



# Building Resilient Communities

## A CALL TO ACTION FOR LIBRARIES AND THEIR PARTNERS

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Climate change and its related environmental health impacts pose serious threats for many, if not all, communities in the U.S. and abroad. Communities are increasingly experiencing major disruptions from environmental hazards such as fires, floods, and droughts. With the rise in hazardous events under a changing climate, there is a pressing need for communities to build resilience through preparation and planning. Strategic collaborations and partnerships are essential to equip communities to meet the environmental, social, physical and mental health challenges that accompany climate change.

The *Building Resilient Communities* (BRC) project explored pathways to public libraries and community-based organizations (CBOs) to take

locally relevant climate actions that address environmental and public health impacts. Funded by the National Science Foundation, the project was led by the Space Science Institute in partnership with OCLC's WebJunction program, the University of North Carolina Greensboro, and Interactive Learning Dynamics.

This call-to-action report synthesizes the project's findings into practical recommendations for fostering cross-sector partnerships, centering equity and justice, and empowering communities to develop locally tailored resilience strategies. It invites libraries, funders, government agencies, and community partners to prioritize collaboration, inclusivity, and shared learning as pathways to impactful climate action.



# Key Project Findings

## 1. Libraries as catalysts for climate action

Because libraries are trusted by their communities, reach many people, and bring together people from many different groups, they can play an important role in supporting meaningful climate action.

## 2. Communicating climate change as a public health issue

[John E. Kotcher's research](#) at George Mason University's Center for Climate Change Communication emphasizes the power of framing climate change as a public health issue to make it personally relevant and reduce political polarization.

## 3. Expanding STEM learning ecosystems

Libraries are key players in [STEM learning ecosystems](#), integrating formal and informal education to build scientific literacy and engagement.

## 4. Equity and inclusion as foundations for resilience

Equity and inclusion are key to building strong climate resilience strategies. Libraries are well-placed to break down barriers in society by offering programs that include and involve people whose voices are often overlooked. With their strong ties to the community, libraries can help make sure marginalized voices are heard and valued in efforts to build resilience.

## 5. Libraries as physical and social infrastructure

Libraries play a critical role in climate adaptation and disaster response. During extreme weather events, they can serve as warming and/or cooling centers, device recharging hubs, and safe spaces for displaced residents.

## 6. Community science and local solutions

Community science program ideas and resources can empower residents to address local environmental challenges while building scientific literacy. Libraries are ideally suited to [facilitate these efforts by connecting communities with expertise and tools](#).

## 7. Strategic communication and audience engagement

Kotcher's framework of "[Six Key Truths](#)"—"It's real, it's us, experts agree, it's bad, others care, and there's hope"—provides a research-based foundation for effective climate communication.

## 8. Building networks and partnerships

Climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience require cross-sector collaborations and partnerships. No single entity can address climate challenges alone. Collaboration amplifies resources, knowledge, and impact. Public libraries are trusted community hubs that can be catalysts for climate action by connecting sectors and fostering collaboration. At the national level, public libraries remain somewhat siloed from the efforts other sectors are taking to address climate challenges (e.g., Federal Agencies, professional associations, private foundations). More work is needed to build cross-sector collaboration involving libraries.





For the BRC project, the STAR Library Network (STAR Net) conducted a [National Landscape Survey](#) of public libraries to assess opinions, knowledge, and current library trends around climate change, environmental justice, and community health topics.(see [Appendix A](#) for more details).

The challenges of talking about climate change is already very apparent in many American public libraries. Some public library workers wrote in the comments that they were scared to have filled out the survey on a government machine; others emailed and apologized for not taking the survey because (as one person put it), “Everything I do on my computer is discoverable and if the wrong person sees my thoughts on climate change, I could lose my job.” It is essential that library workers are trained in how to respond to patron beliefs and questions about climate change, and its impacts on health. It is also critical that library leaders support their staff in developing and implementing climate action initiatives, and that staff feel comfortable sharing their opinions about climate change with library leadership.

In the years to come, public libraries will need the support of allies even more, and those who care about climate change and its impact on health will need the support of public libraries.



