BayCAN Equity Working Group Meeting Breakout Session
Extreme Heat 2022.07.27

Breakout Session: Extreme Heat Discussion

1. What data, research, or information do you need to effectively design and implement heat programs to protect people, infrastructure and ecosystems?

- Paloma (breakthrough communities) - CA environmental literacy initiative. Urban Reforestation (schools and young people) grants ($50M) - what institutional frameworks do we already have for communication. Disaster preparedness and education system. Near, immediate signaling to schools. Longer term - how are we thinking about canopy and programs. Public health - organized across the nine counties - BARHII connection
- Shannon McNeeley - echos Tina's comments - huge need for more public information and warnings. Impacts are growing for humans, animals, pets, ecosystems, etc…and folks dont seem aware. People havent adjusted and
- Tina Lee CQ - we don't have time - impacts are happening now. How do we create an alert system to make this
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Shayna Hirschfeld-Gold, City of Oakland, Cory Bytof, City of San Rafael, David Behar (facilitator)

- Most succinct and relevant data related to maintaining (i.e. proactive maintenance under future conditions) urban forestry (to help reinstate funding)
- What interventions have worked elsewhere, how work together, cost, cost efficiencies
- How to monetize maintenance to link investments to benefits concretely (e.g. quantify lives saved, health, life and safety benefits, reduced energy usage)
- What do we need to do to keep them alive? How will changing conditions impact species choice for trees intended for long term cooling benefits? When should you plant trees and how is that changing?
- Doubt, heat wave, average temperature research provided that's actionable

- What are local industries and workers that benefit. Who's outside, who needs these services (landscaping, construction trades, agricultural workers). Specific

vulnerabilities of worker cohort (e.g. water utility workers) based on heat and humidity.
- Decarbonization planning: link heat pump, AC, other cooling initiatives etc link to heat trends, building the rationale for investment.

- Meaningfully including community's lived experiences: why are there not local/regional/state mandates requiring a bottom-up process that STARTS with community engagement, not simply appeasing/tokenizing low-resourced/disadvantaged communities.
- Example 1: researchers working with community-based health centers to identify those vulnerable and impacted by extreme heat.
- Example 2: City of UCB engaging public health department with clients coming to public health department to better understand their needs.
- Example 3: senior centers and health centers and schools need to be included in regional planning for extreme heat and planning relief like cooling centers.
- Example 4: Community transportation needs.

- Nuestra Casa - next to Baylands, prone to flooding and SLR. Heat waves challenge community members, many dont have access to AC
- # of households that have air conditioners
- Simple information about heat waves over certain periods of time to prepare communities ahead of time
- How to think about need to alleviate heat stress without exacerbating climate crisis (refrigerant leak likelihood?)
- Difficult to isolate extreme heat as a single issue - also how it relates to wildfires/smoke impacts.
- More attention to how water availability will impact our communities, as a mitigation for extreme heat. More data on intersection between drought, wildfire, and heat at the same time, since that is the reality we will be living with.
- Ecosystems don't get as much attention as infrastructure and people
- What trees to plant for future climate
- What ecosystems do we want to protect? A lot of species will become extinct

Breakout session 7: Catherine Martineau, Canopy; Martha Whetstone, SFO; and Lani Ho, Valley Transportation Authority.

- Availability of water is an issue and cited as an obstacle to planting more trees. However, planting drought tolerant trees doesn't actually require a lot of water and the benefits are greater. There is so much data and research out there already so there is no excuse.

- On the topic of planting trees in the neighborhood that need them the most, there is ample data that shows the enduring legacy of discriminatory housing practices (red lining, disinvestment) in the form of very low tree canopy cover rate. True all over the world. See this study of Portland's case.
- We need assessments of heat levels particular areas. A participant shared that devices were installed in her community, although they were not installed in disadvantaged communities.
- We need heat sensors.
- Impact of heat on older adults - 95 degrees is too high a threshold. Cooling centers should be available at 85 to 87 degrees rather than 90 degrees.

