



Stakeholder Engagement & Education Virtual Workshop Series

Prepared For

**CLIMATE EMERGENCY
MOBILIZATION OFFICE**

Prepared By

Liberty Hill
FOUNDATION



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Letter from the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office Director

There is no doubt room for growth and improvement in the Climate Equity LA Series approach and model, especially in moving forward with an open mind while improving upon the innovative governance blueprint. This strategy and model of engagement must be adequately evaluated to continue to improve upon it through intentional reflection and evaluation. As a first step in creating the engagement model for CEMO and the CELA Series, it is essential to point out that the vision and goals for this evolving model were co-designed with community leaders to reflect the wisdom of community voices at the frontlines of the worst impacts of climate change.

CEMO and Liberty Hill co-planned this series by prioritizing communities' vision and wisdom for a just, inclusive, equitable, and meaningful stakeholder engagement process. An example of this is the creation of additional feedback loops and community-led focus groups, and the restructuring of the workshops' formats, as advised by the community. Moreover, CEMO and Liberty Hill kept an open-minded approach to integrate continuous improvements, and maintained an open dialogue with the Workshop Advisory Committees, and community leaders and members.

Evolving this model is integral to the Climate Equity LA Series approach, and is why evaluation was critical to this first year and beyond.

Marta Segura
Chief Heat Officer
Climate Emergency Mobilization Director

**Summary Process Report
on the
Climate Equity LA Series-
Year 1 (March-May 2022)**



Background

The Climate Equity LA (CELA) Series resulted from years of grassroots community organizing and advocacy for the creation of a public office to develop and implement equitable climate policies for the City of Los Angeles. The LEAP-LA coalition, a group of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) including Esperanza Community Housing (ECH), Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles (PSR-LA), Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE), the Leap, 5 Gyres, and the American Indian Movement (AIM), coalesced together in 2016 after City agencies and the Mayor's Office identified the decarbonization of buildings in Los Angeles as a priority in reaching ambitious Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction targets by 2028.

Concerns were raised by several community members and organizations around the potential impact that a blanket decarbonization policy would have on communities already experiencing some of the worst housing precarity in the country. Recognizing the need for a response, the LEAP-LA coalition began advocating for the creation of a public agency tasked with coordinating decarbonization and other climate policies across City agencies with a focus on protections for low-income and frontline communities.

This proposed agency would ensure that climate policies, like building decarbonization, would be driven by the priorities of communities most impacted by climate change while working to mitigate and adapt to the multiple climate hazards Los Angeles faces. The Climate Emergency Mobilization Office was established in 2021 under the administration of Mayor Eric Garcetti, with Marta Segura appointed to serve as founding Director.

The office was founded with three primary functions:

- 1. Climate community engagement:** Through public stakeholder engagement, such as the Climate Equity LA workshop series, focus groups, and other mechanisms, the Office will facilitate feedback and recommendations from residents, impacted workers, neighborhood leaders and others to identify policy priorities and solutions to protect and benefit frontline communities. The Office will also communicate information on relevant and available resources.
- 2. Equitable Climate Policies:** The Office will provide recommendations for equitable climate policies reflecting the concerns, perspectives, and recommendations shared by community stakeholders and help to promote and coordinate these ideas across City Departments.
- 3. The creation of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Commission (CEMC):** The independent CEMC is convened by CEMO and reflects a diverse composition. Nineteen (19) members appointed by the Mayor, President of the City Council, and Chair of the Energy, Climate Change, Environmental Justice and River Committee, are to represent environmental justice communities, Indigenous people, labor, small business, policy experts and youth, with seven (7) seats designated for geographically distinct areas that fall in the top 10% score of CalEnviroScreen pollution-burdened areas in the

City of Los Angeles. The Commission provides recommendations on a wide range of climate change and environmental justice issues, and advises the Mayor and City Council based on proposals put forward by CEMO.

Based on its reputation and expertise in community engagement and advancing social equity through community organizing, and with the support of CBOs, the Liberty Hill Foundation was retained to assist CEMO in stakeholder engagement. Through community outreach, programmatic planning, and communications support, Liberty Hill collaborated with CEMO in the design and implementation of the first year of the Climate Equity LA (CELA) workshop series.

There is no doubt room for growth and improvement in the Climate Equity LA Series approach and model, especially in moving forward with an open mind while improving upon the innovative governance blueprint. This strategy and model of engagement must be adequately evaluated to continue to improve upon it through intentional reflection and evaluation. As a first step in creating the engagement model for CEMO and the CELA Series, it is essential to point out that the vision and goals for this evolving model were co-designed with community leaders to reflect the wisdom of community voices at the frontlines of the worst impacts of climate change.

CEMO and Liberty Hill co-planned this series by prioritizing communities' vision and wisdom for a just, inclusive, equitable, and meaningful stakeholder engagement process. An example of this is the creation of additional feedback loops and community-led focus groups, and the restructuring of the workshops' formats, as advised by the community. Moreover, CEMO and Liberty Hill kept an open-minded approach to integrate continuous improvements, and maintained an open dialogue with the Workshop Advisory Committees, and community leaders and members.

Evolving this model is integral to the Climate Equity

LA Series approach, and is why evaluation was critical to this first year and beyond.

Summary Process Report

This Summary Process Report documents the structure and planning that went into the CELA series, including workshop preparation, stakeholder outreach and attendance, speaker presentations, breakout discussions, and key policy recommendations.

Year 1 of the workshop series ran from March 3, 2022 through May 12, 2022, and brought together 454 unique participants across 7 workshops, in addition to the introductory Launch Event. With over 30 speakers, and participation from more than 172 organizations, entities, and agencies, the Year 1 CELA workshop series provided an informative and interactive opportunity for public agencies, community stakeholders and technical experts to learn from and engage with each other. The series included panels and discussions with a variety of presenters including CBO representatives, research institutions, nonprofit policy advocates, and government staff. Break out group discussions took place in every workshop and brought community, technical, and policy experts together in conversations on equitable pathways for implementing climate policies.

After the March 3, 2022 Launch Event, the workshops were organized into three sections as follows:

- Part 1: Introduction to Equitable Building Decarbonization (March 10, March 17, and March 24, 2022)
- Part 2: Equitable and Community-Driven Climate Resilience in LA (April 7, April 14, and April 21, 2022)
- Part 3: Justice40 and Climate Equity Metrics for LA (May 12, 2022)

To supplement the information gathered through the Part 1 CELA workshops on building decarbonization,

focus groups organized by Strategic Actions for a Justice Economy (SAJE) and the North Hollywood Home Alliance (NHHA), provided an additional opportunity to hear from 58 low-income renters about the risks, challenges, and opportunities of residential building decarbonization.

The CEMO has put forward a set of 10 recommendations, with the approval of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Commission, to the City Council focused on building decarbonization and the priorities identified by stakeholders throughout the series. These recommendations include leveraging decarbonization to improve public health, assuring tenant protections and anti-displacement policies, and prioritizing funding to retrofit existing residential buildings in frontline communities. Other recommendations based on Year 1 workshop feedback will be considered for future communication to the CEMC, City Council and Mayor's Office.



Generating Stakeholder Dialogue & Priorities

Break Out Group Discussions & Facilitation

Break out group discussions were a cornerstone of the Climate Equity LA Innovative Governance Model for conducting participatory stakeholder engagement (see Figure 1.X). While conducted virtually, the small group discussions allowed for more personal and interactive dialogue where participants could share questions, concerns, priorities, and takeaways from each respective workshop topic. Break out rooms ranged from 8-14 participants, and were randomized to create a diverse mix between community members, organizations, and public and private entities. All break out rooms were facilitated by community-based organization (CBO) staff or student volunteers, and each discussion focused on three guiding questions shaped by the design team's input and feedback.

Facilitation and note taking for the CELA Series was done in partnership with the six CBO anchors: CBE, LAANE, Pacoima Beautiful, PSR-LA, SAJE, and SCOPE . CBOs recruited and organized a total of 41 unique staff members to serve as facilitators and notetakers for break out room discussions throughout the series' seven workshops. In addition to CBO staff, seven student volunteers from UCLA joined the process for a total of 48 facilitators and notetakers across all seven workshops of the CELA series.

To assure cohesive and consistent facilitation for the CELA series, an interactive training was developed by Andres Gonzalez, Program Manager at Liberty Hill Foundation, and offered to all CBO staff and student volunteers. The training session lasted 1.5 hours and was conducted in March and again in April 2022. The training sought to achieve four primary goals for the facilitators and notetakers:

- Understand the workshop agendas and break out room structure
- Convey clear expectations about the facilitation/ notetaking roles throughout the series
- Assist facilitators to navigate difficult questions in break out rooms
- Develop engaging and participatory facilitation practices

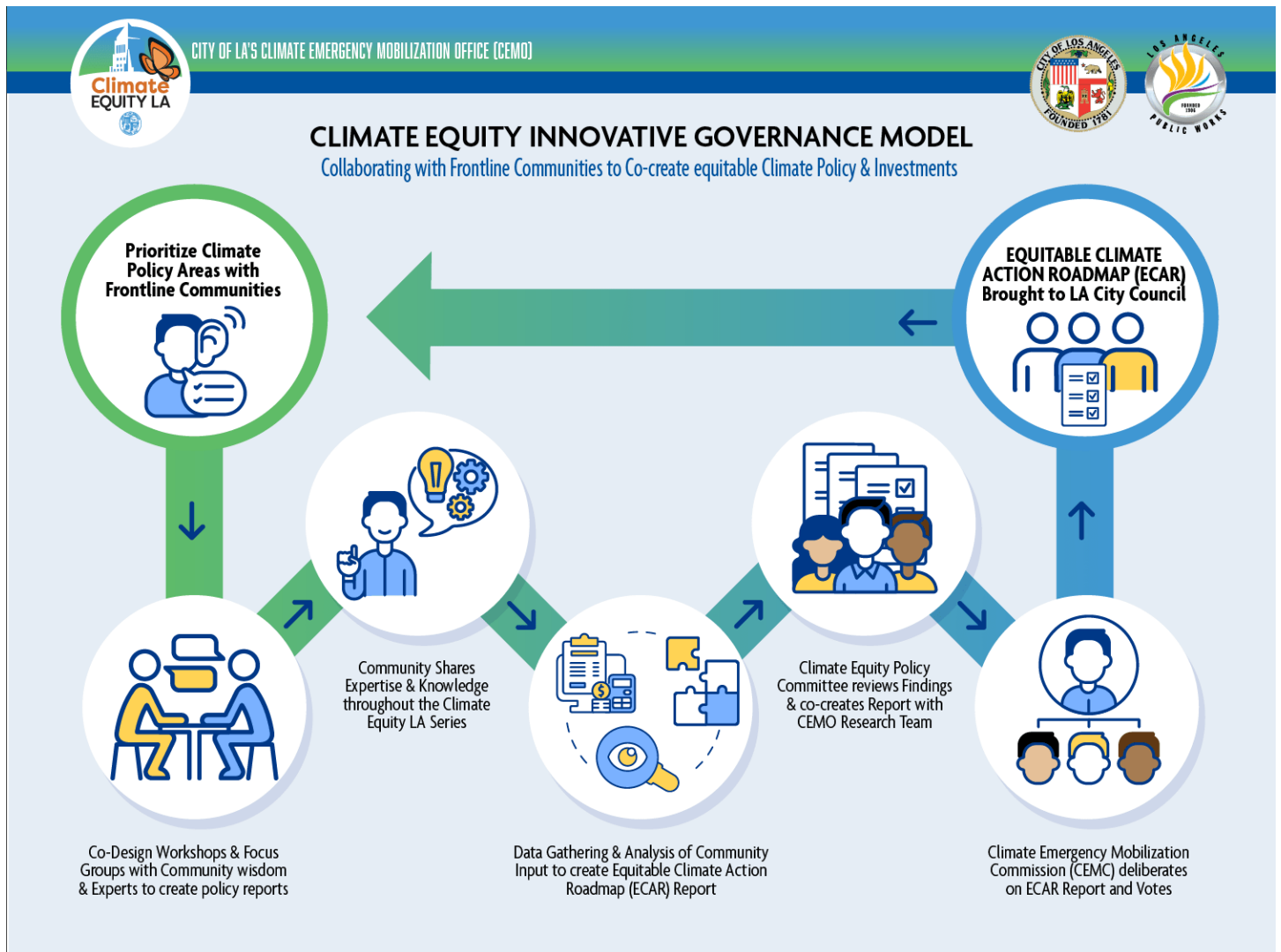
The first half of the training was focused on an overview of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office, its history, and the engagement blueprint for the series. This would prepare facilitators and notetakers to explain and clarify the purpose of the series and the role of CEMO to community members and other stakeholders unfamiliar with the new office.

After a background overview, the training then focused on the roles of the facilitator and notetaker. In these discussions, CBO staff and volunteers shared their own experiences in facilitation which helped ground the training sessions and build on trainee's pre-existing knowledge and background. The trainings included a review of facilitation practices such as the Listening Triangle, methods to move from facilitative to directive practices in break out rooms, and activities like role playing that demonstrated and troubleshooted difficult break out room scenarios.

All facilitators and notetakers were provided materials in both English and Spanish, including a script introducing the purpose of the break out rooms to stakeholder participants, an overview of terms and questions relevant to each topic area, and a roster of break out rooms by facilitator and notetaker. This template also included an individual notes document pre-filled with supporting script and relevant links.

All notetaking was conducted as close to verbatim as possible, with identities anonymized other than the general profile of the participant (i.e., community member, CBO, City employee etc.). In the closing plenary at the conclusion of the break out group discussions, three facilitators were asked to share key takeaways and top-level priorities that stakeholders identified in the break out rooms. Overall, the CELA series hosted a total 53 break out rooms to solicit participant feedback, in addition to “Menti” polling, surveys, and other engagement opportunities.

FIGURE 1. CEMO’s Climate Equity Innovative Governance Model



Introduction

This report is the first of a three-part report summarizing the process and model for the stakeholder engagement co-organized by the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO), the Liberty Hill Foundation and community-based organizations (CBOs) as part of the inaugural Climate Equity LA (CELA) Public Workshop Series in Spring 2022. This report will be followed by subsequent summaries of Parts 2 and 3 of the CELA Workshop Series which respectively covered “Community-Driven Climate Resilience” (April 2022) and “Justice40 Initiative & Climate Equity Metrics” (May 2022). A separate report prepared by CEMO for review by the Climate Emergency Mobilization Commission (CEMC) will address the recommendations and findings of the summary data presented in this report.

Advancing A Collaborative Model For Equitable Climate Policy

The goal of the CEMO working collaboratively with the Liberty Hill Foundation, was to create deep and meaningful engagement with LA's diverse communities, particularly grassroots, frontline communities, to hear their concerns and recommendations. These perspectives will be integrated into the overall CEMO Blueprint for innovative engagement, and the findings of the CELA Workshop Series and targeted focus groups will be presented to the CEMC, who will in turn, advise the City Council on equitable climate policy recommendations. This document describes the engagement model which was co-designed and implemented with community-based organizations (CBOs) around the topic of building decarbonization.

The Liberty Hill Foundation has a long history of supporting community-driven education, environmental justice, and social equity in Los

Angeles, as well as significant experience in conducting community outreach to engage CBOs serving low-income, frontline, and communities of color across the City. Liberty Hill's involvement in the co-development of the Los Angeles County Sustainability Plan during 2018-2019 exemplifies the kind of deep engagement the CEMO seeks to innovate.

Equitable Building Decarbonization Policy

The theme of Building Decarbonization was highlighted as a top priority by the nonprofit and frontline CBOs who were interviewed in the Summer of 2021 for their input on the CEMO's curriculum and stakeholder engagement for its inaugural year of programming. These organizations included the members of the Leap LA Coalition who organized and advocated for the establishment of the CEMO and CEMC beginning in 2017. The Leap LA Coalition includes Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), Esperanza Community Housing, Pacoima Beautiful, Physicians for Social Responsibility-LA (PSR-LA), Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE), and Sacred Places Institute (SPI). The initial interest in building decarbonization stemmed from ongoing policy discussions in the City of Los Angeles during 2021 and these organizations' concerns about the potential for building decarbonization to exacerbate the existing housing and homelessness crises and lead to displacement and gentrification.

The City of Los Angeles has been working actively to develop policies and programs to reduce carbon emissions from our residential and commercial building stock since it accounts for the largest sectoral share (46%) of GHG emissions. Unprecedented policy motions have been introduced by City Council members, thrusting the issue into the public

debate. In December 2021, a motion calling for inclusive stakeholder engagement based on justice principles was introduced by Councilmembers Koretz, Krekorian, Raman and Martinez (CF 21-1463) and in February 2022, a motion (CF 22-0151) introduced by Councilmembers Raman, O’Farrell, Martinez, Harris-Dawson, Koretz, and Blumenfield specified a policy goal for zero-carbon emissions in new building construction by 2030. Another motion (CF 22-0532) which proposed decarbonizing all municipal buildings, was introduced by Councilmembers O’Farrell and Krekorian in May 2022.

Based on the feedback from the community-based organizations in the Leap LA Coalition and other City leaders, theCEMO decided to structure its Part 1 Series with three separate workshops devoted to understanding the basics of building decarbonization, the implications for low-income tenants and affordable housing developers, and the potential for green jobs and workforce development. The goals of the Part 1 series on “Equitable Building Decarbonization” were to:

1. Explain the relationship between building decarbonization, climate equity, and health;
2. Establish an understanding of how cities manage the issue;
3. Share community expertise on critical issues of housing affordability, tenant protection, workforce development and job creation/transition;
4. Hear from the participants how building decarbonization would “touch” their lives; and
5. Identify policies and programs that could optimize benefits and minimize negative impacts.

Community-Based Engagement Approach

Community-based engagement encourages and enables groups serving and organizing disadvantaged and frontline communities to fully inform and involve their members and neighborhood residents

in timely and often complex policy discussions and decisions. This requires sufficient time and access to information, so that community members can truly contribute their voices to the discussions. The CEMO and Liberty Hill sought to create an innovative stakeholder engagement model that would honor and support this approach. Implementation of this model was done through community assemblies that brought together community stakeholders, public officials, and technical experts in discussion with each other around key climate issue areas across the City of Los Angeles. These assemblies make up the 3 part CELA workshop series, with the purpose of centering these assemblies as a community space to identify community priorities, concerns, and pathways towards equitable climate adaptation. This is the first cycle of applying this model and we are all learning as we go. This summary report contributes to the learning and improvement of our process for future cycles of deep community engagement.

A key principle in community-based engagement is reciprocity. To that end, it is necessary to provide modest compensation to nonprofit and grassroots organizations to enable sufficient staffing capacity to participate in a range of activities and to recognize the work and expertise of these organizations. This is a best practice that cities are beginning to integrate into their budgets and we hope to provide a model for other City programs to do the same. Activities covered by these stipends typically include planning meetings, review of policy and research documents, development of popular education materials, outreach/recruitment of community residents and other stakeholders to participate, and facilitation of educational workshops/meetings. These components are fundamental to authentic and meaningful community engagement, and require dedicated staff time from the CBOs who are anchoring the co-design process.

Liberty Hill on behalf of the CEMO and the City of LA, entered into Memos of Understanding (MOUs) with three CBO Anchor organizations (LAANE, PSR-LA, and SAJE) for the Building Decarbonization

Series to help the CEMO reach out and engage with targeted grassroots communities. (Similar MOUs were executed for the Community-Driven Climate Resilience and Justice40 sessions with other CBOs). The CBO Anchors participated in the Curriculum Design meetings, prepared and delivered presentations at the public workshops, promoted the Series to their constituents, and provided staff/volunteers to facilitate break out group discussions. The CBO Anchors also provided outreach and facilitation support for the CELA Series Parts 2 (Community-Driven Climate Resilience) and 3 (Justice40). Additionally, the CBOs participated in debriefing and planning meetings to assist CEMO and Liberty Hill in preparation for Year 2 activities. Liberty Hill entered into subcontracts of \$20,000 with each CBO Anchor for these activities.

CEMO also invested in five, targeted focus group discussions organized by Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE) and the North Hollywood Home Alliance (NHHA) to educate and solicit feedback directly from low-income tenants about equitable building decarbonization (see page 36 for further information).

Curriculum Engagement Design Team On Building Decarbonization

As part of the CEMO's innovative stakeholder engagement blueprint, a Curriculum Engagement Design Team was co-created by CEMO and Liberty Hill in collaboration with CBO partners. The Curriculum Engagement Design Team was convened with representatives from the CBOs, academia, Los Angeles City and County departments, and organizations who have built expertise in advancing equitable building decarbonization. The Design Team's task was to develop a curriculum for virtual Community Assemblies to explore key equitable climate policies and solicit input from grassroots communities, nonprofit groups, and neighborhood council leaders, along with members of the public. Members of the

Building Decarbonization Design Team included:

- Agustin Cabrera, Strategic Concepts in Organizing & Policy Education (SCOPE)
- Alex Jasset, Physicians for Social Responsibility-LA (PSR-LA) and Leap LA Coalition representative
- Araceli Amezcua, Chelsea Kirk, Cynthia Strathmann, & Kaitlyn Quackenbush, Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE)
- Blanca de la Cruz, California Housing Partnership (CHP)
- Craig Tranby, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)
- Eric Fournier, Felicia Federico, and Stephanie Pincetl, UCLA Center for Sustainable Communities and UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability (IoES)
- Kameron Hurt, Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE)
- Karen Pender, City of Los Angeles Department of Building & Safety (LADBS)
- Kristen Torres Pawling, LA County Chief Sustainability Office
- Laura Gracia, Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)
- Marisol Romero, Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD)
- Megan Ross, City of Los Angeles, Mayor's Office of Sustainability
- Michele Hasson, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

The Design Team was led and staffed by Marta Segura, Director of CEMO, and Rebekah Guerra Day, CEMO's Engagement and Logistics Coordinator, supported by Emma French, a Fellow with UCLA's Sustainable LA Grand Challenge Program and Ph.D. student in the Department of Urban Planning. Michele Prichard and Andres Gonzalez of Liberty Hill, and UCLA Luskin Environmental Justice Fellow Casey Leedom, also provided key administrative, planning, program development, and facilitation support.

In preparation for the Design Team meetings, Liberty Hill and CEMO staff conducted one-on-one interviews with most of the Design Team members to identify key issues, priorities, challenges, and equity considerations that the CEMO curriculum should address. Additionally, Liberty Hill staff conducted background research through interviews with parallel city and municipal staff focused on building decarbonization through deep community engagement models, including the City of Berkeley and City of Denver, as well as through a review of relevant grey literature on building decarbonization in LA, including recent reports by [Arup](#), [SAJE](#), and [LAANE and Inclusive Economics](#). Design Team members were also asked to comment on their perspectives about the goals and format of the virtual Community Assemblies.

Design Team Meeting #1 was conducted on November 8, 2021 and included brief presentations by staff on the CEMO purpose and vision, the goals of the Community Assemblies, and a synthesis of key topics from the one-on-one interviews with Design Team members. Participants then engaged in Breakout Group discussions to delve further into the key equity priorities and challenges, reconvening in a plenary discussion to summarize and plan next steps. Key issues that surfaced included: 1) Low-Income Tenant Impacts; 2) Affordable Housing Developer Impacts; 3) Job Impacts; 4) Financing Options; 5) Public Utility Impacts; 6) Lessons from Other Cities; and 7) GHG Reduction Impacts. Participants generally agreed that Building Decarbonization is a complex policy issue and that the curriculum should provide a basic understanding for a non-technical audience, feature the critical issues of impacts on low-income tenants, nonprofit housing developers, and include the potential for green jobs that could benefit disadvantaged community residents.

Design Team Meeting #2 was held on January 11, 2022 to review the draft curriculum proposal that CEMO and Liberty Hill staff developed for the 3-part series on Building Decarbonization. Staff proposed the

following approach, with expert and community-based presenters helping to lead each session to create a baseline of information for discussion in Breakout Groups during each session:

- Workshop 1: Affordable Housing and Tenants
- Workshop 2: Financing Equitable Green Buildings
- Workshop 3: Green Workforce & A Just Transition

Staff also proposed that one approach may be for the public to vote on different policy recommendations that were contained in three recent reports on Building Decarbonization by [Arup](#), [SAJE](#), and [LAANE and Inclusive Economics](#). It was suggested that a subset of these recommendations could be discussed, evaluated, and “straw polled” by participants across three criteria: equity implications, programmatic viability, and overall impact. After much discussion, the Design Team concluded that it was more useful to present a general overview and background information on Building Decarbonization, laying the groundwork for participants to engage in a discussion to identify their perceptions of potential benefits, harms and solutions. A small subcommittee of the Design Team agreed to continue working with staff to hammer out the final agenda, speakers, and format for the Building Decarbonization series.

A Listening/Strategy Session with Leap LA Coalition

members was held on December 9, 2021, in between Design Meetings #1 and #2, to focus on the plan for engaging grassroots communities, specifically low-income residents, low-wage workers, indigenous and frontline communities. This deep grassroots engagement was the Leap LA Coalition’s original vision for the CEMO’s role within the City. This session explored the needs of the CEMO to balance different constituencies, including “grasstops” policy and technical experts (e.g. Council offices, Neighborhood Councils, Agency personnel and CBO staff) as well as “grassroots” constituencies with local knowledge and expertise (e.g. tenants, low-wage workers, and EJ community members) in order to effectively raise and

address equity issues in climate and energy policy. The idea of targeted Focus Groups was proposed as a way to increase direct grassroots involvement, especially in the COVID environment where large-scale, in-person meetings were still risky and prohibited, at least during our planning phase. This meeting yielded three recommendations:

1. To encourage the CEMO to work with CBO partner, SAJE to conduct one or more Focus Groups with low-income tenants in the City of LA to solicit their concerns and input related to Building Decarbonization.
2. To structure three CEMO public Zoom workshops that would address key policy issues to reach a diverse audience of City staff, neighborhood council leaders and nonprofits, while remaining accessible to grassroots participants; and
3. To focus workshop participants on discussing and assessing general opportunities and concerns about Building Decarbonization, rather than structuring discussion around technical and complex policy recommendations that would be difficult to evaluate and prioritize without more in-depth presentations and discussions.

Focus Group Strategy for Low-Income Tenant Engagement

SAJE agreed to develop a Focus Group proposal for CEMO and to reach out to other low-income tenants' rights organizations to gauge their interest in participating or sponsoring additional Focus Groups. For the virtual public workshops, the Leap LA Coalition representatives agreed that it would be most valuable to provide an introductory session, followed by two sessions on housing impacts and jobs/green workforce impacts. Leap LA also shared that they had recently engaged the private consulting firm of Pueblo Planning to develop popular education materials on Building Decarbonization strategies and policy options geared for grassroots outreach and involvement. The CEMO welcomed this development and expressed interest in including Pueblo Plannings' findings in C'EMO's

documentation and report to the CEMC.

As a result of the Design Team planning process and the Leap LA Coalition's recommendations, the CEMO moved forward to plan a Building Decarbonization series of public Zoom workshops on Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. as follows:

- March 10, 2022: "Why Decarbonize Buildings and Homes in Los Angeles?"
- March 17, 2022: "Energy/Housing Justice and Building Decarbonization"
- March 24, 2022: "A Just Green Workforce and Building Decarbonization"

A "Citywide Launch: Climate Equity LA Series and Blueprint for Climate Equity" introductory session was recommended by the CEMO Director to introduce [the CEMO Blueprint](#) and approach, as well as showcase the broad support for the CEMO across the City in advance of the Building Decarbonization series. It took place on March 3, 2022.

Outreach & Promotion For Climate Equity LA Series Of Public Zoom Workshops

The CEMO took the lead in developing promotional materials, including a social media toolkit, with the assistance of the Public Affairs Office, Board of Public Works. These materials were broadly distributed and shared through the following outlets, social media, and additional communication strategies:

City and County Outreach: Relevant City entities—including the Board and Department of Public Works, LADWP, and the Departments of City Planning, Housing, Building and Safety, Civil + Human Rights and Equity, and Emergency Management were all contacted to attend and share the invitational materials. In addition, the Mayor's Office of Sustainability and several Council offices also assisted in publicizing the CELA series to their constituencies. The LA County Chief Sustainability Office also

promoted the CELA series to their extensive list.

