Climate Equity and Community Driven Planning

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ABOUT US

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 100+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. Our Members and team of experts work together through peer exchange, partnerships and capacity building to create systemic change for urban sustainability.

Equity and Climate Justice

Climate Change Vulnerabilities

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

Historical and Current Inequities

- **Genocide** and **segregation** of indigenous peoples onto resource-poor reservations

- **Redlining** and racial covenants preventing black families from moving into certain neighborhoods or cities

- Refusal of Federal Housing Loan program to back mortgages to black families and **inability to build generational wealth**

- **Construction of highways** or toxic industrial plants thru/within communities of color

- **Environmental pollution** from hazardous waste sites

- Educational institutions prioritizing white wealthy families

- **Gentrification** and **displacement** of low income/people of color

Equality   Equity
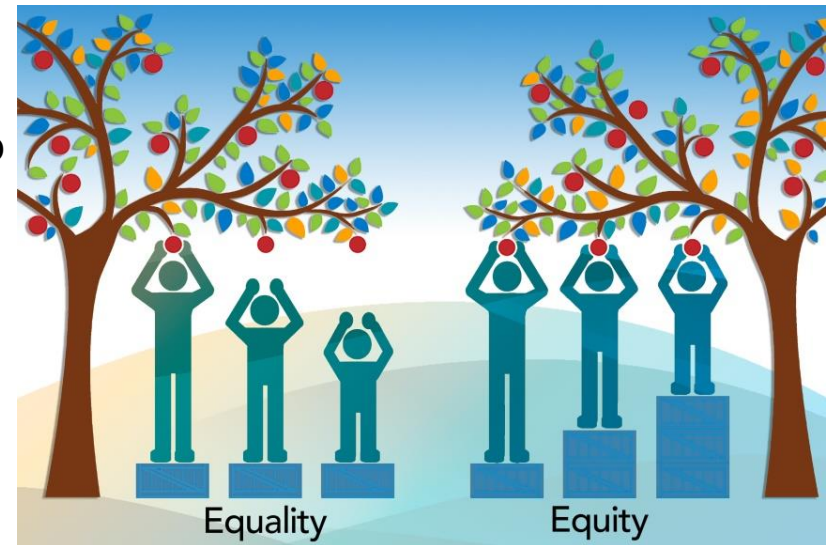
Equity Objectives

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

• Distribute resources, benefits, and burdens **by the need of community**

• **Prioritize resources** for communities that experience the **greatest inequities, disproportionate impact**s, 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

Community Driven Planning

Community-Driven Climate Resilience Planning

- Builds leadership outside of local government agencies

- Increases collaboration and capacity

- Advances a multi-sectoral approach for more holistic and effective solutions

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Local
Governments
for Sustainability

NACRP
National Association of
Climate Resilience Planners

MOVEMENT
STRATEGY
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Traditional vs Community Driven Planning

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Traditional Top Down Planning	Community Driven Planning
Community engagement is **reactionary, equity may not be included**	Community engagement and equity is **centered** and done **throughout** process
Engagement used to **inform** the public about decisions made	Engagement is a way to **make decisions together**
Engagement strategies made to **comply** with law	Engagement strategies seen as method for **collaboration**
Value **technical expertise** above lived experience	Technical expertise and lived experience are **equally important**
Public processes confined to **strict timelines** and **tight budgets**	**Expansive timeline** for community engagement, ideally with **budget for community stipends and support**
Lack of trust from community members	Way to **develop trust** with community
Agency left to **implement by themselves**	Agency and community **implements together**
Power and ownership in **agency**	**Collective power and ownership**

