



Robyn Wong
Climate Action and Resiliency
Planner
Raimi + Associates



Lillian Mensah
Intermediate Planner/Designer
Raimi + Associates



Chelsea Kirk
Director of Policy and Research
for Building Equity and Transit
SAJE



Juan Reynoso
Senior Planner and Researcher
Raimi + Associates



BETTER TOGETHER
Relationship Building
for Community
Organizations &
Planners

Track:
People Power



Session Agenda

Welcome!

Short Presentations

- Co-Creating Climate Adaptation Trainings
- Co-Creating Data for Equity and Climate Recommendations
- Centering Trust & Joy for Climate Positive Behaviors
- Prioritizing Tenant Inclusion in LA City Decarbonization

Structured Networking

What sector do you identify with?

Community-Based Organization and/or Nonprofit

Public Sector

Private Sector

Academia

Tribal Government

Other?

Co-Creating Climate Adaptation Trainings

Santa Clara County Building Resilience
Against Climate Effects (BRACE)
Leadership Academy

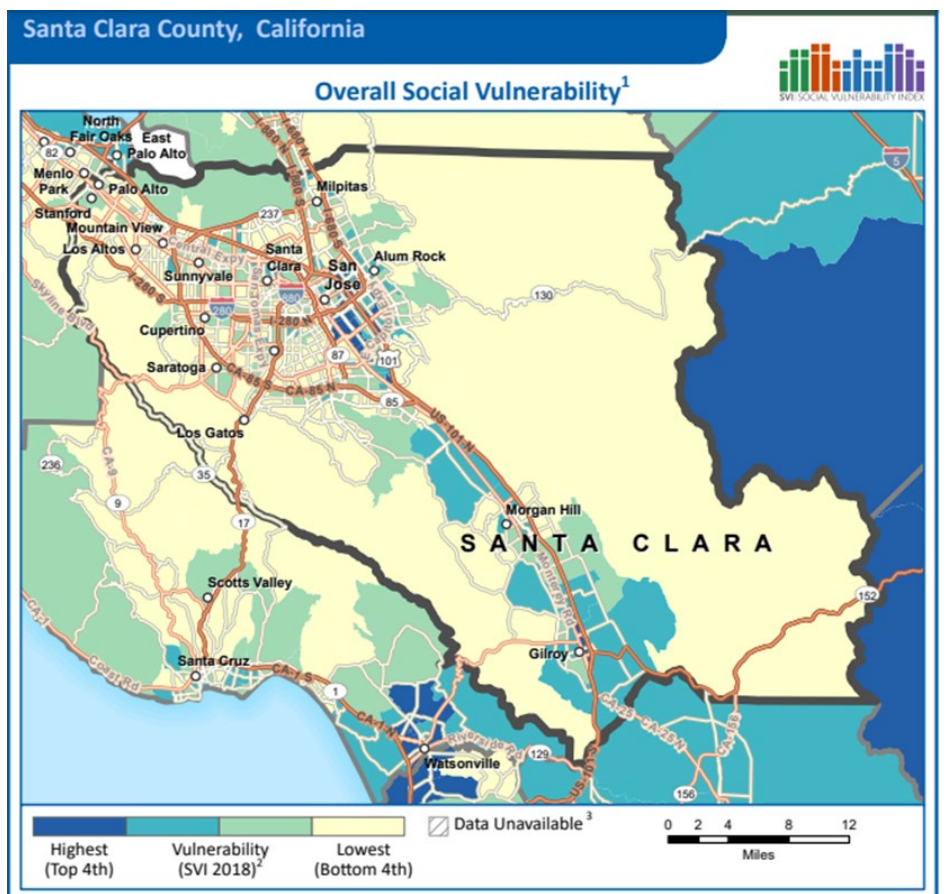
Climate Hazards and Vulnerable Areas



Wildfire, poor air quality, flooding, extreme heat



Higher climate vulnerability in East San José and South County



SCC BRACE Climate and Health Leadership Academy

- Scope: Develop a Climate and Health Leadership Academy curriculum
 - Co-create the curriculum with CBOs with service populations vulnerable to climate change impacts
 - Train the trainer model for future delivery of the Leadership Academy
- Client: Santa Clara County Public Health Department
- Funding: CDC Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) grant
- Timeframe: May – July 2022

Collaboration process

- Recruited six CBOs representing target groups in disadvantaged communities of the county (East San José, South County)
- Designated CBOs as independent subcontractors to R+A
- Provided stipends to CBOs
- Conducted meetings and brainstorming activities online to accommodate busy schedules and save time
- R+A produced all work products