Neighborhood Council Outreach: As a coordinating office for the City of LA's 99 Neighborhood Councils, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) shared the materials to encourage broad participation across the City. The Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA), which includes leaders from the Neighborhood Councils with special interest in environmental, climate, and sustainability issues, distributed promotional materials widely to their core leaders.

CBO Partners: As a provision of their MOUs, the CBOs who served as leads on the Building Decarbonization series conducted outreach activities—including email blasts, social media, website posting, newsletter announcements, and telephone outreach—to encourage their members and other grassroots residents and allied organizations to participate in the CELA series.

Liberty Hill: Liberty Hill compiled outreach lists consisting of all environmental justice grantees and environmental/social justice organizations who had participated in the development of the LA County Sustainability Plan during 2018-2019. In addition, Liberty Hill compiled lists of other grantee organizations working in youth, housing, immigrant, education and civil rights arenas. Liberty Hill also added unaffiliated individual supporters with environmental interests to the outreach lists. Promotion was conducted starting 4 weeks before the Launch meeting, and then weekly throughout the entire series.

Citywide Launch: Climate Equity LA (CELA) Series (March 3, 2022)

On March 3, 2022, 134 participants and production staff joined the “Launch” meeting of CEMO in a public Zoom event held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. . Titled “A Vision for Climate Equity LA and CEMO Blueprint,” the goal was to announce the CEMO’s purpose, policy process (the Climate Equity Governance Blueprint), and upcoming activities, and to engage an array of City and community leaders in the theme of climate equity. Participants were identified based on organizational or community affiliation, depicted in Figure 1, showing the definitions and codes used to classify these groups.

Attendees represented a diverse group with CBO anchors (environmental justice organizations holding MOUs with Liberty Hill/CEMO for stakeholder engagement) and other community-based groups together representing the largest contingent. City of LA Departments and Offices also made a strong showing, including staff from the Department of Building and Safety, the Department of City Planning, the Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas Administration and Safety, the Mayor’s Office, and City Council, along with representatives of LA County’s Chief Sustainability Office and the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

A variety of nonprofit organizations attended, including the Audubon Society, the Climate Center, East LA Community Corporation, EnviroVoters, Food & Water Watch, GRID Alternatives, MOVE LA, the Sierra Club and the U.S. Green Building Council. Also in attendance were students, faculty and researchers from UCLA and USC, Neighborhood Council leaders, and business representatives, including from LA BizFed, Bloom Energy, BuroHappold Engineering, Cedars Sinai, and Southern California Gas.

Workshop Speakers & Panel Participants

After a brief welcome and overview of the CEMO,

FIGURE 2. Participation Legend for CELA Series

Code	Definition
ACADEMIC	College and university faculty, students, etc.
BUSINESS	Business and Commercial interests
CBO	Community Based Organizations with a base-building focus
CBO ANCHOR	Community Based Organizations (x6) that participated in the design and outreach of the CELA Series
CITY	City of LA Staff and relevant agencies
GOV	All other government representatives outside of the City of Los Angeles
NC	Neighborhood Councils
NPO	Non-Profit Organizations
NPO ALLIES	Non-Profit Organizations supporting the design process of the CELA Series
PRIVATE	For-profit organizations including, but not limited to, consulting groups, for-profit research firms, lobbying groups etc.
TEAM	CEMO, Liberty Hill Staff, Interpreters
UNAFF	Individuals without clear affiliation/independent

Director Marta Segura introduced the speakers who offered greetings, perspectives, and excitement about the launch of the CEMO and its potential to bring together diverse communities of Los Angeles to advance equity in climate policy. Speakers included:

- Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell, Council District 13
- Councilmember Paul Koretz, Council District 5
- Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Council District 2
- Lauren Faber O’Connor, Mayor Garcetti’s Office of Sustainability, City of LA
- Capri Maddox, Executive Director, City of LA Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department
- Maro Kakoussian, Climate Justice Organizing Manager, PSR-LA & Leap LA Coalition
- Imelda Padilla, Commissioner for CEMC
- Jackie Badejo, Commissioner for CEMC
- Tianna Shaw-Wakeman, Youth Commissioner for CEMC
- Gary Gero, Chief Sustainability Officer, LA County

moderated by CEMO Director Marta Segura examined two broad questions from a variety of CBO, policy expert and community organizing perspectives. Panelists included:

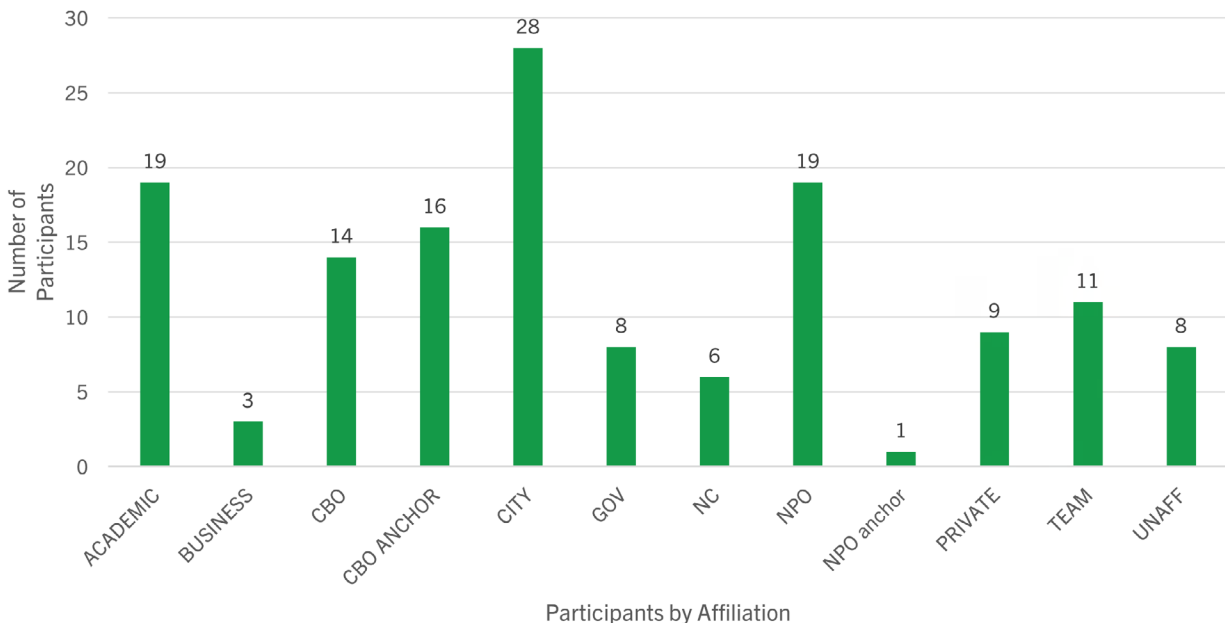
- Agustin Cabrera, Research & Policy Director, SCOPE
- Laura Gracia, Climate Adaptation Resiliency Enhancement (CARE) Coordinator, CBE
- Kameron Hurt, Community Organizer, RePower LA, LAANE
- Chelsea Kirk, Assistant Director of Building Equity and Transit, SAJE
- Megan Ross, Climate Advisor, Mayor Garcetti’s Office of Sustainability
- Cynthia Strathmann, Executive Director, SAJE

Panel Discussion Question # 1: What Does Equitable Climate Policy Look Like To Our Communities?

For the second half of the program, a panel discussion

Key points made by the Panelists in response to this

FIGURE 3. Participation in the Climate Equity LA Series Launch Event (March 3, 2022)



question were:

- **DEEP COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** The need to draw upon and center the lived experience and expertise of community members in designing equitable climate policy. This must go beyond an invitation to participate, and must provide background education, capacity building and meaningful engagement of community residents.
- **AVOIDING HARM:** The need to avoid “unintentional negative consequences” and harmful impacts on those who suffer the most from climate change and who are now rent-burdened and threatened by displacement.
- **INCLUSION:** The need to incorporate many voices and perspectives—environmental justice, labor, and tenants—through active, democratic engagement. The CEMO process recognizes this need for inclusion and is “changing the rules of the game” by centering community residents.
- **HEALTH EQUITY & GOOD JOBS:** The need to focus on the potential for creating healthier, more equitable communities, including good jobs and housing stability for working class families as we undertake building decarbonization to meet our climate goals.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY TO COMMUNITY:** The need to assure equitable and ambitious outcomes through an inclusive process that is co-crafted by community experts. This will help make policy accountable to the people who are intended to benefit and be served. CEMO will help to institutionalize the voice of the community in policy design.

Panel Discussion Question #2: Are Climate Equity And Justice Necessary To Bring About Climate Solutions For All, And Why?

Key takeaways from the panelists included:

- **CLIMATE JUSTICE IS HOUSING JUSTICE:** Climate inequities (air pollution, heat, disasters) are directly linked to housing inequities (location, poor quality housing, lack of air conditioning, lack of resources to afford a new home after a disaster). Building decarbonization will cost money and the expense cannot fall on those least able to afford it.
- **CLIMATE JUSTICE IS RACIAL JUSTICE:** We cannot ignore the role of historic and systemic racism that has led to disinvestment, displacement, and unemployment. The California Justice40 initiative by Assemblymember Bryan (AB 2419) is an exciting opportunity to redirect climate investments to the most vulnerable communities.
- **CLIMATE JUSTICE IS ECONOMIC JUSTICE:** Equitable climate policy must include not only tenants, EJ communities, and Black and Brown residents, but also workers and unions. Climate policies must be developed in consultation with labor unions, trades, and workers. Community labor groups and unions can provide research and policy input to create positive outcomes.
- **COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE OFFERS AUTHENTIC SOLUTIONS:** There is much technical and experiential knowledge and expertise in local communities and many community residents and groups have been problem-solving for decades with creative solutions.
- **CLIMATE SOLUTIONS REQUIRE COMMUNITY TRUST:** Developing equitable climate policy can only happen as fast as trust is built, and the City must acknowledge historic harm and racial disparity in order to produce clean air, good jobs, and safe housing.
- **SET GOALS, TRACK PROGRESS WITH COMMUNITY:** In order to operationalize climate equity, community residents and CBOs must be engaged in setting goals, tracking funding, and monitoring progress so that decision makers can be held accountable. Community and CBO partnerships with all levels of government will be necessary to ensure the resident voice is included in policy goals and design.

After the panel there was a Q&A session with the CEMO Director and the panelists. Some highlights included:

- The CEMO is in its first year of programming and is working closely with community-based partners to determine the content, format, and location of future workshops and other activities.
- The small business sector is welcome to join CEMO programs, but also will be engaged by the City's Department of Building and Safety on building decarbonization policies and implementation.
- The Climate Emergency Mobilization Commission (CEMC) includes representation from neighborhoods in Los Angeles (e.g. Wilmington, Pacoima, Watts) with high social and environmental vulnerability since 7 of the Commissioners represent communities in the top 10% of the State's CalEnviroScreen ranking.
- CEMO will help to ensure cross-cutting communication on City climate policies and lift communities' voices and recommendations stemming from the CEMO workshops. For example, the City is waiting to proceed on some aspects of building decarbonization to incorporate feedback from CEMO's CELA Series, especially from tenants' rights organizations.
- CEMO is aware that many CBOs are suffering from stakeholder "engagement fatigue" and is committed to developing ways to build capacity so there can be sustained involvement and collaboration.
- The CEMO Innovative Governance Blueprint and Equitable Climate Action Roadmap will be valuable tools that the CEMC will use to inform City Council, City agencies and the Mayor.

Climate Equity LA Series :
Part 1: Introduction to Building
Decarbonization Public
Workshop Series (March, 2022)



Part 1: Introduction to Equitable Building Decarbonization Public Workshop Series

The Building Decarbonization Public Zoom Workshop series engaged a total of 204 unique individuals representing a wide array of nonprofit, community-based, private, government and academic organizations. In the graph below, the participation by category and by workshop is displayed across the three workshops conducted on March 10, 17, and 24.

Planning and Preparation for the Decarbonization Series

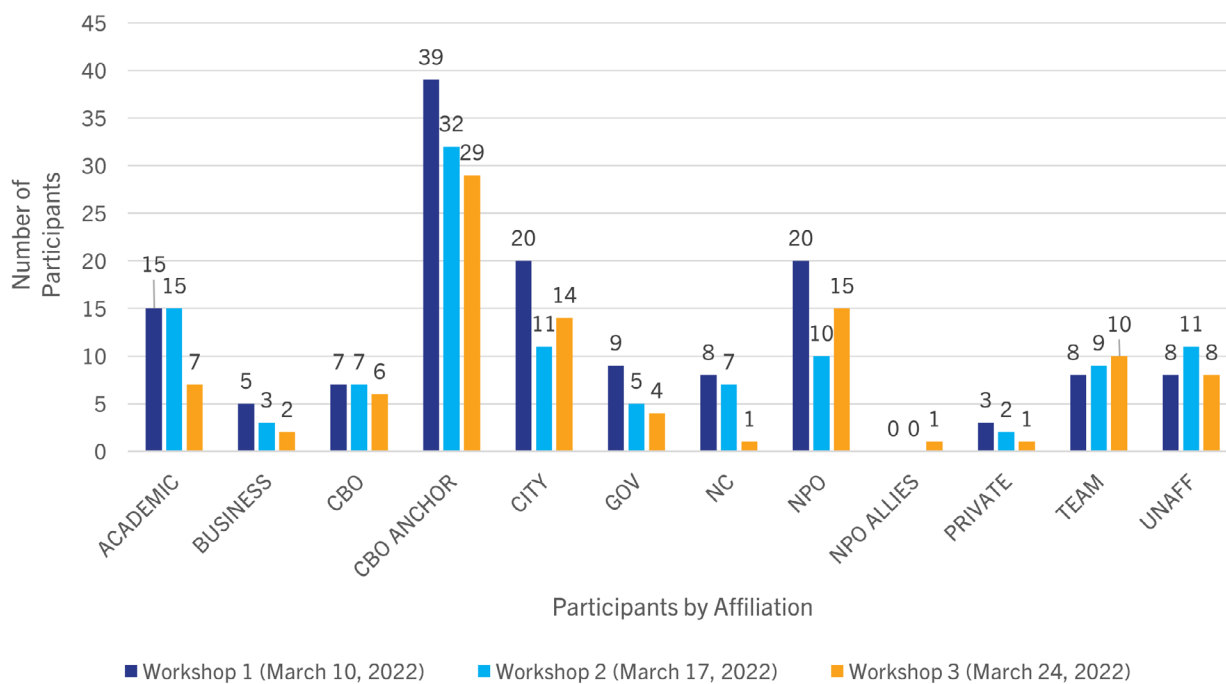
With the support from the Curriculum Design Team's earlier discussions, preparation for Part 1 on Building Decarbonization involved identifying speakers and panelists and coordinating the flow of the panels, breakout sessions and engagement strategies in a virtual setting with CEMO and Liberty Hill staff as the

lead coordinators. We also held preparatory sessions with the speakers that enabled them to assure that key themes and information were covered and that all presentations would be complementary. The prep sessions also helped to identify key questions for the Breakout Group Discussions. Panelists created their own PowerPoint presentations and submitted them to the CEMO and Liberty Hill in advance for review and translation. CEMO staff ensured that it followed the branding and graphics for the City and CEMO.

Workshop #1: Why Decarbonize Buildings And Homes In LA? (March 10, 2022)

On March 10, 2022, Workshop #1 took place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on a public Zoom. The first workshop

FIGURE 4. Overall Participation in the CELA Part 1: Building Decarbonization



provided an introductory overview to the issue of building decarbonization and highlighted key benefits and challenges. In addition to the key objectives for the overall Part 1 series, this workshop also aimed to: 1) convey how feedback from the CEMO workshops will interact with other City processes, and 2) identify top policy questions, concerns, and ideas from the participants.

The workshop featured opening remarks by the CEMO Director who shared the Office's vision, purpose, and innovative governance model to co-create equitable climate policy with frontline, community groups. The Director shared the "Blueprint" process for developing community-led policy recommendations to be considered by the Climate Emergency Mobilization Commission (CEMC) and developed into an Equitable Climate Action Roadmap to share with the LA City Council (and Mayor). The composition of the CEMC was shared, as well as the community organizing that led to the establishment of the CEMO.

The following speakers participated in Workshop 1 roundtables and panels:

- Alex Jasset, Nuclear Threats & Energy Justice Program Manager, PSR-LA
- Megan Ross, Climate Advisor, Mayor Garcetti's Office of Sustainability
- Kristen Torres Pawling, Sustainability Program Directory, LA County Sustainability Office

Presentation Summary

The first presentations were led by Alex Jasset, Energy Justice Program Manager for PSR-LA and Leap LA Coalition representative, as well as Chelsea Kirk, Assistant Director of Building Equity & Transit, for SAJE. Each speaker shared powerpoint slides and conveyed key points related to the potential benefits and unintended negative impacts of building decarbonization:

- Los Angeles is in a climate emergency with increasingly frequent and intense wildfires, extreme heat, drought and rising sea levels.
- Buildings represented 46% of GHG emissions in 2019, more than any other sector.
- The goal of building decarbonization is to mitigate GHGs by increasing energy efficiency; eliminating natural gas use through electrification; and transitioning to carbon-free renewable energy.
- Concerns include environmental justice risks, such as sacrificing local air or water quality through poor policy design; housing risks to tenants who could face increased rent, displacement, landlord harassment and greater corporate ownership ; and labor risks for displaced fossil fuel workers without just transition pathways.
- An energy justice framework must address historic and current injustices and avoid unintended consequences. It is a framework that also promotes a vision for clean, affordable and accessible energy for all, and one that includes leadership from frontline communities. It is crucial to embed EJ principles in this framework, and build broad coalitions in order to win.
- Opportunities include improving housing quality through retrofits; protecting health through improved indoor air; reducing energy costs; providing new energy ownership possibilities; new job potential including targeted hiring policies; and serving as a model for other cities.

A second presentation was delivered by **Megan Ross, Climate Advisor, Mayor's Office of Sustainability**, who emphasized that building decarbonization is one of our City's most powerful climate actions with the potential to further LA's Green New Deal principles and help the City reach carbon neutrality by 2050. Ross shared the benefits of decarbonization and key targets for 100% net zero carbon new buildings by 2030 and for existing buildings by 2050 with interim targets for different building types. LADWP's LA100 Plan asserts that we have the technology to achieve a 100% carbon-free grid by 2035 and that different strategies

are needed based on building type, size, vintage, etc. Community leaders need to work with technical experts and City staff to develop standards and strategies to meet climate and community needs. Ross described how different departments are outreaching to different stakeholders: CEMO reaching frontline communities and justice-focused organizations; Department of Building and Safety reaching architects, engineers, property owners and real estate industry; and LA Housing Department connecting with multifamily housing providers, landlords, tenants and affordable developers. Also, while technical data show that only 3% of the largest buildings consume 30% of energy, small buildings and single family homes still need to reduce their natural gas usage to meet our climate goals.

A Q&A session took place after these presentations to answer a few questions from the participants, including how to increase protections for low-income tenants, ensure good jobs, leverage state and local financing incentives, and how to phase-in and sequence a “suite” of policies and programs for decarbonizing different building types. Questions helped to highlight information about the City’s existing incentive programs for building owners and renters, including exchange programs for refrigerators, weatherization, a direct install program (HEIP) for free lighting upgrades in single family homes, and the new Comprehensive Affordable Multifamily Retrofits (CAMR) program, which provides free assessments and subsidized retrofits, electrification and panel upgrades for low income-qualified properties. The ongoing need to make programs as accessible as possible for low-income residents was emphasized, as was the need for community representatives to be involved in program design and implementation.

A third presentation featured remarks by **Kristen Torres Pawling of the Chief Sustainability Office of LA County** and **Megan Ross of the Mayor’s Office of Sustainability**, highlighting some key policy examples and guiding thoughts for the LA region to consider. These included:

- All levels of government must work together and within the State’s framework, requiring City/County collaboration.
- Both the City of LA’s Green New Deal and LA County’s Sustainability Plan contain goals to eliminate fossil fuels, including advancing strategies on building decarbonization.
- Local jurisdictions can institute “reach” codes for new building construction that exceed minimum State standards, including natural gas bans, all-electric mandates and electric-preferred codes. Recent technical studies have found that construction costs of all-electric (compared to mixed fuel) buildings are typically less expensive across all building types, and typically provide utility bill savings, often right away.
- Existing buildings are governed by Building Performance Standards (BPS) to achieve better energy efficiency through benchmarking and retrofits. The City of LA is part of a national BPS Coalition of local and state governments dedicated to inclusive design and implementation in alignment with Justice40 principles.
- Both Denver and New York are working to implement BPS standards for large buildings (25,000 + sq. ft.) by 2030, while only Denver addresses smaller buildings. Both cities have adopted a phased approach to setting targets for different building types.
- A recent Arup study of retrofit costs found that energy efficiency and building electrification reduced energy bills for single family and low-rise multi-family buildings, with existing cooling features. For low-rise multi-family buildings, energy bills could go up or down depending on demand for new cooling.

In the Q&A Session, participants questioned why natural gas as an energy source needed to be phased out and what the implications would be for remaining customers. Panelists responded that natural gas is a carbon-centric fuel and that we need to transition

away from it. Decommissioning natural gas systems has job and utility implications. We need to rapidly shift towards carbon-free sources. In Los Angeles, where the Department of Public Health serves both the City and County, there are health concerns related to the impact of burning natural gas on both indoor and outdoor air quality, providing another reason to phase-out gas. New construction of all-electric buildings is more efficient, since it must only be installed as one system, not two.

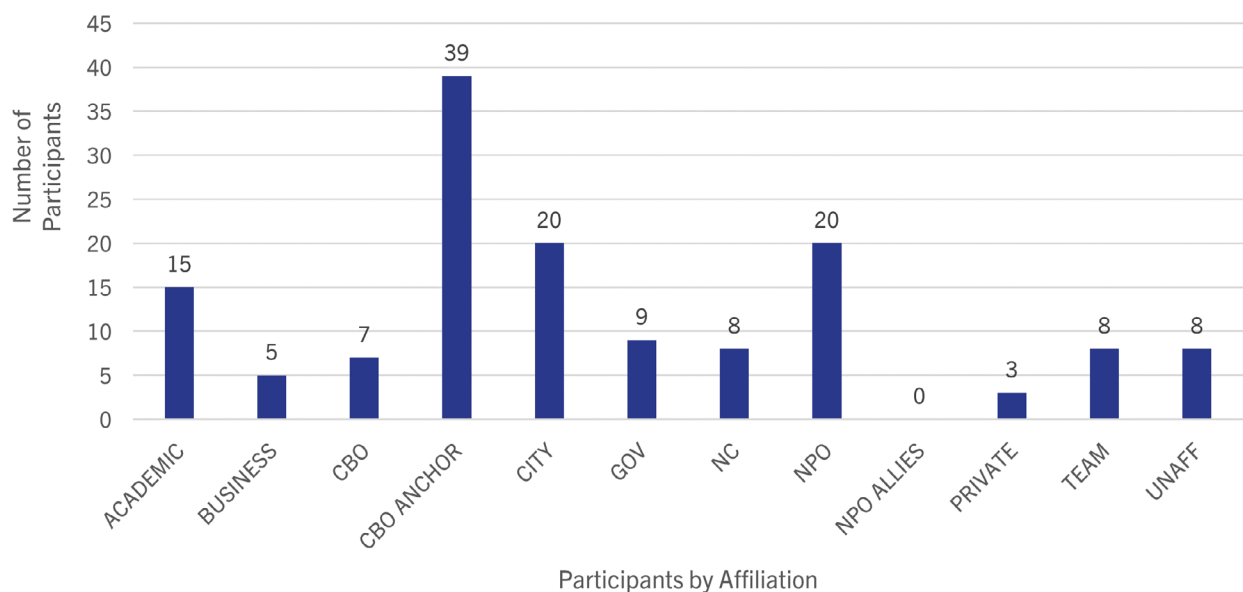
The technical aspects of the Zoom workshop were supported by Liberty Hill and CEMO staff, while the professional agency, Interpreters Unlimited, provided Spanish language interpretation for any participant who chose to listen and engage through the Spanish language channel on the Zoom platform. Preparation for the Launch session, including speaker confirmation, coordination and agenda development, was managed by CEMO and Liberty Hill staff. The Zoom session was video-recorded and posted to the

Liberty Hill Foundation website shortly after the event. When the CEMO’s inaugural website is developed (Fall 2022), the videos will be posted to it as well. All registrants for the public Zooms received a follow-up email thanking them for their participation and providing a link to the recording, as well as links to the speakers’ PowerPoints and other resource materials.

Participation in Workshop #1

Workshop #1 on Building Decarbonization attracted 142 total participants, with 27 having an active role in the workshop, including speakers, panelists, support staff and Breakout Group facilitators and notetakers, who were CBO Anchor staff and/or community members. Several UCLA graduate and undergraduate students from the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability (IoES) and the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs also participated and helped lead Breakout Groups.

FIGURE 5. Participation in the CELA Part 1 Workshop 1: Why Decarbonize Buildings and Homes



Participants represented a diverse group with strong participation from CBO anchors (environmental justice organizations holding MOUs with Liberty Hill/CEMO for stakeholder engagement), including LAANE, SCOPE, SAJE, PSR-LA, Pacoima Beautiful, and CBE. Other community-based groups, such as Black Women for Wellness and Esperanza Community Housing were represented by staff and CBO members. A variety of non-profit organizations—including the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Beverly-Vermont Community Land Trust, Civic Impact Group, Climate Center, EnviroVoters, Friends of Griffith Park, MoveLA, Holman United Methodist Church, People for Parks, Slate-Z, Stand.Earth, U.S. Green Building Council, and the Valley Justice Collective also attended. One indigenous organization, the Society of Native Nations, also attended.

City of LA Departments and Offices, including LADBS, Planning, LADWP, Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the Mayor’s Office, several City Council Office representatives and CEMC Commissioners joined, as did representatives from the U.S. Congress, LA County’s Chief Sustainability Office, LA County Department of Public Works, LA County Board of Supervisors Offices, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Neighborhood Council leaders and business representatives (Building Industry Association, LA BizFed, Bloom Energy, BuroHappold Engineering, Cedars Sinai and Southern California Gas Co) participated, as did students, faculty and researchers affiliated with UCLA, USC, Occidental College, Santa Monica College and CSU-Long Beach.

To allow for more in-depth participant engagement, the meeting broke into 11 Breakout Groups (BOGs) during the last part of the public Zoom workshop. Each BOG was led by a trained facilitator to help lead discussion and stay on time, while a trained notetaker participated in every BOG to record comments and ideas. Ten of the BOGs were conducted in English, and 1 BOG was conducted in Spanish. On average, each BOG included 8 to 12 participants.

The BOG facilitator opened with a quick round of introductions and then re-stated the 3 main questions that had been announced in the plenary session. Facilitators also quickly reviewed “community agreements” to maximize participation by all and ensure open communication. Up to three BOG facilitators were asked ahead of time to be prepared to relay a “report back” to share key highlights from their BOG discussion with the plenary group.

BOG discussion notes were inductively coded to identify key themes. Below is a summary of the takeaways from Building Decarb Workshop 1 BOGs:

Question #1: In your view, what are some of the benefits of building decarbonization (clean energy buildings)?

