

Name	Organization
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Goal

Every community member is resilient to extreme weather events and other climate threats.

Description

Every individual is prepared and capable of withstanding and recovering from the impacts of extreme weather events and other climate-related challenges. This involves a combination of preparedness measures, strong infrastructure, effective emergency response systems, and a community-wide commitment to adaptation and sustainability.

The 2020 wildfires and the 2021 Heat Dome that the Pacific Northwest experienced brought into sharp focus the grim realities of what global climate change is bringing to our region. People are not equally exposed to climate hazards, and those who contribute least to climate change are more often in harm's way. Climate disasters exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, which necessitates preparedness policies and practices that account for social, economic and health disparities.

We need all communities to be able to take an active role in reducing carbon emissions and building resilience to a changing climate, but not all communities are positioned equally to do so. By addressing inequities in systems we manage and influence, we can create opportunities for more communities to participate actively in climate solutions and for everyone to benefit. Ensuring every individual is prepared for climate challenges will save lives and strengthen our community in the face of increasing extreme weather events. By investing in preparedness, infrastructure and response systems, and fostering a culture of resilience, we create a safer, more sustainable future for all residents.

Metrics	Notes
Number excess deaths/illness related to extreme weather	
Burden of disease related to excess death/illness related to extreme heat (including demo/EJ attributes) (Quant/dom)	
Mental health data in the Tri-County Regional Climate Health and Monitoring Report	
Qualitative community data collected in partnership with Coalition of Communities of Color and other frontline CBOs articulating community perspectives on resilience	

Strategies	Description
Support advanced green building practices to enhance adaptation/resilience, greenhouse gas mitigation, energy affordability, as well as increase opportunities to innovate green building standards to improve protections to extreme weather events. <i>Type of action: Advocacy</i>	Advocate at the state level to support advanced building codes, including codes that support or allow for local preference for implementation of building standards for housing that are more resilient to extreme weather.

Improve access for residents to connect with other community members around emergency preparedness, including Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NETs), resilience workshops and culturally specific offerings. <i>Type of action: Create/fund program; Mutual Aid</i>	Expand the number and reach of culturally specific resilience education opportunities and training, including leveraging a community health worker model and other popular education approaches. Support community-based organizations to lead and conduct their own programs. Incorporate these resources into social service and health education pathways.
Develop a strategy to establish resilience hubs in every neighborhood in Multnomah County (e.g., invest in churches and other trusted community spaces). Mandate solar panels and battery storage at resilience hubs in all neighborhoods. <i>Type of action: Governance/third space</i>	In coalition with a broad range of community-based organizations and local and state governments, conduct a comprehensive assessment of community needs, the ongoing resources needed to sustain resilience hubs, and initial ideas for suitable locations in each neighborhood, prioritizing frontline and at-risk communities. Work in coalition to advocate for sustained resources to develop and sustain a resilience hub network.
Invest in low-income weatherization and energy efficiency services, plus home repairs. Prioritize solar and battery storage for low-income households. <i>Type of action: Create/fund program; Advocacy</i>	Investments in household energy efficiency, heating/cooling systems, and solar and battery storage are critical strategies for addressing energy burden and keeping households safe during extreme weather. Often, these investments cannot be made without first addressing basic, and sometimes significant, home repair needs. Funding home repairs themselves also promote health and stable housing options. Through a coalition of advocates, expand programs/funding for basic home repair and that expands access to solar and battery storage for low-income households and critical community facilities.
Increase access to air conditioning and air purifiers. Expand Cooling Portland and eligibility criteria for cooling through Oregon's section 1115 Medicaid waiver. <i>Type of action: Create/fund program; Advocacy</i>	Staying cool during a heat event is potentially lifesaving, particularly for vulnerable populations like older adults and children. Increase funding and eligibility for the Cooling Portland program to provide more residents with access to air conditioners, heat pumps and air purifiers, especially for those outside the City of Portland boundaries in Multnomah County.
Make transit fare-free for all travel options during a declared extreme weather emergency. Standardize and operationalize fareless rides during extreme weather events. Support infrastructure funding and training for operators to ensure continued operation during extreme weather events. <i>Type of action: Advocacy</i>	For many, public transit is a lifeline during an extreme weather event, and the price of a transit fare should not be a barrier to this resource. Work in coalition to advocate for clear and consistent policy regarding fareless rides on all public transit systems within Multnomah County during declared extreme weather events, such as heat waves, severe storms, flooding or air quality advisories. Support expansion of services capabilities during extreme weather events.
Prioritize resilience investments in neighborhoods with greater vulnerability and need. <i>Type of action: County Policy</i>	Not every community faces the same risks when it comes to heat, including due to sensitivity, exposure, or adaptive capacity. The County and its partners have developed a Heat Vulnerability Index to help understand the places and people in the community who are likely to experience the worst impacts. Working with community-based organizations, the County will develop and implement a tiered response system in which emergency responses/services are allocated and prioritized based on the heat vulnerability level of the affected zone. This could range from general public health messaging for low-vulnerability areas and populations to proactive outreach to vulnerable populations, increased staffing for emergency medical services, opening of additional cooling centers, etc.