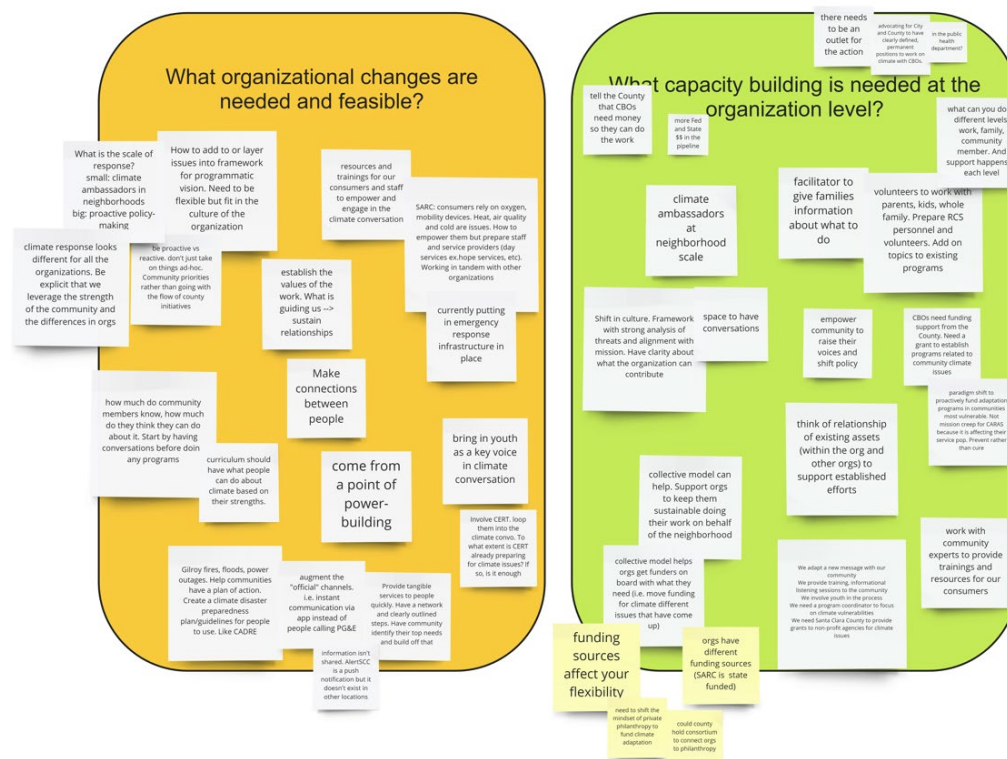


Curriculum Development

Listening

- How have the people you work with been impacted by heat/air quality/etc. issues in the past?
- How would you say the level of understanding is about the connection between health and climate in your organization? And in your clients/community?
- Have you noticed any major gaps in services, systems, etc. related to health and climate or your work in general? What do you need as an organization or what are you seeing elsewhere is a need that the PHD and Leadership Academy can help address?
- What format of sessions for the Leadership Academy do you think would work best for CBOs?

Brainstorming + Group Discussion

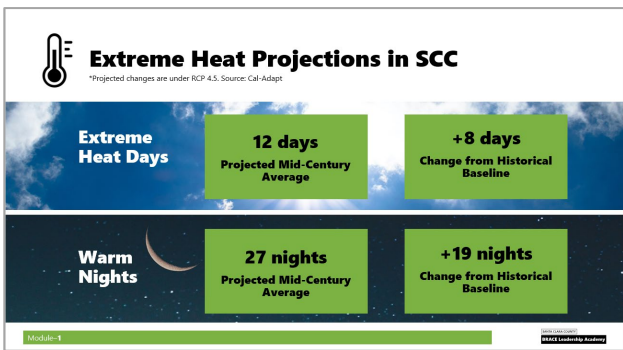


Relationship Building + Testing



Leadership Academy Deliverables

Three complete content modules (six sessions)

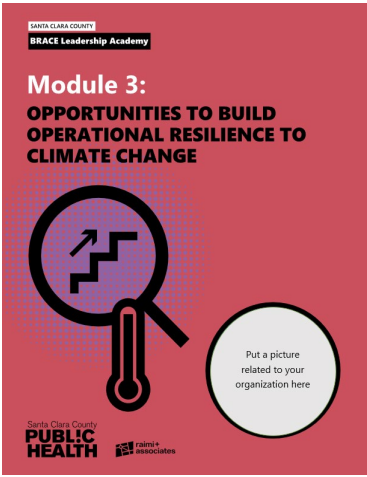


Activity: Cascading Impacts

- Hazard: Climate change related hazard such as wildfire, extreme heat, air quality
- Asset or Population: systems, built infrastructure, groups of people, etc.
- Direct Impact: what happens to the Asset or Population directly because of the climate hazard. Think about different kinds of impacts: physical, health, social, economic, etc.
- Secondary Impact: an effect of the Direct Impact (does not have to be about climate)

Hazard	Asset or Population	Direct Impact	Secondary Impact
→	→	→	
→	→	→	
→	→	→	

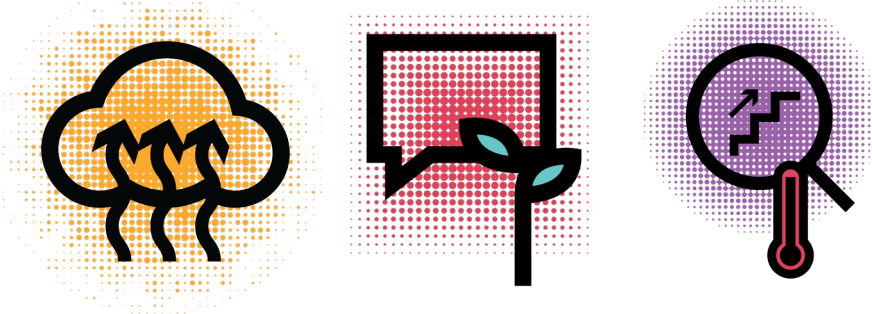
Organizational Climate Preparedness Action Plan template



