainment
- · Decreased social cohesion



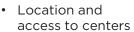




Plant trees

## EQUILY ONSIDERATION

 May be difficult to reach residents most vulnerable to climate hazards, such as individuals with limited English proficiency or older adults living alone



 Trusted places for residents to congregate



 Gentrification and displacement due to increased property values



### Provide warnings in multiple languages Work with local

- Work with local community groups to disseminate warnings to residents most at risk
- Develop an "adopt a neighbor" campaign



- Locate centers in neighborhoods with the residents most at risk
- Select locations that are trusted places and are run by trusted service providers
- Offer transportation assistance in specific neighborhoods or to residents with limited mobility or transportation access

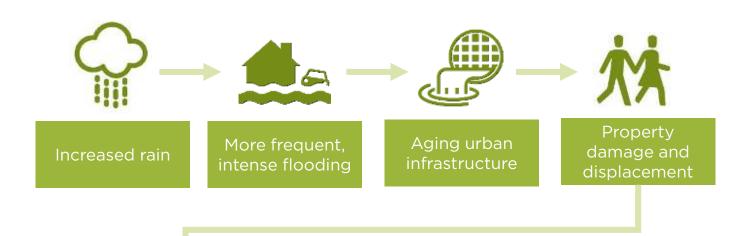


 Institute rent control and justcause eviction laws and other strategies to maintain housing affordability

## EQUITABLE CLIMATE RESILIENCE SOLUTIONS

## URBAN & COASTAL FLOODING & EQUITY

Climate change affects everyone, but certain populations are at greater risk to climate impacts. Institutional and structural mechanisms, such as poverty and racial segregation, are the contributing causes of disproportionate climate risks. This vignette describes inequities in climate impacts from urban flooding and possible equitable climate resilience solutions.



### **RISK FACTORS**



Development in low lying flood prone areas



Aging infrastructure or lack of infrastructure

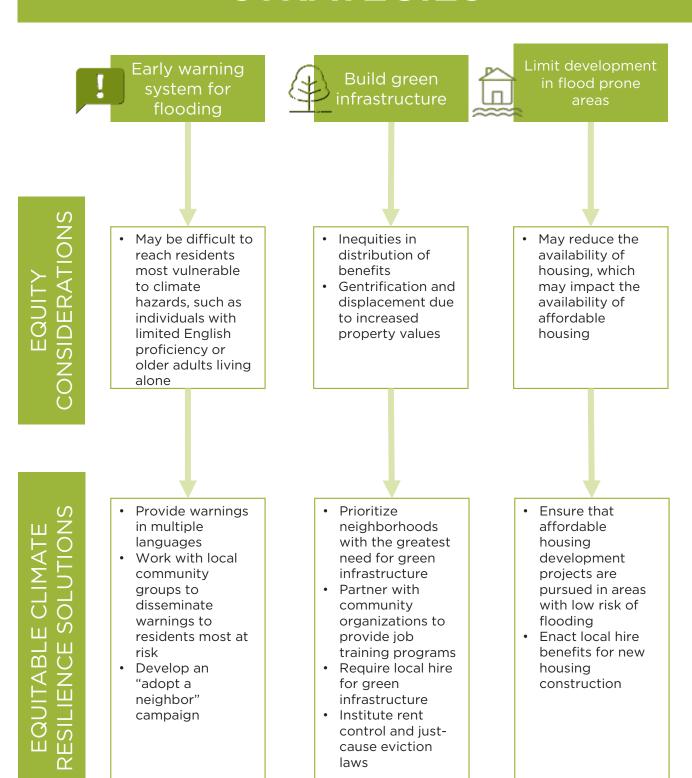


Lack of green spaces and vegetation



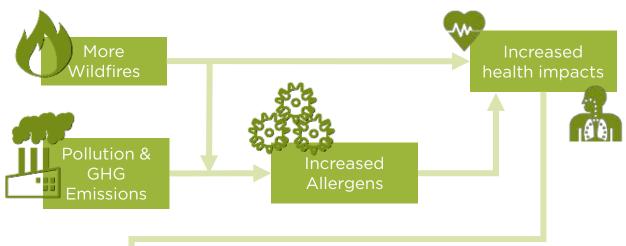
Increased impermeable surfaces

- Racial segregation
- Poverty
- Income and wealth inequality
- Decreased social cohesion



## WILDFIRE & AIR QUALITY & EQUITY

Climate change affects everyone, but certain populations are at greater risk to climate impacts. Institutional and structural mechanisms, such as poverty and racial segregation, are the contributing causes of disproportionate climate risks. This vignette describes inequities in climate impacts from wildfires and air quality possible equitable climate resilience solutions.



