CENTERING EQUITY IN CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

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Sona Mohnot, The Greenlining Institute
Amee Raval, APEN
Overview

- Welcome & overview (this!)
- Key webinar outcomes
- *Making Equity Real in Climate Adaptation Policies & Programs* – Sona Mohnot, The Greenlining Institute
- *Mapping Resilience* – Amee Raval, Asian Pacific Environmental Network
- Recap
- Question & Answer
- Close

– Please introduce yourself in the chat box with your Name, Organization & Location –
KEY OUTCOMES OF THIS WEBINAR

EDUCATION AND CO-LEARNING:

❖ **Key takeaways from both reports** as a foundation for policy strategies to advance equity in climate adaptation and resilience efforts in CA
❖ **What research & data already exists & where more is needed**
❖ **How insights, tools and examples from CA** can serve as a model for equitable adaptation and resilience in other geographies
❖ **How “Making Equity Real” and “Mapping Resilience” build into APEN & Greenlining’s Theory of Change & Strategy**
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE
MAKING EQUITY REAL
in Climate Adaptation Policies & Programs
PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Why **Social Equity Matters** in Climate Adaptation and Resilience
- Introduction to **Making Equity Real** Framework
- Application of Framework to Create a **Climate Resilient and Equitable Future**
LOOK At These Homes NOW!
An entire block ruined by negro invasion. Every house marked "X" now occupied by negroes. ACTUAL PHOTOGRAPH OF 4300 WEST BELLE PLACE.
SAVE YOUR HOME! VOTE FOR SEGREGATION!
How Climate Change Is Hurting Minority Communities

Houston Flooding Always Hits Poor, Non-White Neighborhoods Hardest

More Than 40 Sites Released Hazardous Pollutants Because of Hurricane Harvey

'Your eyes start itching': pollution soars in Houston after chemical industry leaks
EQUITY IN CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

- Build resilience of physical environments
- Create better health outcomes
- Community Engagement & Empowerment
- Enhance economic opportunities
- Reduce exposure to pollutants
## OVERVIEW OF GUIDEBOOK

### SOCIAL EQUITY ASSESSMENT OF GRANT PROGRAMS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Social Equity Score</th>
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<td>CalTrans Adaptation Planning Grant Program (SB 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CalTrans Sustainable Communities Grant Program (SB 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SGC Transformative Climate Communities Program</td>
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### SOCIAL EQUITY ASSESSMENT OF POLICIES

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MAKING EQUITY REAL

1. GOALS, VISION, VALUES
2. PROCESS
3. IMPLEMENTATION
4. ANALYSIS
STEP 1: HOW TO DEVELOP EQUITABLE GOALS, VISION, AND VALUES

Goal 1: Resilient and healthy community environments where residents thrive in place
The County will protect low-income communities and communities of color from pollution, reduce health and economic inequities, and support more resilient and inclusive communities.

Goal 2: Equitable and sustainable land use and development without displacement
With policy tools such as anti-displacement measures, existing community members can remain in and strengthen their neighborhoods and networks while accepting new residents through more compact, mixed-use development.

Goal 3: A convenient, safe, clean, and affordable transportation system that enhances mobility while reducing car dependency
By developing programs that focus on reducing the number of miles people travel in private vehicles, the County will help people choose alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles. These programs will expand residents’ mobility, including those residents whose limited automobile access translates to stifled economic opportunity.

Goal 4: Inclusive, transparent, and accountable governance that facilitates participation in sustainability efforts, especially by disempowered communities
The County will act to create a more inclusive and accountable governance structure, in order to build stronger communities and better-informed policy and programs.

Goal 5: A prosperous LA County that provides opportunities for all residents and businesses and supports the transition to a green economy
We will support the growth of green economy sectors through our procurement practices, land use authority, and various economic and workforce development incentives.

Goal 6: A sustainable and just food system that enhances access to affordable, local, and healthy food
The County of Los Angeles will leverage its capital assets, public services, and regulatory authority to improve access to healthy food within County boundaries while optimizing its purchasing power and business services to make food production more sustainable.
STEP 2: HOW TO DEVELOP AN EQUITABLE PROCESS

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

LOS ANGELES COUNTYWIDE COMPREHENSIVE PARKS & RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT
STEP 3: HOW TO CENTER EQUITY IN IMPLEMENTATION
San Francisco Office of Racial Equity created by unanimous vote
THANK YOU!

Sona Mohnot
sonam@greenlining.org
Greenlining *Making Equity Real* Guidebook answers...

**HOW** do we design climate adaptation policies and programs to center the most impacted communities?

APEN *Mapping Resilience* Report answers...

**WHO** and **WHERE** are those communities disproportionately impacted by climate threats?
THE CLIMATE GAP

Climate Disasters Have *Unequal* Impacts
And Act as a *Threat Multiplier*
During California wildfires, farmworkers say they felt pressure to keep working or lose their jobs.

Amid Worst Winter Wildfires in California History, Farmworkers Are Laboring in Hazardous Air

As California Burns, Undocumented People Face Gap in Recovery Aid
$1 an Hour to Fight Largest Fire in CA History: Are Prison Firefighting Programs Slave Labor?
Homeless people search for shade during heat wave. City says not hot enough for cooling centers

‘Homeless again.’ California fires leave poor with bleak prospects
360,000 Californians have unsafe drinking water. Are you one of them?