Credit: Climate Resilient Communities Project, Palo Alto, CA

## Recommendations for Climate Action

- 1. Recognize and support public libraries as hubs for community collaboration and collective action.** Libraries are trusted community spaces that bring together diverse stakeholders through their resources, programming, and outreach. This makes them well-suited to address local challenges and foster collaboration.
- 2. Encourage cross-sector partnerships.** Partnerships between libraries, public health agencies, environmental organizations, and local governments create well-rounded and well-resourced resilience efforts, combining expertise and resources from multiple perspectives.
- 3. Support inclusive programming shaped by community priorities.** Inclusive programming can amplify underrepresented voices and address the specific needs of each community. Collaborating with community members ensures that programs are relevant and meaningful. This work is best accomplished through a STEM learning ecosystem lens: Rather than asking libraries to engage community members, it is more effective for STEM learning ecosystems that include libraries to engage communities.
- 4. Invest in training and capacity building.** Equipping library staff and partners with knowledge and training of climate science, community engagement, and resilience planning strengthens their ability to lead and support local initiatives effectively.
- 5. Increase support for collaborative projects that enhance climate resilience.** Funders can make a significant impact by supporting partnerships that integrate equity, sustainability, and local needs into scalable, community-driven solutions.



# INTRODUCTION



Credit: WaterAid, Juthika Howlader

**“I left this symposium with my brain on fire with ideas! I took notes and plotted action the entire plane ride home. This was an excellent event!”**

-Symposium Participant

Climate change and its environmental health impacts are disrupting communities across the U.S., with increasing frequency and intensity. Public libraries—with approximately 17,000 locations nationwide—are critical anchor institutions for fostering resilience. Libraries are trusted, easy to access, and closely connected to their communities, making them invaluable partners in tackling climate challenges.

Libraries already serve as community hubs for lifelong learning and collaboration. A [2019 Gallup](#) poll found that visiting libraries remains Americans’ most common cultural activity, surpassing trips to movie theaters or live sporting events. Libraries’ reach, particularly among women and low-income Americans, underscores their potential to connect diverse audiences to climate action resources and programs.

Libraries are already taking steps to address climate change, for example with resources from the [Sustainable Libraries Initiative](#) (SLI). To learn more about SLI, read the *Building Resilient Communities* (BRC) Background Report (2024) by Rebekkah Smith Aldrich titled [Public Libraries are Critical Agencies in Multi-Sector Climate Action Plans, Policies, and Actions](#). Additionally the American Library Association published its [National Climate Action Strategy](#) in July 2024. Nevertheless, no mechanism exists for fostering, understanding, and supporting cross-sector alliances, networks, and collaboratives focused on public libraries, climate change, and health.

The [BRC project](#) aimed to expand this role by promoting partnerships between libraries and CBOs to address local climate impacts. Deliverables included a symposium held in 2024, a *National Landscape Survey* on library attitudes toward climate resilience and public health, Background Reports on climate communication and equity, and a webinar series for library staff. Each of these aligned with the project’s goal of fostering local climate action grounded in equity and inclusivity.



# KEY PROJECT FINDINGS

The *Building Resilient Communities* project underscored the essential role libraries play in advancing climate resilience, improving public health outcomes, and promoting equity in communities nationwide. The findings outlined on the following pages provide valuable insights to guide and strengthen climate action planning efforts.

**“Climate Resilience is the ability of people and their communities to anticipate, accommodate and positively adapt to or thrive amidst changing climate conditions and extreme weather events. They have agency and power to make positive changes and the opportunity to participate in larger-scale decision-making. Resilient communities enjoy a high quality of life, reliable systems, and economic vitality, and they conserve resources for present and future generations.”**

**Urban Sustainability Directors Network**

1993 Midwest flood  
Credit: UCAR Opensky



## 1. Libraries as catalysts for climate action

Because libraries are trusted by their communities, have wide reach, and bring together people from diverse backgrounds, they are well-placed to play a critical role in advancing meaningful climate action. As critical hubs for cross-sector collaboration, libraries provide shared spaces and resources to facilitate community-driven solutions. For example, they can host climate education programs, connect residents with community/citizen science projects, and partner with environmental organizations to create action plans tailored to regional challenges.

In addition to their convening role, libraries offer collections that provide access to credible, evidence-based information on climate science, sustainability, and resilience. By equipping patrons with information literacy skills, libraries empower individuals to critically evaluate climate-related data and take informed action. Programs inspired by the [Sustainable Libraries Initiative](#) and local climate efforts such as the [All of Belfast Climate Dialogues](#) in Belfast, Maine, exemplify how libraries can integrate authoritative resources with impactful community engagement. By leveraging their collections, programs, services, and partnerships, libraries bridge the gap between knowledge and action, positioning themselves as key players in building climate-resilient communities.