Climate Preparedness Goals & Implementation Table

Goal	Action	Metric	Timeframe	Primary Responsibility	Funding Need	Potential Funding Source
Sample Goal: Improve the communication of timely and culturally relevant climate-hazard information to our families served	Sample Action 1: Add a section for heat and air quality forecast in the weekly e-newsletter, with links to where real-time information can be found.	• None	Immediate: <1 month	Communications Team	None	Existing: General operations fund
	Sample Action 2: Create a process to assign bilingual staff to answer phone calls during climate hazard events, including but not limited to: wildfire, heat wave, and power outage. a) Create a list of staff and/or volunteers to be on-call climate hazard communications team b) Train selected staff on where to find relevant information and where to redirect clients based on the hazard type	• Number of staff assigned and trained • Number of calls fielded	Short-term: 3 months	Operations Manager Environmental Education Team	\$1,000	SCC BRACE grant
	Sample Action 3: Develop contacts and direct information pathways between (Og) Hazard staff and (applicable local government body) for up-to-date climate hazard alerts	• Number of direct agency contacts cultivated	Medium-term: 6 months	Environmental Education Team Manager	None	None
Goal 1:	Action 1.1:					
	Action 1.2:					
	Action 1.3:					
Goal 2:	Action 2.1:					

Branding and outreach materials

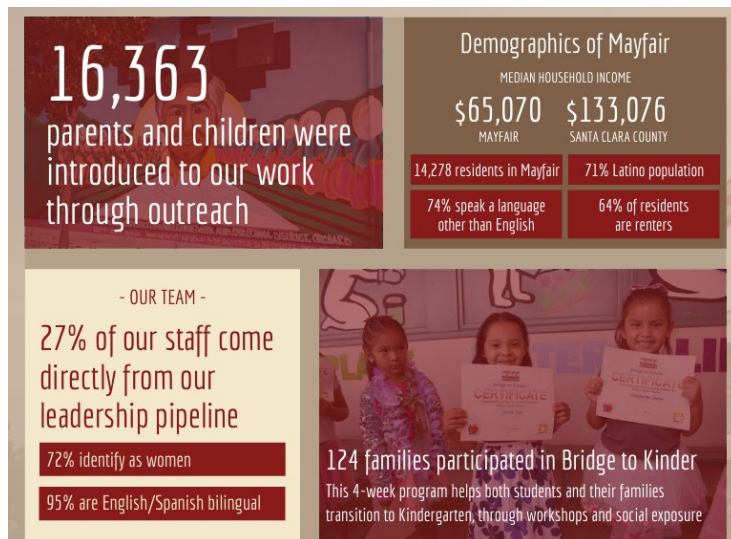


Lessons learned

Provide **compensation** for CBO contributions to project and intrinsic community value

Create **open lines of communication** between public agencies and CBOs and **incorporate their feedback** into operating processes to improve working relationship

RFPs: Do not rush the process of signing on and training CBO facilitators, conducting outreach to participants, and carrying out the Leadership Academy curriculum