Engine of Climate Resilience Planning

Community-Driven Planning
- Vision
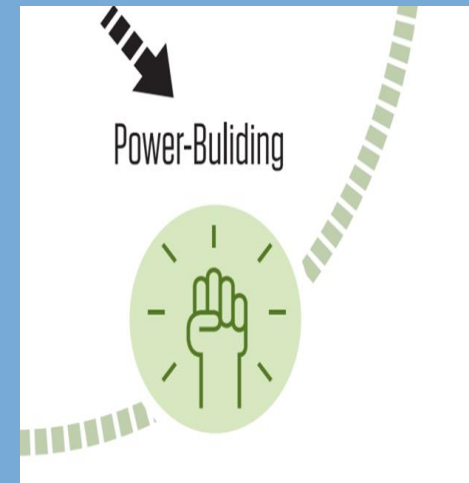- Solutions Development
- Power-Building

Visioning

- Define the goal
- Make sure it's community-derived
- Inspire social cohesion
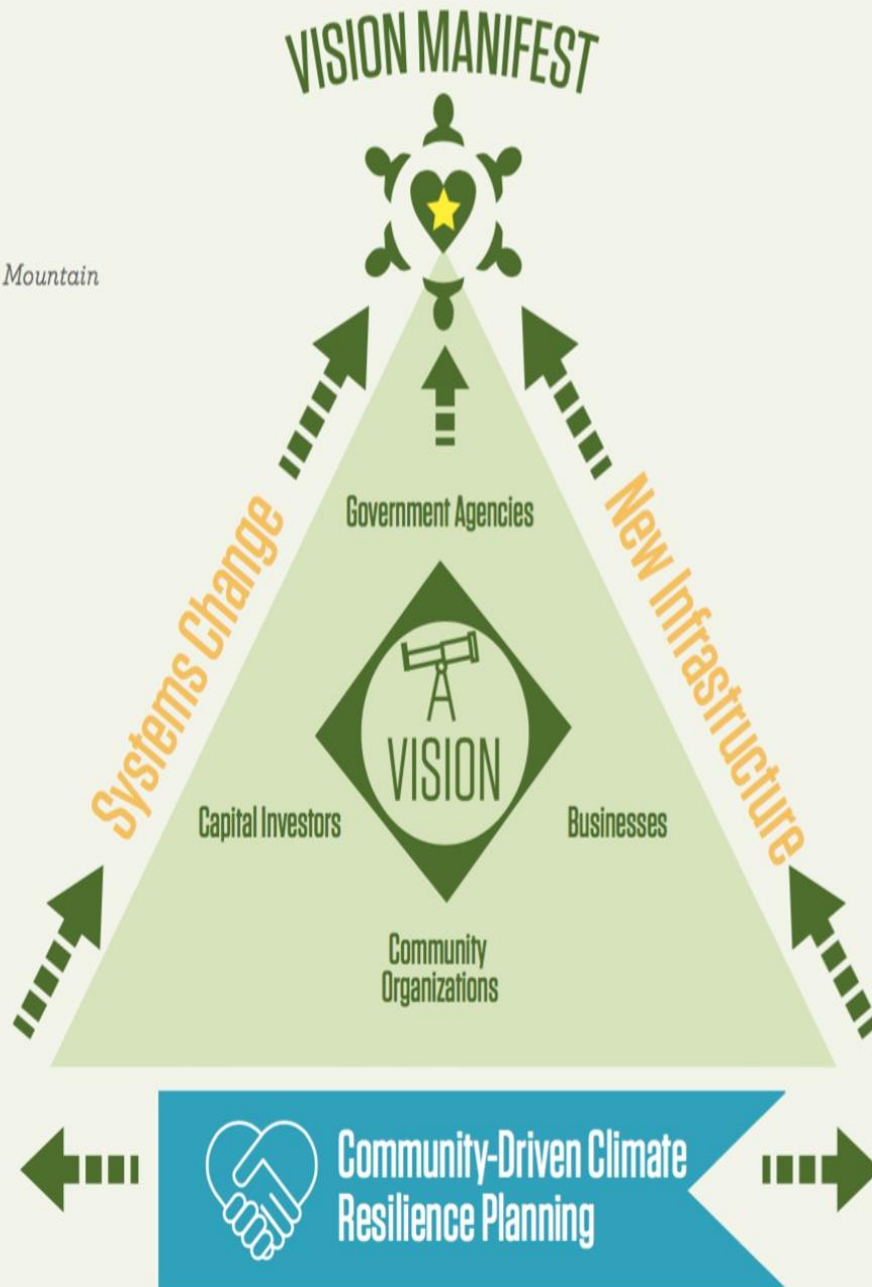- Motivate engagement for the work ahead