## 2. Communicating climate change as a public health issue

John E. Kotcher’s research at George Mason University’s Center for Climate Change Communication emphasizes the power of framing climate change as a public health challenge to make it personally relevant and reduce political polarization. In his BRC Background Report, “[How a Health Narrative Can Enhance Communication of Six Key Truths About Climate Change with Diverse Audiences](#),” Kotcher shows that linking climate impacts to immediate health concerns, such as respiratory problems from poor air quality or heat-related illnesses, resonates with diverse audiences, making the issue more accessible and urgent. Libraries can adopt this approach to engage their communities more effectively. Programs addressing

the health impacts of climate change—such as air quality monitoring, heat resilience workshops, and disaster preparedness—can highlight the immediate benefits of action while fostering broader climate initiatives. By collaborating with public health agencies, libraries can amplify these messages and strengthen their credibility as leaders in climate resilience.

## 3. Expanding STEM learning ecosystems

Libraries are key players in [STEM learning ecosystems](#), integrating formal and informal education to build scientific literacy and engagement. Initiatives like [NASA’s Science Activation program](#) (e.g., [NASA@ My Library](#)) and [WebJunction’s webinars on building resilient communities](#) highlight libraries’ power to inspire curiosity and action on climate issues. And libraries create pathways for underserved populations to engage with STEM, ensuring all community members are equipped to navigate and contribute to climate solutions.

## 4. Equity and inclusion as foundations for resilience

Equity and inclusion are fundamental to effective climate resilience strategies. Libraries are particularly well-placed to address systemic barriers through inclusive programming that amplifies underrepresented voices. See the BRC Background Report by [Levin-Lederer and Wright \(2024\)](#) for more information about how public libraries are integrating health equity, environmental justice, and climate justice into their programs. Another excellent program that bridges climate change and public health is the [Climate Communities Network](#) (an initiative of the National Academy of Medicine). It addresses the structural drivers of climate-related health inequities in selected communities across the U.S. By ensuring solutions are accessible, culturally relevant, and community-driven, libraries and their community partners build trust and strengthen social cohesion.





Credit: Climate Resilient Communities, Palo Alto, CA

## 5. Libraries as physical and social infrastructure

Libraries play a critical role in climate adaptation and disaster response. During extreme weather events, they serve as warming and/or cooling centers, device recharging hubs, and safe spaces for displaced residents. They also provide free internet access. Beyond immediate relief, libraries can model sustainable practices by upgrading their facilities to net-zero energy standards, installing renewable energy systems, and improving air quality with enhanced HVAC systems. These investments not only strengthen community resilience but also demonstrate the feasibility of sustainable infrastructure. See [Smith Aldrich \(2024\)](#) for more details.



## 6. Community science and local solutions

Community science program ideas and resources are found on the [Association for Advancing Participatory Sciences](#) and [SciStarter](#) websites. The latter organization has an excellent tutorial called [The Library and Community Guide to Citizen Science](#). Community science and citizen science programs can empower residents to address local environmental challenges while building scientific literacy. Libraries can facilitate these efforts by connecting communities with expertise and tools. Examples such as wildfire readiness assessments, environmental monitoring workshops, and citizen-led climate studies demonstrate how libraries support participatory science efforts. These initiatives also provide opportunities for libraries to collaborate with schools, universities, and environmental justice organizations, expanding their reach and impact.





Credit: Climate Resilience Project, Flagstaff, AZ

## 7. Strategic communication and audience engagement

Kotcher's framework of "[Six Key Truths](#)"—"It's real, it's us, experts agree, it's bad, others care, and there's hope"—as described in his earlier-referenced report, provides a research-based foundation for effective climate communication. Building on Kotcher's insights into connecting climate change to immediate, relatable concerns, libraries can adapt these truths to their programming by:

- ◆ incorporating local climate data,
- ◆ emphasizing actionable community solutions, and
- ◆ sharing inspiring success stories that foster both hope and engagement.

By using tools like the "Six Americas" framework, libraries can adjust their messages to match the different levels of climate awareness and concern in their communities. This makes the message more relatable and effective for everyone.

## 8. Building networks and partnerships

The *Building Resilient Communities* project highlighted how public libraries play a vital role in helping communities prepare for and respond to climate challenges. In addition to having the capacity to convene diverse stakeholders, libraries can also bring together different groups—including public health agencies, environmental organizations, local governments, and community-based organizations—to work together to address the effects of climate change on people and the environment. By offering accessible spaces, responsive staff, reliable resources, and strong community connections, libraries can contribute to local climate solutions.