Be respectful of partners' time and use meetings strategically

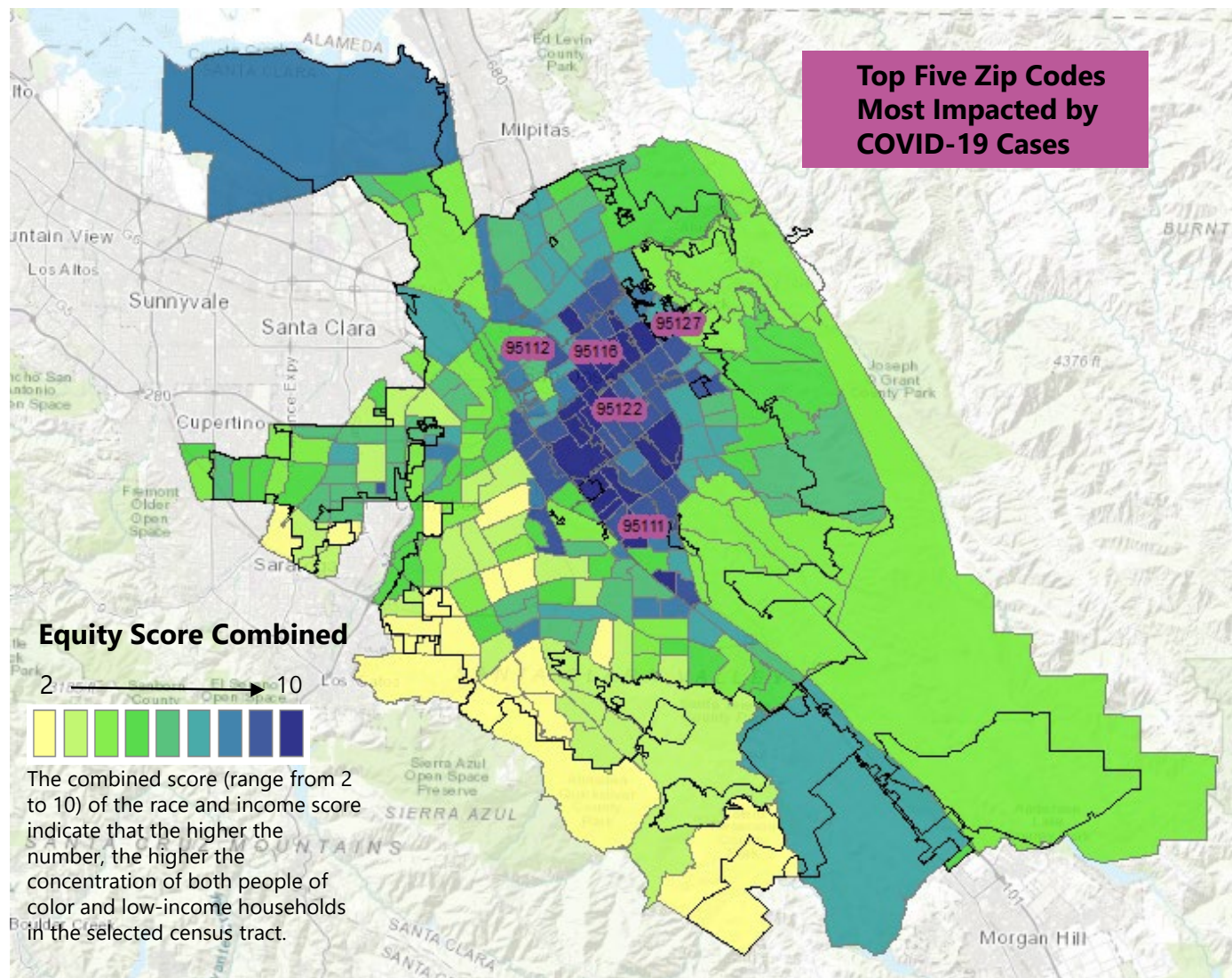


Source: SOMOS Mayfair FY 21 Annual Report

Co-Creating Data for Equity and Climate Recommendations

City of San José COVID-19
Recovery Task Force

San José Equity Atlas Map



Those most vulnerable to COVID-19 represent the same communities most vulnerable to climate hazards and threats.

- Age
- Housing Quality
- Income
- Health
- Disability
- Frontline worker

The Collaboration Process

55 Task Force Member Organizations

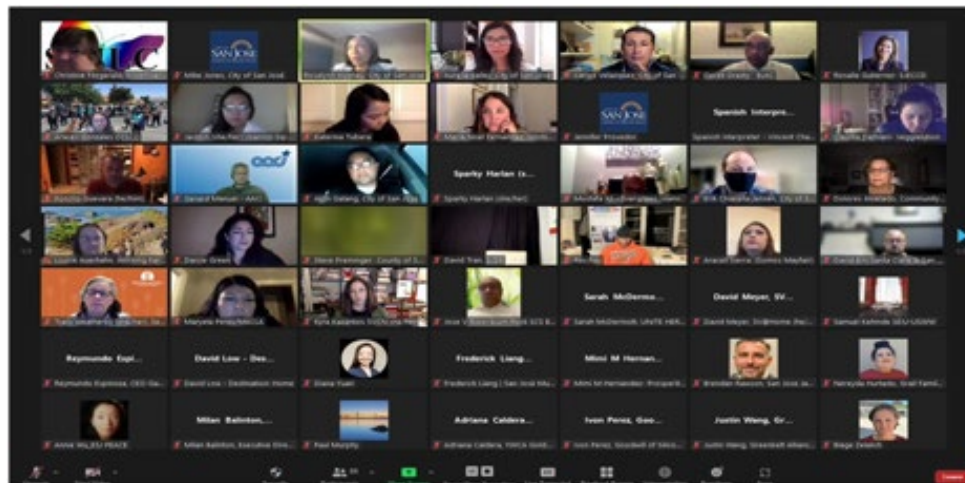
8 Committees (Including 1 Steering Committee)

9 Lived Experience Group Members

City Staff Team

2 Consultant Teams

Larger Community/Public



Overall Engagement



Final Report and Recommendations



Recommendations by Committee

Strategy 3: Leverage the City's land use authority to advance health and increase community resilience against future emergency events.

Action#	Recommendation	Lead	Amount from FY 22-23 Council Approved \$2M	Impl. Category
3.1	Update zoning code for urban agriculture. Consider changes to the City's zoning code to allow small-scale urban agriculture as the primary land use in most zones and accessory uses such as temporary on-site urban agriculture stands.	PBCE		2,3
3.2	Focus tree planting efforts in communities with low tree canopy coverage. Continue the City's Community Forest Management plans to reverse declining canopy cover and expand tree planting guided by an equity lens and in Equity Priority communities to combat the urban heat island effect. Prioritize equity priority communities in all strategies that seek to build climate adaptation and resiliency in San José.	DOT		1
3.3	Work with energy providers to determine residents who require energy for chronic disease management (e.g., insulin needs to be kept cool, and dialysis machines) and explore the feasibility of exempting those individuals from power cut off or provide battery back-up cooling to those individuals.	SJCE		3
3.4	Simplify the permitting and MOU processes for health and social service providers. Explore a policy/ordinance or policy/ordinance amendments to simplify the permitting and MOU processes for partnerships with non-profit organizations and health and social service providers to more quickly provide services to high-need populations. For example, simplify the permitting and licensure process so that mobile health clinics can provide services to unhoused and low-income residents. Additionally, decrease the permitting fees for non-profits to provide health and social services, which have been cost-prohibitive for many non-profit food pantries and health clinics during the pandemic. Conduct a study of existing insurance requirements for non-profits, and lessons learned from past partnerships, to provide health and social services.	CMO/PBCE		2,3