### **RISK FACTORS**



Existing medical conditions



Infants and children



Lower-income families and communities of color live in areas with higher air pollution

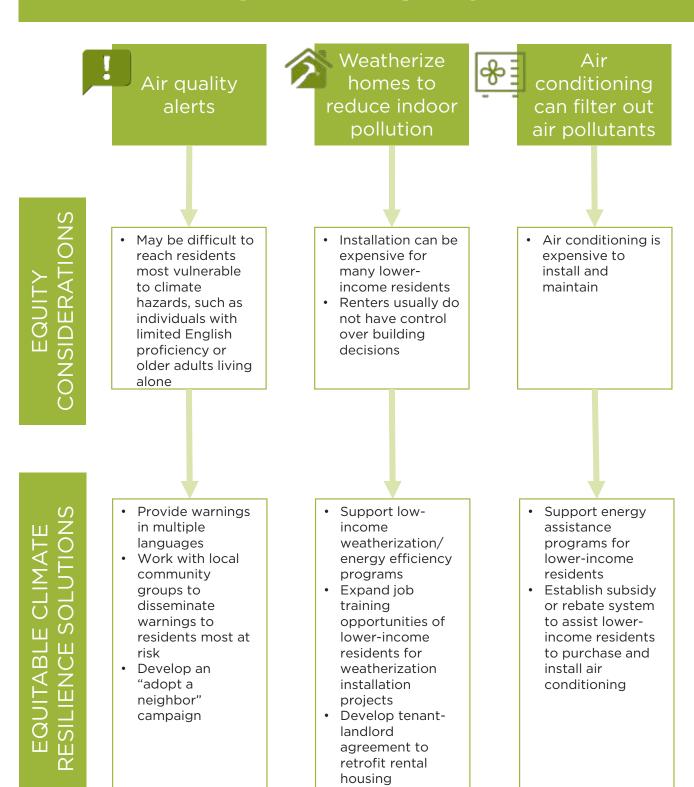


Lack of green spaces and vegetation



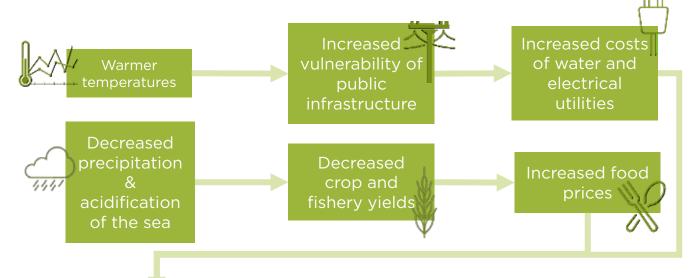
Outdoor workers

- · Lack of healthcare insurance
- Racial segregation
- Environmental and social injustices:
   Pattern and history of land uses
   that concentrated pollution sources
   within lower-income communities
   of color
- Political disenfranchisement and exclusion
- · Income and wealth inequality
- Decreased social cohesion



## RISING UTILITY & FOOD COSTS & EQUITY

Climate change affects everyone, but certain populations are at greater risk to climate impacts. Institutional and structural mechanisms, such as poverty and racial segregation, are the contributing causes of disproportionate climate risks. This vignette describes inequities in climate impacts from rising utility and food costs possible equitable climate resilience solutions.







Lack of local food production



Infants and children



Food deserts

- Poverty
- · Income and wealth inequality
- · Racial segregation



## ONSIDERATIONS

 Installation may be cost prohibitive

- Renters usually do not have control over building decisions
- Inequities in distribution of benefits

Develop and support a local food system



Install grey water reuse systems

- Healthier foods are generally more expensive and cost prohibitive for many lowerincome residents
- Initial installation is cost prohibitive
- Renters usually do not have control over building decisions

## EQUITABLE CLIMATE ESILIENCE SOLUTIONS

- Develop tenantlandlord agreement to retrofit rental housing
- Establish a program to assist lower-income households to install efficiency appliances and fixtures
- Establish the use of SNAP and WIC benefits at community farmers markets
- Reduce legal and zoning restrictions for local food production
- Allow for the repurposing of vacant properties for urban farms
- Expand job training in local food production and support living wages

- Establish subsidy or rebate system to assist lowerincome residents to purchase and install grey water reuse systems
- Develop tenantlandlord agreement to retrofit rental housing

### **EQUITABLE ADAPTATION SOLUTIONS**

The following sections provide more concrete strategies and examples of how to include equity considerations in preparedness and adaptation strategies. Participation and engagement of the community is central to many of the equity strategies discussed. To the extent possible, this chapter also describes ways to address the contributing causes of social and racial inequities through climate preparedness and adaptation strategies. However, this document does not outline the universe of policies to address the underlying causes of inequity. Addressing the root causes of disproportionate climate risk in frontline communities will require a longer-term commitment to whole-government approaches and strategies to normalize and operationalize racial equity in local governments. These strategies were discussed in Chapters 2 and 3.