2. What resources do you need to implement heat programs?

- Communities don't have extra cash to upgrade homes to have electric appliances/air conditioning. Love to do direct install program for vulnerable, frontline communities - but difficult to finance.
- Tree maintenance programs need restoration for planting (and maintaining)
- Places for vulnerable members of community to go to
- Transportation access, especially for the elderly
- Access to AC
- Tina Lee CQ - need to connect to public health institutions. Network element is so important. Lots of lessons learned from COVID on getting information out. Need to have a strong network - build relationships.
- Shannon McNeeley - she likes to talk with people about how bad extreme heat is going to get.
- Communities need resources to purchase and install data collection devices.
- Understand impacts of heat on all populations.
- Older adults and people with disabilities that are home-bound need cooling options at home
- They also need transportation options to get to cooling centers
- Areas need to be assessed for whether or not they have adequate cooling stations/centers within a certain radius.
- The data needs to be communicated.
- Seeking implementation funding

Lauren Eisele – BayCAN, consultant, and Community Action Alameda

o What data research or information do you need to effectively design and implement heat programs to protect people, infrastructure and ecosystems

- Trees, landscaping
- Most of us not informed about all of the strategies
- How hot does it need to get to trigger a certain problem
- What are the health impacts
- Getting educated and getting good training

Susan Silber – Consultant supporting Resilience Hubs, spaces and blocks.

- Working with City of San Leandro
- Neighborhood level strategy and communications
- Checking on vulnerable populations
- Communication platforms needed
- Specific sites to distribute supplies and check on vulnerable community members
- Funding needed to help develop these programs – small pockets of funding needed

Jamesine – BAAQMD Senior Advisor supporting local governments on ambitious climate actions

- Looking at heat and public health
- Identify impacted locations
- Efficient mitigation
- Data on AC – many years old – equity issues

Hannah Doress - County of San Mateo

- Much of the information needed is already available but needs to be compiled, curated and provided better so it is accessible and actionable.
- Funding opportunities need to understand how disadvantage works in Bay Area communities and improve eligibility approaches to work for local realities and in concert with communities.
- Cross-sector funding is needed to scale up efforts.

SMC resources:

- Webinars:
    - Extreme Heat Task Force: Heat and Concurrent Hazards, Urban Canopy
    - Housing Resilience Webinar and Toolkit
- Community Resilience Hubs in Half Moon Bay and South SF
- Community Resilience Project with Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities

- Equity training applied to collaboration with North Fair Oaks Community Alliance to support their climate/emergency preparedness Block Action Team program

Break out group wrap up:

What resources do you need to implement heat programs

- Open the funding floodgates to community-based organizations
- Focus on neighborhood level
- Reinforce trusted community organizations now
- Fund implementation more than research

· Data and Best Practices:

- Need to leverage technical support, resources that is already there to strengthen CBOS and jurisdictions – eg work of regional collaboratives such as CBO-led RCC, and leverage existing resources
    - State Extreme Heat Action Plan – can we translate to be actionable locally
    - How can we make it easy to access the plethora of resources that are already there?
    - Can BayCAN summarize Bay Area applicable best practices, impact thresholds, best practices, local efforts more than global perspective?
- Implement heat mitigation and study / plan while implementing

BREAK OUT GROUP - Jackie Mandoske, Pam Jones, Marlene Santayo, Bill Smith, Ariel R Okamoto

- Mainly talked about how heat is experienced in Belle Haven near Menlo Park - a historically red-lined community, and Alameda.

- PJ- grew up in East Palo Alto and always had heat waves, but what I notice now is it doesn't cool down at night so quickly anymore in Belle Haven.
- We have aluminum paned windows and few fans so not set up for heat.
- Worst thing is a combo of heat and wind that stirs up all the air pollution in our area and makes it much worse for people with health issues.
- MS-days are hotter for longer
- Warmer in the south bay than it used to be.
- My family and a lot of families in Belle Haven don't have cooling.

- BS- in Alameda we benefit from being surrounded by the Bay so cooler, but we do suffer from heat combined with fire smoke. We're more worried about rising groundwater in terms of climate change effects.

Resources?

- PJ- community has been made well aware of resources thanks to work of Marlene Santayo
- We are often asked to the table but to echo [Miss Margaret's] comment earlier we are also often dismissed.