Resilience Before Disaster

Monday April 12th, 2021
A few norms for today's conversation

• Turn audio OFF during the webinar, but video ON + stay muted if you’re not talking
• Keep it interactive! Drop thoughts, questions, and links in the chat box
• Take care of yourself 😊

Please introduce yourself in the chat box with your Name, Pronouns, Location, and Organization/Role
Where we’re headed today

• Welcome and introductions
• Just transition and community resilience
• Building trust and alignment
• Resilience Before Disaster report read-out
• Interactive exercise
• Q+A and wrap up
Who we are + what we do
The Lab Team, a.k.a. “the people behind the emails”

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*Executive Director*
The Climate Advocacy Lab is here for you!

Our (awesome!) members

Workshops & Webinars

Research & experimentation

Online platform & newsletter

Helping the climate community build grassroots power and win through evidence-based advocacy.
Panelist rollcall

Amee Raval
Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Marguerite Young
Service Employees International Union

Shina Robinson
Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Sam Appel
BlueGreen Alliance
Resilience Before Disaster

The Need to Build Equitable, Community-Driven Social Infrastructure

Climate Advocacy Lab Webinar
04.12.2021
“We’ve lost complete control, that there really isn’t a normal anymore.”

LA Times: “How climate change is fueling record-breaking California wildfires, heat and smog”

“As fires burn, the smoke and air pollution worsens respiratory conditions for communities that have been plagued with the burden of our polluting industries for generations.”

NBC News: “COVID-19 and the California fires have a connection. Here’s how to fight both.”
Bay Area hits record highs as blistering heat wave continues across region August 14, 2020

Rolling Power Outage Triggers Oakland Estuary Sewage Spill: 50,000 Gallons Discharged Into Waterway August 14, 2020

Flaring at Chevron Richmond refinery sends black smoke above Bay Area August 15, 2020
Event, during a Spare the Air alert, caused by "an upset at a process unit" and brought a response from a Contra Costa County hazardous materials team

A month of Spare the Air days, and the sky still may not be clearing September 14, 2020
Record streak extended to 30 days as the haze remains

‘Triple whammy’ of smoke, heat, smog to spoil Bay Area weekend air quality September 24, 2020

Deadly fires rage through northern California forcing tens of thousands to evacuate September 29, 2020

Photo Credit: David McNew / Getty Images
The current moment demands a **Just Recovery**.

Growing economic inequality.

COVID-19 pandemic.

Historic climate disasters.

Racial injustice.
The Role of Community Resilience in a Just Recovery

"Just Recovery resists disaster capitalism at every step – from the disaster collectivism that models people-powered, heart-centered, socially just relief to the long-term organizing and actions that reclaim the right of peoples to define their economies and govern their communities."


"It is the disruptive power of disaster that matters here, the ability of disasters to topple old orders and open new possibilities."

- Rebecca Solnit, A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities that Arise in Disaster
Blue-Green Alliance

California Organizing Strategy

frontline worker + community alliance

→ enviro/EJ/labor strategies
All people have a right to a clean and healthy environment in which their communities can live, work, learn, play and thrive.
SEIU CA 700,000 members strong. Care and Service workers including Nurses, Home care workers, librarians, Social workers, janitors, EMS and more Who provide essential services to promote resilience.
Social infrastructure: the services and facilities that secure the economic, health, cultural, and social well-being of the community.
Social infrastructure: the services and facilities that secure the economic, health, cultural, and social well-being of the community.

- **Public institutions** e.g., schools, libraries, park and recreation sites
- **Community orgs** e.g., places of worship, youth and senior centers, child care
- **Small businesses**
- **Housing accessible to disadvantaged and vulnerable communities**
Community Resilience Hubs

Spaces where communities gather, organize, and access social services on a daily basis in addition to addressing critical needs during disaster response and recovery.

This includes: cooling and heating, electricity access, food, water, medical supplies, information and communications access, partner coordination

Resilience Hubs:

- Leverage established and trusted community and public facilities.
- Foster community governance and collaboration.
- Integrate workforce development strategies to create high road jobs.
- Target benefits to disadvantaged and vulnerable communities.
RYSE Commons as a Community Resilience Hub

Started off as Solar or Solar + Storage
Youth Engagement + Leadership
Partnership Expanded
Vision Expanded
Additional Components
Move Towards Opening + Phased Approach
AB 1087: EJ Community Resilience Hubs Program

- Creates a new grant program that deliver whole building resilience upgrades (e.g., energy efficiency, clean energy microgrids, HVAC repairs)

- Accelerates deployment of technologies for clean energy and community health in trusted places located in disadvantaged and vulnerable communities

AB 1087 is a bill authored by California Assemblymember David Chiu (AD-17) and co-sponsored by APEN, CA Environmental Justice Alliance, and the Natural Resources Defense Council)
In-Home Resilience

A community’s socially embedded systems, patterns, and practices that increase community members’ capabilities and support new growth in response to crisis while staying in place

- **Home care workers** are the frontline of community resilience for some of the most vulnerable populations (elderly folks, disabled people, chronic illnesses)

- **A strong public sector workforce** is key to building social cohesion
  - Public health nurses
  - Community health workers
  - Social workers
  - Local government staff
  - Librarians
  - Rec center staff
Jenn Blum, a homecare worker from Paradise, lost everything when the Camp Fire ripped through the mobile home park where she lived and cared for her disabled wife and son.
The high road to in home resilience: Care Giver Resilience Teams

First in the nation Partnership between Employers, labor, relevant agencies at the county and state level and community based organizations
REINVEST IN PUBLIC SECTOR SERVICES
The THRIVE AGENDA

Creating millions of jobs for a just, healthy, and equitable society

10 trillion dollars

16 million quality jobs

50% to frontline communities

Cut climate pollution in half by 2030
Interactive exercise

• Split up into five breakout groups
• Open the Jamboard link shared in the chat
• Follow the instructions of your breakout facilitator
• Come back and share thoughts and reflections
• Meet back in here at 11:10am PT/2:10pm ET
Thank You!

For additional questions or comments:

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—Susan Griffin

"Let us begin to imagine the worlds we would like to inhabit, the long lives we will share, and the many futures in our hands."

www.molycostelo.com
Next steps

• Feedback survey
• Follow-up email with recording and links
• Check out the Lab’s Resource Library for more insights on local resilience and adaptation
• Share your insights with us at info@climateadvocacylab.org