California’s Drought Is So Bad That Thousands Are Living Without Running Water

A small town in California has sunk more than 2 feet in the past decade, and it could be part of a disturbing trend.
THE PATH FORWARD

Recognizing this gap, what can we do to address these unique risks, protect those most impacted, and create opportunities to thrive?
MAPPING RESILIENCE
A Blueprint for Thriving in the Face of Climate Disasters
apen4ej.org/map
Mapping Resilience: A Blueprint for Thriving in the Face of Climate Disasters

CONTEXT: CALENVIRSCREEN UPLIFTS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN STATE POLICY
THE REPORT

❖ Background on communities disproportionately impacted by climate change-related threats in California and beyond

❖ Key definitions and principles for vulnerability and resilience

❖ Review of over 40 existing indicators, data, tools, frameworks

❖ Data limitations and knowledge gaps

❖ Lessons learned from development and use of indicators in related fields

❖ Anticipated uses of indicators to advance key fields and policies
Key Findings and Recommendations

CLIMATE VULNERABILITY SHOULD BE ASSESSED BY REGION AND CLIMATE THREAT

- Climate impacts vary based on biophysical setting, climate, and jurisdictional factors
- Regional variations caution against making statewide comparisons
- Warrants regional and climate impact-specific lens
- Supports applying data as land use planning occurs regionally and locally
SPECIFIC CLIMATE THREATS
VARIED LANDSCAPE OF FRAMEWORKS
VARIED LANDSCAPE OF FRAMEWORKS

❖ Strong Comprehensive Frameworks
  ➢ Public Health Alliance of Southern California California Healthy Places Index
  ➢ CalBRACE Climate Change Health Vulnerability Indicators
  ➢ CA Energy Commission Social Vulnerability to Climate Change
  ➢ Climate Change Vulnerability Screening Index (English et al.)

❖ Strong Impact-Specific Frameworks
  ➢ 427 Climate Heat Assessment Tool (CHAT)
  ➢ Climate Central Surging Seas Risk Zone Map
Key Findings and Recommendations

NO MORE DATA, NO MORE TOOLS

❖ Rich volume of existing frameworks to identify people and places most impacted by climate threats

❖ Significant redundancy of indicators across frameworks

❖ Enough underlying data, established indicators, and methodologies asserting relevant factors

❖ No imminent need for researchers to create a wholly new set of climate vulnerability indicators in California
Key Findings and Recommendations

A CENTRALIZED MAPPING PLATFORM IS NEEDED

- Lack of comprehensive framework(s) to connect and overlay social vulnerabilities and climate threats
- Lack of consistency across multitude of frameworks
- No single set of indicators captures the most significant factors
- Availability of so much data is leading to paralysis of action
- Policymakers would benefit from **streamlined, actionable** framework that compiles key indicators into a single interface
- Mirrors and complementary to CalEnviroScreen
A CENTRALIZED MAPPING PLATFORM IS NEEDED

❖ This platform would include indicators for:

- **Exposure** (temperature, wildfire threat, flood risk, drought)

- **Population Sensitivity** (poverty, linguistic isolation, elderly, disability)

- **Adaptive Capacity** (tree canopy, vehicle access, medical facilities)

➢ Automatically populate relevant indicators based on selected climate impact

➢ Be informed by a complementary policy framework identifying priority issues, programs, policies, and funding opportunities
Key Findings and Recommendations

MAPPING ALONE DOES NOT TELL THE FULL STORY

❖ Many factors and trends are overlooked or reflect data inaccuracies
❖ Many population sensitivity indicators, but fewer for adaptive capacity (e.g., transportation access, cooling centers, evacuation shelters)
❖ Other gaps:
  ➢ Certain **climate impacts**: drought vulnerability, air quality
  ➢ **Health outcomes**: infectious diseases, mental health
  ➢ **Socioeconomic factors**: informal workers, undocumented immigrants, homelessness
Key Findings and Recommendations

WE MUST GROUND-TRUTH AND COMPLEMENT MAPS WITH COMMUNITY EXPERTISE

❖ Data limitations should caution against relying on any single framework to identify and capture all factors

❖ Public officials should integrate quantitative information with experiential knowledge and community stories

❖ Ensures public processes involving climate vulnerability mapping are inclusive and participatory
DATA IS POWERFUL

- Depicts the interacting and cumulative impacts of climate change
- Operationalizes addressing underlying systemic inequalities alongside growing climate threats
- Supports identifying vulnerable communities for the sake of targeting resources, services, and projects
“Conventional approaches to adaptation and mitigation view vulnerability as a characteristic or condition of groups of people and not as a circumstance or consequence of the ways social groups have been historically and systemically marginalized and excluded from opportunity. As a result, the policy and practices that have been brought to bear don’t address the underlying historical roots of vulnerability. These views exclude these groups from having a voice in setting policy priorities or allocating resources to address the issues. Rather than being viewed as victims to be protected and saved, vulnerable communities should instead define, develop, and drive the solutions.”
GUIDING QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER . . .

- With this information, **what actionable steps can you take to integrate an equity lens** into your work now?
- **What opportunities are there within your current work to advance the reports’ recommendations?**
- **Which vulnerable populations may be impacted by or could benefit** from your work?
FOR MORE INFORMATION...

- **APEN** *Mapping Resilience* report: https://apen4ej.org/mapping-resilience/
  ➢ Amee Raval, amee@apen4ej.org

  ➢ Sona Mohnot, sonam@greenlining.org

- **Climate Advocacy Lab**: info@climateadvocacylab.org
THANK YOU!
Q&A
THANK YOU AGAIN!

- Amee Raval, amee@apen4ej.org
- Sona Mohnot, sonam@greenlining.org
- Lucía Oliva Hennelly, lucia@climateadvocacylab.org

We appreciate your feedback!

https://forms.gle/BdpQjbxBAWvSpMYd7