Lessons Learned / Takeaways

- Get input at every stage of process
- Balance inclusion goals with limitations
- Provide resources
- The work must continue



"I would use resources available to me if I knew about them. It's not that we want to be ignorant. We just don't know how to access information, even if it's out there."

"In many ways, it feels like the city is just telling vulnerable people to stay home."

"There shouldn't be so many barriers to asking for help."

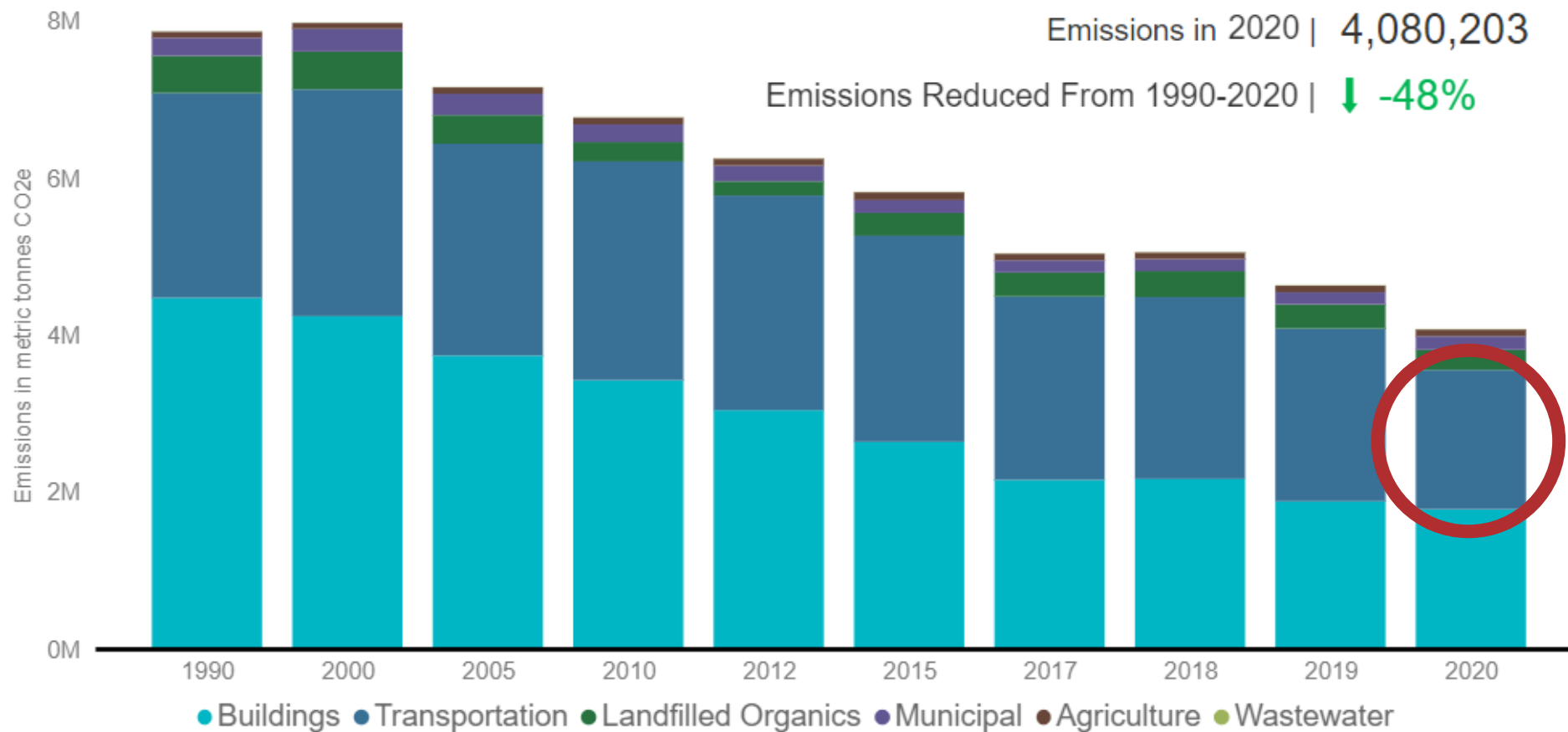
"Every story is worth hearing."

"The people that need support services the most are the first to be left out of the conversation."

