

Assessing Climate Impacts

Local Climate Threats

What are the climate disasters that could impact your community? ex. Extreme heat, extreme cold, floods, wildfires.

Impacts

How would these climate disasters impact people's health? How would they strain financial resources? Consider neighborhoods in flood zones, areas with mostly rental homes, places where it would be difficult to evacuate, etc.

WHO?

HOW?

WHERE?

Possibilities

What are the opportunities for partnership and action that would be most impactful for your community? How can you integrate joy and beauty into these actions to nourish your community?

WHAT ARE THE NEEDS?

Considering those most impacted, what are the biggest needs?

WHAT CAN WE OFFER?

What resources do you have, could adapt, or develop to help fit the needs of the community? What skills can you learn and offer to build resilience in your community?

WHO ARE THE HELPERS?

Who is already working in the most impacted areas and/or working on climate resilience?

WHERE IS THE JOY?

How does your community celebrate? Where are community gathering centers or places of pride? What practices or rituals can your congregation offer to nourish the movement? What do you feel called to do?

Mobilizing for Action

Vision of a Thriving Community

VISUALIZATION EXERCISE

Imagine a world that is radically different from the one we live in today. What if, one day you woke up to find that everyone in your community had what they needed to live in safety and health. What are some of the ways the world you are imagining would be different from the world we have today? What would your senses tell you? What can you see, hear, smell, taste, and/or feel?

Imagine a typical day for someone in this world. How would school and work change? How would things be different for people at different stages of life? In different parts of your community?

Assessment

STRENGTHS

What resources are available & accessible to the community? Where are relationships & trust already established? How is power currently being exercised collectively?

WEAKNESSES

Where are there shortcomings in preparedness? What are the barriers to accessing resources & support? Where are there broken or missing relationships? What informational needs remain/where are there gaps in our knowledge?

OPPORTUNITIES

Where are there opportunities to connect, build power, and resource collectively?

THREATS

*What are the imminent threats facing the most vulnerable in your community?
How is power being used to control and/or diminish community resilience?*

Relationships

PARTNER IDENTIFICATION

Which communities, groups, or organizations are we accountable to in our climate disaster preparedness organizing? What are their primary activities & goals?

POWER ANALYSIS

What is the distribution of resources in your community? Who has the greatest influence over those resources? How much power and/or access to those resources do your partners have? How much does your congregation have?

RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPMENT

What is the current nature of our relationship? How do we intend to deepen it? Who is responsible for ensuring our activities align with our partners' goals & how?

Goal Setting & Strategy Development

SPECIFIC: *What do you want to achieve? Provide as many details about WHO will be involved, WHAT you will do, WHEN things will happen (timeline), WHERE things will take place, and WHY this is the action/goal you are prioritizing now.*

MEASURABLE: *What are the benchmarks for success? How will you know you're meeting your goals? What will the end results be?*

ATTAINABLE: *Does this action/project over- or under-estimate the capacity of your community and the resources you have? Is the goal realistic? What are the discrete steps you'll need to take along the way toward the final goal?*

RELEVANT: *Are we in relationship with other organizers, organizations, movements, faith communities? Who is asking us to take this action, and to whom are we accountable? Will this specific action/project build toward long-term goals for ourselves and the movements we are supporting?*

TIME-BOUND: *What is the timeline for each of the phases of this project/action? How will we evaluate our progress along the way?*

INCLUSIVE: *Does this project/action center the strategies and leadership of people most directly impacted? Are the tactics we are using designed to make participation as accessible as possible to people with a wide range of identities, abilities, ages, and experiences?*

EQUITABLE: *Does the goal of this action/project contribute to the dismantling of systems of oppression? Will it benefit disproportionately impacted individuals and communities? Are we taking an appropriate level of risk that takes into consideration our resources and privilege?*