Successful collaborations amplify resources, knowledge, and impact. They rely on shared input and making sure underrepresented voices are heard. Libraries can strengthen these partnerships by helping both their staff and community partners build skills in climate science, public engagement and communication, and planning for resilience. In this way, libraries become powerful drivers of change, turning knowledge into action and helping communities adapt and thrive.

At the national level, public libraries remain somewhat siloed from the efforts other sectors are taking to address climate challenges. More work is needed to build cross-sector collaboration involving libraries.





## CASE STUDY

This case study highlights how community-led dialogue sessions inspired partnerships and actionable solutions for local climate challenges. By bringing together stakeholders from across the city, libraries facilitated meaningful discussions that led to locally tailored strategies addressing climate resilience.

# Belfast's All of Belfast: Climate Dialogues Project: Inspiring Community-Led Action

## About the Project

The All of Belfast: Climate Dialogues (ABCD) initiative was launched by the Belfast Free Library and funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services from 2020 to 2023. The project sought to engage a broad cross-section of Belfast residents in conversations about climate change, provide educational resources, and document community ideas for future action. Through creative programming such as "The Art of Re-climation," public workshops, and facilitated discussions, ABCD normalized climate conversations and inspired actionable ideas for building resilience.

## How Did It Make a Difference?

ABCD successfully brought the community together to establish guiding principles for local climate action, including systems thinking. The project catalyzed ongoing grassroots efforts such as a Waldo County Climate Action Coalition and initiatives like community composting and reducing single-use plastics. ABCD exemplified the power of libraries as facilitators of meaningful dialogue and change.



The Art of Re-Climation Program. Credit: Brenda Harrington

## Tips for How You Can Get Started

**For Community-based Organizations:** Partner with local libraries to co-create programs that engage diverse voices. Consider using arts and storytelling to inspire community participation. Find out if there are existing community efforts on climate action; this can help you identify opportunities to collaborate and make the most of available resources.

**For Libraries:** Provide educational resources and host community discussions. Archive your community's local stories and ideas to preserve institutional memory and inspire future projects. Look into regional climate adaptation plans to identify key areas where your library can step in as a convener or resource for ongoing work.

**For Public Sector Agencies and Funders:** Provide long-term funding for community-based resilience projects. Support initiatives that prioritize equity and inclusive engagement. Encourage grantees to coordinate efforts with other local actors to avoid overlap and maximize collective outcomes.

*For more information about the project and ongoing work:*

<https://belfastlibrary.org/all-of-belfast-climate-dialogues/>

<https://www.waldoclimateaction.org/>



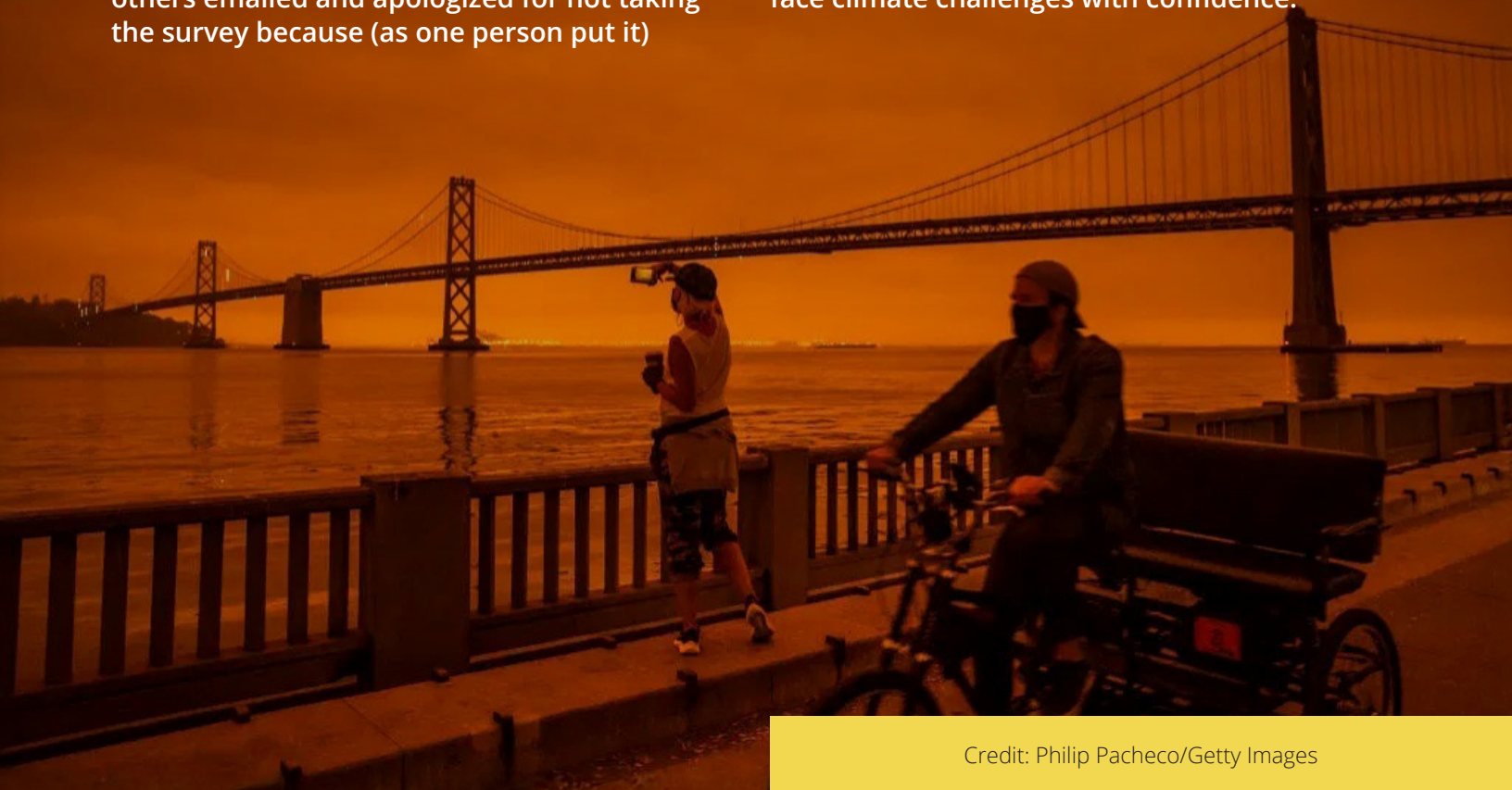
# CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE IMPACTS