Centering Trust & Joy for Climate Positive Behaviors

San Francisco Safe Routes to School
Partnership

San Francisco's Carbon Footprint



Source: San Francisco Environment Department, 2023

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Partnership



SRTS Programming

Walk & Roll to School Day



Bike Physical Education



Bike & Roll to School Week



School Trippers



Building Trust

Responding to families' safety concerns and students' basic needs



Safe Passage

"I give Safe Passage a 10/10, because it was very successful and it helped to make all of us feel very safe in the Tenderloin. I'm also happy and very proud to be part of this program. I want this program to continue and not stopped." – Elementary School Parent/Caregiver



Meal distribution

Personal safety trainings

SAFE PASSAGE TENDERLOIN COMMUNITY CENTER
Safe Routes to School SAN FRANCISCO
WALK SAN FRANCISCO

PERSONAL SAFETY TRAINING

FOR AAPI PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

- RECOGNIZE TROUBLE
- PROTECT FROM HARRASSMENT
- ESCAPE DANGER

IN CANTONESE & ENGLISH

WED AUG 11TH 2021, 5:30 - 7PM
ON ZOOM

HOSTED BY: KIDPOWER.ORG

TO REGISTER:
WWW.BIT.LY/3KLY3MY
WWW.SFSAFEROUTES.ORG

Elevating Joy



When [Safe Routes] events do happen, it is happy. Folks are happy. Folks want to do this more often." – Elementary School Staff

"This has been great. Just the excitement of the kids and the families. Like kids are really excited when they can participate...They love it!" – Elementary School Staff



Lessons Learned / Takeaways

**Cross-sector collaboration + Meeting residents where they are +
Centering joy in programming = Impact**

**Proactively set-up
transition plans**

**More funding to fill
demand for more
programming**

**Scaling local impact to
regional change**

Prioritizing Tenant Inclusion in LA City Decarbonization

Climate Equity LA Series

Chelsea Kirk, ckirk@saje.net
Director of Policy and Research
Building Equity and Transit



Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE)



- Tenants' rights organization founded in 1996
- Based in South Los Angeles
- Community organizing + policy campaigns

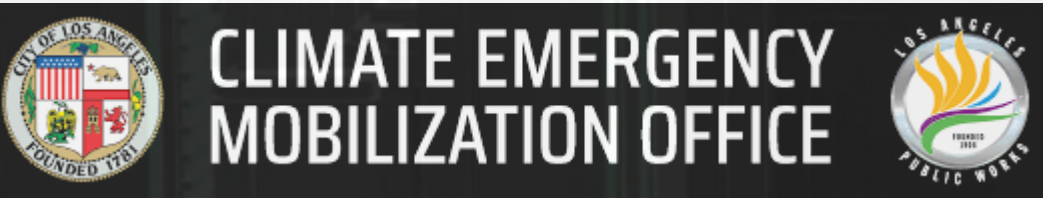
SAJE

STRATEGIC ACTIONS FOR A JUST ECONOMY



Climate Equity LA Series 2022: Building Decarbonization

The Climate Equity LA Series is an annual initiative organized by CEMO. Its purpose is to educate and engage community members, stakeholders, and decision-makers on pressing climate topics under policy discussions through a series of workshops led by community experts. The series gathers input from participants, that is later incorporated in city policy formulation.



Mission: to address the urgent challenge of climate change in Los Angeles and advocate for the inclusion of environmental justice communities in all climate-related policies and initiatives.





CLIMATE EQUITY INNOVATIVE GOVERNANCE MODEL

Collaborating with Frontline Communities to Co-create equitable Climate Policy & Investments



Co-Design Workshops & Focus Groups with Community wisdom & Experts to create policy reports

Community Shares Expertise & Knowledge throughout the Climate Equity LA Series

Data Gathering & Analysis of Community Input to create Equitable Climate Action Roadmap (ECAR) Report

Climate Equity Policy Committee reviews Findings & co-creates Report with CEMO Research Team

Climate Emergency Mobilization Commission (CEMC) deliberates on ECAR Report and Votes

EQUITABLE CLIMATE ACTION ROADMAP (ECAR) Brought to LA City Council

Prioritize Climate Policy Areas with Frontline Communities

SAJE's Participation:

Design Team
co-designed series

Focus groups
4 focus groups w/ low-income tenants

Workshop presenter
presented on research findings





SCOPE STRATEGIC
COMMUNITY
AGENDA

COMMUNITIES
FOR A BETTER
ENVIRONMENT
established 1978

Design Team



Targeted Focus Groups

- Spoke with 44 low-income tenants from South and East LA
- Developed curriculum, did outreach, facilitated focus groups, and synthesized findings

"What concerns me is that the owners will take advantage of this and kick us out. They'll use the excuse of having to construct the apartments to raise our rents. It's beautiful, all of this. But the cost is concerning. It's going to affect us." – Isabel

"If he is going to install an appliance in the house, and it's worth \$5,000, he is going to want me to pay \$2,500, which is not feasible for me. This is what they did here. They installed pipes underneath and each tenant had to pay \$500 and there are 30 tenants here." - Betty



CLIMATE EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION OFFICE



Equitable Building Decarbonization
Focus Group Report

Low Income Tenant Perspectives

Los Angeles, California

April 2022

Commissioned and Co-designed by:

City of Los Angeles, Climate Emergency Mobilization Office

Prepared by: Strategic Actions for A Just Economy
Research Team Director, Chelsea Kirk

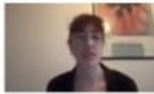
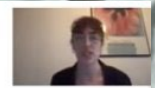




Workshop 1: Why Decarbonize Buildings and Homes in LA?