The following section highlights typical adaptation strategies, equity considerations, and equity solutions by climate hazards and is not intended to be prescriptive about strategies or solutions; rather, it aims to highlight opportunities to increase equity considerations in resilience planning. Ultimately, solutions should be co-defined and prioritized with community stakeholders and be responsive to local context.



Table 8: Equitable Adaptation Considerations and Strategies

CLIMATE HAZARD	TYPICAL ADAPTATION STRATEGY	EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS	EQUITABLE CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLANNING SOLUTIONS	EXAMPLES
		Work with community residents and groups to determine appropriate and culturally-relevant communication strategies to reach populations at greatest risk.	City of Baltimore Make a Kit, Build a Plan, Help Each Other	
		Lower-income communities and communities	Provide materials in multiple commonly spoken languages.	Oakland Community Climate Action Guide
Extreme Heat,	Develop climate	of color may be least prepared for the potential impacts of climate hazards. Resources should be prioritized for these population groups, provided in	Establish neighborhood outreach program to disseminate information and kits to populations at greatest risk from climate hazards.	City of Boulder Mobile Resilience Lab
Urban and Coastal Flood, Wildfire and Air Quality	preparedness planning and kits.	multiple languages, and designed to communicate effectively to all groups. Innovative outreach and communication should be utilized to reach socially isolated or hard-to-reach populations. Events could be hosted throughout the community to ensure information-sharing and outreach.	Host community preparedness events, like PreparAthons, to help residents prepare for climate hazards and other disasters, focusing on identifying and addressing obstacles to lower-income community to ensure	City of Toronto Tower Renewal Program
			Build relationships with community-based organizations to improve trust and communication between local agencies and frontline communities, which may experience distrust of government authorities.	City of Seattle Equity & Environment Initiative  Washington, DC Equity Advisory Committee
		enters, and/ reliable transportation to centers or shelters if they	Work with community residents and groups to determine suitable locations for centers or shelters and best strategies for outreach. Select locations that are trusted places and are run by trusted service providers.	City of Baltimore Resiliency Hubs
			Locate centers in neighborhoods most likely impacted by climate hazards.	Empowered Communities Program's Neighborhood HUB (San Francisco)
Extreme Heat, Urban and Coastal Flood, Wildfire and	hubs, cooling centers, and/		Provide free public transportation and transportation assistance to centers and shelters.	City of Baltimore Senior Transportation Assistance Program
Air Quality	shelters	located in trusted or safe locations or operated	Create an online emergency preparedness hub.	SF72 (San Francisco)
	by trusted service providers, and therefore their utilization will be limited.	Establish neighborhood outreach program to disseminate information on locations of centers and shelters to and check in on populations at greatest risk from climate hazards, such as older adults that live alone or linguistically isolated households.		
			Train and pay young adults to serve as outreach workers. Workers can also help to coordinate transportation to centers if needed.	