- By far, the public health benefits of building decarbonization—reducing indoor air pollution and asthma triggers, creating more thermal comfort in buildings, and reducing emission-generating energy supplies in EJ Communities (e.g. burning fossil fuels), were most frequently cited by meeting participants as a perceived benefit of building

“Community-based solar projects could be beneficial in this situation again so communities and neighborhoods can benefit. Other challenges [are] money and incentivizing property owners to make this transition. We have a very large renter community in LA, and renters are not benefiting from all of these things. How [do] we incentivize landlords? What about homes that are owned by lower-income families? It’s easy to say decarbonize, but where does the money come from?”

-Workshop Participant

decarbonization.

- Reduced energy costs and reduced GHG emissions were also cited frequently as an important perceived benefit of building decarbonization.
- Improving social equity and energy resilience were mentioned as additional potential benefits, although less frequently than public health, energy costs, and emissions reductions.
- Surprisingly, the potential job benefits resulting from building decarbonization were cited by only a handful of participants.

Question #2: What are some challenges related to building decarbonization (transitioning to clean energy buildings)?

- The most commonly-mentioned perceived challenges were increased tenant costs leading to displacement and the logistics of financing and implementation.
- Another perceived challenge was increased costs for landlords, potentially placing a burden on small, “mom and pop” landlords and/or nonprofit developers, while also creating the potential for costs to be passed through to low-income tenants.
- Other perceived challenges that were mentioned included energy resilience, worsening social inequity, the need for public education, public health and political will.

Question #3: What are some things that could be done to make building decarbonization more equitable for you and your community?

- By far, the most frequently mentioned strategy for ensuring equitable building decarbonization was to have “equitable implementation and financing” in recognition of the massive amount of capital resources needed to decarbonize existing, low-income rental building stock.
- The need for ongoing and meaningful community engagement was also mentioned frequently.
- Expanding education and ensuring grid resilience

were referred to as important to ensuring that building decarbonization is pursued equitably.

- Some participants also cited the need for cross-sector collaboration, production of more affordable housing, and expansion of workers’ rights.

“We’ve heard from renters in LA who are very concerned about climate change. The problem is, often times when multi-family buildings change owners, new owners will come and tenants will bring up what the problems are, some of these landlords have been using harassment techniques to get people to leave so they don’t have to address these issues. How [do] we make sure that tenants are not left behind and that building owners don’t take it out on tenants when they need to make changes?”

-Workshop Participant

**Workshop #2: Creating Energy/
Housing Justice With Building**

FIGURE 6. Qualitative coding of benefits discussed in breakout groups

Workshop 1: Benefits of Building Decarbonization (March 10, 2022)

- Public Health
- Reduced Energy Cost
- GHG Reductions
- Jobs
- Advancing Social Equity
- Energy Resilience



FIGURE 7. Qualitative coding of challenges discussed in breakout groups

Workshop 1 : Challenges of Building Decarbonization (March 10, 2022)

- Increased Tenant Costs
- Financing/Implementation
- Increased Landlord Costs
- Energy Resilience
- Worsening Social Inequality
- Education
- Public Health

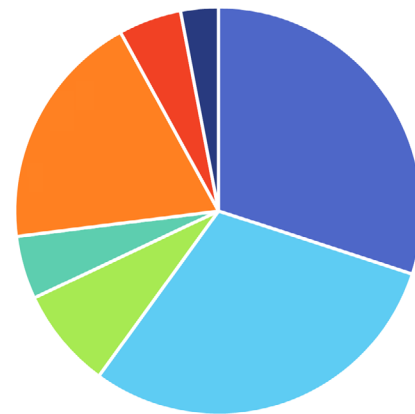
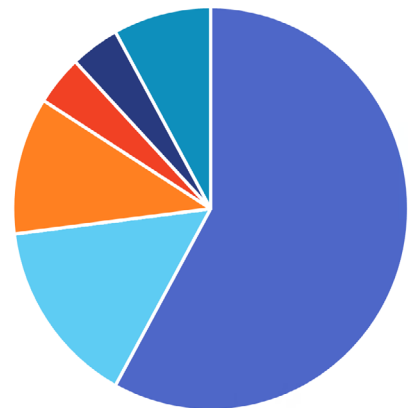


FIGURE 8. Qualitative coding of equitable priorities for building decarb policies discussed in breakout groups

Workshop 1 : Equitable Components of Building Decarbonization (March 10, 2022)

- Equitable Implementation/Financing
- Community Engagement
- Education/Workforce Development
- Workers Rights/ Local Hire
- Policies that Produce Co-Benefits
- Ensure Grid Resilience



Decarbonization (March 17, 2022)

On March 17, 2022, Workshop #2 took place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on a public Zoom. Titled “Creating Energy/Housing Justice with Building Decarbonization,” the workshop had similar goals as previous sessions, including reiterating how the CEMO workshop feedback would be conveyed to the Commission and City Council, sharing community expertise, hearing from the participants about their key concerns on building decarbonization, and identifying how to maximize benefits and minimize potential harms, focusing in particular on low-income tenants.

The following speakers participated in Workshop 2 roundtables and panels:

- Kameron Hurt, Community Organizer, RePower LA, LAANE
- Chelsea Kirk, Assistant Director of Building Equity and Transit, SAJE
- Blanca de la Cruz, Sustainable Housing Program Director, California Housing Partnership
- Heather Rosenberg, Associate Principal, Arup

Presentation Summary

The workshop was launched with a presentation by Director Marta Segura who provided an overview of her office, reviewing the same information as in previous sessions. As a new office within the City, the Director wanted to provide this important context for new participants and to help reinforce it for continuing participants. The workshop consisted of two sets of presentations, Q&A sessions and Breakout Group discussions with a short “report back” from a few of the groups. Spanish language interpretation was provided throughout by Interpreters Unlimited, while Zoom technology and coordination support was provided by Liberty Hill and CEMO staff.

The first presentation focused specifically on energy costs and the potential benefits and burdens

that could be posed by building decarbonization. Presenters included **Kameron Hurt, Community Organizer for the RePower LA Coalition and LAANE, and Heather Rosenberg, Associate Principal, Arup**, a consulting firm dedicated to a sustainable built environment. Each speaker shared PowerPoint slides. Below are some of the key points made during the presentations:

- Energy burden has drastically impacted Angelenos. In a recent survey of over 3,200 South LA residents, over 47% cited difficulty paying rent or utility bills as their primary concern, with 45% of respondents stating that they or someone in their household was un- or under-employed.
- There is strong correlation and causation between historic credit redlining in South LA and today’s current pollution burden (as measured by CalEnviroScreen) and COVID-19 illnesses and death due to the lack of investment and access to resources. Delinquent LADWP utility accounts also show strong correlation with these areas of historic disinvestment and discrimination.
- The RePower LA Coalition is working to prevent utility shut-offs and alleviate financial strain for working and low-income families, many of whom are African American and Latinx. They also want to provide long-term resiliency while opening up new career paths to high-wage, union jobs. Specific strategies include erasing utility debt accumulated before or during the pandemic for low-income qualified customers by expanding access to the City’s Utility Debt Forgiveness program through increased outreach, and the creation of a bill-stabilization program.
- There are many equity implications in electrifying buildings, such as who pays for initial costs, who pays for operational costs and grid upgrades, how labor is transitioned, and the evolving needs of vulnerable populations (e.g. the elderly, those who are income-constrained, those with medical conditions, those without in unit AC or transportation, etc.), especially during outages. Energy needs to be reliable, accessible and affordable.

- COVID-19 has exacerbated the housing crisis, with many low-income tenants facing a rent emergency and struggling to pay energy bills. There is strong support for decarbonization to improve housing for low-income tenants, but fears of increased costs and displacement are significant.
- The benefits of building electrification include improved indoor air quality to reduce health threats, increased energy efficiency that reduces utility bills, and increased safety and potential cooling through the use of heat pumps.
- Tenants face potentially negative consequences such as increased rent burden, increased utility costs, and displacement. However, without building electrification, they will miss the benefits cited above, and may be saddled with the task of maintaining “stranded” assets (e.g. remaining gas infrastructure).
- Specific challenges for affordable housing stock include the need for electrical panel and wiring upgrades, appliance upgrades/replacements, and added maintenance and remediation, all requiring financial investment. Affordable housing developers also face complex ownership and regulatory structures.
- Arup’s recent (2021) study showed annual utility savings from building electrification across a range of building vintages and sizes for both owners and tenants, ranging from 10% to over 30%. These operational savings, however, were not typically enough to offset up-front costs. Upgrades also need to be coordinated with other building repairs, including deferred maintenance, to assure affordable housing is safe and habitable.
- In order to protect and preserve affordable housing as we electrify, a comprehensive approach is needed with key policies and programs, such as incentives and support for multifamily buildings, outreach to tenants and building owners early in the program design, technical support to owners and contractors, and financial incentives to protect low-income households and grow the market of affordable housing.
- We need to change the frame of discussion

on building decarbonization to reinforce that electrification and affordable housing preservation are parallel goals. We need public investment in programs that will bring the benefits of decarbonization to low-income communities by combining rental protections with direct financial support to prevent first-costs from being passed along to tenants. Protecting and expanding affordable housing is a fundamental element of community and climate resilience.

After the presentations, a short Q&A session was held to address key definitions and questions. Some takeaways from this session included:

- “Decarbonization” refers to removing all fossil fuels from energy production and consumption systems. “Electrification” refers to the conversion of energy consumption systems (at the building and unit level) to electricity and away from polluting sources such as natural gas. Energy efficiency is fundamental to reducing energy demand, and must be integrated and done together (through weatherization and other retrofits) as we electrify to ensure reliability of the grid as electricity demand increases.
- “First costs” typically refer to building retrofits (electrical updates and equipment replacements). It is more cost-effective to phase in over time, since much equipment needs replacing naturally at some point anyway (e.g. stoves). “Operational costs” refer to the monthly cost of consuming energy for ongoing heating, cooling and appliance use.
- A “bottom-up market transformation” refers to subsidizing decarbonization costs for those most in need in low-income, Black and Brown communities, and prioritizing residences over businesses. Programs need to penetrate sectors and communities where there has not been the uptake of existing rebate programs. The cost of decarbonization will come down as more demand is generated by those living in nonprofit and other affordable housing.

- Building decarbonization is necessary not just because it is the right thing to do, but because it is the only way that we can reach our goals of equitable climate resilience.

A second set of presentations was then held on “Housing Costs/Benefits: Green and Healthy Affordable Housing and Tenants/Ratepayers” with **Chelsea Kirk, Assistant Director of Building Equity & Transit at SAJE and Blanca de la Cruz, Sustainable Housing Program Director of the California Housing Partnership.**

Key points from Chelsea Kirk’s presentation on the potential impacts of building decarbonization on low-income tenants included:

- As the 2021 SAJE report on building decarbonization highlights, Los Angeles is in a deep housing crisis that has been exacerbated by COVID-19. Low-income tenants face insufficient wages/income, rising rents, increasing corporate ownership of rental housing, and high rates of harassment, eviction, and displacement.
- Decarbonization retrofit costs can surpass \$20,000 per unit for electrical upgrades, building improvements, and labor.
- Current laws could cause tenants to foot the bill. The City’s Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO) allows costs to be passed through to tenants in buildings constructed before October 1978, while California’s AB 1482 allows tenants to be evicted for a substantial remodel in buildings that are at least 15 years old. Tenants in buildings constructed in the last 15 years have no protections from rent increases or evictions. The City’s RSO has helped protect many tenants from rent increases and evictions, but landlords can recover up to 100% of their retrofit/rehab costs by passing on costs to tenants over phase-in periods of 60 to 180 months with charges ranging from 10% of monthly rent to an additional \$75 per month. Furthermore, the RSO allows rents to be reset when a unit becomes vacant, creating a financial incentive to harass and displace long-term tenants.

- Without targeted subsidies, decarbonization could drive an expansion in corporate-owned rental housing—already 67% of the market—as smaller landlords cannot afford to make retrofit investments. Corporate landlords have higher rates of eviction, slum conditions, and rent gouging.
- Important benefits of building decarbonization for low-income tenants include health benefits from the elimination of polluting natural gas which aggravates asthma, improved housing quality through retrofits to remediate problems like mold, infestations and poor insulation, and lower energy bills for renters, 21% of whom are energy burdened (spending 6% on energy bills), with another 11% severely energy burdened (spending 10%).

Key points from Blanca de la Cruz’s presentation on the potential impacts of building decarbonization on affordable housing developers and their residents included:

- Affordable housing, both nonprofit and for profit, operates through a complex web of federal, state, and local subsidies, and private grants and loans. This financing makes it complicated to pay for upgrades due to the obligation to provide for 55-year deed restrictions on tenants’ income, rents and utility allowance, along with tailored services to special populations (e.g. homeless, domestic violence victims, emancipated youth, etc.)
- If built with capital subsidies, the maximum rent that can be charged must adhere to strict limits (30% of the area’s median income (AMI) according to household size). Most programs set the income limits at 60% of AMI.
- Buildings with financial subsidies must allow for a monthly utility allowance. For a 3-person household in LA County in 2021 renting a one-bedroom apartment, these allowances mean that a maximum rent of \$1,232 can be charged, with a utility subsidy of \$98, for a total monthly maximum of \$1,330.

Some approaches have been identified that can help to address the constraints faced by affordable housing providers:

- Public Housing Authorities often have utility allowances larger than actual utility bills, but are unable to use these savings towards energy efficiency or electrical upgrades. This needs to be changed.
- There is a strong need to avoid unintended consequences that would harm affordable housing programs. This means adopting different timelines for decarbonizing new construction, versus existing buildings that face many constraints. Furthermore, interim exemptions are needed for certain properties (e.g. historic buildings) to avoid increased costs for tenants.
- Other barriers that must be addressed include: paying for upfront costs; the need for revised Utility Allowances to enable using new efficient technology (e.g. heat pumps, battery storage); clean energy programs need to lower operating costs and tenant utility bills; and the need for technical assistance.
- Two new exciting programs to assist in decarbonizing multifamily affordable housing have been launched in 2022: the BUILD program, a state program funded by CA Energy Commission, to assist in new construction of all-electric affordable housing; and the Comprehensive Affordable Multifamily Retrofits (CAMR) program, funded by LADWP to incentivize existing affordable housing providers to retrofit and upgrade their properties for electrification, efficiency and solar photo-voltaic.

In the Q&A session that followed these presentations, discussion focused on the following three questions/ points:

- **Can Los Angeles' electrical grid support the full transition from natural gas to 100% electricity?** Megan Ross, the Mayor's Climate Advisor, responded that LA is a resilient city and is

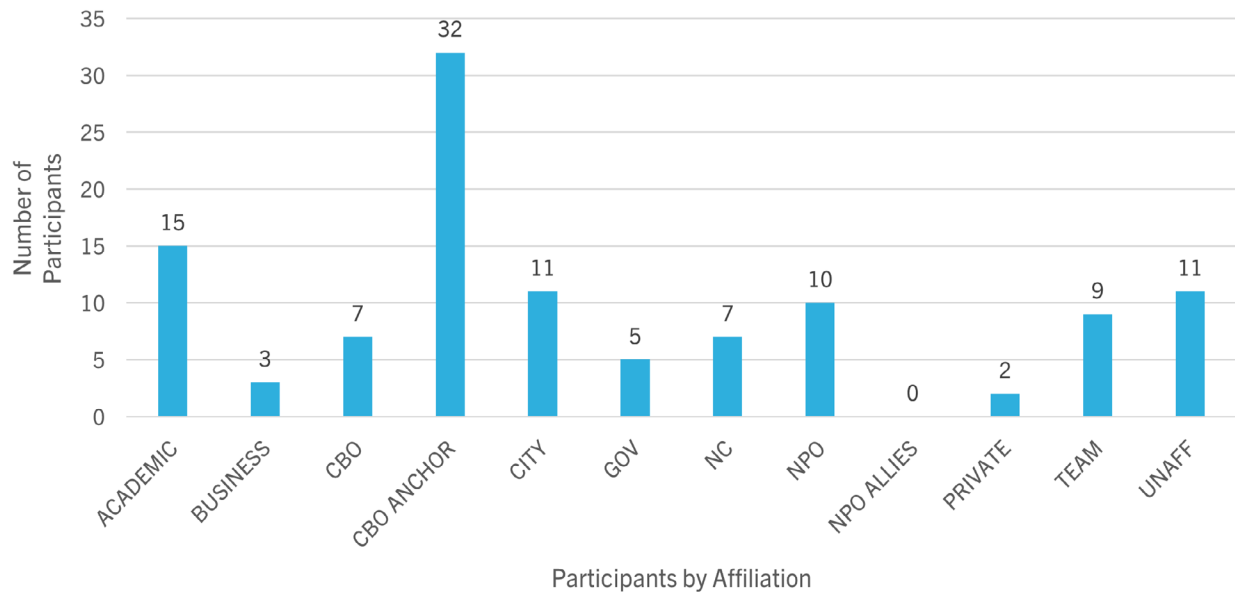
planning for full electrification through the LA100 Plan and LADWP's Strategic Long Term Resource Plan (SLTRP). Solar rooftop may be part of any building's decarbonization plan, but it is only one component.

- **How can we avoid passing along these increased costs to low-income tenants?** It was noted that tenants living in subsidized buildings—even if they are retrofitted for greater energy savings—can never pay more than 30% of their income on rent, even though it is adjusted annually based on the AMI. However, for low-income tenants living in rent-controlled units, they will be subject to existing laws that could allow for pass-through. Rent increases must be approved by the LA Housing Department and it is vital that they be involved in the building decarbonization discussion now.
- **What are other concerns low-income tenants have expressed about building decarbonization?** While the key issue is increased rent cost and displacement, many have voiced worries about other impacts, such as switching to electric stoves, and their landlord-tenant relationship. SAJE has organized small-scaled focus groups of tenants to hear their feedback about the potential negative impacts they want to address. The focus groups are an important way to get feedback directly from those who will be most impacted by climate and energy policy, and Executive Director Marta Segura underscored that more focus groups will be organized in the future for grassroots-level feedback.

Participation in Workshop #2

This workshop attracted 112 total participants, including speakers, support staff, and facilitators/ notetakers from the CBO Anchor groups (LAANE, SAJE, PSR-LA, CBE) and UCLA students. The participant categories can be seen below, with CBO Anchor groups again accounting for the largest turnout, followed by individuals affiliated with universities (UCLA, Occidental College) and City staff and CEMC Commissioners.

FIGURE 9. Participation in the CELA Part 1 Workshop 2: Energy/Housing Justice & Building Decarbonization (March 17, 2022)



NPOs from earlier sessions joined again (e.g. EnviroVoters, Sierra Club, Slate-Z, Greenlining) and the business community was represented by Southern California Gas Company and Valley Industry & Commerce Association. A representative from the California Public Utilities Commission also participated.

A total of 11 Breakout Group discussions, including one Spanish language group, were held to provide participants with an opportunity to reflect on the presentations and offer their own insights and recommendations. BOGs generally included between 8-12 people and were supported with a trained facilitator and notetaker from either the CBO Anchor organizations, or UCLA student participants. After introductions, the BOGs discussed three key questions which previously had been used to structure discussion in Workshop #1. These open-ended questions resulted in substantive discussion in Workshop #1 and were used as prompts again. BOG

sessions lasted approximately 15-20 minutes.

Question #1: In your view, what are some of the benefits of building decarbonization (clean energy buildings)?

Much like in Workshop #1, participants mentioned public health most frequently as a perceived benefit of building decarbonization. The next most frequently mentioned perceived benefits were increased social equity and reduced energy costs. Other perceived benefits that were mentioned included high-road jobs, reducing GHG emissions, and increasing energy resilience.

Question #2: What are some challenges related to building decarbonization (transitioning to clean energy buildings)?

Increased tenant costs were cited most frequently as a perceived challenge for building decarbonization. Worsening social inequity due to building decarbonization was mentioned by some participants as a concern. Others cited financing, increased costs

to landlords, lack of education, and insufficient political will as important challenges.

Question #3: What are some things that could be done to make building decarbonization more equitable for you and your community?

Many participants cited financing as an important strategic approach for implementing building decarbonization equitably, including the need for subsidies and strict limits on pass-through costs to low-income tenants. Participants also raised the need for more public education around the need and potential for building decarbonization, as well as the potential for new green jobs with pathways for disadvantaged workers. Community engagement was also cited frequently as a necessary strategy for ensuring that building decarbonization policies will protect the most vulnerable and realize benefits for underserved communities.

“Although this is a challenge [...] this could be addressed if the subsidies were the first things talked about to the tenants. It should be geared towards the tenants getting rebates for anything they have to pay for. If it’s immediately addressed at the tenant level, that will be super key to the success.”

-Workshop Participant

FIGURE 10. Qualitative coding of benefits discussed in breakout groups

Workshop 2: Benefits of Building Decarbonization (March 17, 2022)

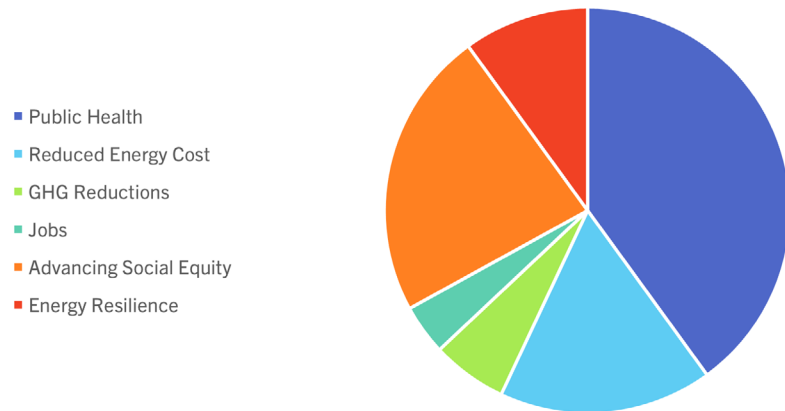


FIGURE 11. Qualitative coding of challenges discussed in breakout groups

Workshop 2 : Challenges of Building Decarbonization (March 17, 2022)

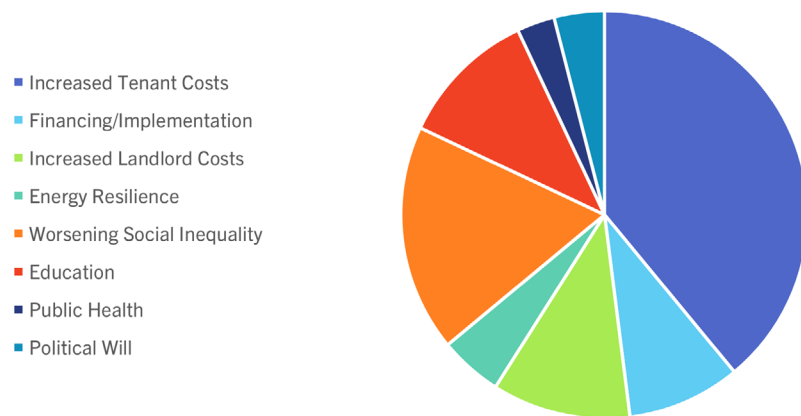
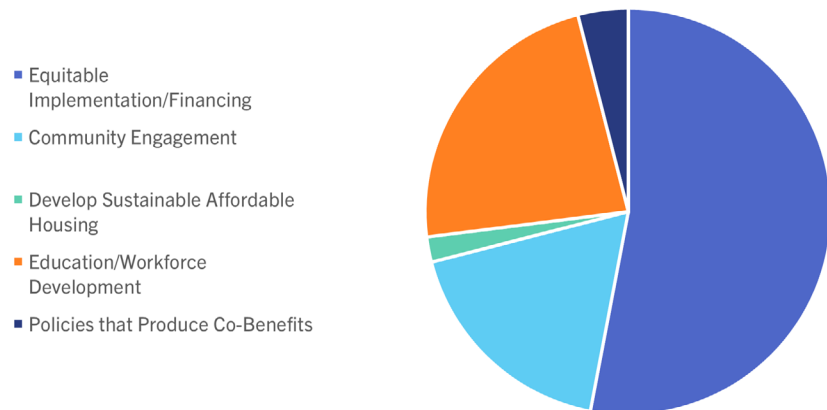


FIGURE 12. Qualitative coding of equitable priorities for building decarb policies discussed in breakout groups

Workshop 2 : Equitable Components of Building Decarbonization (March 17, 2022)



Workshop #3: Building Decarbonization & Economic Justice: Green Workforce And A Just Transition (March 24, 2022)

On March 24, 2022, Workshop #3 took place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. as the third and final session in the Part 1 series exploring the theme of Building Decarbonization. Titled “Building Decarbonization & Economic Justice: Green Workforce and a Just Transition,” this workshop sought to identify and provide background information on the opportunities for new “green” jobs and different approaches to workforce development. The workshop also aimed to provide participants with an opportunity to discuss how they might be impacted by both the positive and potentially challenging aspects of job creation/transition in building decarbonization, and to solicit their feedback.

The following speakers participated in Workshop 3 roundtables and panels:

- Robert Zardeneta, Executive Fellow, Mayor’s Office of Sustainability
- Betony Jones, Founder and Principal, Inclusive Economics
- Roxana Tynan, Executive Director, LAANE
- Avni Jamdar, Bay Area Regional Director, Emerald Cities Collaborative

Presentation Summary

The workshop consisted of two panel presentations that were conducted in an “interview” format. Q&A sessions were held after each panel, then followed by Breakout Group discussions. The evening concluded with a short “report back” from a few of the BOG groups. Spanish language interpretation was provided throughout by Interpreters Unlimited, while Zoom technology and coordination support was provided by Liberty Hill and CEMO staff.

The first panel was moderated by **Robert Zardeneta, Executive Fellow, Mayor’s Office of Sustainability**, who interviewed **Betony Jones, author of a June 2021 report by Inclusive Economics in partnership with LAANE, [Los Angeles Building Decarbonization: Community Concerns, Employment Impacts, and Opportunities.](#)**

Question: What do we know about how building decarb will impact jobs (quantity and quality)?

Answer: Our study found that an ambitious building decarbonization program in Los Angeles would provide jobs across a broad range of sectors (e.g. plumbing, lighting/wiring/insulation, engineering and management) in addition to HVAC and general construction (the largest sectors). These job categories could help to absorb some of the workers who might experience job loss as a result of electrification. The study found that building electrification could support an average of 10,000 full-time positions per year for 30 years, but that 85% of these jobs are in traditionally low-wage sectors. Policy actions will be needed to ensure high-road job quality and quality of work.

Question: What were some of the key takeaways of this research, especially labor unions and impacted communities?

Answer: The more public money that is spent, the greater the leverage over social equity and jobs outcomes. As cities grapple with how to implement building decarbonization, public funds should be spent to subsidize affordable housing to bring down costs for tenants, rather than spent on large commercial buildings. How we spend money matters. Another takeaway was that we need to be **very intentional from the beginning** about how to improve building stock to avoid displacement, and pay attention to both medium and long-term impacts to avoid unintended consequences.

Question: What were some of the strategies highlighted in the report for how to avoid these unintended

consequences?

Answer: We identified a number of concerns and attempted to lay out some **policy options** for how to mitigate the negative consequences. For example, if only upper income households can electrify and leave behind low-income customers who are dependent on natural gas, they could face higher prices. In this case, **utility rate design or bill support** could be a way to protect low-income customers. Similarly, the high upfront cost of retrofits could mean that low-income areas are stranded with energy inefficient buildings unless there is conscious effort to consolidate funding to retrofit their buildings first. **Publicly funded programs should be tied to restrictions on rent increase, evictions and property sales** for a period of time.

Question: What do we know about the quality of jobs, and what don't we know?

Answer: There are real concerns and opposition from gas utilities and their workers, especially some of the Building Trades workers who lay pipe and maintain existing gas infrastructure, creating a significant political hurdle to overcome. But there are ways for Cities to make up for the job loss, **while improving the quality of jobs, through investments**. We now see this in Los Angeles, San Diego and through the Department of Energy. For example, moving the heating/cooling load without any combustion through underground pipes requires the same skill set as current pipefitters.