Workshop 2: How can we create Energy and Housing Justice with Building Decarbonization?

Workshop 3: Building Decarbonization and Economic Justice: Green Workforce and a Just Transition



Findings from the Focus Groups

Greatest Benefit

- Improving health (50%)
- Fighting climate change (38%)
- Climate resilient housing (7%)
- Improving housing quality (4%)

Greatest Concern

- Cost (60%)
- Eviction (26%)
- Harassment (13%)
- Construction (0%)



Climate Equity LA Series

Part I: Equitable Building Decarbonization of Buildings and Homes for LA

Report on Equitable Building Decarbonization

Equity Focused Policy Recommendations for the City of Los Angeles

Prepared for the Climate Emergency Mobilization Commission
and the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office

FINAL REPORT
September 15, 2022



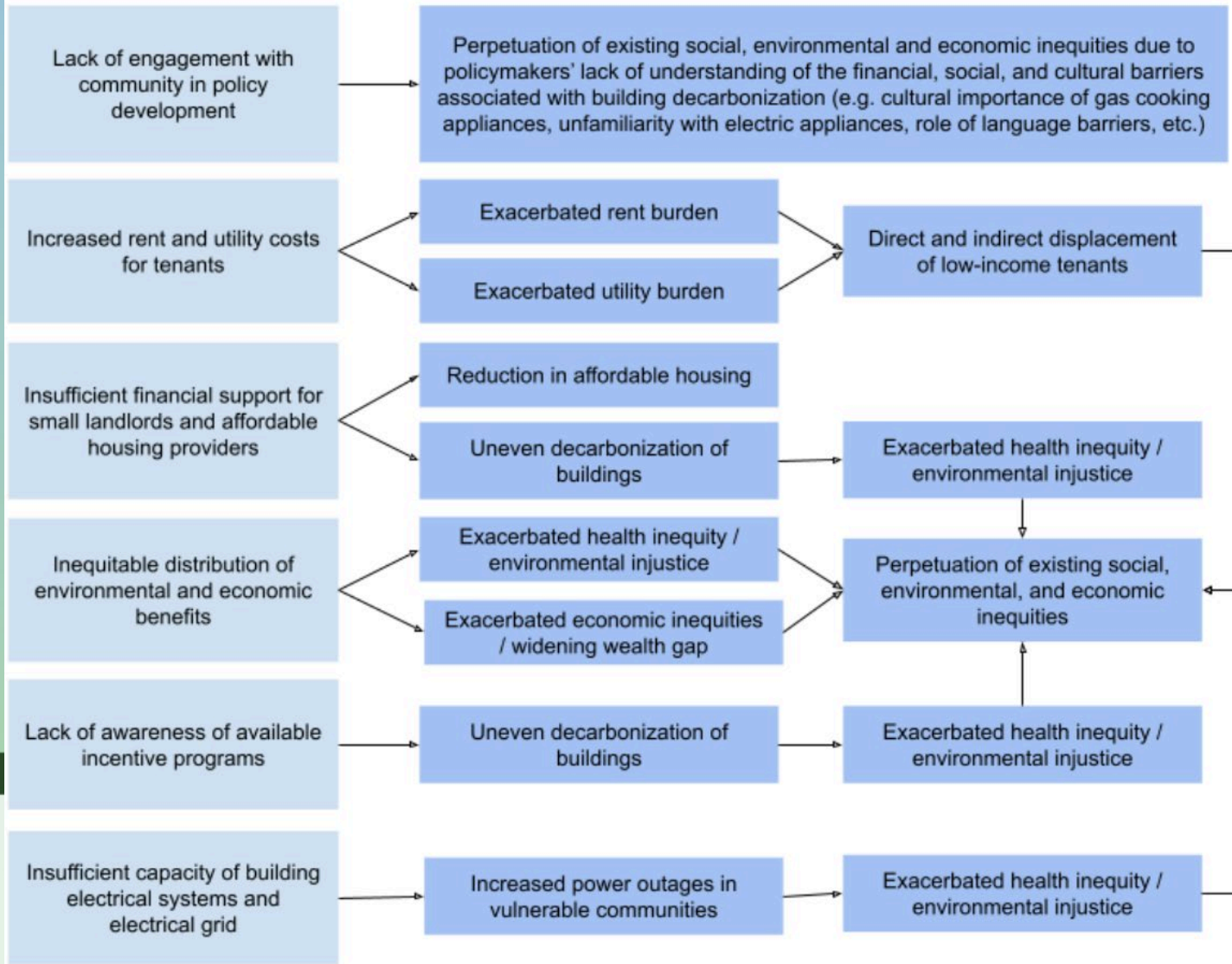
Prepared by:

Emma M. French
Sustainable LA Grand Challenge Fellow
UCLA Urban Planning PhD Student

**CLIMATE EMERGENCY
MOBILIZATION OFFICE**



Figure 3. Overarching Community Concerns Related to Building Decarbonization



Outcomes

Greater awareness of tenant impact:

- The series raised awareness about the critical need to consider the impact of building decarbonization on tenants
- Prior to this collaboration, tenant concerns were not a focal point for decarbonization advocates

Created a process for integrating tenant protections in city policy :

- The recommendations outlined in the CEMO report serve as essential guidelines to create a fair and just approach to building decarbonization within Los Angeles
- As we are 12-18 months away from the ordinance, there is an expectation that these recommendations will be reflected in the city's decarbonization ordinance.