Vision
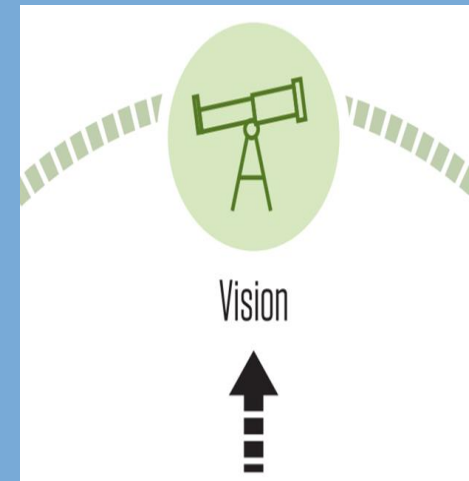
- Invests in both people and systems

- Builds cross-sector coalitions

- Increases self-governance

- Increases democratic engagement capacity

- Builds strategies and connection across all levels of governance and stakeholders (residents to decision-makers)

Power Building

Power-Buliding

GRAPHIC 3.1
Two Paths Up The Mountain

VISION MANIFEST

Systems Change

New Infrastructure

Government Agencies

VISION

Capital Investors

Businesses

Community Organizations

Community-Driven Climate Resilience Planning

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Local Governments for Sustainability

Solutions Development

Solutions Development

Five Principles

1. Whole Systems Thinking

2. Desired Outcomes Reflected in Every Step

3. Planning Process as a Learning Process

4. Planning into Action

5. Balancing Power Dynamics among Stakeholders

Seven Components of Community-Driven Planning

Case Study: Fresno Strategic Growth Council Funding

$70 million from cap-and-trade funding in Transforming Climate Communities (TCC) Program

Projects proposed by residents and business owners through community meetings **that put the power to decide how to spend $70 million in their hands**.

• All proposed projects distilled into five packages that were presented before a steering committee of the residents and business owners to vote.

• Steering committee overwhelmingly selected a package that included West Fresno Satellite Campus for Fresno City College, community gardens, low carbon transportation improvements, affordable housing, urban greening, and local economic development.

Successfully funded by TCC in 2017

Tools to Use

Questions to Ask

To ensure all members of community can participate in meetings:

❑Translation (other languages beyond Spanish?)

❑Childcare

❑Food

❑Culturally relevant approach

❑Transportation to and from meeting site

❑Combined with other community gatherings

❑Variety of times for engagement

❑Follow up response mechanism

Have you provided this support for past events?

What barriers are there to providing this support if not?

Partouring Agreement

Sample Partnering Agreement
WOEIP, OCAC

Based on the **Oakland Resilient Neighborhoods Partnership** agreement drafted by the Adaptation Subcommittee of Oakland Climate Action Coalition, this sample agreement can serve as a template for clear, respectful, and effective collaborations between community organizations, agencies, or other institutions. The RCI will continue to peer review and finalize this template.

I. Background

Neighborhood resilience to climate change includes not only adequate response to temporary disaster, but also the maintenance of the social fabric, access to food, energy and resources, healthy homes and an understanding of the long-term effects that will be brought about by rising temperatures and rising tides.