Our research found that an incentive program for decarbonizing affordable housing could provide **4600-7400 full time union construction jobs** per year, over 10 years, achieving multiple goals of improved health, reducing energy costs and protecting tenants from displacement. Similarly, an investment of \$80M over 5 years could fully decarbonize and upgrade all of LA's public schools, creating **400-500 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) union construction jobs** every year. This would improve the quality and safety of school HVAC systems and redirect energy spending to learning. Measure RR allocates \$3 billion to retrofits and upgrades now,

providing a way to center equity, create good quality jobs and show that we can address the climate crisis that is multi-benefit.

Question: What are strategies for ensuring balance of workers and project supply/demand?

Answer: We must **calibrate the training of workers** with actual spending and investment plans, preparing them for real jobs that already exist. We must avoid the problems that arose during the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act years, where we trained people for jobs that did not manifest through YouthBuild and other well-intentioned programs. Now, we have **registered apprenticeship models** that are demand-driven as work and jobs are created through the spending of money in local communities. The City of LA has many excellent pre-apprenticeship programs where the job pipeline is established and leads to high-road, family sustaining careers. It will be important to have the **buy-in and support from labor unions** for these programs as we enter into building decarbonization.

Question: Anything else to share about your report that we have not covered?

Answer: A key observation is that our research process was different than traditional approaches in that the **research questions were informed by advocates** and responded to the core values of the impacted community. It has been especially well received in San Diego where they are working to advance an equitable climate initiative in both the City and County. What you are doing in **Los Angeles is a model for the whole country**—both through the CEMO and the organizations working in partnership.

The second panel presentation was moderated by **Roxana Tynan, Executive Director of LAANE**, an organization dedicated to advancing good jobs, thriving communities and a healthy environment through labor-community coalitions and grassroots organizing. The featured panelist was **Avni Jamdar**,

the Bay Area Regional Director for the Emerald Cities Collaborative, a national nonprofit organization working for a “high road” approach that realizes a sustainable environment, while creating sustainable, just and inclusive economic opportunities for all.

Question: Explain the Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC) and its big vision of connecting people to quality, union jobs, especially those who are most in need?

Answer: As an organization of labor, business and community-based organizations, we work to create high-road economies—democratic, equitable, sustainable and regionally-focused—throughout the U.S. “High road” means living wages and benefits for all workers, especially the most disadvantaged, and creating business opportunities for small and minority and women-owned contractors. With the current momentum on building decarbonization for both new and existing construction, ECC wants to:

- Ensure that **low-income and communities of color are prioritized** and not left to bear the burden of building electrification. We know that climate impacts are borne by disadvantaged areas and that an electric future will ease that burden, especially with better air quality. But if equity is not at the forefront, it will exacerbate inequities.
- Engage workers and communities **early in the process of planning** in order to benefit from jobs and economic opportunities. We must embed labor standards in policies, as well as training opportunities, all of which take labor, government and community working together.
- **Specific training programs for HVAC** (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) must be geared for unemployed and underemployed people, many of whom are immigrants. We also need to increase the capacity of women-owned businesses and contractors of color, since there are so few now. **Diversity requirements** need to be built into pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs.

Question: What do you think are the key elements of any

training or pre-apprenticeship program to make them work the best and get the people who want the jobs into them?

Answer: This is less about inventing new programs but connecting the dots and weaving current efforts into a pipeline. The key is understanding how to tie supply and demand for building decarbonization jobs. In San Francisco, a Climate Equity Hub has been established, a one-stop shop for residents and consumers, contractors and workers. This helps to break down silos that exist at all levels of government.

Training must be designed broadly, so trainees can work in the multi-faceted construction sector but must also specifically train workers to learn electrical upgrades.

Question: Could you say more about how to ensure that we are also working on the contractor side, and getting more women and people of color involved? What have you seen that really works?

Answer: Our **Contractor Training Academy** serves minority and women-owned businesses to prepare them for procurement of public contracts. There are so many challenges to grow a business while doing the job itself. Our E-Contractor Academy is an 8-week bootcamp that walks people through many components: the back office, change orders, access to finance, bonding and insurance requirements. These are real barriers for all contractors, and we provide mentorship and coaching for 18 years after the initial graduation.

Question: The training program at LADWP was one that SCOPE, LAANE and other partners from RePower LA were working to recruit and place individuals from our communities. As a pre-apprenticeship program that pays a wage, the commitment is that if you graduate (which most do) you will get a permanent job. Many have gone onto the LADWP or to City employment. Do you feel we are changing the conversation in the Workforce world about the need for paid pre-apprenticeships that lead to

permanent jobs? What else do we need to do to expand this?

Answer: Training disadvantaged workers in a vacuum and leaving their fate to the job market doesn't work. The "high road" model works great, but the **apprenticeship programs are not big enough**. Paying for training through graduation does lead to career paths, and the Building Trades have great model programs. Yet a challenge is to open up these programs for people who do not have union connections, specifically, people of color in low-income communities.

Question: What are the best opportunities for expanding high road training programs?

Our **best opportunity right now is in building decarb:** installing heat pumps, building EV charging stations, implementing green technologies. The biggest challenge is on the contractor side where they are trying to pay fair wages and grow their business. In the residential sector, this is a procurement challenge for small businesses who want to do building decarb work. They are ready to bring their worker crew, but how do they meet the high road? We need to consider financing assistance for cash flow or for upfront expenses. This will ease the difficulty of doing business.

Question: What are the biggest challenges? We want building decarbonization and know it will create jobs, and we have some strategies for a high road approach. But what is standing in the way?

Answer: A key challenge is engaging honestly with frontline communities. We need to engage meaningfully and let communities know that jobs are coming. Labor, workforce development organizations and government all work in silos, when we need collaborative conversations. Training must be done in conversation with employers, and we need clear timetables as to when jobs will become available.

Question: Tell us how the Climate Equity Hub is funded in San Francisco?

Answer: This is the result of an 18-month effort with PODER (a grassroots renters rights organization) to involve 250 stakeholders, prioritizing immigrants and renters. The seven recommendations that will go into the Climate Action Plan include: no evictions, no pass-through costs, the need for financial and educational resources, and the need to invest in workforce development training and equity pilots. The labor-community coalition that advocated with the Supervisors advocated for a 1% climate equity budget, and was awarded \$1.3 million to fund the Climate Hub, a physical facility with resources for low-income consumers to become educated on building decarb, and understand their rights. On the supply side, the Hub will build a bench of contractors who will be able to push the equity lens.

Question: How do we reach out to fossil fuel workers who will steadily be phased out? How do we ensure taking care of them and prioritizing their situation? Are there enough jobs in the green sector (e.g. heat pumps and piping) and what about pensions?

Answer: In San Francisco, we gained the support of plumbers and pipefitters for the gas ban through the proposal to implement gray water recycling as part of building decarbonization. We delayed the start of the program by 6 months to get this in place so that we wouldn't incur job losses. We figured this all out through conversation that realized many creative options.

The session then opened for Q&A with all four panelists. Key questions and responses included:

Question: How can we incentivize private sector or corporate investment in job creation through building decarb?

- From a workforce development perspective, the **private sector has a stake in a qualified workforce.**

Joint Labor-Management programs require both workers/employers to be invested. Employers need not just public subsidies to be incentivized but must be willing to make investments themselves to realize returns. For example, in West Virginia, a solar company supported unionization of its workforce because they saw the value of the union in handling benefits and HR needs, so that the company needed only one Human Relations personnel. This employer pays union wages, and attests that the quality of **workmanship is “night and day” when compared to non-union.** (Betony Jones)

- Another way to think about high road is to have **project labor agreements** in place. This is always the case in public sector contracts, but best practice could be for PLAs or CBAs to be built into all projects, including private development. (Avni Jamdar)

Question: How are we going to address non-union workers, and how would they qualify for these union green jobs?

- The pre-apprentice training programs have few requirements (only a driver’s license; no GED). This approach allows people to enter a full-time program, with paid, on-the-job training that leads to a job. The biggest challenge is when there is insufficient work, the union does not want to expand and have people sit on the bench. **There are many pathways**, and LAANE and SCOPE knock on doors to sign people up for this LADWP pre-apprenticeship program, which needs further expansion. Some of these programs are promoted at high school level too. (Roxana Tynan and Marta Segura)

Question: Is it useful to think about job impacts related to supply chain from the raw materials and products used for retrofits (insulation)? How do we also think about supply chain?

- For example, the Lithium Valley in Southern California is central to developing the battery

supply chain and related jobs. Products have foreign cost competition. The Blue Green Alliance has developed a database that lists U.S. energy efficiency products for match making for manufacturers, so as you make investments, you can **source equipment domestically**. If we can provide good jobs across industries, this will enable ambitious climate action and public investment. (Betony Jones)

- We must learn from past mistakes (i.e. ARRA funding) and **not create training programs with no jobs to match**. We must identify the projects, the number of anticipated jobs, and then negotiate PLAs or CBAs that rely on community-based training programs that will funnel residents into these jobs. **Connecting industry to schools and educators** is also key and breaking down silos between STEM and traditional education. Auto shop classes should be considered STEM, since we need mechanical training to enter these high growth pathways. (Robert Zardeneta)

Participation in Workshop #3

Workshop #3 attracted a total of approximately 98 participants, including speakers, moderators, support staff and facilitators/notetakers.

The program had representation from most of the CBO Anchors (SAJE, LAANE, PSR-LA, SCOPE and LAANE) for a total of around 29 participants and many Nonprofit organizations (NPOs) who had attended earlier sessions. However, some new NPOs attended including Accelerate Resilience LA (ARLA), Alliance for Community Transit (ACT-LA), Heal the Bay, LACI, People for Parks, Students Deserve and Urban Renewable, for a total of 15 participants. The Society of Native Nations also sent a representative, as did the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance. Government representation included several from City agencies and departments, including LADWP, City Planning, Building and Safety, and the Mayor’s Office of Sustainability. The California Public Utilities Commission also attended. Valley Industry and

Commerce Association (VICA) and Bloom Energy were business participants.

Participants then sorted into 11 different Breakout Groups for small group discussion, with 1 Spanish language group. Facilitators and notetakers from CBO Anchors and UCLA led and recorded discussion around three questions over a 15-20 minute period. Highlights included:

Question #1: What are some of the benefits of building decarbonization related to economic justice and worker rights?

A large number of participants mentioned new job creation as a perceived benefit of building decarbonization. This response was not surprising given the focus of the panel discussions on the number, types and potential quality of jobs that would result from large-scale building decarb programs. A significant number listed public health as a primary

“If there are processes in place, folks who come from impacted communities can have access to these new jobs. From a worker’s rights standpoint, it is an opportunity to bring work to the table together. It is an opportunity for collaboration.”

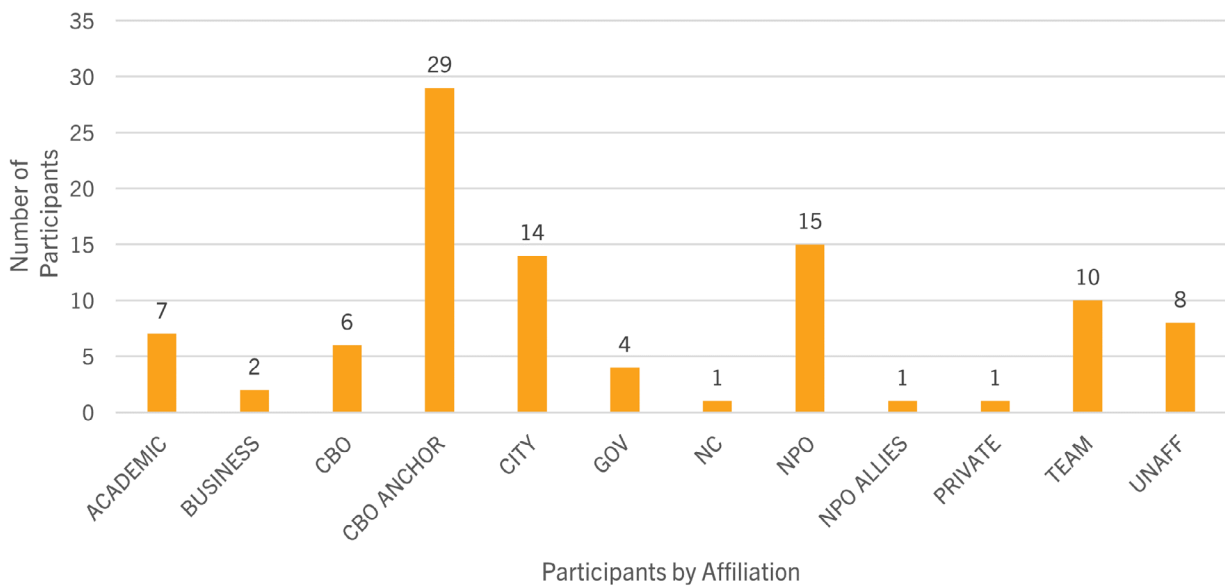
-Workshop Participant

benefit, with a smaller number mentioning emissions reductions.

Question #2: What are some of the challenges of building decarbonization related to economic justice and worker rights?

Many participants mentioned avoiding worsening social inequity as a substantial challenge related to building decarbonization. As in previous workshops, participants also cited the practical difficulties and

FIGURE 13. Participation in the CELA Part 1 Workshop 3: Building Decarbonization & Economic Justice: Green Workforce and A Just Transition (March 24, 2022)



barriers related to securing adequate financing to facilitate implementation of programs and policies, and the associated concern of the costs potentially being passed down to tenants.

Question #3: What are some ways to make sure building decarbonization is equitable for you and your community?

This question drew a more varied response from the breakout groups. Equitable financing and implementation was mentioned most frequently, but significant mention was made of creating equitable workforce development programs, accessible local hire programs, worker protections, and the need for cross-sector collaboration. All of these approaches can contribute to comprehensive building decarb programs that advance equity for communities and workers most in need.

“ We need to find early stages for training people on hiring opportunities, more emphasis on local community colleges like LA Trade Tech, nonprofits that do this type of training, and the work fairs come out then the local community is prepared.”

-Workshop Participant

FIGURE 14. Qualitative coding of benefits discussed in breakout room groups

Workshop 3: Benefits of Building Decarbonization (March 24, 2022)

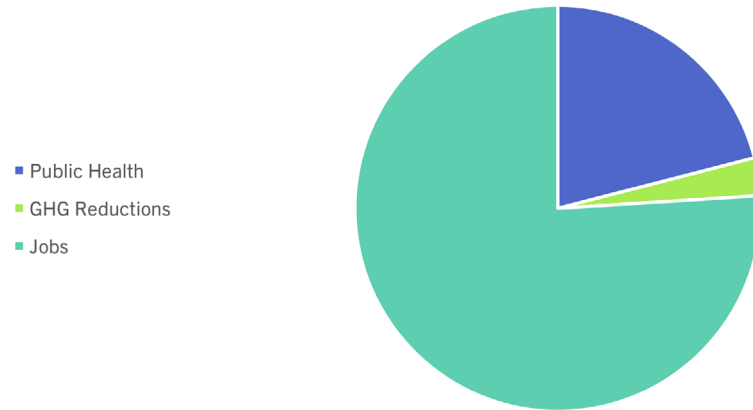


FIGURE 15. Qualitative coding of challenges discussed in breakout room groups

Workshop 3 : Challenges of Building Decarbonization (March 24, 2022)

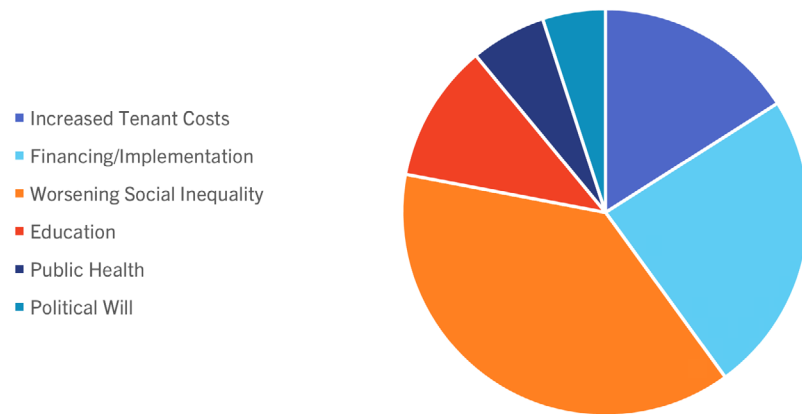
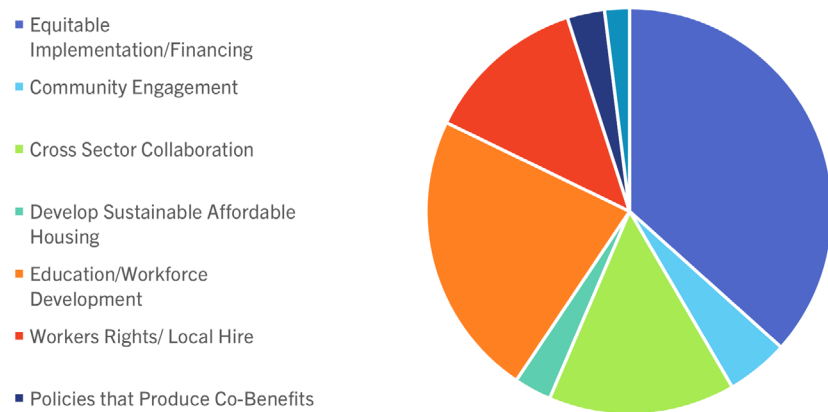


FIGURE 16. Qualitative coding of equitable priorities for building decarb policies discussed in breakout room groups

Workshop 3 : Equitable Components of Building Decarbonization (March 24, 2022)



Low-Income Tenant Focus Groups

In order to extend the reach of the CEMO public education and community engagement process into grassroots and frontline communities, Liberty Hill and CEMO contracted with SAJE and the North Hollywood Home Alliance (NHHA) to conduct targeted focus groups with low-income tenants living in the City of Los Angeles. A PowerPoint curriculum, discussion questions, demographic surveys and polling questions were developed by SAJE for use in four focus groups. The same materials were used by NHHA for an additional focus group. The purpose of these focus groups was to learn about low-income tenants' attitudes and concerns around the potential impacts of building decarbonization, as well as their ideas about policy approaches that could protect and benefit them. Both SAJE and NHHA were compensated for staff time and participant stipends.

Strategic Actions For A Just Economy (SAJE) Focus Group Results

Focus Group Overview: A diverse group of 44 low-income tenants from South LA, Westlake, Boyle Heights and Lincoln Heights participated in focus group discussions. Participants received a \$50 gift card for their participation in the 2-hour session. The focus groups were conducted in Spanish with interpretation into English, including two notetakers in each language. Four sessions, ranging from 9 to 14 people each, were held in late February and early March 2022. Residents spanned age groups (from 21 to 70 years old), length of tenancy (from 9 months to 42 years), and household size (from 1 to 9 members). Over 80% of participants had children under 18 years living in their household.

Notably, the average household income was \$20,000,

with 32% reporting rental debt and 61% having unpaid energy bills. Sixty-five percent of participants reported habitability problems in their apartments, and over 52% do not have air-conditioning in their homes, with more than half citing the inability to afford an AC unit as the reason. Nearly 75% of the participants said they experienced extreme heat, and over 30% had experienced wildfire smoke inhalation. 53% use public transit as their main mode of transportation.

SAJE staff members prepared a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation to describe the relationship between fossil fuels, climate change and building decarbonization to set the stage for discussion. Polling questions were posed throughout the presentation to deepen understanding and encourage interaction. The last 90-minutes of the meeting focused on three key questions which all participants were asked to discuss:

Question #1: What do you think about having energy efficiency retrofits, air conditioning, solar panels and electric appliances added to your homes?

The most common responses were concern over the cost of decarbonization, with many saying they cannot afford a rent increase and asking who would pay. The concern included the cost of new appliances, anticipated rent increases, and increased energy bills. One participant responded that it would be expensive to buy all new pots and pans to use for the electric stove. Many believed it would increase their energy bills, based on their current experience of electricity being more expensive than natural gas. Three did not want electric stoves because they don't like to cook on them. One questioned whether the electrical grid could handle decarbonization. Almost half said that decarbonization is good in general because it will decrease pollution and be good for the planet. Six

mentioned that improved health is a good benefit. One said it is better for children's safety because electricity is safer than gas, although another thought it more harmful because of the risk of electrocution. Two raised concerns over power outages.

Question #2: What are some of the challenges to decarbonizing our building stock?

- The age of the housing stock. Many participants live in very old buildings and said it would be very difficult to renovate the buildings. Some may need to be demolished, which brings up concerns about relocation and displacement.
- Power outages. Many are worried that increased electricity uses caused by decarbonization will lead to more power outages and that more dependence on electricity will leave participants with fewer options for relief during power outages.
- Cost. Many cannot afford any more expenses.
- Landlord cooperation. Some responded that their landlords do not make repairs and make tenants maintain the premises and cannot imagine their owners carrying out decarbonization.
- Harassment
- Disruption or relocation during construction work.

Question #3: What solutions should policy include to make sure you are supported and not harmed by the retrofits that come with decarbonization?

- The City should pay for decarbonization with taxes so that tenants don't struggle and owners don't intimidate tenants
- There should be help with any relocation associated with decarbonization
- There should be more City energy efficiency programs that give households efficient appliances, or solar panels
- Fix up old buildings that are on the verge of collapse
- Do not raise rents
- Do decarbonization in "steps", such as appliance by appliance, starting with stoves, then moving

" Everything sounds nice, but to be honest, we don't know the economic impact it would take on us. The president said to slow down the climate crisis, but for us, the poor people, to buy the electric stove, imagine the bill. It will be so expensive. "

-Rolando (SAJE Report)

onto water heaters, and so on

- Have protections against utility prices going up
- Protections for tenants so they are not harmed
- Programs to help property owners so tenants are not hurt
- Appliance exchanges where tenants give the City old appliances in exchange for new ones
- Make power companies and owners responsible for this transition
- Tax credits
- Establish direct communication between tenants and landlords around this

"Overwhelmingly, participants said that their top concern about decarbonization is the cost. Overall, participants said that they were concerned about climate change and cited improved health as the top benefit of decarbonization. However, they said that they are unable to afford a rent increase, new electric appliances, an increase in energy bills, and even new pans and pots to use with an electric stove. Some said they feared that their landlord will not cooperate or will use retrofit work as a way to displace them, with some citing previous experiences of harassment and rent increases that followed construction work. The majority of participants shared that they think the City needs to offer support and fund decarbonization."

(SAJE Report, April 22, page 2).

The full-length SAJE report, totaling 96 pages of presentation materials, poll results, demographic survey results, and participant discussion highlights is [available at this link](#). The Executive Summary concisely conveys the conclusion of the four focus groups on these questions:

North Hollywood Home Alliance (NHHA) Focus Group

Focus Group Overview: NoHo Home Alliance conducted a focus group on Monday, April 11, 2022, on the campus of Central Lutheran Church in Van Nuys. Fourteen focus group members were recruited from regular participants in community services such as a weekly food bank at the location. All were low-income tenants living in Van Nuys. The meeting was conducted in Spanish as all were native Spanish speakers and utilized the bi-lingual curriculum developed by SAJE.

Participants were a diverse group with an average age of 38, an average household size of 5-6 people, and average tenancy of between 8-9 years in their current rental homes. Fewer than half reported employment outside the home, and 13 of the 14 reported annual incomes of less than 20% of the AMI for the area, classifying them as “extremely low income.” All reported having air-conditioning in their units, high electricity bills, and more than half were also carrying utility debt. Only one reported owing back rent, and a large share (n=11) reported owning a vehicle, with only three depending on public transit. Participants were provided grocery gift cards for their involvement in the two-hour session.

Overview of Responses: The NoHo Home Alliance report succinctly recaps the participants’ attitudes about the impacts of climate change and building decarbonization. All 14 participants:

- Recognized some benefits to decarbonization, especially improvements to housing units and

fighting climate change, leading to better health for the renters in the units and for Angelenos overall.

- Expressed great concerns over the financial burden and housing burden decarbonization could cause renters.
- Indicated serious concern that landlords could use the decarbonization improvements as grounds for evicting tenants, either because of construction or because they wouldn’t be able to pay the increased rents.

Some participants expressed concerns that even without the threat of eviction, passing the cost of the decarbonization on to the tenants would be difficult for renters to bear. All participants also expressed great concerns about the cost of utilities following decarbonization. All recognized that decarbonization could create solid jobs for Angelenos, and that it was important for renters that workers be well trained and have safe working conditions.

Mitigating the Unintended Negative Effects of Building Decarbonization

Participants identified several challenges with building decarbonization for lower-income areas of the city, including:

- The need for more detailed information on the pros and cons of decarbonization shared more broadly in communities across the city. (i.e. more community-based focus groups).
- The need for more complete information about how the costs of decarbonization may impact residents in rent-controlled housing.
- The need for more comprehensive education around the benefits of decarbonization for personal health.
- The need to limit any financial burdens on renters from decarbonization—no rental increases, no evictions.
- The need for more information about electrical appliances, how they work, their efficiency, and

the real cost of electricity to the renter vis a vis the cost of gas, which is perceived as cheaper.

- The need to limit/prohibit increases in electricity costs, and if possible, an actual decrease in utility costs following decarbonization.
- Addressing the often culturally-based preference for stove-top cooking with gas.

Possible Equity Mitigations: The focus group brainstormed the following suggestions to policymakers as first steps to mitigate any potential harm to renters and workers from the implementation of LA's decarbonization plan:

- Bring down the cost of electricity, especially for low-income renters, possibly through subventions or grants.
- Expand rent control to more units to compensate for the danger of increased rents.
- Have the City/State or other public entity pay some or all of the cost of the appliances so that the cost is not passed on to the renter.
- To take the wide range of different types of landlords in LA into account (from private landlords with only a few units to large, corporate landlords), set up a tiered subvention that provides more funding to smaller, private landlords, and less funding to large, wealthier landlords.
- Establish a cost-sharing plan to fund the decarbonization, split between the landlord and public funding.
- Ensure that companies carrying out decarbonization efforts have strong safety requirements and safety protocols for workers.
- Require the businesses carrying out the decarbonization to hire Los Angeles residents.
- Require that companies carrying out decarbonization provide adequate training for workers to ensure high-quality work and that the workers develop a high level of skill that will benefit them in the future.

participants' overall views on climate change, building decarbonization and impacts on low-income communities, especially renters.

"This focus group of 14 participants understood the seriousness of the climate change problem that Los Angeles faces and engaged actively and thoughtfully in reflecting and problem-solving on how decarbonization could be carried out effectively and equitably in Los Angeles, especially in low-income communities. While there was strong concern among participants about the costs of decarbonization being directly or indirectly passed on to renters, and much skepticism that the cost of electricity can be controlled or reduced, the participants supported the concept of decarbonization. The participants appeared willing to support the implementation of decarbonization if the negative impacts of decarbonization could be mitigated with sound public policy."

(from the North Hollywood Home Alliance Report of April 11, 2022).

The NoHo Home Alliance report, [available at this link](#), provides an excellent summary of the

Climate Equity LA Series :
Part 2: Equitable and
Community-Driven
Climate Resilience in Los
Angeles
Public Workshop Series
(April 2022)



Introduction

As global warming accelerates wildfires, drought, extreme heat and increased potential for electrical grid outages, there is an urgent need for all Angelenos to be prepared and knowledgeable of how to protect themselves and their neighbors. This is especially relevant for underserved communities who already suffer from disproportionate exposure to air toxics from industrial and transportation sources, lack of green space and tree canopy, poor housing quality, and more limited access to health services.

The Part 2 “Equitable and Community-Driven Climate Resilience in L.A.” virtual workshop series was designed to build awareness of climate impacts, discuss multiple strategies for adaptation as well as mitigation, and highlight how community models and wisdom could inform and improve the City’s climate resilience investments. This three-part series was constructed to engage participants in discussions on key themes and to solicit their ideas, recommendations, and priorities.