Addressing the impacts of climate change comes with significant challenges, especially when it comes to communication. One major difficulty is explaining the urgency and importance of these issues to different audiences. Misinformation, ideological differences, and public disengagement can make it hard to build a shared understanding of the many challenges that climate change poses. Libraries and community-based organizations often face additional challenges, like limited funding and staff, while fragmented collaboration across sectors can slow progress by creating gaps in coordination.

The inclusion of public libraries in multi-sector action networks becomes more pressing and urgent. In response to BRC's *National Landscape Survey* (see [Appendix A](#) for more details), some public library workers wrote in the comments that they were scared to have filled out the survey on a government machine; others emailed and apologized for not taking the survey because (as one person put it)

“Everything I do on my computer is discoverable and if the wrong person sees my thoughts on climate change I could lose my job.” In the years to come, public libraries will need the support of allies even more, and those who care about climate change and its impact on health will need the support of public libraries.

Even with these obstacles, there are many opportunities for libraries to lead. As trusted community hubs, libraries can bring together diverse partners to tackle these challenges. By offering collaborative programs and sharing reliable, evidence-based information, libraries can counter misinformation and engage people from all backgrounds. Tailoring climate resilience and sustainability plans to reflect local priorities and include underrepresented voices ensures these efforts are both fair and effective. With the right partnerships and training, libraries can increase their impact and help communities face climate challenges with confidence.



Credit: Philip Pacheco/Getty Images



## CASE STUDY

A model of local resilience, this case study demonstrates how cross-sector partnerships created inclusive, impactful climate action initiatives. Libraries worked closely with environmental justice organizations and community leaders to design programs that addressed specific local vulnerabilities while empowering residents to take an active role in resilience efforts.



Youth Climate Collective Program. Credit: Violet Saena

# East Palo Alto's Climate Change Community Team

## About the Project

The East Palo Alto Climate Change Community Team (CCCT) was launched in 2019 to address the city's climate vulnerabilities, including flooding, air quality, and extreme heat. Led by the Climate Resilient Communities (CRC), this initiative brought together residents, community-based organizations, youth, faith leaders, and local government to identify and tackle shared priorities. The team implemented impactful projects such as a rain garden and water cistern pilot, a Youth Climate Collective, and a coastal restoration project. By focusing on local needs and fostering partnerships, the CCCT empowered the community to take meaningful climate action.

## How Did It Make a Difference?

The CCCT demonstrated how equity-centered, community-led initiatives can address climate challenges while building long-term capacity. Key outcomes included stronger community partnerships and increased public awareness of climate resilience. Projects like the Youth Climate Collective highlighted the role of young leaders in driving local action, while infrastructure-focused efforts like the rain garden and coastal restoration project provided scalable models for other communities.