Plant trees or provide other shade options near bus stops, playgrounds, and other areas where people gather and need shade. Create areas in the urban environment for animal cooling. <i>Type of action: Create/fund program; Advocacy</i>	Tree shade provides a critical respite from heat, both localized and at the community scale, in areas that lack broad tree cover. Increase tree planting efforts and prioritize planting trees near bus stops, playgrounds and other public gathering areas to increase shade, enhance community well-being and mitigate the effects of urban heat islands. Include consideration of the importance of shade/cooling for animals and their habitats. Consider other shade options where trees aren't feasible. Advocate across governments and organizations with tree planting programs, and include advocacy for maintenance for newly planted and existing trees.
Maximum heat standards for indoor temperatures. Rental inspection program. <i>Type of action: Governance/Third Space; County Policy; Create/fund program</i>	Research has shown that heat waves and even periods of elevated heat can make indoor temperatures unhealthy, and even deadly, for households. These impacts can vary dramatically even across units in the same buildings. Renters often lack resources and options to protect themselves and their families. Landlords play a key role in ensuring the safety and well-being of their tenants. The County will work with partners to convene a coalition to establish maximum indoor temperature thresholds for rental units and to explore the development of a mandatory rental inspection program, including enforcement mechanisms. In addition, the County will expand existing tenant and landlord education efforts around unsafe living conditions, including the risk of heat.
Public Health Officer communicates climate threats to healthcare providers (e.g., medications that are sensitive to heat, other disability justice issues). <i>Type of action: Advocacy</i>	Heat can pose additional risks associated for people taking medications, as it can affect the efficacy of the medicine itself, while certain medications can cause individuals to experience a higher sensitivity to heat. The Public Health Officer and other public health staff will work to raise awareness of safe medication management practices to health providers and patients, particularly those with disabilities.
Evacuation plans and plans to accommodate an influx of climate migrants. <i>Type of action: Create/fund program; Mutual Aid</i>	Evacuation Planning: Develop and regularly update comprehensive evacuation plans that address various climate-related scenarios, including wildfires, floods and extreme heat events. Identify and prepare evacuation routes, transportation resources, and temporary shelter facilities to accommodate both residents and climate migrants. Implement robust communication and alert systems to provide timely and accurate information during evacuations. Climate Migrant Support: Establish a dedicated task force or office to coordinate the reception and resettlement of climate migrants. Identify and secure suitable housing, employment and social services for climate migrants, collaborating with community organizations and faith-based groups. Develop culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate outreach and support programs to facilitate integration and address the unique needs of climate migrants.
Severe weather-related parametric insurance. <i>Type of action: Create/fund program</i>	This policy aims to leverage parametric insurance as a tool to ensure rapid financial relief and recovery for the County and its residents in the aftermath of qualifying weather events. Parametric insurance differs from traditional hazard insurance in several ways: Payouts: Predetermined Amounts: Payouts could be based on predetermined amounts associated with each trigger, reflecting the estimated financial impact of the extreme weather event on the County and its residents. Tiered Structure: Payouts may be structured in tiers based on the severity and duration of the extreme weather event, with higher payouts for more extreme and prolonged events. Rapid Disbursement: Payouts will be disbursed rapidly upon verification of the trigger, typically within days or weeks, to facilitate timely response and recovery efforts. By embracing parametric insurance as a proactive risk management tool, the County aims to strengthen its resilience and ability to recover quickly from natural disasters.

Start a working group to understand urban conflagration risk and raise awareness on prevention.

Type of action: Create/fund program

The devastating Los Angeles Fires in 2025, and previous urban wildfires in Oregon and elsewhere show that urban communities are vulnerable to rapid fire spread due to extreme weather brought on by climate change. A working groups should bring together experts to determine vulnerability, mitigation, and public education needed to address this looming threat.

Notes