“Top 10 Takeaways” from the Community-Driven Climate Resilience Series

Key “Takeaways” that emerged through the presentations and break out room discussions included:

1. Engage Community Residents to Design Resiliency Strategies: “Resilience Hubs” must be guided by authentic engagement and input from the underserved, community residents—

including those who are currently unhoused. This will assure that the location, operating hours, and services provided are responsive to community needs. Community-based organizations can play a key role in mobilizing their voices. CBOs should be fairly compensated for their staffing to engage their communities.

2. Provide a Wide Range of Survival and Social Services at Resilience Hubs, including air conditioning/filtration to counter heat and smoke exposure; access to electrical power for charging devices; refrigeration to store medications; medical assistance; and the provision of food/water. Access to mental health, youth services, safe and affordable housing, job development, financial literacy and other services can help with social cohesion year-round, but especially in the event of disaster.

3. Build Community Trust Before Disasters: Resilience Hubs must win the trust of the community members they seek to serve during times of extreme heat or other climate emergencies. Nonprofit and faith-based institutions who already (and frequently) provide services on a daily, round-the-clock basis, should be considered as potential sites, along with other public locations such as local schools, park facilities, and libraries. Nonprofits are helping their communities to thrive, not just survive, and have built trust and rapport with their neighbors.

4. Strengthen and Expand Localized Social Networks to reach the most vulnerable community members—especially the elderly,

disabled or immigrants—to assure that they are notified of extreme heat, power outages, or wildfire events, and know how to access relief and services.

5. Expand Climate and Disaster Preparedness Education and Training

to target essential workers (e.g., “in home” health care workers, outdoor workers who maintain critical infrastructure, health “promotoras”) who have a direct role in saving lives of the most vulnerable populations. Public financing and support should be expanded to implement this concept at scale, while creating new jobs with family-sustaining wages.

6. Centralize Data Platforms

to create a full picture of climate and social vulnerability that can inform disaster preparedness strategies and responses. This database should include existing and planned resilience hubs and community centers and should also consider how to increase access for underserved community members who experience the “digital divide”.

7. Develop Specific, Localized Strategies to Protect Populations At-Risk from Wildfires, Flooding and/or Extreme Heat

including the homeless, outdoor workers, mobile home dwellers, transit riders, and residents in high-risk zones, including evacuation routes and emergency guidance.

8. Invest in Multi-Benefit Solutions that Advance Equity:

Tree planting, increased access to parks and green space, improved and more energy efficient building stock, solar power installations, and free/low-cost transit can all provide adaptation and mitigation benefits that protect physical, social and emotional health and well-being, while addressing social and economic

disparities.

9. Address Root Causes of Climate Change

that also exacerbate poor air quality and health/social disparities. Our extractive economic model relies upon oil drilling/refining, diesel-powered transportation, gas-powered home heating, and fossil fuel-powered electricity generation that not only increases GHGs, but damages human health. These processes are enabled by historic and systemic racism, such as redlining practices, and must be addressed to fully solve the climate crisis.

10. Build Multi-Sector Partnerships

that can create greater information and language access, program accountability and effectiveness.

Planning and Preparation for the Climate Resiliency Series

The design of the Community-Driven Climate Resiliency series mirrored the design and structure that was created in Part 1 of the Climate Equity LA series. A collaborative process was developed by a Curriculum Design Team that included both CBO and NPO Anchor Groups and other city, county and academic practitioners. The Design Team met twice, after individual interviews were conducted by CEMO and Liberty Hill staff to surface key themes. Design Team partners emphasized the need to highlight work already underway in communities. By featuring key community-based programs and strategies, we could help to expand investments and build on lessons learned to address climate resilience. This emphasis especially shaped workshops 2 and 3.

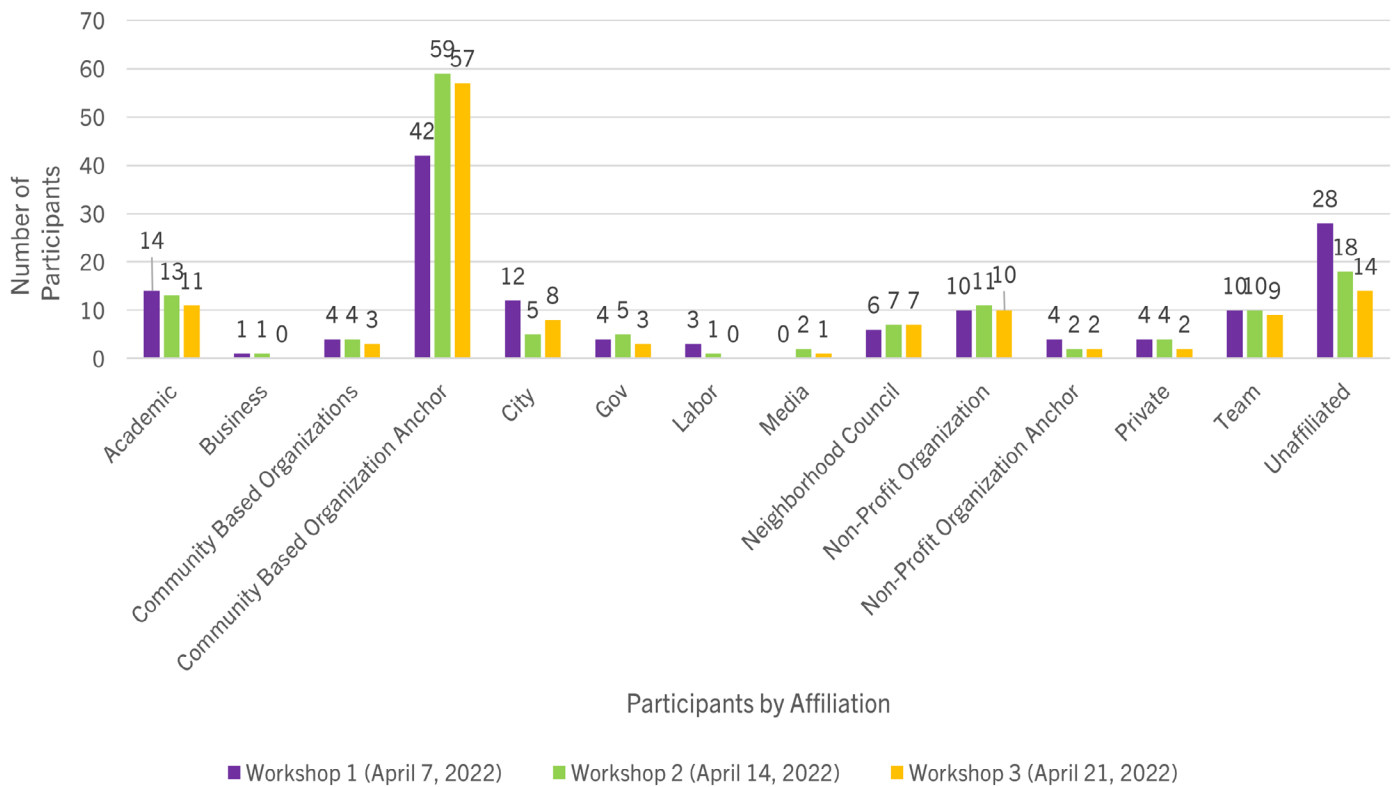
Preparation for Part 2 on Climate Resiliency similarly identified key speakers, panelists, and case models

of community climate resiliency in Los Angeles. In addition to the coordination of panels, breakout sessions, and engagement strategies, there was also a greater effort to translate all presentation materials into Spanish in response to the Curriculum Design Team’s identification of language justice and access as a key area for growth. CEMO and Liberty Hill staff played the role of lead coordinators, including preparatory sessions with speakers, coordination on translation and facilitation, and organizing Breakout Group Discussions and questions based on discussions with panelists and Curriculum Design Team members.

The Community Climate Resilience Public Zoom workshop series engaged a total of 255 unique individuals, including many of the same groups that were present throughout the Building Decarbonization Series. This series, however, attracted stronger turnout by the CBO Anchor Groups (previously defined in Part 1 of the Building Decarbonization Report) who brought out community members to discuss and share on the impacts of climate hazards and pathways towards climate resiliency. The graph below shows the distribution of participation by category and across each workshop conducted on April 7th, 14th, and 21st.

Workshop Series Attendance

FIGURE 17. Overall Participation in the CELA Part 2: Community Climate Resilience



Workshop #1: Introduction to Equitable Climate Resilience (April 7th, 2022)

On April 7th, 2022, Workshop #1 took place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on a public zoom. This first workshop provided an overview that defined climate resilience and vulnerability and provided background on the significance of social infrastructure (or social “networks”) for determining communities’ adaptive capacity to disaster. In addition to the key objectives for the Part 2 series, this workshop also aimed to: 1) identify a shared definition of resilience and vulnerability; 2) center communities at the frontline of climate impacts as experts in adapting to and planning equitable pathways towards climate resilience; and 3) build an understanding of the exacerbating role of climate hazards on pre-existing social inequities such as poor air quality, exposure to toxic contaminants, and lack of access to health care.

Similar to the Part 1 series, Workshop 1 featured opening remarks from the CEMO Director, Marta Segura, who described the CEMO “Blueprint” as a framework to construct equitable policies centered on the experiences of frontline communities through the Climate Emergency Mobilization Commission and the Equitable Climate Action Road Map. Marta Segura also provided a brief presentation on “Community-led Climate Resilience, Co-Benefits, & Justice”. This introduction highlighted the purpose of the Part 2 series in showcasing community-driven models of climate resilience and adaptation. Often these are issues that communities have organized around for years, either directly or indirectly, such as the current work to link local environmental health hazards with larger climate impacts, like oil drilling. Community models are often shaped by co-benefits that address

not just a single need, but multiple community needs such as shelter, public health, food access, and mobility to name a few, and which in turn help create wider buy-in.

The following speakers participated in Workshop 1 roundtables and panels:

- Terilyn Chen, Resilience Policy Coordinator of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN)
- Alison Frazzini, Sustainability Program Director of the County Sustainability Office (CSO)
- Lyn Stoler, Associate Director for Strategic Initiatives of the UCLA Center for Healthy Climate Solutions
- Laura Gracia, CARE Program Coordinator of Communities for a Better Environment

Presentation Summary

Workshop 1 was structured with four presentations focused on definitions and frameworks to understand climate resilience. These presentations were followed by Breakout Group discussions that involved all participants, with a few facilitators sharing key takeaways from their groups before adjourning. Spanish language interpretation was provided throughout by Interpreters Unlimited, while Zoom technology and coordination support was provided by Liberty Hill and CEMO staff. All materials for Workshop 1 can be found in the following hyperlink.

Terilyn Chen from the Asian Pacific Environmental

Network (APEN), a Bay area-based organization involved in state and regional climate policies, opened up the first workshop by providing a background on disaster planning and the “Climate Gap”, defined as the unequal impacts of climate disasters and their role as a threat multiplier. Included in this report was a background to community resilience, and how risk was measured and mapped before a disaster. Below are some key points made during the presentation.

- Community resilience can be defined as the ability of communities to withstand, recover, and learn from climate impacts to strengthen future response and recovery efforts.
- Key to strengthening community resilience was the social infrastructure in place to provide services to promote economic, health, cultural and social well-being of the community, and the physical infrastructure to support those services.
- Resilience is built before disaster. Some principles that ground equitable community resilience are building strong public and community institutions, targeting solutions to communities with the least material resources, ensuring equitable economic development through high road jobs, and democratic community-led planning.
- Community resilience centers are spaces for communities to access services, gather together, and organize, and are not meant to activate only during disasters but on a daily basis. These buildings play a role in the daily life of community members, such as libraries or schools, and can offering cooling and other services.
- There are other needs that cannot be fully addressed by resilience centers. In-home resilience resources, such trained homecare workers for the elderly and disabled, as well as

trained public sector workers who can respond to crises and help communities stay in place, are also needed.

- One of APEN’s key research findings was the abundance of climate data and tools, even though there are still some gaps in available information. There is still the need for a centralized climate vulnerability mapping platform that creates, or centralizes, a multifaceted set of indicators to inform the general public, while serving as a streamlined, actionable framework for policymakers and other decision-makers.
- Through community engagement and conversations, the state Office of Planning and Research (OPR) is currently developing a Vulnerable Communities Mapping Platform and the formation of a Community Resilience Working Group.

A second presentation was delivered by **Alison Frazzini of the County’s Chief Sustainability Office (CSO)**, who delved deeper into the County’s Climate Vulnerability Assessment. Frazzini started with a definition of climate vulnerability based on sensitivity, adaptive capacity, and exposure. Specifically, Frazzini defined vulnerability not as an indicator of an individual’s weakness or capacity to cope, but rather, as the factors that are almost entirely outside of individual control that put people at higher risk of negative impacts.

- The County’s assessment featured multiple engagement strategies, including Advisory Committee Meetings, Public Workshops, Listening Sessions, Key informant interviews, and a webpage.
- These engagement processes helped provide quantitative data across a wide range of indicators

including age, gender, language, education, health, housing, mobility, income, occupation, and race/ethnicity. This resulted in a social vulnerability index which, when overlaid with disaster risks, provides an overview of the geographic areas and populations most impacted by climate disaster.

- This assessment found that 50 % of the population stated they avoided going outside due to smoke pollution, often in areas where pre-existing health conditions, like asthma, are exacerbated by wildfires.
- Nearly one-third of all mobile homes in the County are in flood risk zones, causing those most in need of disaster services to lose access and mobility to services.
- Extreme heat especially targets susceptible populations and workers who work outdoors, with more than one-quarter of heat-exposed workers in LA County citing a lack of protections from heat illness. Many workers also cited a fear of reporting heat incidents and injuries for fear of workplace retaliation.
- The County also found that energy disruption particularly impacted socially vulnerable populations.
- Trees/parks/open spaces were key for adaptive capacity, but their proximity to climate disasters, like wildfires, also made them vulnerable to disruption.
- There is a need to protect workers during climate disasters. Otherwise, there is a risk of creating a feedback loop where workers who are critical to maintaining physical and social infrastructure are harmed by the event and unable to respond to disaster.

Building on previous presentations around vulnerability and climate resilience, **Lyn Stoler from the UCLA Center for Healthy Climate Solutions** shared frameworks around co-benefits in addressing climate resiliency through the overlap of mitigative and adaptive practices.

- In a comprehensive adaptation process, co-benefits are developed when solutions are designed that combine mitigation and adaptation approaches. Co-benefits here were defined as “Positive secondary effects of climate response strategies that go beyond greenhouse gas mitigation.”
- One example shared was planting trees both for the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions as well as for the adaptive use of shade and relief from urban heat island effects. Tree plantings can lead to multiple adaptive co-benefits such as reduction of surface temperature, better water filtration, and mitigating co-benefits such as the natural capture and storage of carbon from the atmosphere. Research also found additional benefits to mental health, and reduced physical stressors, as well as positive correlations with youth development and education in areas with access to tree canopy and shade.
- Beyond adaption and mitigation benefits, co-benefits can also include physical health, mental health, education, social well-being, energy conservation, and equity as well.

Rounding off the presentations for Workshop 1, **Laura Gracia, the Climate, Adaptation, and Resilience Education (CARE) Coordinator from CBE**, expanded on the ways communities have organized and driven climate resilience efforts in Los Angeles. Communities for a Better Environment is a multi-faceted organizing group, based in Wilmington, Southeast LA, and parts

What types of natural disasters or climate impacts are you most concerned about?

¿Qué tipos de desastres naturales, impactos industriales o impactos climáticos le preocupan más?

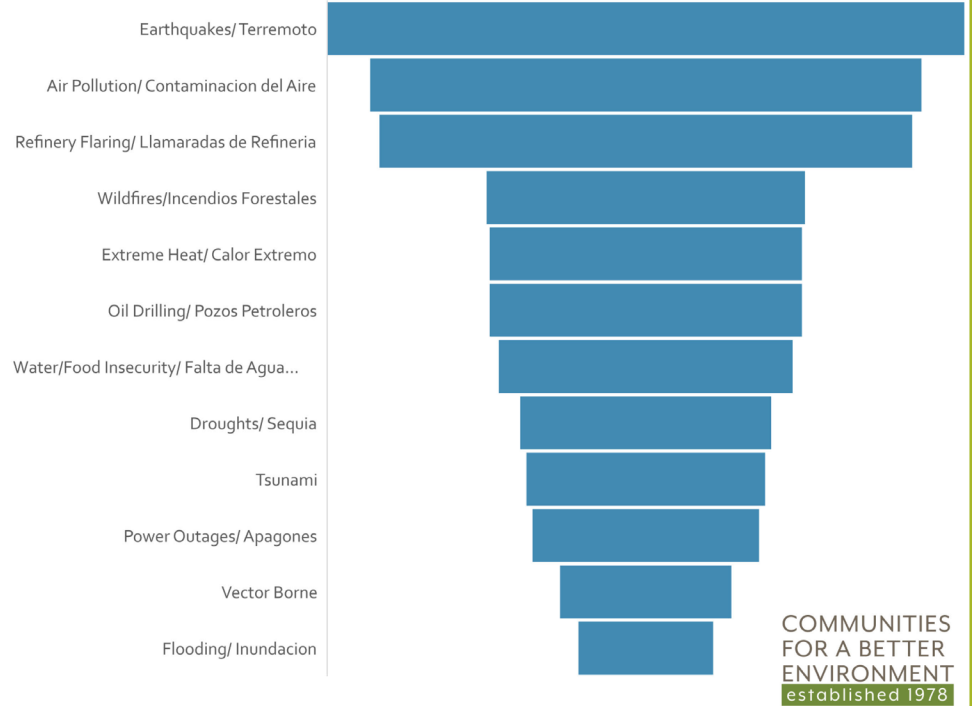


FIGURE 18. Survey results for a resilience hub (Source: Community for a Better Environment, April 7, 2022)

of Northern California, such as East Oakland.

- Frontline communities face both the root causes of climate change through proximity to environmental and industrial hazards like oil refineries and truck corridors, as well as the greatest impacts from climate change, such as extreme heat.
- These environmental health impacts often synergize with disasters, such as acute extreme heat events that worsen the particulate matter in frontline communities and expose them to higher levels of air contaminants. During periods of energy shutoffs or grid blackouts, the elderly and those with pre-existing medical conditions, such as asthma or heart ailments, can especially suffer. Similarly, flooding can also serve as a vector for the spread of toxic materials in communities where oil refineries and other heavy industries have

contaminated soil and groundwater.

- Cumulative impacts from industry and transportation worsen air quality and pose long-term health impacts for areas like Wilmington and South LA, causing them to face high exposure to PM2.5 (particulate matter) and other ozone pollutants.
- Focus groups carried out by CBE with communities in Wilmington and South LA identified lack of physical infrastructure, and cooling relief (such as air conditioners) in older buildings. These conversations led to the development of a cooling center pilot at the Tzu Chi Community Clinic, and another at the Wilmington Senior Center. These sites include additional services like refrigeration for storage of medicine and access to electrical power.

- In addition to resilience centers, Gracia highlighted the need to build community leadership to assure localized, neighborhood care. Some examples included community education (sharing information about resources) and expanding social infrastructure (checking in on neighbors), to DIY practices such as preparing emergency backpacks with items that address the localized impacts of disasters, like air filters for highly polluted areas.
- Following up on the success of these pilot programs, surveys were shared in Wilmington to identify the ideal location for a resilience center and the services it should provide. A total of 123 participants, a majority Spanish speaking households with dependents, shared their climate/disaster concerns including fear of earthquakes. Though not immediately perceived as a typical climate disaster, this was especially relevant due to Wilmington’s vulnerability to liquefaction

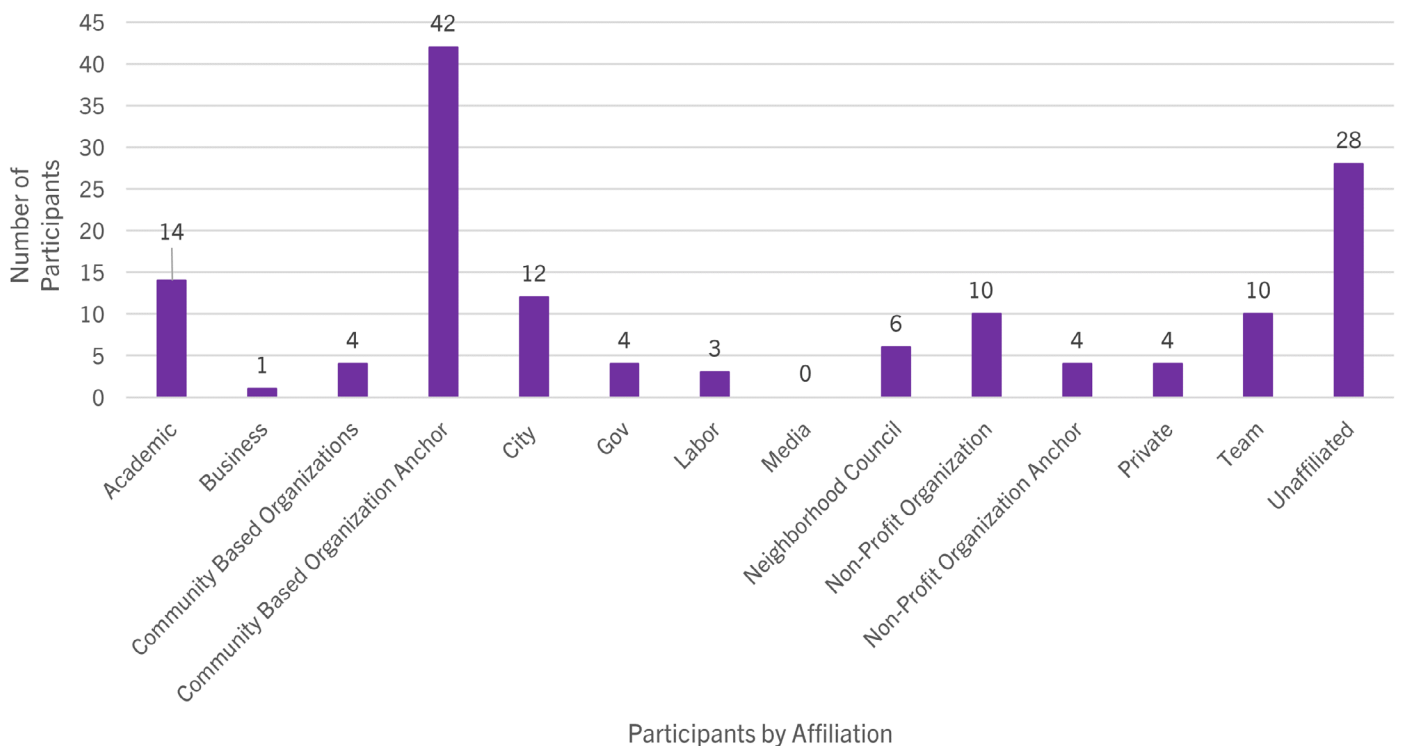
“Those of us who are low income have to walk in intense heat but while we are suffering those with more resources have access to transportation. Low income communities need more support. We see buses pick up kids from other areas but not for our kids.”

-Workshop Participant

and location of a fault line in the area, and the prevalence of industrial chemicals that could be released.

- These surveys found that priority services for resiliency hubs included material support, such as water, food, access to electricity for phone charging, wifi/communications, access to medication and medical resources. There was also

FIGURE 19. Participation in the CELA Part 2 Workshop 2:Introduction to Equitable Climate Resilience (April 7, 2022)



a need for the City to help provide resources and materials like first aid and earthquake kits.

- Participants also identified the need for trainings on violence de-escalation practices, and year-round services focused on physical and mental health.
- Surveys also found a need to build trust for the location and to assure accessibility. The location of any resilience hub must tap into pre-existing relationships with trusted community institutions, identified through community led processes.
- As a counterpoint to community-driven climate resilience planning, an example was cited of a resilience hub in Texas built without access to transit, in an area that was highly policed by border agents in a primarily migrant community.

In the Q&A session, participants shared their reflections, with key points here:

- There is a need to fund community-based organizations and respond to the concerns community members raise, even if some fears may not fit the traditional definition of a climate disaster (e.g., secondary impacts from earthquakes causing chemical releases or hazardous air quality exacerbated by acute climate disasters). (Gracia, Frazzini)
- Changes in extreme heat affect social behavior and are correlated with higher suicide rates and domestic violence calls. Cooling centers and access to adaptive co-benefits can potentially reduce domestic violence and other mental health crises. Current research at UCLA is exploring the geographic distribution of tweets during heat waves to see if there are behavioral changes that result. (Stoler)

- Resilience centers do not necessarily look the same across different neighborhoods. Resilience networks are helpful to distribute information, but they don't exist without intention and investment. Sharing information through deeply connected community members, as well as through local collaborations with government, can be alternatives to help identify resources. (Chen)

Though this session had some technical challenges in setting up language channels, there was better and more comprehensive translation of visuals into Spanish. This was especially important considering so many of the case studies and materials discussed were drawn from community experiences and perspectives in managing and adapting to climate risks.

Participation in Workshop # 1

Workshop #1 of Community Climate Resiliency brought together 143 participants across a variety of sectors. CBO Anchor members provided the most sizeable group of participants (42), and attendance by individuals affiliated with CBOs was almost a third more than the previous series, a pattern that would repeat throughout the Resilience workshop series. Other represented groups included many City agencies (12) like LAUSD,

LA Homeless Services Authority, and the City Planning Department to name a few. Other's included non-profit anchors like Grid Alternatives who also actively participated as a design team member; with additional participation from non-profit groups like the Greenlining Institute, the River Project, and the Climate Center, to name a few.

After the panel presentations and Q&A session, the

participants were organized into 8 breakout groups of roughly 8 to 12 individuals each, including 1 Spanish-only speaking groups. The goal of the breakout groups (BOGs) was to provide participants with an opportunity to engage with others, ask questions about the information they heard, and provide feedback on some key questions. As before, each breakout group was facilitated by a trained CBO staff member, Team member, or UCLA student, and each group had an official notetaker to record key observations and feedback. The BOG discussion notes were inductively coded to identify key themes mentioned by participants. Below is a summary of the takeaways from Community Climate Resilience Workshop 1 BOGs:

1. What factors affect your ability to respond to climate hazards?

Break out group participants mostly identified a lack of understanding and need for clarity related to climate risks and how communities can address these risks. Disaster preparedness was frequently mentioned: participants cited a lack of knowledge, from what to include in disaster kits, to where to find resiliency centers and other resources. Other factors frequently mentioned included:

- Increased financial burdens, especially due to increased energy bills and utility debt. Participants cited the need for rehabilitating buildings to include air conditioning and better temperature control, without which communities cannot withstand extreme heat.
- A lack of trust towards government agencies stemming from misinformation, past harms, and lack of formal structures, were cited as additional barriers. Participants referred to previous

community meetings that eventually dwindled in participation due to a lack of official support, lack of knowledge about relevant resources, and little understanding of which public agencies oversee relevant issues.

- Many identified the need for information and resources to be unique to geographic needs and specific community needs, such as localized emergency escape plans and transit routes.
- The need to include community participation in all planning for resiliency services and resilience hubs so that programs and approaches reflect the needs and ideas of those who most need support.

2. In what ways do you think LA residents face inequities in their ability to cope with climate emergencies and risks?

- Both economic and environmental inequities were often cited together as structural barriers that make communities more vulnerable and less able to cope with climate-induced emergencies. Unequal distribution of hazards (e.g., proximity to industrial facilities and traffic corridors, as well as lack of tree canopy and urban heat island impacts in disadvantaged communities) creates greater community vulnerability to climate hazards. Economic inequities thwart community members' ability to recover or respond to disaster (e.g., lack of money or transportation to evacuate, or to increase use of air conditioning during heat waves due to cost). Many cited the resistance of landlords to upgrade buildings with air conditioning or other necessary repairs, with especially harmful impacts for the elderly.
- Unequal access to resources and infrastructure creates a social, economic, and racial divide.