CLIMATE HAZARD	TYPICAL ADAPTATION STRATEGY	EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS	EQUITABLE CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLANNING SOLUTIONS	EXAMPLES
			Work with community residents and groups to determine appropriate and culturally-relevant communication strategies to reach populations at greatest risk.	
			Provide warnings in multiple common languages spoken.	
Extreme Heat,	Develop early	A warning system that is not in multiple languages or is unable to reach populations at greatest risk of	Provide warnings through multiple culturally accessible media, such as culturally-relevant TV and radio stations. Also provide alerts via SMS, text, and	City of Cleveland CodeRED alert system
Urban and Coastal Flood, Wildfire and Air Quality	warning systems for climate hazards	experiencing climate-related impacts can lead to increases in inequities. Warning systems must be designed to communicate effectively to all groups, especially populations particularly vulnerable to extreme heat, air pollution, and flooding.	Establish neighborhood outreach program to disseminate information to and check in on populations at greatest risk from climate hazards, such as older adults that live alone or linguistically isolated households. Train and pay young adults to serve as outreach workers.	
			Utilize a neighborhood emergency response teams to communicate with residents and respond to emergency events within their communities.	City of Berkeley Community Emergency Response Teams
			Provide outreach and information to outdoor workers, such as construction workers or gardeners, during extreme heat events and poor air quality days.	
	Markhavira harra	Initial weatherization and installation of energy efficient appliance and fixtures can be expensive	Provide targeted outreach regarding the Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons. Establish subsidy or rebate system to assist lower-income residents to afford installation of HEPA filters.	City of San Francisco PACE program
Extreme Heat, Wildfire and Air Quality, Rising Food and Energy Costs	Weatherize homes to keep them cooler, more energy efficient.	and cost prohibitive for many lower-income residents. Higher-efficiency homes and air filtration system can reduce exposures to ambient air pollution, but initial installation can be expensive	Support weatherization/ energy efficiency programs and programs to assist residents to pay for electricity, such as subsidies or loan programs.	
	and to improve indoor air quality.	and cost prohibitive for many lower-income residents. Renters also may not have control over building decisions.	Establish a subsidy or rebate system to assist lower-income residents in purchasing and installing energy/water efficiency appliances and fixtures.	City of Seattle Free Toilet Programs for Income- Qualified Customers
			Design model tenant - landlord agreements so that all parties can equitably share in the costs and benefits of efficiency programs.	Green Leasing Program

CLIMATE HAZARD	TYPICAL ADAPTATION STRATEGY	EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS	EQUITABLE CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLANNING SOLUTIONS	EXAMPLES
	Ensure that utilities, such	Support weatherization/ energy efficiency programs and programs to assist residents to pay for electricity.	Baltimore B'More Green Home Performance/ weatherization training	
011	as water and electricity, are	Lower-income residents unable to afford electricity or water are also the most vulnerable to extreme	Work with local community organizations/ groups on monitoring efficacy and implementation of program.	
Extreme Heat, Rising Food and Energy Costs	not shut off for nonpayment during an	heat events. Targeted programs can ensure that essential and lifesaving utilities are not shut off during extreme heat events.	Expand job training of lower-income residents in jobs generated by home weatherization programs. Support living wage and benefits.	Exploring the Green Infrastructure Workforce (Jobs for the Future)
	emergency, like an extreme heat event.		Provide focused outreach to communities most likely to be impacted by climate change on how to apply for government assistance to help residents pay for the costs of cooling or weatherizing their homes	Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
Ո·Ճ▲	Promote air	ditioning income residents and families may not be able to omes and afford to purchase and install air conditioning or	Work with community residents and groups to identify populations without air conditioning that are at greatest risk of climate-related impacts. Prioritize older adult residents or residents with preexisting medical conditions and disabilities.	
Extreme Heat, Wildfire and Air	conditioning in homes and businesses during		Support weatherization/ energy efficiency programs and programs to assist residents to pay for electricity.	Washington, DC Weatherization Assistance Program
Quality	extreme heat events and poor air quality days.	Populations, such as older adults and people with chronic diseases and disabilities, are at increased health risks from exposures to extreme heat and air pollution.	Provide focused outreach to communities most likely impacted by climate change on how to apply for government assistance to help residents pay for the costs of cooling or weatherizing their homes.	Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
			Establish a subsidy or rebate system to assist lower-income residents in purchasing and installing air conditioning.	
			Enforce existing worker protection laws, especially for workers at greatest risk of heat impacts.	Fair Work Center
Extreme Heat	Ensure that businesses and workers are aware	Many outdoor workers (e.g., gardeners, landscapers, construction workers, etc.) may be more difficult to reach and may not know	Work with worker-rights advocates and organizers to determine best methods of outreach and communication to outdoor workers.	
	of and implement protections for outdoor workers.	their rights as workers. In many cases, worker protections are often not extended to them, and many may be fearful of engaging with government, requesting assistance, or reporting violations when	Conduct culturally-relevant outreach to outdoor workers in multiple languages on their rights and ways to protect themselves from heat impacts.	
		they occur.	Work with employers to ensure that they are aware of the rights of employees and appropriate protection measures.	City of Seattle Paid Sick and Safe Time Ordinance