## Tips for How You Can Get Started

**For Community-based Organizations:** Start with creating space to bring your community together. Conduct a [community vulnerability assessment](#) to understand community adaptive capacity and priorities. Engage residents with small-scale projects like rain gardens or resilience fairs to demonstrate tangible impact and build trust. Begin by reviewing local climate action or adaptation plans to see where your work can align with existing efforts and amplify collective outcomes.

**For Libraries:** Provide space for discussions and workshops on local climate resilience topics. Partner with subject matter experts to offer community training on environmental justice and climate adaptation strategies. Explore collaborations with organizations already working in climate resilience to avoid duplication and accelerate your impact.

**For Public Sector Agencies and Funders:** Allocate seed funding to pilot equitable, community-led projects like the rain garden initiative. Fund training programs to build capacity for community-based organizations and libraries in project management and climate adaptation. Use a community asset mapping exercise to identify gaps and potential partnerships for a broader reach.

*For more information about the project and ongoing work, see this video: [What are Climate Change Community Teams?](#)*





# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

## 1. Recognize and support public libraries as hubs for community collaboration and collective action.

Public libraries are essential community hubs, trusted messengers, and key connectors within STEM learning ecosystems, which connect diverse stakeholders to advance climate action and resilience. Libraries can play a critical role in addressing climate change and its public health impacts by fostering [collective impact](#)—coordinated, cross-sector efforts to tackle complex challenges. Successful partnerships require a shared vision, aligned goals, consistent communication, and organizational support (see [Appendix F](#) for more on collective impact strategies)

Climate change is closely linked to public health, as communities face more frequent and severe natural disasters. Vulnerable populations are often the most affected, a disparity known as the “resilience divide.” Libraries can be [resilience hubs](#), bridging community resilience efforts with emergency management, climate mitigation, and social equity. These hubs empower communities to become self-reliant, socially connected, and prepared to navigate crises before, during, and after they occur. [Libraries are already stepping into this role](#). During disasters, they serve as cooling and warming centers, shelters, and supply distribution sites. They also contribute to long-term resilience by hosting repair clinics, lending tools through [libraries of things](#), and providing spaces for education and community planning.

## 2. Encourage cross-sector partnerships.

Public libraries can be community-based anchor organizations, fostering cross-sector climate action collaborations within STEM learning ecosystems. Partners might include community champions

(e.g., scientists, local weather reporters, faith leaders), Pre-K-12 schools, health and public health organizations (e.g., health departments, hospitals, clinics), community-based organizations (e.g., environmental groups, science centers, children’s museums), out-of-school-time providers (e.g., 4-H Clubs, Boys and Girls Clubs), higher education institutions (e.g., community colleges, trade schools, universities), and local governments. Together, these groups create sustainable and impactful change through [cross-sector collaborations](#).

There is no playbook for building such integrated systems, but libraries, as trusted community institutions, have the credibility to lead these efforts. Libraries can serve as “boundary-spanning organizations,” bridging gaps between sectors, fostering community connections, and building networks for climate action.

One effective strategy for libraries to cultivate partnerships is by hosting [Community Dialogues](#), a framework developed by the [STAR Library Network](#) (STAR Net). These dialogues bring together library staff, community members, and local leaders (e.g., educators, museum staff, scientists) to discuss community needs, opportunities for collaboration, and barriers to participation. They help libraries collect valuable data, build partnerships, and establish shared visions aligned with collective impact principles.

Successful collaborations are inclusive, equitable, and mutually supportive. Each partner should understand their role and contribution to the group’s overarching goals. Often, disproportionately impacted communities lack a voice in decision-making, even when the outcomes directly affect them. To ensure inclusiveness, resilience strategies should prioritize understanding community assets and vulnerabilities. Resources like the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)’s [Environmental Justice Index](#) and the [Climate Vulnerability Index](#) provide valuable insights and tools for creating equitable climate action plans.



### 3. Support inclusive programming shaped by community priorities.

Creating truly inclusive programming means involving different sectors of the community throughout the entire process—not presenting a ready-made plan for them to implement. Libraries and their community-based partners can work together to design and implement climate action plans that address local needs. Programs might include watershed restoration projects, energy sustainability initiatives, community science activities (e.g., clean water or air monitoring), composting and recycling efforts, book clubs for adults, youth ambassador programs, or early learning opportunities.

Effective programming is guided by principles of co-creation, as highlighted in Acevedo and Dusenbery's 2017 report, "[Community Collaboration and Empowerment](#)." These principles, which are included in [Appendix E](#), emphasize engaging community members as active participants, building trust, and ensuring that programs reflect local priorities.