Wealthier communities have greater access to escape routes, alternative shelter, and emergency resources compared to many poorer communities in LA who are disconnected and “stuck” in their neighborhoods during climate-related events.

- While social inequities were clearly recognized, participants also highlighted extensive social networks that were seen as holding strong adaptive potential where neighbors and families can help each other through heat waves, wildfires, and other threatening events.

Many of these entities and places already serve as community centers and trusted spaces for providing daily shelter and services that can be strengthened through increased City support.

- Accountability of elected officials and City agencies was discussed often in the context of increasing access to information and financial resources. Community members expressed the need for greater understanding of how resources were being used and how communities can access them.

3. What types of services and resources do you and your community need to help you become more climate resilient?

- Physical infrastructure investments must be informed by robust community engagement and outreach to achieve holistic solutions to strengthen climate resilience. Public private partnerships that provide for deep stakeholder engagement and guidance in identifying and developing both physical and social infrastructure services, were cited as crucial.
- “Promotoras,” who are community health educators, along with public health/home care workers (such as visiting nurses, home healthcare workers for the elderly and indigent, and stay at home family members), were mentioned as individuals who should receive training to respond to climate and public health hazards given their trusted status with disadvantaged households and communities.
- The need for coordination with local and trusted institutions--such as local schools, community parks and pools, or churches and other faith-based programs--were frequently mentioned.

FIGURE 20. Qualitative coding of factors affecting community resilience discussed in breakout room groups



FIGURE 21. Qualitative coding of inequities preventing community resilience discussed in breakout room groups

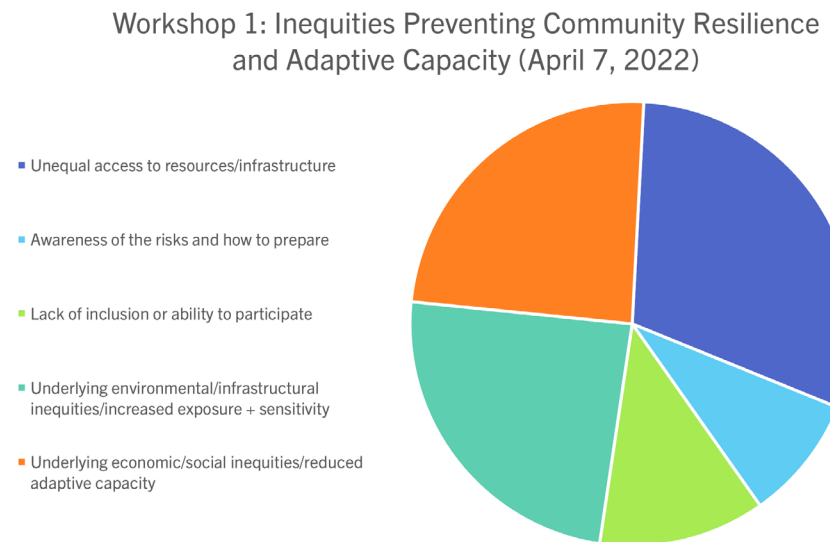
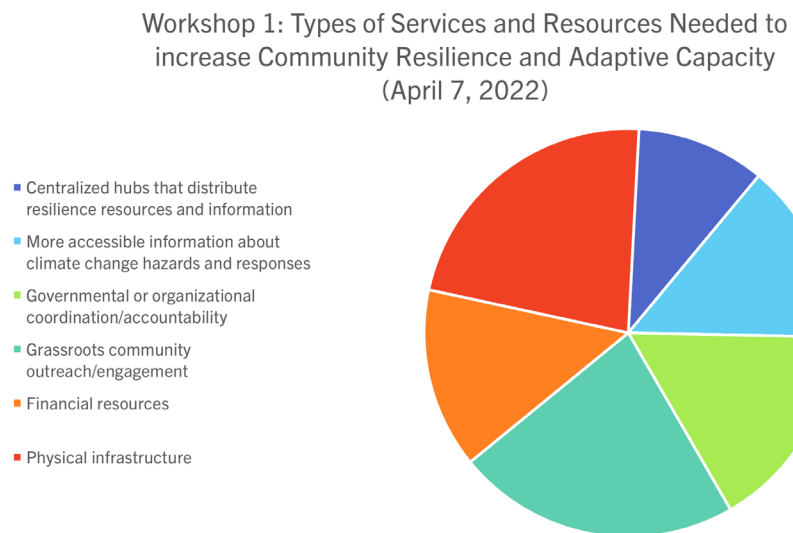


FIGURE 22. Qualitative coding of types of services and resources for community resilience discussed in breakout room groups



Workshop #2: Community-Driven Climate Resilience, Solutions & Challenges: Case Reflections (April 14th, 2022)

On April 14, 2022, Workshop #2 took place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on a public Zoom titled “Community-Driven Climate Resilience, Solutions & Challenges: Case Reflections.” The workshop began with a review of the Climate Equity Innovative Governance Model and the role of community input in shaping a Climate Action Road Map. Segura discussed the context of the Resilience series and the role these discussions will play in conveying the cumulative impacts of climate risks and providing advice on equitable climate resilience strategies and policies. Workshop 2 focused on community-driven projects and campaigns, and stakeholder-led projects that addressed environmental and climate hazards, often through co-benefit models.

Representing nonprofit, community-based, government and neighborhood council leaders, the following speakers participated in Workshop 2 roundtables and panels:

- Veronica Padilla, Executive Director, Pacoima Beautiful
- Lisa Hart, President, Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance
- Zahirah Mann, President & CEO, SLATE-Z
- Aaron Gross, Chief Resilience Officer, City of Los Angeles

Workshop 2 kicked off with an introduction from Marta Segura about the Climate Equity LA Series and an overview of the role of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office. As a new office within the City, Segura wanted to provide this important context for new and continuing participants. This session consisted of four presentations highlighting the work already being done and led by communities on climate resilience, followed by a Q&A session and Breakout Group discussions with report backs from a few discussion groups. Spanish language interpretation was provided throughout by Interpreters Unlimited, while Zoom technology and coordination support was provided by Liberty Hill and CEMO staff.

Opening the workshop, **Veronica Padilla of Pacoima Beautiful** reviewed the history of the organization as a grassroots environmental justice organization with active organizing and advocacy on education policy, local planning and zoning, the arts, and public health in Pacoima, Sun Valley, and the greater northeast San Fernando Valley. Pacoima ranks at the 90th percentile of pollution burden, characterized by the high concentration of industry, freeways, diesel truck corridors, airports, and railyards. A group of mothers in the neighborhood saw the impacts of these hazards and wanted to clean up their neighborhood, leading to the founding of Pacoima Beautiful in 1996.

Pacoima Beautiful is leading several climate and environmental justice organizing campaigns that were

Presentation Summary

highlighted:

- Many of Pacoima Beautiful's projects focus on participatory design processes where community members identify the benefits they would like to see come out of a project. The Bradley Plaza in Pacoima, for example, reimagined neighborhood alleys through a public community-led design process. The result was a water filtration and collection system to strengthen local water supply, the implementation of native gardens, and the creation of a public space that doubled for both for recreational use and community meetings.
- Community clean ups continue and are helpful means to engage community members on local issues. Programs like Junior Rangers pair clean ups with educational learning and environmental stewardship for young community members.
- Several of Pacoima Beautiful's campaigns focus on local hazardous sites including a local generating station with several instances of methane leaks, as well as the Whiteman Airport which has led to air and noise pollution for nearby communities.
- Organizing around these hazards, Pacoima Beautiful uses community science to hold industry and government accountable. This has included regular monitoring of air quality and soil sampling around the airport with youth and community members who are local experts and stakeholders.
- Community gardens, tree plantings, and plant giveaways are conducted in areas with frequent illegal dumping as part of holistic strategies to address the prevalence of hazards.
- Recently, Pacoima Beautiful has developed several projects with a focus on extreme heat. At the Fernangeles High School, a mural was made with

cool paint to explore the impact of these materials to lower surface temperatures. Other efforts, like "Marty the shade lab", is a robotic intervention used to monitor and gather data on extreme heat conditions in Pacoima.

- Energy needs and equity have been explored through programs like Electric vehicle car shares, connecting community members with free rain barrels, and a Transformative Climate Community grant partnership with GRID Alternatives that assists low-income households in installing solar panels and accessing job training and skills.

A second presentation was provided by **Lisa Hart, board member of the Neighborhood Council's Sustainability Alliance**. Los Angeles has 99 neighborhood councils, with many working to advance resilience throughout the city through community action and advocacy. The NCSA serves as a network within the neighborhood council structure to address climate resilience and sustainability at a local level. The following are key takeaways from Lisa Hart's presentation:

- NCSA runs the "Cool Blocks" program as a way to gather neighbors together to identify how, at the block level, they can organize to identify climate resilience goals including water and energy conservation, disaster preparedness, and infrastructure needs. These conversations occur in neighbors' homes and living rooms, and take place over a 5-month period
- Research has shown that in the Fukushima tsunami and Kobe earthquakes, social connectivity (i.e., strong social ties) was the strongest factor in shaping high survival rates and long-term recovery. Neighbors rescued each other, checked in on the elderly, and provided quicker first response than

official rescue teams.

- “Cool Blocks” was envisioned as a way to develop this social infrastructure and cohesion to prepare for climate impacts. For 2022, NCSA has a goal of recruiting and training 200 Cool Block leaders, with a particular focus on addressing the most at-risk communities as indicated by CalEnviroScreen scores on pollution burden and social vulnerability.
- Cool Blocks is open to both renters and homeowners and provides multiple paths of engagement to address climate issues at a neighborhood level.

Zahirah Mann, President and CEO, of the South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone (SLATE-Z) focused on the intersection between mobility and community-led climate planning. Slate Z is a partnership of over 100 diverse private and public entities, covering 200,000 residents in South LA, where 30% fall below the federal poverty line. Founded as a strategy to shape the investments in new transit lines and leverage HUD Promise Zone grants, SLATE-Z serves as a conduit for identifying and pursuing community led priorities and needs. SLATE-Z focuses on policy and programs including living wage jobs, fostering small business and local entrepreneurship, investing in education, affordable and accessible transit, and community safety and wellness. Key takeaways from Zahirah’s presentation included:

- SLATE-Z’s organizing started by fostering an understanding of the impacts of the transit lines on the economic well-being of the community, especially since many residents are highly reliant on public transit. The historical legacies of redlining and the lack of social and physical investments have resulted in these communities

being overburdened with poor air quality and suffering health impacts like diabetes, asthma, and cancer rates.

- Working with community residents to access tools that address environmental pollution, SLATE-Z identified community needs and priorities. This work was awarded a Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) planning grant to organize a one-year participatory planning process focused on climate resilience. Done in partnership with METRO, LADOT, MOVE LA and others, SLATE-Z started a pilot program that provided youth with free transit, resulting in the Fareless System initiative for pre-K-12th grade and community college students who can now access unlimited Metro rides from October 2021 through June 2023.
- This work also led to Universal Mobility programs being developed in South LA, guided by a resident advisory council that shapes the project focus and priorities. Drawing inspiration from this experience, parallel councils have been established to focus on resilience hub planning, as well as park access and equity in the Baldwin Hills Conservancy area.
- Informing community members and cultivating discussions is crucial for identifying design challenges in accessing the benefits of a green economy, and in assuring that implementation is shaped by the community, and for community interests.

The final presentation was delivered by the Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Los Angeles, Aaron Gross, who provided greater context on city policies and actions on community resilience. Using a broad definition of resiliency, city agencies now focus on a recovery process that has expanded to all city systems

and projects. This new framework for resilience includes:

- Current work on a hazard mitigation plan for various disasters that details pathways for activating different response plans, including evacuation routes. These plans will include the location of resilience centers and other relevant information.
- Flood resilience plans across the city are being developed with a focus on equity and the disproportionate impact of climate change on frontline communities. Climate change has been a recurring theme throughout new planning codes and project developments. In the Venice Coastal plan, for example, sea level rise has been incorporated when identifying areas for development.
- Local water measures have focused on capturing and recycling stormwater in LA, enabling greater water self-sufficiency and resiliency, and less reliance on imported water that could be threatened by earthquakes or other emergencies.
- The “Ready Your LA Neighborhood” mapping program connects communities together to identify local assets and resources. Initial pilot programs identified the need to redesign some of these programs to reflect the unique needs of communities, with some groups requesting greater technical/governmental assistance and others expressing interest for a more independent process.
- The Boyle Heights Resilience Hub, the first resilience Hub of its kind in the city and located in the Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory, provides space for residents to access electricity, cooling, clean water and food, communication and

digital resources, and trainings. Boyle Heights is a densely populated neighborhood with high vulnerability to earthquakes due to an older building stock, extreme heat, and poor air quality. The Conservatory is a trusted and familiar community meeting place. As a resilience hub, it also includes a pizza store with a wood-fired oven, a radio station with wider communication functions, and a gathering spot for youth. The partnership includes multiple organizations, such as the City of Los Angeles, LADWP, U.S. Green Building Council-LA, and several others. The Hub was designed through a community participation process that identified potential shocks and stressors and the most needed resources.

Due to a lack of time, the Q/A session with panelists was eliminated and panelists instead participated in Break Out Group discussions.

Participation in Workshop 2

A total of 143 participants attended the workshop, including participants, staff, speakers, and facilitators/ notetakers. The largest portion of attendance came from CBO Anchors (59) who heavily promoted the series to community residents and local groups, many of whom were monolingual Spanish speaking. A total of four break out rooms were organized for Spanish speakers to reflect this increase in demand, compared to the two to three rooms needed in previous workshops. Additionally, a significant portion of identified participants came from Academic groups (13) such as Occidental College and UCLA, and Nonprofit Organizations (NPOs) (11) such as Climate Resolve, Los Angeles Green Ground and the River Project.

Participants were organized into 10 breakout groups

of roughly 8 to 12 individuals each, including the four Spanish-only speaking groups, to provide an engagement and feedback opportunity. As before, all breakout groups were facilitated by a trained CBO staff member, Team member or UCLA student, with discussion recorded by an official notetaker. Participant comments were inductively coded to identify key themes. Here is a summary of the Workshop 2 comments for each of the three guiding questions:

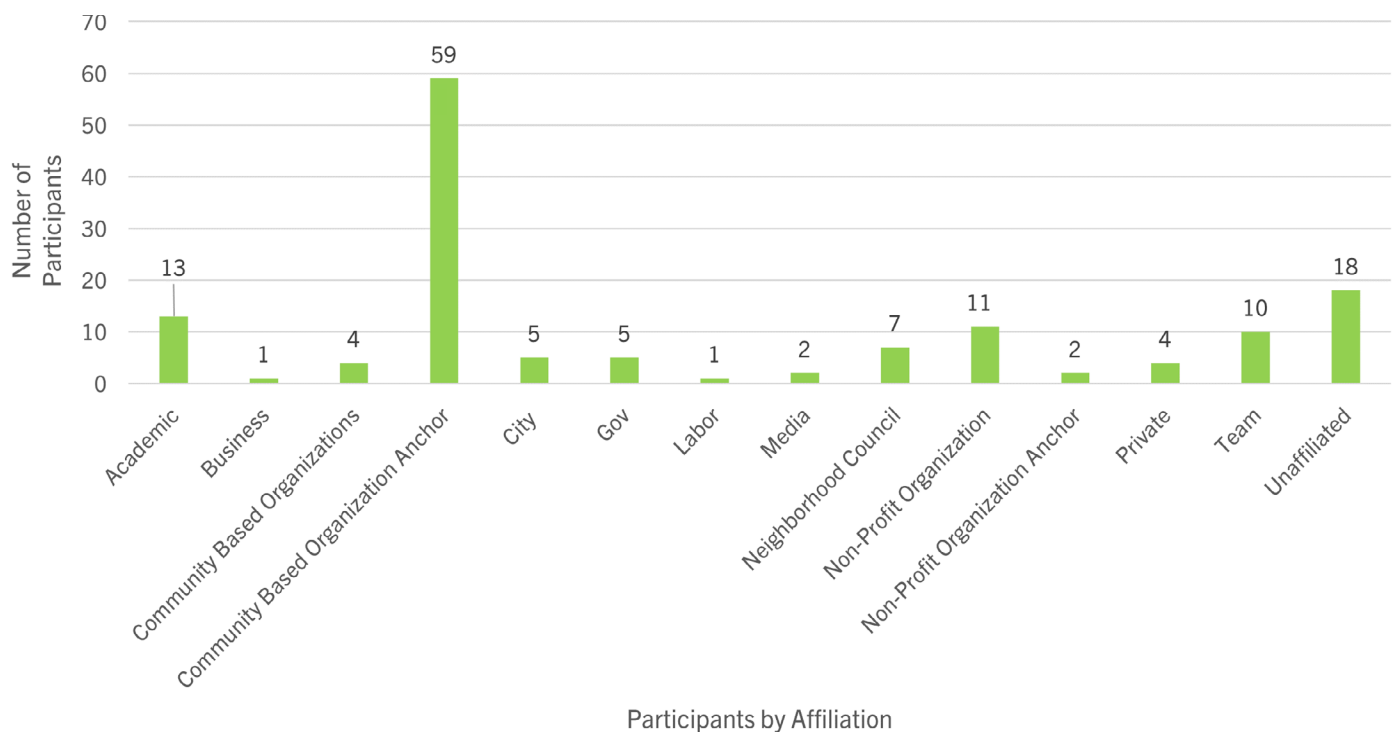
1. What are some benefits you see from the community-driven climate resilience solutions discussed in this workshop?

- Nearly half of the participants cited “community empowerment” as a primary benefit of community-driven climate resilience since it not only shapes the design and implementation of a project, but

because it also contributes to multiple co-benefits that sustain long-term community building and improve the quality of life.

- Community Empowerment was often tied to feelings of safety and comfort. Resilience hubs, when driven by residents’ needs and insights, could strengthen long-term social cohesion as well as serve as a resource for immediate disaster relief.
- The need for equity-focused planning and programs was also frequently mentioned as a potential benefit. By addressing systemic inequities that have led to greater vulnerability to climate risks, resilience planning could provide multi-benefit solutions, such as increasing park access and shade infrastructure in a single project.

FIGURE 23. Participation in the CELA Part 2 Workshop 2: Community Driven Climate Resilience Solutions (April 14, 2022)



2. What are some challenges to implementing community driven climate resilience solutions?

- The responses about “Challenges” were much more mixed as demonstrated in the pie chart below. One theme that arose repeatedly was the need for greater financial resources. Investments have been insufficient to address current needs.,
- Lack of information, low awareness about available resources, and language accessibility were also mentioned frequently. Information needs to be easy to access, and in relevant languages. Now, language barriers limit the ability to involve communities most affected by climate change, especially as many are non-English monolingual speakers. These communities are often working class, renters, and struggling with utility debt, all of which make it difficult to dedicate sufficient time to track these issues and resources.
- Many cited bureaucratic barriers that often slow down service delivery and redistributive processes. These barriers leave communities struggling to coordinate and access resources and can pose challenges to maintaining community cohesion. While communities often develop their own resources (such as ‘tianguis’ for collection), distrust is formed when people can’t participate or understand the outcomes from their engagement.

3. What are the top two things you think the city should be doing to address climate resiliency in your community?

- Multiple issues were brought up as top city priorities. A recurring theme was the demand for greater government responsiveness and involvement in both services and outreach.

“Communities had issues with refineries nearby but they had various solutions. There were many problems but they also asked how they could be solved. We have examples that can show what can be. That’s how we will move ahead.”

-Workshop Participant

Participants felt that it often falls to communities to provide solutions, and while temporary solutions (like rebates) may address immediate needs, they are insufficient for wider, systemic resilience and a transition to a decarbonized economy.

- Increased green space, parks and trees are greatly needed, and can be significant co-benefits resulting from new stormwater infrastructure and school modernizations. One community member shared that their neighbor had passed away from a heat stroke while they were waiting at a bus stop. Participants viewed bus shelters and other transit amenities as key areas for government oversight, with many opportunities to improve infrastructure for greater climate resilience.
- Addressing these issues requires building community trust and working with pre-existing organizations that hold strong relationships with community residents.

FIGURE 24. Qualitative coding of benefits for community-drive climate resilience discussed in breakout room groups

Workshop 2: Benefits of Community-Driven Climate Resilience (April 14, 2022)

- Improved outcomes due to inclusion of community/local knowledge/expertise
- Community empowerment/capacity building
- Equity focused solutions/ distribution of resources/ addressing systemic inequities
- Community/trust building

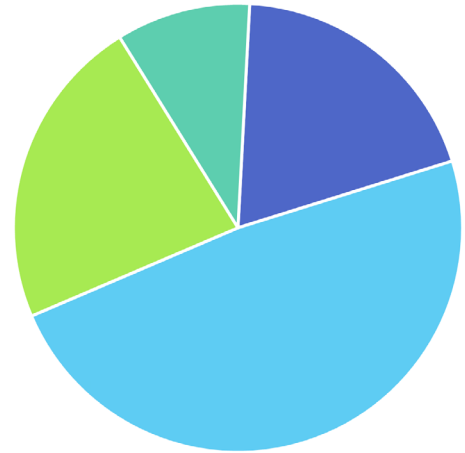


FIGURE 25. Qualitative coding of challenges for community-driven resilience discussed in breakout room groups

Workshop 2: Challenges of Community-Driven Climate Resilience (April 14, 2022)

- Lack of time/ sustained engagement
- Other more pressing priorities
- Lack of trust
- Information access/ language barriers/ digital divide
- Lack of financial resources
- Lack of awareness/ interest
- Bureaucratic barriers
- Systemic inequities
- Lack of meaningful engagement/involvement

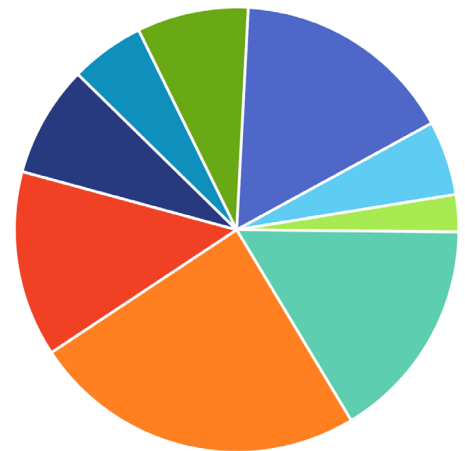
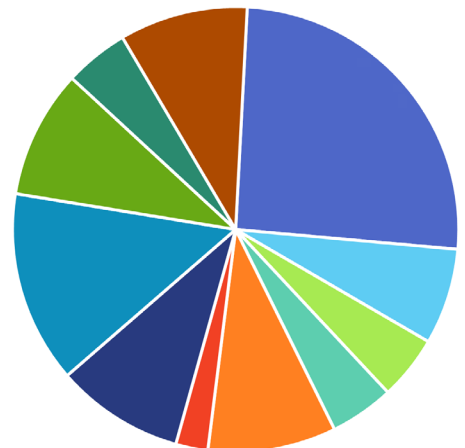


FIGURE 26. Qualitative coding of policy priorities for community-driven resilience discussed in breakout room groups

Workshop 2: Priorities for City Policy for Community-Driven Climate Resilience (April 14, 2022)

- Expand government services/programs / improving outreach
- Work with existing community organizations and leaders
- Prevent corporate takeover of response / hold corporations accountable
- Listening to frontline communities
- Targeted investment in frontline communities
- Workforce development/ job training
- Expand pollution monitoring
- Increase park/green space equity
- Increase housing equity
- Increase transportation equity
- Divest from fossil fuels/ invest in renewable energy



Workshop #3: Investing in Community-Driven Climate Solutions that Deliver Co-Benefits (April 21, 2022)

The final workshop of Part 2 of the CELA series took place on April 21, 2022, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on a public Zoom, titled “Investing in Community-Driven Climate Solutions that Deliver Co-Benefits”. Building on previous workshops that sought to increase understanding about climate resilience and community driven models, this final workshop would expand on the mechanisms and resources that communities and organizations can access to address multiple needs.

The following speakers served as roundtable guests and panelists in Workshop 3:

- Gloria Medina, Executive Director, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE)
- Luis Angel Martinez, Climate Adaptation/ Resilience Intern, Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)
- Alex Turek, Director of Strategic Initiatives, GRID Alternatives of Greater LA
- Ben Stapleton, Executive Director, U.S. Green Building Council-LA
- Rachel Malarich, Urban Forest Officer, City of Los Angeles Office of Forest Management

Presentation Summary

Marta Segura opened the final workshop with a land

acknowledgement and review of the CEMO blueprint. This included an overview of the role of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Commission, the history of community organizing in the creation of CEMO, and the purpose of break out room discussions and polls to help identify equitable climate policy and goals. This workshop consisted of a Discussion Roundtable, moderated by Segura, featuring four panelists representing community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and city agencies with experience and involvement in establishing Community Resilience Hubs. The roundtable was followed by a Q&A Session, and then a brief presentation by the City of Los Angeles Office of Forest Management. As with all other workshops, the session ended with Break Out Groups and a share back of key take aways from a few discussion groups. Spanish language interpretation was provided throughout by Interpreters Unlimited, while Zoom technology and coordination support was provided by Liberty Hill and CEMO staff.

Gloria Medina, Executive Director of SCOPE, opened the Roundtable with a grounding in the community-based solutions that drive SCOPE’s work in organizing in Black and Brown communities in South Los Angeles. Residents of South LA are often excluded from the benefits of economic development and have suffered greatly from the public health crisis of COVID-19. Any conversation about climate resilience needs to be based on the historic inequities and social and economic priorities that communities are currently

facing.

- There is a strong intersection between climate impacts and economic inequity. Without addressing these multiple areas of impact, climate resilience cannot be fully addressed.
- Communities in South LA face multiple struggles and have demonstrated resilience across a range of issues and generations. Presently 9% of Angelenos live in a census tract with the highest rate of poverty, with one-third of those Angelenos living in South LA.
- Residents have shared that it is more difficult to protect their families from heat waves, utility debt, housing pressures, and other economic challenges. Many have stated they face difficulty in accessing emergency resources due to language barriers, lack of transportation, and other issues around accessibility.
- Communities need to have a space where they can cool off, and access electrical power in a black out. Just as importantly, they need a space to share information and develop ideas collectively.
- There is urgency to prepare for climate disasters, but a need for intentionality to ensure that additional burdens aren't placed on communities in developing climate resilience. This process implies key imperatives:
 1. Commits to equity so that those most impacted are at the forefront of decision-making
 2. Uplifts place-based solutions
 3. Grounded in democratic processes
 4. Includes a collaborative process between communities, local organizations, and city

agencies

5. Addresses historic racism and strategically shifts power dynamics so communities are centered in developing solutions.

Luis Angel Martinez, member of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Commission, organizer, and Climate

Resilience Intern at CBE, shared key takeaways from the Wilmington Climate Resilience Hub Survey. These surveys were carried out in 2021 and mentioned in Laura Gracia's earlier presentation in Workshop 2. Key points include:

- Earthquakes were of top concern for the community. Next were refinery flaring events, poor air quality and industrial hazards. Communities like Wilmington face year-round exposure to health impacts from oil extraction, refining, and proximity to freeways and the Ports of LA and Long Beach, with massive goods movement that depends on ships, trains, and diesel-powered trucks. Climate impacts like wildfires and earthquakes only worsen these pre-existing hazards.
- Community members see a pathway to resilience through emergency preparedness and resilience kits that include emergency supplies. These kits have been shared with communities, and have been bolstered by mutual aid partnerships with organizations across South LA.
- As the City seeks to create a buffer between communities and climate/environmental hazards, we need solutions to reflect the unique needs of each neighborhood.