CLIMATE HAZARD	TYPICAL ADAPTATION STRATEGY	EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS	EQUITABLE CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLANNING SOLUTIONS	EXAMPLES
Extreme Heat and Urban and Coastal Flooding			Work with community residents and groups to identify areas of greatest need for trees, green spaces, and/or green infrastructure.	Baltimore Growing Green Initiative and Adopt-a- Lot program
			Prioritize areas with the greatest need for tree planting and other greening or green infrastructure programs.	New York City Stormwater Management Through Placemaking
	Install green infrastructure, trees, and parks to promote infiltration of water, reduce stormwater runoff flooding, and cool urban	Many park-poor, tree-poor neighborhoods, and areas prone to flooding within a city often correlate strongly with lower-income communities and communities of color. A strategy to increase green spaces, green infrastructure, and trees without a focus on identifying and prioritizing these areas for greening runs the risk of further exacerbating inequities. Additionally, any neighborhood improvements and investments can lead to or	Ensure local policies and ordinances protect affordable rentals and ability of existing residents to remain in their homes.	Neighborhood stabilization polices, such as just cause eviction ordinances and rent control  City of Seattle's Housing Affordability and Livability
	environments.	increase the rate of neighborhood gentrification and displacement of existing residents and businesses.		Washington, DC First
			green infrastructure implementation. Support living wages and benefits.	Source Employment Program
			Train and pay youth and/or young adults to install green infrastructure and plant trees and other plants as part of workforce development jobs program.	City of San Francisco Green Trees Program
			Provide incentives for on-site capture of rain water on private properties.	City of Santa Monica Rain Barrel and Cistern Rebate Program
			Work with community residents and groups to identify area of greatest risk of urban heat island effect and	Washington, DC Cool Roofs Program
0.14		The location of urban heat islands strongly	target resources in these areas.	Harlem Heat Project
Extreme Heat	Install cool pavement and	pavement and communities of color. A strategy to increase cool pavement and pavement and/or cool roofs without a focus on	Prioritize areas with the greatest need for installation of cool pavement.	Depave organization
	cool or green roofs to help cool urban environments.	identifying and prioritizing these areas at greatest risk for urban heat island effect may further exacerbate inequities. Installing cool roofs and	Establish a monitoring system to ensure that infrastructure, such as cool roofs, prioritizes lower-income areas and communities of color.	
		pavement is expensive initially.	Establish a subsidy or loan program to incentivize and assist lower-income residents to install cool or green roofs.	

CLIMATE HAZARD	TYPICAL ADAPTATION STRATEGY	EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS	EQUITABLE CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLANNING SOLUTIONS	EXAMPLES
4.		ment and and communities of color. Limiting or prohibiting new development in these areas may reduce the	Ensure that lower-income, mixed-income, and affordable housing development projects are pursued in areas at low risk of climate hazards.	
Urban and Coastal Flooding, Wildfire and Air Quality	Limit or prohibit new development and redevelopment in		Develop and require mitigations that address climate hazard risk in proposed developments within high-risk areas.	
	flood prone areas.		Enact local hire benefits for new housing construction projects from communities at greatest risk of climate impacts (lower-income communities and communities of color). Support living wage and benefits.	
		3 1	Ensure that lower-income, mixed-income, and affordable housing development projects are pursued in other locations within the city.	
<b>_</b>			Prioritize wetland areas within lower-income communities or communities of color for wetland preservation and restoration projects.	
Urban and Coastal Flooding	Preserve or restore wetland areas.		Enact local hire benefits for new housing construction projects from communities at greatest risk of climate impacts (lower-income communities and communities of color). Support living wage and benefits.	
			Develop and/or expand training and placement of lower-income residents and residents of color in jobs generated by wetland preservation and restoration programs.	
Urban and Coastal Flooding		Raising structures is cost-prohibitive and can	Conduct vulnerability assessment and work with community groups and residents to identify areas prone to flooding.	Washington, DC Climate Adaptation Planning - Vulnerability and Risk Assessment
	Raise structures above flood level.	also disrupt the interaction between building and streets, potentially limiting social interaction and social cohesion.	Prioritize lower-income housing and developments for programs to raise existing structures above flood level.	
	social cohesion.	Establish a monitoring system to ensure that program is prioritizing lower-income areas and communities of color.	City of New Orleans PACE program	