Another example of inclusive programming comes from the National Academy of Medicine's [Climate Communities Network](#) (CCN), which addresses climate challenges and community-driven solutions. CCN focuses on elevating local experiences, fostering peer-to-peer conversations, and building cross-sector partnerships. By working directly with frontline communities, CCN ensures that resilience strategies are responsive and tailored to their specific needs.

**"To make meaningful progress, mitigation and resilience strategies must be designed by communities on the frontlines. Centering the priorities of the people and neighborhoods most affected by climate-related health risks ensures that interventions can be tailored to address the precise needs in those areas"**

— **[From the Ground Up: Cultivating Community-Driven Climate Solutions](#), Climate Communities Network, 2024.**



Danbury Public Library Tower Garden. Credit DPL



## 4. Invest in training and capacity building.

Equipping library staff and their community partners with the knowledge and tools to address climate resilience is essential for effective action. Training programs should include foundational understanding of climate science, skills in community engagement, and strategies for developing and implementing resilience plans tailored to local needs. Hands-on workshops, online courses, and professional development opportunities can empower library staff to confidently lead initiatives and respond to emerging challenges.

The [Sustainable Libraries Initiative](#) (SLI) offers robust resources that integrate sustainability and climate resilience into library operations and programming. SLI's certification program and resources guide libraries in adopting practices that not only reduce environmental impact but also strengthen their roles as community resilience hubs. Similarly, [WebJunction's webinars on climate action and sustainability](#) provide library staff with actionable insights and tools to engage their communities effectively. In addition to SLI and WebJunction, numerous training opportunities are available through national, regional, and state library associations, which offer a range of resources to enhance library capacity. For example, associations often host climate-focused conference sessions, workshops on resilience strategies, and peer-learning opportunities that enable libraries to share best practices.

This work, although very strong and impactful, is not enough. In addition to training libraries, we need to train potential partners and allies in how to work with libraries. A persistent theme heard during the *2024 Climate Action Symposium* was "I had no idea libraries did all this." As long as that ignorance continues to exist, climate action is curtailed. By investing in ongoing training, not only for libraries, but also for their potential partners and allies, we can build the skills and confidence needed to contribute meaningfully to locally relevant climate initiatives. Continuous professional development ensures that libraries and their partners are better prepared to build a sustainable climate resilient community.

On the national level, the [International City/County Management Association](#) (ICMA) offers resources, training, and technical assistance to key stakeholder groups, including public libraries, through conferences, training sessions, and peer-to-peer learning. ICMA also supports the [Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center \(TCTAC\)](#), which provides free assistance funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The National League of Cities participated in the BRC's *2024 Climate Action Symposium* and collaborates with ICMA on TCTAC initiatives. For more information about their environmental justice efforts, see the report by [Jones and Mehrotra \(2024\)](#).