Alex Turek, Strategic Director from Grid Alternatives, relayed their experience addressing energy equity as

a non-profit organization focused on promoting solar, energy efficiency, and workforce development in low-income communities. Alex shared takeaways from GRID's experience building the Wilmington Senior Center Resilience Hub:

- Working with the Jaycees Foundation, GRID identified the critical energy loads and needs that the seniors at the Wilmington Senior Citizens Center would need in case of emergencies, including electricity needs for medical equipment, medications, lighting, and communication.
- The design of the energy system was based on feedback from the Senior Center staff and its members, highlighting the need to tailor the physical design and service programs according to community feedback.
- COVID impacted outreach, but there are solar and storage projects in the pipeline that will require ongoing community engagement, especially for communities impacted by blackouts.
- There is a need to prioritize communities who are most impacted and already face environmental and economic impacts. Programs like LADWP's medical baseline policy which subsidizes community members with high utility bills due to medical equipment usage need to be promoted.

Concluding the Roundtable, **Ben Stapleton, Strategic Director of the USGBC-LA**, discussed their work supporting the development of the Boyle Heights Resilience Hub, in partnership with the Boyle Heights Art Conservancy, the City of LA, LADWP, Red Cross, and several others. The following highlights were offered:

- Often there is a strong emphasis placed on the

buildings and physical structure of resilience hubs, but not the people themselves. There is a need to develop trainings about how to leverage pre-existing social networks to survive and respond in the event of disaster.

- After multiple surveys conducted with Climate Resolve in Boyle Heights, mental health was identified as a priority issue for community members. In a disaster, resources for physical infrastructure (such as refrigeration and space cooling) may be available, but resources to assist social welfare and mental health are not as prevalent.
- Other important features include clean water access and air filtration, as well as signage to help communities identify where things are located and how they can be accessed in an emergency.

After the Roundtable discussion, panelists fielded questions from participants with Marta Segura facilitating the conversation.

Question: Given the threat of extreme heat in LA, combined with impact of smoke from wildfires in the region, what advice would you give the city to prepare our most disadvantaged neighborhoods?

Gloria Medina replied with the need to implement these actions:

- Prioritize equitable investment: Funding will be pivotal for recovery, but this must be driven by communities to address historical harms;
- Assure a democratic process: and move away from communities being "at the table" and instead, "center" communities at the table. Community residents have deep expertise to share and have

long provided their own solutions to resiliency.

- Listen to Community needs: they ask directly for needs including open space, park access, cooling stations, phasing out refinery pollution, and restructuring utility rates so that people can afford electricity and water supply, especially during emergency issues.

Alex Turek commented that community input to determine the design of clean energy systems and the critical loads that they must handle is fundamental to adequately serve communities and get their buy-in. We should not underestimate the impact of low-cost distributive energy systems. Often, large-scale projects take up a lot of time and resources, while low-cost, rooftop solar can go just as far in preparing communities for emergency.

Luis Angel Martinez remarked that Wilmington currently has few cooling centers. Projects need to reflect community needs in both location and service delivery design.

Question: What could be included in a resilience map for resources and buildings for communities?

Gloria Medina commented that we must identify the range of broad impacts that communities are facing. For instance, people often must leave the neighborhood for full access to healthy and sufficient food. Local institutions, such as churches, clinics, and community organizations have built trust and can help to address inequity. Park and Recreation Department swimming pools are also a resource frequently mentioned in breakout room conversations, yet pool fees are often too expensive for families with children.

Question: Do you think there is a future for careers and

jobs in the green economy?

Ben Stapleton highlighted that there are many opportunities to create jobs and reduce long-term operating costs while increasing affordability. There is a need to create a pipeline of education and training programs, such as those offered by organizations like GRID Alternatives. We will also see the potential to reduce other costs (like health care) in the long-term if these issues are addressed up front through a co-benefit model. Maybe the challenge for us is how are we making the economic argument and how are we reducing the long-term costs?

Alex Turek underscored that the solar industry is already increasing scale every year, with much of the job training being done by GRID Alternatives in areas like Watts, Wilmington, and other communities with growing interest. It is not just about creating workforce infrastructure in these communities, but also assuring that local communities know about these jobs and how to access them to build job skills and connections to the clean tech industry.

Rachel Malarich, the Forest Officer for the City of Los Angeles,

concluded the speakers' program with a presentation on the City's Urban Forestry Management Plan and the role of equity. As the City's Forest Officer, Rachel is focused on implementing urban forest strategies to meet both climate and community needs, working in conjunction with multiple departments such as the Department of Building & Safety, and Parks & Recreation. Key findings, upon which active programs are based, include:

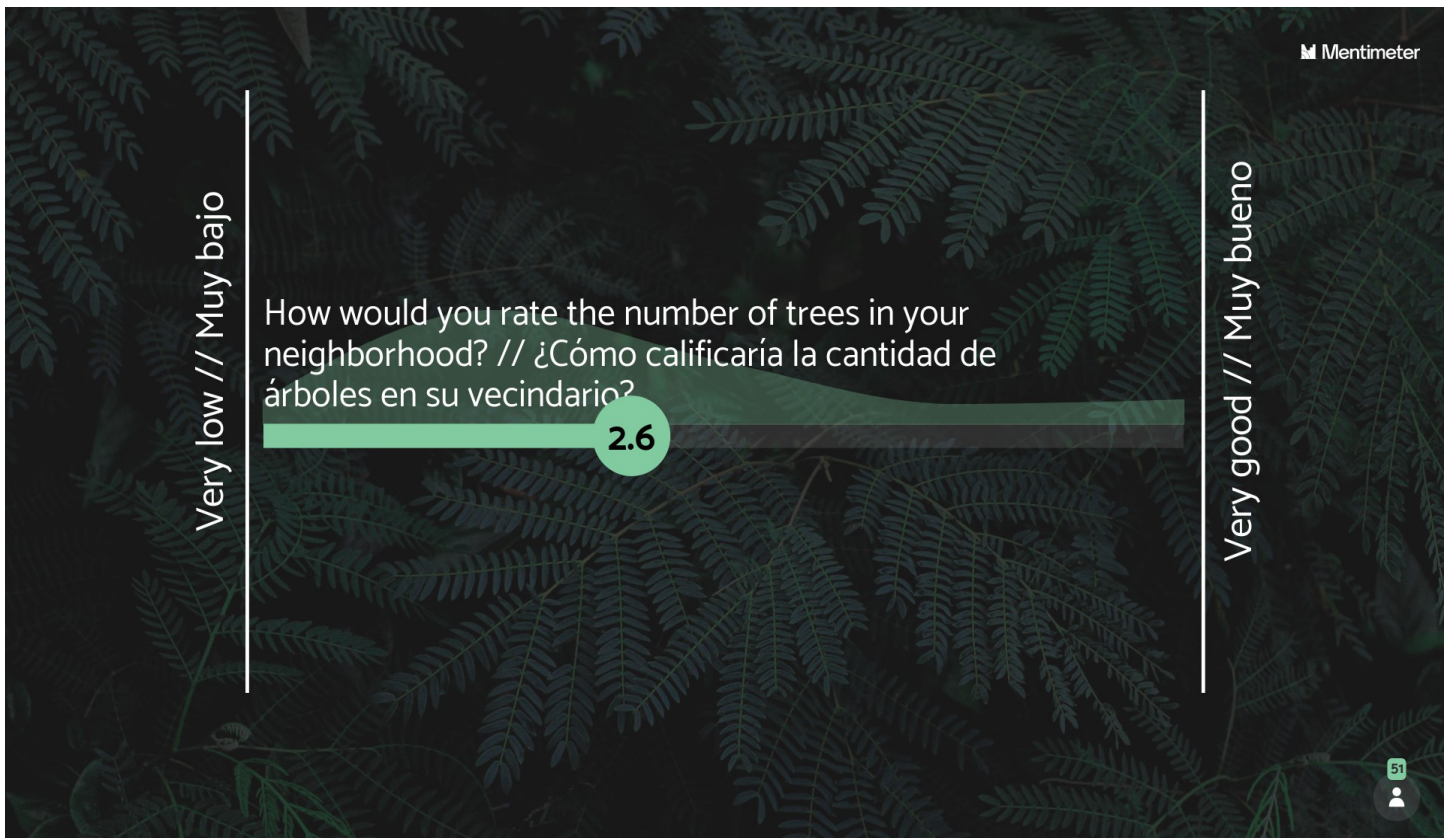
- Tree plantings provide both direct benefits, such as carbon storage, clean air, water filtration, and shade, as well as indirect benefits such as mental well-being, community spaces, and safer streets.

- Tree distribution is highly unequal in Los Angeles. Mayor Garcetti's Green New Deal has set a goal of increasing tree canopy by at least 50 % by 2028 particularly in low-canopy areas in the San Fernando Valley and South LA.
- The four pillars that guide the City's Urban Forest Management Plan are: 1) Engagement with community members and improving public education especially for residents on private homeowner and rental properties; 2) Preservation to maintain the current tree stock; 3) Planting focused on local ecologies and conditions; and 4) Maintenance of the tree network.
- While trees cost roughly the same amount of time and money to plant and water, the potential benefits of trees largely differ by species. Large

trees, which may provide significant shade and canopy, may cause damage to sidewalks and streets over time, yet smaller trees provide less shade and carbon sequestration. USC's Urban Trees Initiative is seeking to identify how street and sidewalk infrastructure can best be maintained while increasing tree planting along public right of ways.

- Partnerships with City Plants and multiple organizations including Tree People, Climate Resolve, KYCC, and several others led to the creation of the Tree Ambassador Pilot Program wherein 12 community members were trained to leverage community knowledge while advancing job development. Materials are located on the City website for reference.

FIGURE 27. Menti Poll on Neighborhood Tree Canopy from CELA Part 2 Workshop 3 (April 21, 2022)



- Rachel Malarich and Marta Segura then engaged in a brief Q&A discussion around efforts to reach a wide range of communities:

Question: Is the purpose of the tree ambassador program to create local jobs?

Rachel Malarich: One of the goals of programs like the Tree Ambassador is to connect communities with basic training in urban forestry and prepare them for this field. City Plants is looking into expanding this program by exposing participants to nursery skills and integrating it with the community organizing that Tree Ambassadors already conduct.

Question: How does your office and the Board of Public Works engage with Indigenous communities and local leaders to identify and design green spaces together?

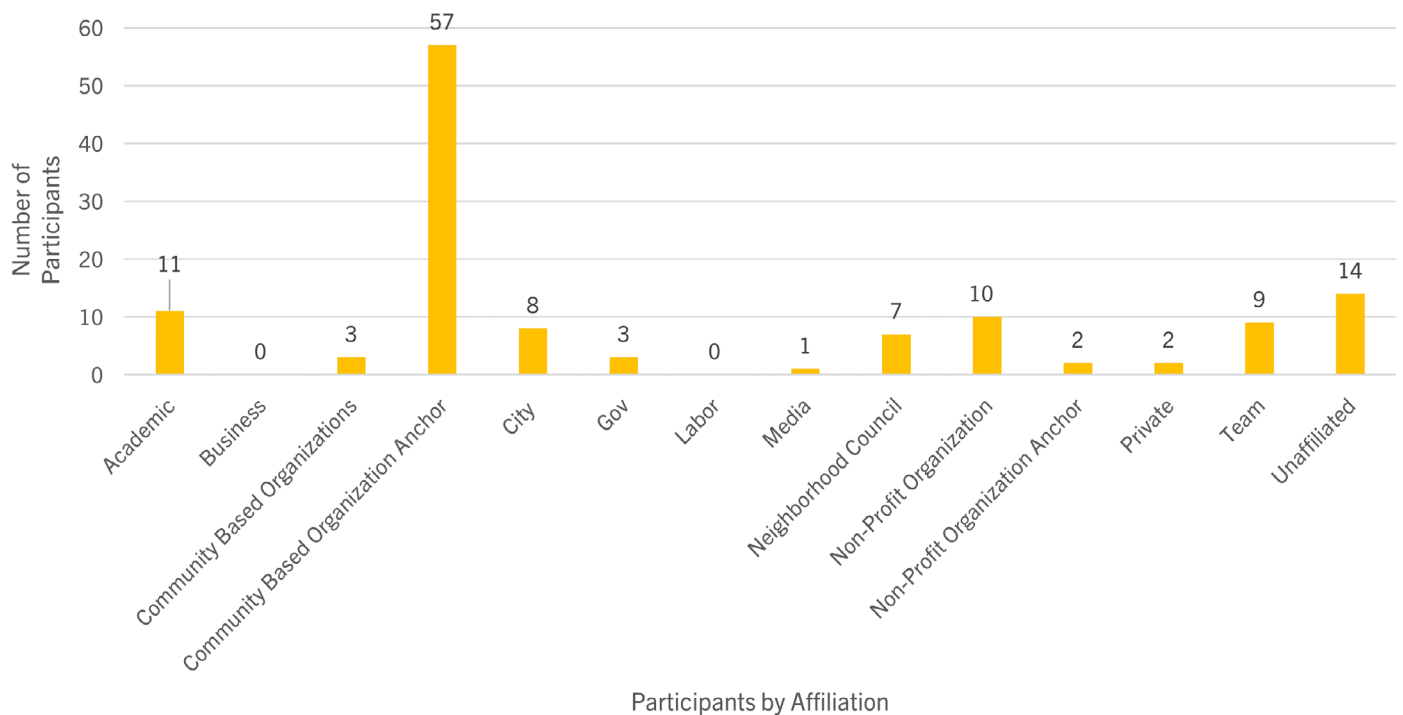
Rachel Malarich: We may look further into that in Stage 2 of the Urban Forest Equity Collective, which is a research project focused on equity and the need for additional park space that requires new investments. The Tree Ambassador program features curriculum content focused on Native Los Angeles and the historical role of native plants and practices.

Question: How would you address the tension between neighborhood greening and displacement?

Rachel Malarich: Every neighborhood deserves access to green space, but gentrification and displacement always need to be considered. Therefore, a community-driven co-design process is critical. There are no silver bullets, but every neighborhood needs to consider this balance.

An on-line polling platform, Menti, was used to ask participants about the number of trees in their neighborhood, with “1” representing very low density and “5” representing high density tree canopy. The

FIGURE 28. Participation in the CELA Part 2 Workshop 3: Investing in Community-Driven Climate Solutions (April 21, 2022)



average result was 2.6, just below the mid-point.

Participation in Workshop #3

Participation in the final workshop of the Part 2 Series reflected previous participation trends, with CBO anchor groups making up the bulk of participation with 57 representatives out of the total 127. Additional groups included Academic representatives (11) including LACCD, Occidental College, and University of California Irvine. Nonprofit organizations (10) also participated including the Greenlining Institute, ELACC, and Climate Resolve. City (8) and Government agencies (3) participated and featured representation from LAHSA, LA Department of Building and Safety, County Department of Public Works and SCAQMD.

Participants were organized into 11 breakout groups of roughly 8 to 12 individuals each, including 4 Spanish-only groups, to engage participants and solicit their reactions. As before, all breakout groups were facilitated by a trained CBO staff member, Team member or UCLA student, with discussion recorded by an official notetaker. Participant comments were inductively coded to identify key themes. Here is a summary of the Workshop 3 comments for each of the three guiding questions:

Question 1. Who suffers most from extreme heat and other climate risks in Los Angeles or where you live?

- While specific populations were frequently identified based on age and income status, an overarching group named was people without access to air condition/cooling. Participants referred to the synergistic effect of urban heat island impacts in concrete-paved areas like South LA, where the built environment only worsens the impact of extreme heat.

“ The homeless and those without air conditioning obviously suffer the most. We need programs so people can get the right air conditioning, refrigeration, and ventilation. I lived in Lancaster where you had to have A/C in your home. You can go to libraries and all that, but after a while, they want you to leave. We need a permanent solution for people to cool their home. I have asthma, so I can’t function in the heat too much.”

-Workshop Participant

- It was often low-income households, many struggling with utility debts or without access to air conditioning, as well as seniors and children, who were identified as bearing the brunt of heat. For low-income households, the lack of financial resources limits the availability of options to adapt and respond to heat, while for seniors and children, there are greater barriers for self-advocacy.
- Additionally, participants pointed to those exposed to temperature and climate on the street, especially the unhoused population, as well as transit riders, many of whom wait at bus stops with little to no shade for long periods of time.

Question 2: What types of services and resources do you and your community need to help you overcome the climate and extreme heat risks?

- Greater availability and investment into cooling centers and green spaces is necessary, along with transit access. Cooling centers could also address other needs, like food insecurity, by incorporating food pantries and community gardens. Several

commented that during COVID-19, many had to shelter in place amidst intense heat waves. Public spaces like libraries and park facilities were often shut down, leaving many people confined in multi-family apartment buildings that were often older and lacked cooling systems.

- Cooling centers can provide multiple benefits including play areas for children, swimming pools, educational rooms, recreation and sports courts, and other needs. Often, these spaces already exist in the form of libraries, movie theaters, and malls, but they aren't necessarily maintained or made accessible for use as a community cooling space.
- Participants identified a need for greater investment in building maintenance and public infrastructure. Building decarbonization through solar panels and cooling systems can lead to multiple benefits. Developing shade structures at bus stops and using green infrastructure treatments like heat resistant pavement, can also bring multiple co benefits.

opportunities to address climate risks and build on current work done by trusted organizations.

- Other benefits referenced the services and resources included in disaster and emergency kits, as well as knowledge on how to address climate and other impacts. Many community members work outdoors or are heavily exposed to climate hazards and seek information and resources to better understand and mitigate the effects of these impacts.

Question 3: What are the primary benefits for you and your community of becoming climate resilient?

- Improved public health was most often cited as a benefit of community climate resilience and a high priority for investment. Many highlighted the potential to address a set of community needs through climate resilience, from child development to reduction in emergency room visits, to improved mental health and reduction in chronic illnesses.
- Another benefit is the value of bringing communities together to address these issues. While the CEMO public workshops were cited as one example, participants also highlighted the need for more community-oriented and public

FIGURE 29. Qualitative coding of most sensitive heat vulnerable populations discussed in breakout room groups

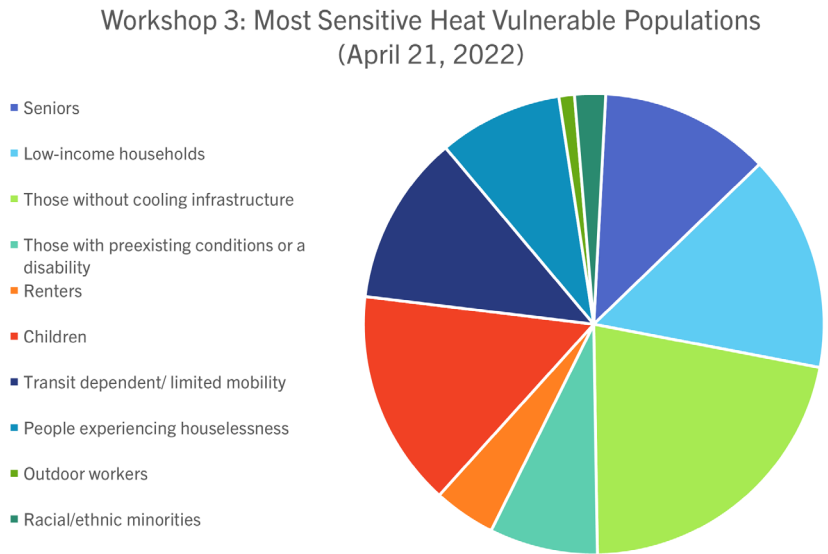


FIGURE 30. Qualitative coding of priority services and resources for heat vulnerable populations discussed in breakout room groups

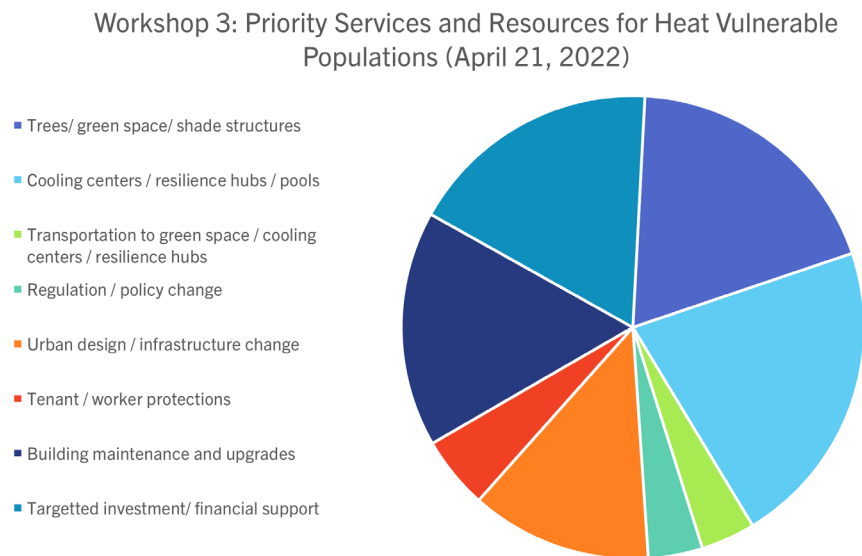
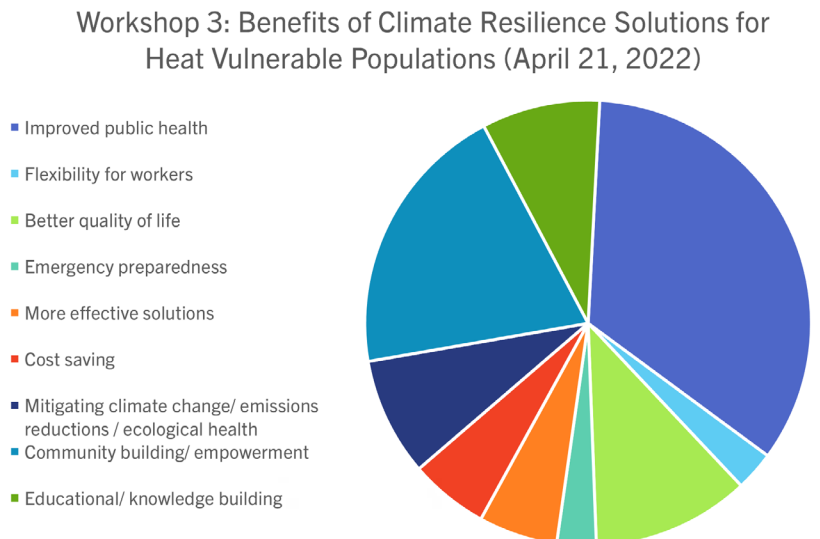


FIGURE 31. Qualitative coding of benefits of climate resilience solutions for heat vulnerable populations discussed in breakout room groups



Climate Equity LA Series :
Part 3: Justice 40 & Climate
Equity Metrics Public Workshop
(May 23, 2022)



Introduction

The Congressional passage of historic legislation in 2021-2022 will usher in a new wave of federal funding and resources for local and state governments to address climate impacts for frontline communities at an unprecedented scale. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) will provide opportunities to develop climate resilient infrastructure, while the Justice40 federal initiative ensures these that at least 40% of these funds go towards “... disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution” (White House, 2022). Though these opportunities are immense and promising, many organizations and participants throughout the Climate Equity LA (CELA) series raised questions about how to understand the scope of the new funding sources, as well as how to access new investment programs considering the difficulties of federal and public sector contracting.

In response to the collective desire of participants for more information on the federal funding landscape, Part 3 of the Climate Equity LA Series “Justice40 & Climate Equity Metrics for LA” focused on the role grassroots organizations and local public agencies can play in determining the investment of these resources. Part 3 culminated in a single workshop finale that brought California Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, Los Angeles City leaders, and community organizers together in conversation on the timely climate investment bill Assembly Bill 2419 (AB 2419), also known as the California Justice 40 Act, which would direct federal investments to low-income, frontline communities across the state. Where its

federal counterpart provided an overarching target for 40% of federal funds to go towards disadvantaged communities, state bill AB 2419 would hold the distribution of federal funds accountable through a public oversight process and make the 40% goal a legally binding target for agencies receiving these funds. Even though AB 2419 ultimately did not pass in the 2022 legislative cycle, the intent of the bill and the Climate Equity LA Series discussion raised crucial issues that will continue to need focused attention in the coming months to assure that disadvantaged communities truly realize and benefit from the promised climate and infrastructure investments.

“Top 10 Takeaways” from the Justice40 Workshop

Key “Takeaways” that emerged through the presentations and break out room discussions included:

- 1. Disadvantaged communities must be at the center of investment planning and project development.** Any climate investment policies and projects must be designed and driven by communities historically impacted by climate and environmental hazards.
- 2. The implementation process must be grounded in public oversight and accountability mechanisms.** At each step of the design and implementation process, community members and grassroots organizations need to be represented in decision-

making, with protocols for assuring public transparency.

3. Anti-displacement principles must be incorporated across all project proposals.

Every proposal should have policy provisions to ensure communities are able to stay in place. These include, but are not limited to, the right to return during redevelopment, access to legal counsel, multilingual information and accessible materials for housing programs, support for low-income homeowners, and an expansion of tenant protections.

4. Community ownership models for the development of land and renewable energy are key priorities.

Investments should prioritize decentralized projects that move energy and housing outside of speculative markets. Examples include increasing localized energy grids with renewable energy, such as community solar, and expanding community land trusts and other alternatives to market rate housing.

5. Increase collaboration across public agencies and with diverse stakeholders.

Bring in multiple departments to work collaboratively with communities and grassroots organizations in identifying project priorities. This can also build on pre-existing work such as the City of LA's Racial Equity Audit, and the parallel work of the Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department's Reparations Taskforce, to address systemic issues that cut across issue areas, including, but not limited to, housing, transit, labor, environment, and social justice.

6. Expand the capacity of City agencies to better connect communities to resources.

Invest in the funding and staff of key Departments and agencies, including local

housing departments, in order to better conduct enforcement and outreach to communities, and provide resources and relief in a timely manner. By building out staffing capacity, safeguards like tenant protections and anti-displacement policies can be more effectively implemented and enforced across the city.

7. Assure that new jobs created by climate and infrastructure investments are unionized, subject to local hire provisions, and well-paying so that frontline communities will benefit.

Creating benchmarks for local hiring within communities where projects are built will improve local communities and simultaneously increase local capacity to maintain these projects in the long term. These jobs should pay livable wages, include union representation, and uphold high labor standards. With training-to-work pipelines, such as the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 18 Utility Pre-Craft Trainee (UPCT) program, local workers will also be able to get the skills to work with clean, new technologies while having the assurance of a well-paying and safe job at the end of their training.

8. Create popular education materials to explain policy and funding opportunities.

All projects from housing to electrification will require intensive community outreach and engagement. With the support and co-design of grassroots organizations, materials and information can be made accessible to communities across a variety of languages, and enable effective feedback on project proposals.

9. Invest in public amenities, including green, open spaces, and right of ways/public mobility infrastructure.

Building out parks,

green spaces ,and other protections against climate and environmental hazards are essential, especially for park-poor communities. Investing in tree canopy for sidewalks and parks, shade infrastructure, bus shelters, and hydration stations can bring potential large-scale impacts, especially for areas where extreme heat is exacerbated by an overconcentration of concrete surfaces.

10. Work with trusted community-based institutions and organizations to design and implement projects. Through a co-design process with trusted grassroots organizations, low-income and frontline communities can have early buy-in to shape and determine investment infrastructure projects. Collaboration with technical trade schools and local community colleges can also ensure these same communities guide investments from beginning to end, including through their training, apprenticeship, and hiring programs.

Planning and Preparation for the Justice40 (J40) Workshop

The design process for the last workshop of the series was led by the staff team of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office and the Liberty Hill Foundation based on feedback from Community-Based Organization (CBO) anchors from the previous Climate Equity LA Series. These discussions had identified a shared urgency in bringing communities together to understand and identify the impacts and opportunities of the Justice40 bill for Los Angeles' frontline communities. The workshop aimed to explain the anticipated timeline for AB 2419's adoption and implementation, while providing grassroots organizations with an understanding of the array of

new funding sources, including the potential role of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office in supporting grant applications.