CLIMATE HAZARD	TYPICAL ADAPTATION STRATEGY	EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS	EQUITABLE CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLANNING SOLUTIONS	EXAMPLES
			Conduct vulnerability assessment and work with community groups and residents to identify areas prone to flooding and in need of sewer and stormwater improvements.	RainReady Program (Center for Neighborhood Technology)
Urban and Coastal Flooding	Stormwater and sewer infrastructure improvements.	Initiatives may prioritize wealthier neighborhoods and inadvertently exacerbate inequities in climate impacts.	Prioritize lower-income communities and communities of color at greatest risk of flooding impacts for stormwater and sewer infrastructure improvement projects.	
			Establish a monitoring system to ensure that improvements prioritize communities most likely to be impacted by climate change.	
<b>d</b> a	Build coastal protection measures, such as	Initiatives to build coastal protection measures may prioritize wealthier neighborhoods and inadvertently exacerbate inequities in climate impacts.	Conduct vulnerability assessment and work with community groups and residents to identify areas prone to coastal flooding and in need of infrastructure improvements.	Washington, DC Climate Adaptation Planning – Vulnerability and Risk Assessment
Urban and Coastal Flooding	seawalls, levees, ind		Prioritize communities most likely to be impacted by climate change for infrastructure projects.	
	etc. where appropriate.	impacts.	Establish a monitoring system to ensure that improvements prioritize communities most likely to be impacted by climate change.	
A		and renters to pay for repairs and/or relocate in the event of a flood or wildfire disaster. Home and flood insurance premiums are expensive and cost	Establish a program or a system to subsidize insurance for lower-income households to both renters and homeowners.	City of Cleveland Rain Barrel Program
Urban and Coastal Flooding	Promote home			Washington, DC Rain Barrel Rebate Program
Wildfire and Air Quality	insurance.	prohibitive for lower-income households. Repairs to homes and rental properties after a fire, storm, or flooding event be cost prohibitive, and households may be at risk of displacement if repairs are not completed.	Decrease the direct economic losses caused by disasters by providing financial assistance to help homeowners and rental pay for repairs and damages from fires, storms, or flooding events, with a focus on protecting lower-income populations.	
Rising Utility and Food Costs	Install water catchment and	consumption and utility hills and conserve water	Establish a subsidy or rebate system to assist lower-income residents in purchasing and installing water reuse systems.	
	0 3		Expand job training of lower-income residents in jobs generated by home installation programs. Support living wage and benefits.	_

CLIMATE HAZARD	TYPICAL ADAPTATION STRATEGY	EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS	EQUITABLE CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLANNING SOLUTIONS	EXAMPLES
			Support the creation of food hubs, which facilitate the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and/ or marketing of locally or regionally produced food products.	Sustainable DC Plan (Action 3.2: Create a Local Food Hub for consolidation and distribution for local produce)
			Establish the use of SNAP or WIC benefits at community farmers' markets.	
		Growing food locally can help to reduce food costs and stimulate local economic development. These strategies also have climate mitigation co-benefits		City of Cleveland Urban Agriculture Policies
Rising Utility and Food Costs	Develop and support a local food system.	by reducing food miles and increasing green spaces. Supporting a local food system can also improve nutrition and access to healthy fruits and vegetables, and help to address limited availability		Washington, DC Farmers Markets and the DC Farmers Market Collaborative
		of healthy foods in communities most likely impacted by climate change (i.e. food deserts).		Relmagining Cleveland
		generated by lo Support living v  Enable wholesa government ins agencies, univer Support policie	Expand job training of lower-income residents in jobs generated by local food production and agriculture. Support living wage and benefits.	City of Seattle \$15 Minimum Wage Green City Growers (Cleveland, OH)
			Enable wholesale local food purchasing programs with government institutions, such as schools, hospitals, agencies, universities, etc.	
			Support policies and initiatives that increase the percentage of food needs sourced locally or regionally.	Washington, DC Healthy Schools Fund
Rising Utility and Food Costs	Support local	Local energy production can enable residents,	Create an Energy Investment District (EID), which is a designated geographic area eligible for financing and other supports that enable residents to plan and implement community-scale, energy efficiency, and renewable energy projects.	Better Buildings: Clean Energy for Low Income Communities (US Department of Energy)
	clean energy production and increased local control over energy choices.	particularly those communities most likely to be impacted by climate change, to develop renewable energy generation and energy efficient programs that can reduce energy costs and support local economic development.	Coordinate a bulk purchasing program to aggregate the buying power of multiple participants to negotiate the price of solar panels, energy efficiency upgrades, renewable energy, or hiring practices.	Cuyahoga County Solar Co-Op Program
		economic aevelopment.	Establish a Community Choice Energy or Community Choice Aggregation program to purchase electricity from suppliers of renewable energy or produce their own.	Washington DC Energy Choice DC



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- <sup>41</sup>Community-based participatory research is a "collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. CBPR begins with a research topic of importance to the community, has the aim of combining knowledge with action and achieving social change,"
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