Challenges

Heavy workload

- Managing the heavy workload of conducting numerous focus groups, sitting on a design team, and facilitating breakout sessions for workshops involved many of our staff to deprioritize other important work to be involved

Short-Term contract limitations

- The short-term and limited size of the contract made it difficult to hire a dedicated staff member for the project, leading to resource constraints

Quick turnaround

- The project's quick turnaround posed challenges in maintaining smooth project execution

Best practices



Allocate more resources to community-based organizations

To ensure partners can balance project commitments effectively allocate more financial and personnel resources to help complete work

- Ex: Rather than have a CBO do all aspects of the focus group, offer support with facilitation and curriculum development



Offer long-term contracts

Offer long-term contracts to partners that you plan to work with in the future; this can justify hiring necessary staff to meet capacity needs to carry out projects

- Ex: offer multi-year contracts



Offer as much notice in advance as possible

Give prospective partners enough notice in advance to carry out proposed work and also to think about whether they can take on the work

Instructions for Structured Networking

Networking Bingo

Better Together:

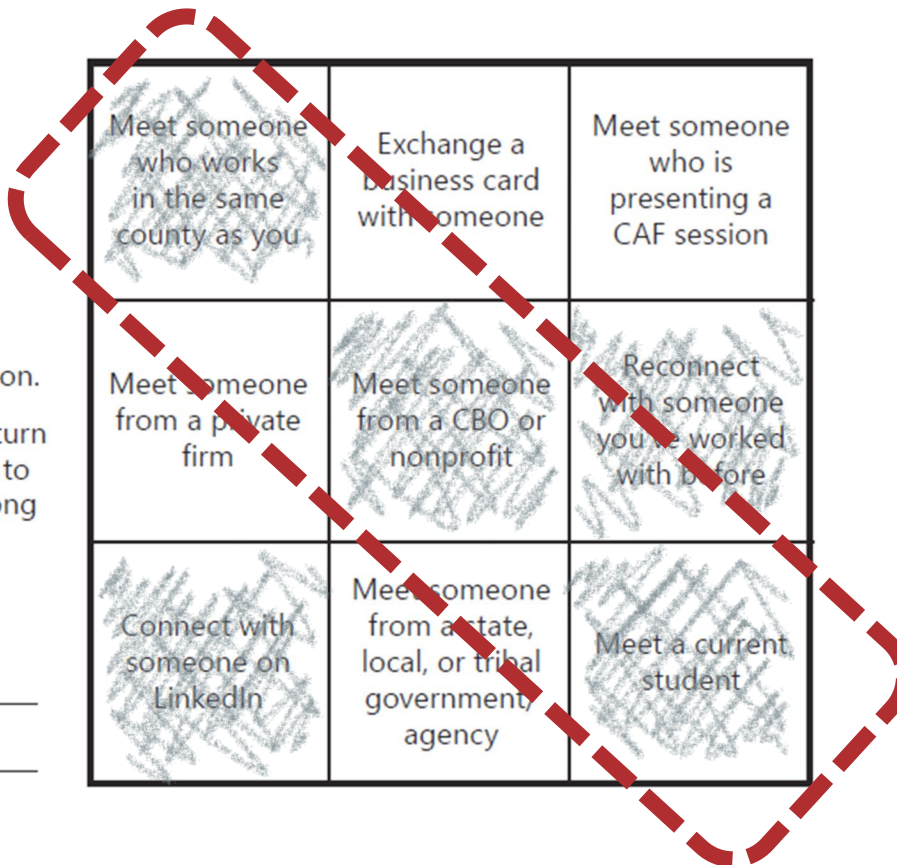
Relationship Building for Community Organizations & Planners Networking Bingo

1. Mingle and introduce yourself!
2. Try to check off the boxes in the bingo card on the right as you have conversations. Limit **one** box per person.
3. If you get a bingo (3 boxes in a row), turn in this sheet at the end of the session to be entered into a drawing for a yearlong gift subscription to Yes! Magazine.

Contact information for prize drawing:

Name _____

Email _____



Submit your sheet to us if you get a bingo!

Drawing for the prize at the end of the session!



Robyn Wong
Climate Action and Resiliency
Planner
Raimi + Associates



Lillian Mensah
Intermediate Planner/Designer
Raimi + Associates



Chelsea Kirk
Director of Policy and Research
for Building Equity and Transit
SAJE



Juan Reynoso
Senior Planner and Researcher
Raimi + Associates



BETTER TOGETHER
Relationship Building
for Community
Organizations &
Planners

Track:
People Power



Thank you for attending our session!

Have a great rest of CAF 23 and stay in touch with us!



www.raimiassociates.com

Marketing@raimiassociates.com



STRATEGIC ACTIONS FOR A JUST ECONOMY

www.saje.net

Info@saje.net