The virtual workshop took place on May 12, 2022, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and was structured similarly to previous workshops, with live interpretation, and all materials and slide decks translated into both English and Spanish. The event opened with a brief Menti poll asking the audience what they took away from the series. Many identified overlapping opportunities for collaboration, and common concerns shared across communities in LA, including fear of displacement and extreme climate impacts. CEMO Director Marta Segura then opened with reflections on the series, and the role of the CEMO in bringing together different stakeholders to help establish climate equity metrics that could guide federal, state, and local funding opportunities for the well-being of all Angelenos. The following individuals served as speakers and panelists for the roundtable discussion:

- Isaac M. Bryan, CA State Assemblymember of District 42
- Capri Maddox (Esq.), Executive Director and General Manager of the City of Los Angeles' Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department
- Marta Segura, CEMO Director
- Dr. Mike Davis (moderator), former CA State Assemblymember and Board of Public Works Commissioner
- Agustin Cabrera, Policy Director, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE)
- Estuardo Mazariegos, Director of RePower, Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE)

Presentation Summary

The first panel opened with a discussion on the historic moment with the potential passing of AB 2419 and the release of billions in federal investments. This panel included the honorable **Assemblymember Isaac M. Bryan, Executive Director** and **General Manager Capri Maddox (Esq.)**, and **CEMO Director Marta Segura** with moderation by **Dr. Mike Davis**. AB 2419, also known as California Justice40 Act, would take the federal Justice40 initiative a step further by ensuring that 40% of all federal funding arriving to California would be required to go towards frontline communities, with an additional 10% targeted for low-income communities who may not necessarily be disproportionately environmentally burdened. These metrics would be determined through the CalEnviroScreen, a tool which maps environmental burdens and socio-economic vulnerability across the state of California. The Justice40 Advisory Committee, housed in the State of California Strategic Growth Council, is proposed as a cross-sector group of grassroots organizations and public agencies focused on ensuring an accountable and equitable process.

Assemblymember Bryan, author of AB 2419, outlined the process of implementation if AB 2419 passes, including the technical assistance offered by the Strategic Growth Council for those applying for the nearly \$44 billion of allocated funds for environmental and climate infrastructure investments. The Justice40 Advisory Committee would support applicants throughout the application process and make recommendations for priority projects through multi-stakeholder engagement with a decision-making process driven by participating grassroots members.

Using the Justice40 Advisory Committee as an example of grassroots and government collaboration,

Executive Director Maddox highlighted the necessity of bringing in grassroots organizations into committees and decision-making bodies involved in the application process while preventing resources from being siloed into different departments. By integrating funding sources into holistic solutions driven by multiple stakeholders, such as work already being done by the Reparations Taskforce of LA, there is a greater ability to address the multifaceted impacts of historical disinvestment for frontline communities.

The Racial Equity Audit, and other restorative projects are some examples being undertaken by City officials to critically examine City policies and their impacts on frontline communities. Building on the findings from the Racial Equity Audit and the Reparations Taskforce of LA, as well as the existing work of other departments including LA's Civil+ Human Rights and Equity Department, a more equitable implementation of climate policy and infrastructure investments can be achieved across different local agencies and departments.

Director Segura emphasized the role of the CEMO as a bridge between community organizations and City agencies to identify priorities for climate investments. Some examples of this included the CELA series which resulted in key recommendations for the equitable implementation of building decarbonization in LA, as well as the composition of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Commission. The Climate Emergency Mobilization Commission (CEMC) brings together stakeholders from Tribal nations, labor unions, grassroots organizing, and public agencies to foster discussions between groups and identify intersectional opportunities for infrastructure investments. Through the Commission's work, City policies would then be informed and shaped by an equitable climate roadmap that centers the needs of those most impacted by

climate change.

The panel concluded with a brief Q & A with elected and agency officials fielding questions from the audience. The following are questions raised in the session and brief summaries of each panelist's response.

Question: How can state and local governments proactively avoid the potential of unintended consequences of unprecedented investments, such as displacement and gentrification in disadvantaged communities?

- These policies cannot be understood in a vacuum, and their impacts shape different and intersectional issues, from labor, to the environment, to criminal justice and more. Collaboration between different stakeholders and agencies is key to prevent negative and unintended impacts. (Assemblymember Bryan)
- Impacted communities are in the best position right now to shape how these policies are being implemented. The City is currently implementing a participatory budgeting process for \$8.5 million in community investments within nine areas of focus: Pacoima, Panorama City, Westlake, West Adams, Leimert Park, Skid Row, Boyle Heights, South LA, and Southeast LA. Through community-based advisory boards, neighborhoods will be able to determine how those investments are being made. This process can provide early lessons on how infrastructure investments can be equitable made without causing displacement and shaped by grassroots decision-making. (Executive Director Maddox)
- Parallel to a participatory budgeting process is

the role community benefits plans have in holding public investments accountable to community needs. By setting aside protections and community driven priorities in these plans, infrastructure investments can be made with safeguards already in place. (Director Segura)

Question: How will you ensure these funds have more oversight from impacted communities and provide for real, community-driven, decision-making power?

- The J40 committee is made up of various impacted communities, including Native and Indigenous community members, equity and social justice-focused organizations, labor groups, and several other communities either directly or tangentially impacted by climate change. These groups will be able to determine the priorities of these climate investments and will have firsthand experiences on the needs of frontline communities. (Assemblymember Bryan)

Question: Thinking about the overlapping activities in our state, what connection, if any, do you see between AB 2419, the LA Civil Rights Department, and the California Reparations Taskforce, which has included environmental justice in the scope of its study?

- Government has often played an active role in causing harm to communities, including through redlining and segregation, which have legacy impacts to a community's vitality. Approaching these equity issues across different offices and linking these overlapping issues is essential to moving forward in addressing historical harms in a holistic manner. (Executive Director Maddox)

- The CalEnviroScreen and the national EJ Screening tool, as well as using the “whole of government” approach, will create an alignment in accessing these resources and ensure they reach the most impacted communities. (Director Segura)

Question: Race is the number one predictor of exposure to pollution. Do you foresee with the execution of AB 2419’s racial equity lens, Prop 209 will stand? (Editor’s note: Prop 209, a ballot proposition passed in 1996, amended the state constitution to prohibit state government from considering race, sex, or ethnicity, in public contracting and employment including the distribution of federal funding through state agencies)

- Because of the limitations of Proposition 209 in reaching Black and Brown communities, we are working to use other equity metrics as proxies in identifying where infrastructure investments go. Operationalizing the disadvantaged indicator from CalEnviroScreen allows us to have greater flexibility in connecting these resources to communities facing compounded issues. (Assemblymember Bryan)

Question: Will local governments be able to identify disadvantaged communities within their jurisdiction based upon additional criteria, as long as it doesn’t conflict with the state’s definition of disadvantaged communities?

- In collaboration with the Emergency Management Department, Department of Planning, and other agencies, the CEMO will be working on a Climate Vulnerability Assessment that will more accurately show the degree of climate hazards. Current maps miss crucial data and often understate the degree of hazards in LA. With the Climate Vulnerability

Assessment, these updated maps will reflect the realities on the ground and provide additional tools in making the case for communities in LA to receive funding from these climate investments (Director Segura)

Question: How might we incorporate community input through a specific tool or process to get the community more engaged during Justice40? Are there other examples or frameworks that have been used for this?

- We must work to hold open forums, and other participatory processes, that are accessible and relevant to community needs. While there are agencies and other regions in the country exploring this, California is leading this process which is why participatory processes will be essential to its success. (Assemblymember Bryan)
- Through the process that CEMO has undertaken, we have learned that communities need to co-design, facilitate, and lead data gathering and policy priorities. This is part of a distributional justice model for what community engagement can look like at a City level when done in partnership with CBOs and other grassroots participation. (Director Segura)

Question: How can the public follow the progress of the Justice40 bill as well as the work of each of the panelists’ respective offices?

- First, the Justice40 bill must pass the Appropriations Committee and then go to a full legislative vote before the Justice40 Advisory Committee can be established. For regular updates and information please visit the [Assembly Member’s website](#) and relevant social media

platforms. (Assemblymember Bryan)

- For follow-up with the [LA Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department](#), participants can sign up for the department's listserv for more information. (Executive Director Maddox)
- The CEMO has created a [website](#) to keep communities updated, and through the series listserv, the CEMO will be able to follow-up at the end of the series with additional updates and future events. (Director Segura)

The second roundtable featured community organizers Agustin Cabrera, Director of Policy at SCOPE, and Estuardo Mazariegos, organizer at LAANE and Director of the RePower LA Coalition, moderated by CEMO Director Marta Segura. SCOPE, in addition to other partners across the state, including Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) and Greenlining Institute, were early sponsors of AB 2419 and discussed the impact the bill could have to redress the legacy of investment inequities in LA. LAANE provided insights into the implications AB 2419 would have for workforce development and labor sectors transitioning towards green or carbon-free industries. The RePower LA Coalition's goal is to transition towards a carbon-free LA Department of Water and Power (LADWP), assuring workforce training programs for frontline communities and the elimination of utility debt and shut-offs. Key points made by the panelists were:

- Areas like South LA, which rank among the top 10% of pollution-burdened census tracts in California, are burdened with multiple impacts from redlining and systematic disinvestments. Targeted policies like AB 2419 can build on the work done by grassroots communities to undo the harms of these disinvestments--such as the work to phase out oil in LA--but only with a community-

driven, equitable process in accessing these funds and shaping projects.

- Emphasizing the accountability that will be embedded into the J40 Advisory Committee made up of grassroots organizations, Cabrera noted the importance of bringing together a cross-cutting group of communities and organizations, including Indigenous, labor, and environmental justice communities, to ensure an equitable investment to LA.

- With nearly 20% of the city's population (approximately 790,000 Angelenos) living below the poverty level, there is a tremendous need to expand the opportunities for livable wages and investments into the workforce. Mazariegos described his own experience witnessing wage theft and exploitative practices that left workers without recourse in precarious industries. Only through union jobs and labor protections can an equitable investment in workforce development be achieved. Mazariegos highlighted three key areas of consideration for labor in the roll out of these investments:

1. Bring in labor groups and unions early on in conversations on the implementation of AB 2419 to ensure that new jobs have high labor standards, are unionized, and have livable wages.
2. Invest in technical colleges and local training programs, like Los Angeles Trade Technical College or IBEW's Utility Pre-Craft training program, that offer direct services and affordable education specifically targeted to low-income frontline communities.
3. New jobs created by these investm

ents should go to frontline communities who are also the most impacted by climate change. With a potential \$29 billion going to maintain our roads and highways, for example, much of the work can be done by those living close to those areas who are already familiar with the infrastructure of their neighborhood.

Both participants ended the panel with a final question posed by Segura: what kind of jobs and programs should we invest in to avoid negative, unintended consequences?

- Mazariegos emphasized that when talking about workers, we are also talking about tenants, as well as frontline community members exposed to pollution. Any approach for climate justice must be intersectional in bringing together different organizations and communities, since oftentimes individuals hold multiple roles and identities. IBEW Local 18's Utility Pre-Craft Training program and the Targeted Local Hire program within the City are strong examples that serve as models in reaching different communities, while shaping how improvements are made in their area, and building out the local workforce capacity.
- Cabrera brought up three key actions the City can take to prevent displacement as infrastructure and climate investments are made:
 1. The City needs to invest in the capacity of the local Housing Department, including general funding and staffing, in order to ensure the enforcement of existing building safety standards and tenant protections.
 2. Pass more tenant protections including Right to Counsel, the Tenant Opportunity

to Purchase Act (TOPA), regulations on corporate landlords, and create enforcement mechanisms and penalties to protect against tenant harassment.

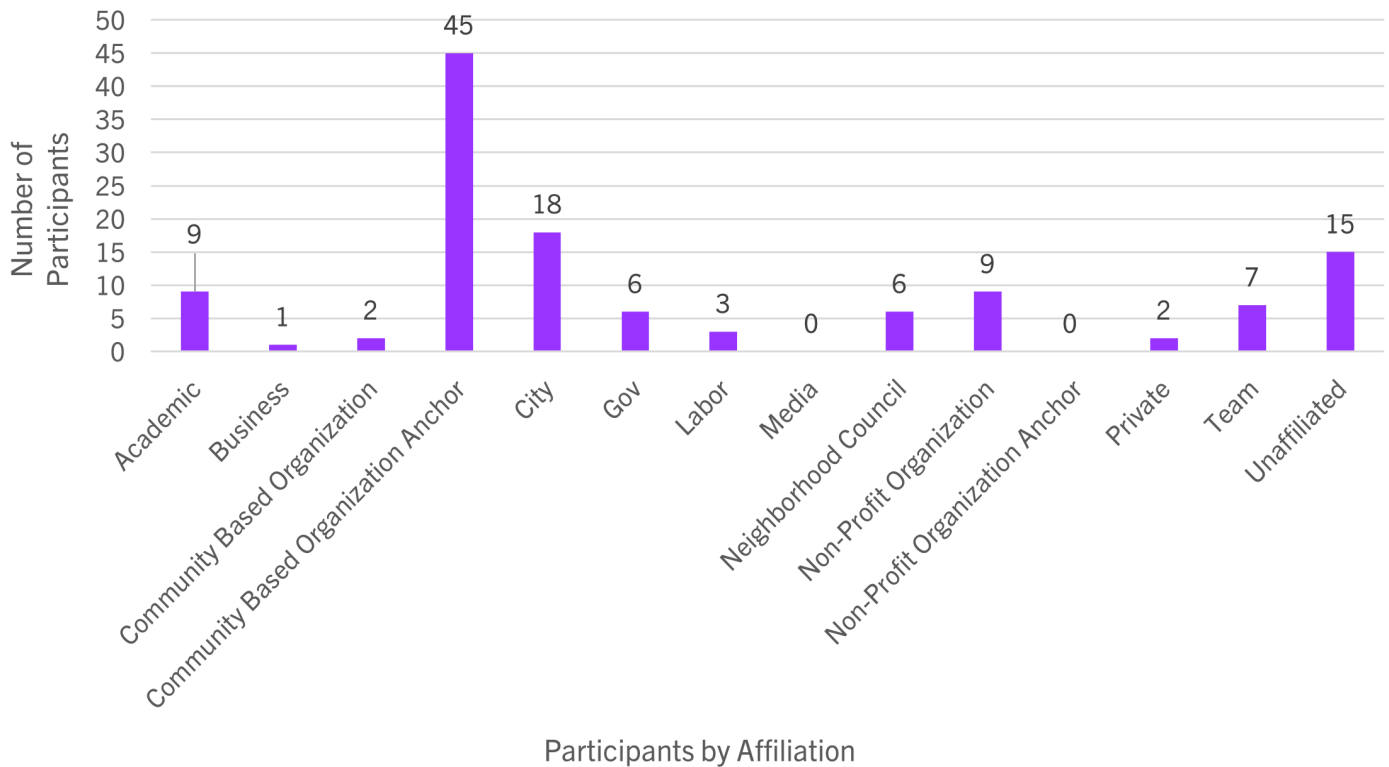
3. Ensure that any investments have anti-displacement and tenant protections in place throughout implementation. This can look like CBOs actively designing and participating in outreach and enrollment with communities and having direct communication with the local housing department.

- Through a systematic re-investment in the local workforce, Mazariegos highlighted the impact of AB 2419 on building a sustainable economic model where local workers are building out their community's own climate infrastructure through these transformative investments. Participatory budgeting processes and existing grassroots models, like the People's Budget, are models for multi-stakeholder engagement in creating meaningful and effective policy priorities.

Participation in Workshop Finale

Participation in the CELA finale had a total of 121 participants including 25 staff, facilitators, notetakers, and other team members coordinating event production. The largest group of participants were mainly from community-based organizations (CBOs), with 45 of them affiliated in some way with CBO anchor groups or connected to the CELA series through CBO outreach. City officials were the second largest identified group, with 18 participants including LADWP, the Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department, and the Mayor's Office of Sustainability. Participation from non-profit organizations (9) included the Climate Center and LA Green Grounds.

FIGURE 32. Participation in the CELA Part 3: Justice40 & Climate Equity Metrics for LA (May 2, 2022)



Neighborhood Councils (9), non-City government officials (6) such as South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), and labor groups (3) such as SEIU and UTLA were also present. Of the total attendance, 15 participants were unaffiliated, either arriving as individuals with no organizational affiliation or unidentifiable based on the information provided. Participants were organized into 10 breakout rooms ranging from 6-10 participants each, with 2 breakout rooms for monolingual Spanish speakers. Each breakout room was led by different facilitators and notetakers affiliated with all 6 of the anchor CBOs, along with volunteer student participants from previous workshops. All discussion groups shared a common set of discussion questions focused on identifying where climate investments should be made, and how investments could best be leveraged. Participants were also asked to identify what considerations City and elected officials should make in ensuring that the use of these funds does not lead to unintended, harmful impacts. Stakeholders emphasized that climate investments should address intersectional community

needs, including but not limited to housing, energy equity, resilience, and mobility.

Question 1: Where do you think these federal infrastructure and climate investments should go in LA?

- Spanning across all break out room discussions was the need for a geographic distribution of investments in areas vulnerable to climate hazards and legacy pollution. South LA was one example participants referenced from panel discussions, due to the histories of redlining and systematic disinvestment that have especially impacted the area. For communities like South LA, those most impacted by these historic harms should lead the process in both the design and implementation of these investments.
- Distribution of investments based on community vulnerability was also echoed frequently, especially

when considering community ownership of renewable energy. With the State's goal of phasing out fossil fuel combustion engines and electrifying current energy systems, there was keen interest in investing in localized energy resilience through rooftop solar panels and local grid systems for frontline, low-income communities. Strategies to achieve this include streamlining funding processes for rooftop solar panel installations in low-income residential areas and schools, greater availability of back-up power batteries, and making sure the costs of structural upgrades do not fall on low-income households especially for those whose homes would need retrofits to support panel installation. An equitable implementation approach should also focus on "soft" infrastructure investments such as workforce development programs driven by local hiring benchmarks for 'green' projects and should also include a popular education approach that helps communities understand the impact of electrification.

- Public transit and the maintenance of public rights-of-way were repeatedly brought up as key areas for future investment due to the current high exposure to freeway contaminants and the lack of protection from extreme heat on sidewalks and streets. Stakeholders discussed investments in public mobility infrastructure including walkable sidewalks with space for tree canopies, bus stop shelters as a refuge from the impacts of extreme heat, dedicated bus lanes, and protected bike lanes.

Question 2: What do you think these federal infrastructure and climate investments should be used for? How do you think these federal investments can be best leveraged?

- Many participants cited the need for dedicated

"Make participation more transparent and make sure that the feedback is actually taken into consideration fully, not just as a formality. There needs to be assurance and accountability that the suggestions made by community are applied and followed through with. This can't be a one-off opportunity."

-Workshop Participant

funding related to the housing crisis, including financing for the construction of affordable housing units; preventing the burden of building decarbonization costs through subsidies so as not to transfer costs to residents; providing equitable access to rent relief programs; and expanding community land trusts to ensure long-term, community-owned models for affordable housing.

- Participants also identified the need for resources and incentives to train workers transitioning out of carbon-based industries and training-to-workforce pipelines safeguarded through local hiring practices. Bringing in pre-existing and trusted institutions, like technical and community colleges, to support training programs can make it easier for low-income communities to implement green and energy-efficient technologies through an expansion of the local workforce.
- Regarding physical infrastructure, responses were more varied, with some voicing a need to build more bike paths and active transit options, while others pointed to nature-based solutions like tree canopies in parks and sidewalks.
- Many participants identified the need for infrastructure investments to target the legacy impacts on public health. Questions were raised

on how projects would address legacy impacts of pollution such as high asthma rates and other intergenerational health problems. Solutions included monitoring and evaluating project milestones through improved health targets, achieved through air, soil, and water testing. Priority projects should include remediation of brownfields to address generational, long-term health benefits.

Question 3: What do you think the City should do to avoid any potential unintended consequences of directing federal infrastructure and climate investments, such as gentrification or displacement? Are there other consequences you foresee?

- Participants most frequently identified the need for community oversight in the distribution and implementation of climate investments. There were many proposals for how this could take place, including working with CBOs to guide a participatory and equitable budgeting process with local government officials. Their ability to communicate with grassroots community members, and their relationship with local officials, position them as powerful conduits able to translate

“Tearing down homes/businesses to make more room for freeways will only put more pressure on disinvested neighborhoods. There is a disconnect between the perception of participation and how funding decisions are actually made by elected officials.”

-Workshop Participant

complex policy issues and bring community voices into decision making.

- Developers can also be held accountable through establishing standards, such as preferential contracting for local businesses. This can include community oversight and co-design of local projects which enables neighborhood residents to guide investments in a manner responsive to community needs.
- The City can play a key role in ensuring community stability and cultural preservation through effective anti-displacement provisions across all policies and climate investments. For tenants, these protections can include rent control, flexibility in legal provisions to enable undocumented people to rent, and the right to return at affordable rents for tenants displaced during the redevelopment of a building or neighborhood. Low-income homeowners can be supported through low-cost loans for decarbonization retrofits and building repairs. Special incentives need to be provided to property owners to encourage leasing to populations in need, such as veterans and the unhoused. Additional operational funding will increase the staffing capacity of housing agencies and local departments so that community members can access rent relief and housing resources, and ensure that anti-displacement policies are being enforced across the city.
- To ensure the success and ability of community members to effectively participate in climate and infrastructure investments, greater community education and easily accessible materials need to be developed for community members to understand the impact, processes, and scope of programs. As one community member aptly stated “Make participation more transparent and

assure that community feedback is actually taken into consideration for project planning, not just as a formality, [...] there needs to be assurance and accountability that the suggestions made by community are applied and followed through with. This can't be a one-off opportunity.”

FIGURE 33. Qualitative coding of breakout room group discussion

Finale: Where to direct federal infrastructure and climate investments in LA (May 12, 2022)

- Maintaining and expanding public right of ways and transit
- Investment into community-owned renewable energy
- Community land trusts and affordable housing
- Climate resilient, decarbonized buildings
- Vulnerability-based distribution across LA
- Protections and services for low income renters and homeowners
- Nature-based investments in public spaces
- Social services including mental health, education and food access



FIGURE 34. Qualitative coding of breakout room group discussion

Finale: Considerations in leveraging climate and infrastructure investments (May 12, 2022)

- Redress the public health impacts of legacy pollution
- Providing resources and training for a just transition
- Hard infrastructure and the built environment (solar panels, transit stops, etc.)
- Move housing and land outside of speculative markets
- Anti-displacement protections for tenants and low income homeowners



FIGURE 35. Qualitative coding of breakout room group discussion

Finale: 3. Policies and actions to prevent unintended consequences of investments (May 12, 2022)

- Incorporate a participatory co-design process with communities
- Distributive processes with public oversight and transparency
- Investing in governmental capacity and staffing for low-income outreach and engagement
- Investing in Community Based Organizations
- Anti-displacement policies and housing resources for vulnerable communities
- Develop popular education and data
- Protections and incentives in place for workforce just transitions





Appendix

Item 1: SCOPE Public Comment Letter

Subject: Draft Process Report on Climate Equity LA (CELA) Community Engagement and Education Virtual Workshop Series (Dated September 2, 2022)



September 2, 2022

**Subject: Draft Process Report on Climate Equity LA (CELA) Community Engagement and Education
Virtual Workshop Series**

Attn: Marta Segura, CEMO Director and Chief Heat Officer
Michele Prichard, Andres Gonzalez, Liberty Hill Foundation

Dear Marta, Michele, and Andres,

SCOPE would like to begin by expressing our appreciation for the bold leadership of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office and Liberty Hill Foundation in the development and implementation of the 2022 Climate Equity LA Series. The vision of the Climate Equity LA Series is aligned with our efforts to uplift racial and climate equity. The purpose of SCOPE's participation in this series was to explore the need for equitable climate policies that address health, jobs, affordable housing, and the climate crisis. The Climate Crisis is a threat and public health emergency, and the well-being of millions has been harmed. Particularly those living in frontline communities, who must be at the center of policy development that will mitigate emissions and create climate resiliency measures. Our hope was to further our collective effort to prevent further harm and co-create resilient thriving communities. SCOPE mobilized Black and Brown grassroots members to participate in all three workshops. We also participated in the climate adaptation and resilience design team, and facilitated conversations throughout the series. We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts and provide feedback on the design and implementation of the first part of the series on Building Decarbonization. Our feedback on the report is compiled in themes that are important to SCOPE staff and membership:

Community Engagement Approach

Our vision for a just transition to the regenerative and equitable economy is for community members across Los Angeles, particularly those representing frontline communities, to be at the center of designing climate and economic policies. It is important to acknowledge that without their participation, CEMO's commitment to a community-led engagement process could not be possible. Many of these families juggle multiple jobs and are faced with a wide range of burdens and impacts, yet many of them committed to participate in the series to uplift their concerns. We appreciate the opportunity to bring SCOPE members and other frontline communities together to share their lived experiences, concerns, and priorities.

We also want to recognize that community engagement requires time and resources. If we are truly committed we must invest in the practices and modalities that facilitate genuine engagement. We are committed to not replicating extractive practices, and are committed to growing our capacity to create regenerative solutions in partnership with frontline communities. Which is why moving forward we need to prioritize community participation in the agenda and the development of the curriculum. It is important to create a space that uplifts community expertise and balances participation. Ultimately, this



is about power in the decision-making process, or at the very least influence over the solutions. We believe that CELA can play a key role in balancing the power dynamics in the City's decision-making process. Additionally, we hope to transition to in-person workshops in the future. The original intention was to provide an opportunity for in-person community engagement in key communities.

Outreach and Promotion for CELA

Outreach was extremely important due to the modality of the series. Due to COVID, a focused outreach effort was important to ensure community representation/engagement in a virtual space. As mentioned before, community engagement takes time and resources, and outreach is a critical element in the engagement process. We appreciate the intent and resources to support our outreach efforts.

Additionally, we want to underscore our appreciation for the creation of the social media toolkit, and would have welcomed an opportunity to co-design culturally-relevant outreach materials to prepare CBO staff to have meaningful conversations about Building Decarbonization and the intention of the CELA in equitable policy making. The office should adopt a popular education model to engage community members on the impacts of climate change from an environmental and economic justice perspective. These materials have to be culturally relevant, linguistically diverse, and accessible. We would also like to see materials that underscore community priorities that were defined in the building decarbonization workshops and future policies that will result from this process.

Workshop Process and Implementation

Although interpretation was provided, we learned that genuine community engagement requires a deeper commitment to language justice. The office needs to ensure that we provide high-quality consistent interpretation and translation of material. We recommended involving community members and CBO staff in the review and facilitation of translated materials. We also want to underscore that language-specific break out groups were key for participation. It is important to provide the community the opportunity to engage in their language of comfort.

SCOPE staff and members want to continue a joint collaboration with CEMO, Liberty Hill, and CBO partners to design and implement future engagement and education workshops that facilitate the participation of the most impacted communities in a transformative and meaningful way. We hope that these suggestions will be helpful and welcome future conversations of how to actualize the vision of the Climate Equity Series LA.

Sincerely,

Gloria Medina,

Executive Director

Agustin Cabrera,

Policy Director

Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education

SCOPE

Appendix 1: Line edits to the process report

- a. The term “community assemblies” is not mentioned until page 5 of the report, unless we have missed an earlier mention. It might be helpful to mention the term earlier on page 3 in the Community-Based Engagement Approach section. I am not sure if there is clarity between the term “community assemblies” and the “workshop series”. This might be confusing to the reader, and it does not establish the grounding idea that the engagement was meant to be a community space.
- b. On page 16 can we use another term for “ground rules”, unless this is really the term we used, I do not remember. If possible, using a less directive term would be better, like agreements, guidelines