In 2010, the Oakland Climate Action Coalition (OCAC) assembled to begin addressing the need to reduce greenhouse gases by developing the City's first Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP). Adopted by the city as guidance toward reducing municipal carbon emissions, the ECAP was the first nascent collaboration between the City and residents to address climate. In 2013, the OCAC and the City jointly applied for funding from the Rockefeller Foundation to create Oakland's first Chief Resilience Officer; a Director level position tasked with drafting the Oakland Climate Resilience Plan. This partnership is intended to foster a collaborative process through which neighborhood leaders, OCAC member groups and Oakland municipal government will craft an equitable resilience plan for the city.

II. The Oakland Resilient Neighborhoods Partnership (ORNP)

The ORNP functions to engage a broad range of individuals, organizations and government agencies and bring to bear respective resources to address the equity, environmental and community health issues affecting Oakland in the face of short and long-term climate change. The ORNP includes representatives of the community (e.g. residents), community-based organizations or groups, faith based groups, neighborhood associations, school/academia based groups, non-profit environmental organizations, labor, youth, local agencies, state agencies, federal agencies, and business/industry. Members are referred to as "Partners". The Partnership will be coordinated by Co-Leads: the Oakland Chief Resilience Officer serves as the municipal lead for the collaborative effort and the OCAC Resilience and Adaptation Committee Chairperson serves as the local community lead.

III. Goal statement

Write MOU for what's expected from stakeholder participation

• Ensures no one's being taken advantage of in terms of time/resources

• Ensures co-design

• Ensures no misaligned expectations

Resilient Communities Initiative: Partnering Agreement

Spectrum of Community Engagement

Stance towards community	0 IGNORE	1 INFORM	2 CONSULT	3 INVOLVE	4 COLLABORATE	5 DEFER TO
Impact	*Marginalization*	*Placation*	*Tokenization*	*Voice*	*Delegated Power*	*Community Ownership*
Community Engagement Goals	Deny access to decision-making processes	Provide the community with relevant information	Gather input from the community	Ensure community needs and assets are integrated into process and inform planning	Ensure community capacity to play a leadership role in implementation of decisions	Foster democratic participation and equity by placing full decision-making in the hands of the community; bridge divide between community and governance
Message to Community	*"Your voice, needs, and interests do not matter"*	*"We will keep you informed"*	*"We care what you think"*	*"You are making us think (and therefore act) differently about the issue"*	*"Your leadership and expertise are critical to how we address the issue"*	*"It's time to unlock collective power and capacity for transformative solutions"*
Activities	Closed-Door Meetings Misinformation Systematic Disenfranchisement Voter Suppression	Fact Sheets Open Houses Presentations Billboards Videos	Public Comment Focus Groups Community Forums Surveys	Community Organizing & Advocacy House Meetings Interactive Workshops Polling Community Forums	MOUs with Community-Based Organizations Community Organizing Citizen Advisory Committees Open Planning Forums with Citizen Polling	Community-Driven Planning Consensus Building Participatory Action Research Participatory Budgeting Cooperatives
Resource Allocation Ratios	100% systems admin	70-90% to systems admin 10-30% to promotions and publicity	60-80% to systems admin 20-40% to consultation activities	50-60% to systems admin 40-50% to community involvement	20-50% to systems admin 50-70% to community partners	80-100% to community partners and community-driven processes that ideally generate new value and resources that can be invested in solutions

Facilitating Power

MOVEMENT STRATEGY CENTER

Resources

[USDN Guide to Equitable Community-Driven Climate Resilience Planning](#)

[Adaptation Clearinghouse – Equity Portal](#)

[Equity Checklist and Partnering Agreement](#)

Summary Takeaways

Historical and current inequities are root causes for the disproportionate climate impacts on frontline communities

Strategies for addressing these inequities need to involve **frontline communities naming the problems and solutions for themselves** and in collaboration with climate professionals

Access to decision making spaces and resources is key and can be supported through strategies like translation and childcare

Ongoing training around privilege, equity, subconscious bias, etc is important for allies

Thank You

Questions?

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