Earth Science Week. Credit: USGS





## 5. Increase support for collaborative projects that enhance climate resilience.

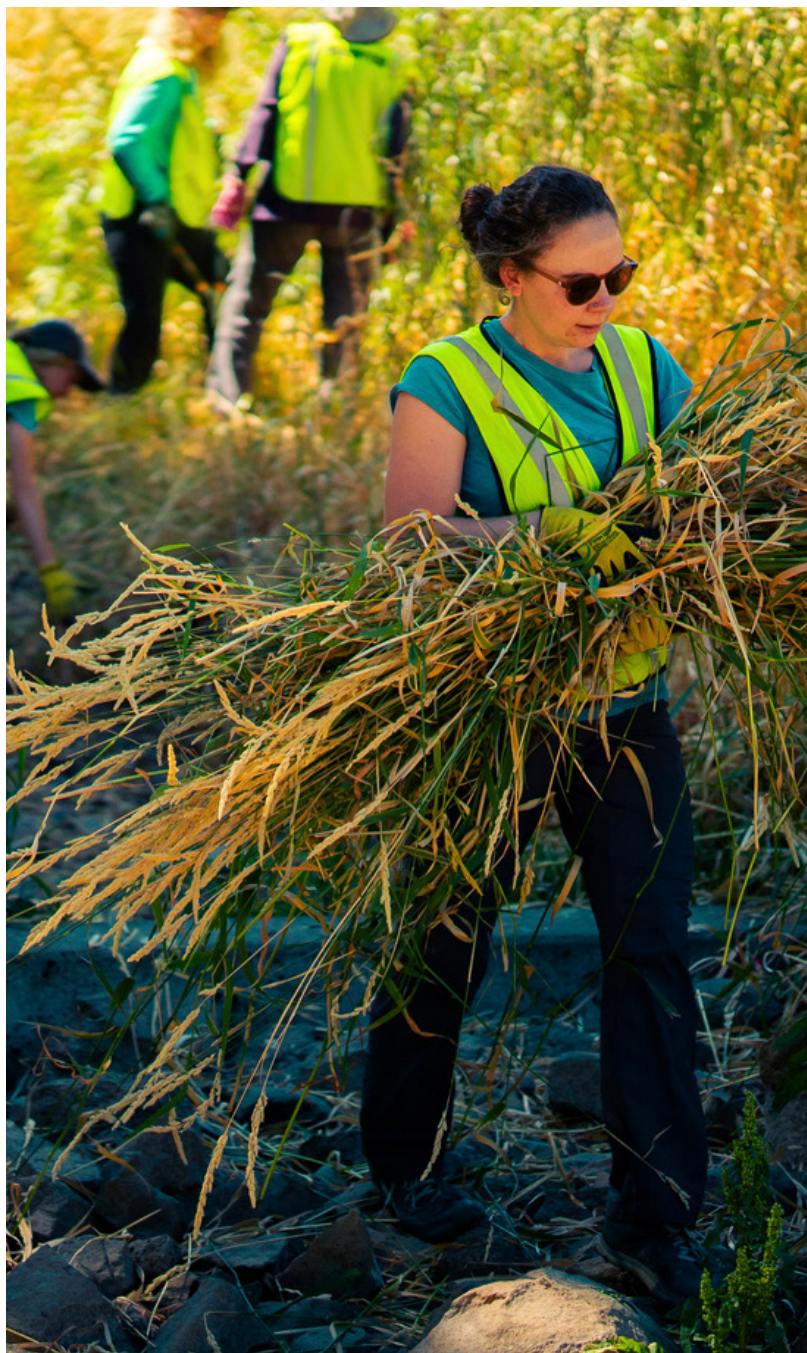
Sustained and strategic funding is essential for advancing cross-sector partnerships and initiatives that promote climate resilience. Funders—government agencies, private foundations, and corporate sponsors—can support meaningful change by prioritizing projects that integrate equity, sustainability, and community-driven solutions that include public libraries and public library staff as partners. Investments in scalable and adaptable programs are especially impactful, as they allow successful initiatives to expand to other communities facing similar challenges.

Supporting and strengthening community collaboration through funding amplifies the reach and impact of libraries and their partners. For instance, the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) aims to strengthen community engagement and emphasizes supporting community collaboration as a key objective in its [National Leadership Grants for Libraries](#) program. Similarly, the National Science Foundation (NSF) prioritizes collaboration in its approach to fostering resilience and innovation. For example, [NSF's Advancing Informal STEM Learning \(AISL\)](#) program goals emphasize broadening participation in STEM through equitable collaborations and partnerships and requires a clear plan and framework for fostering relationship development, power sharing, respectful decision-making.

Libraries have a vital role as community resilience hubs, but they need greater support to fully embrace this potential. Beyond existing funders championing collaborative approaches, additional investments can enable libraries to host disaster preparedness workshops, promote renewable energy initiatives, and create intergenerational sustainability programs. Funding for resources such as vulnerability assessments, climate action planning guides, and public engagement tools can further strengthen networks and drive collective action. The Sustainable Libraries Initiative and the American Library Association's National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries provide a strong blueprint for this work. Now, it's time for funders to

step forward to support both the implementation and evaluation of these critical efforts.

Aligning funding priorities with equity and sustainability goals ensures these initiatives address diverse community needs and achieve lasting impact. Strategic investments in library-led and community-driven programs not only build a stronger foundation for resilience but also foster innovative solutions and partnerships that meet the complex challenges of climate change.



Credit: Climate Resilience Project, Flagstaff, AZ



## CASE STUDY

By focusing on inclusion and practical action, this project empowered individuals to engage with climate resilience in meaningful ways. Libraries partnered with local governments and indigenous leaders to co-create strategies that addressed equity gaps in climate preparedness.

# Flagstaff's Climate Resilience Project: Building Stronger Communities through Collaboration

## About the Project

The Flagstaff Climate Resilience Project is a partnership between the City of Flagstaff Sustainability Office and the Flagstaff City-Coconino County Public Library. This initiative aimed to strengthen community resilience to climate change through intergenerational dialogue, hands-on workshops, and collaborative problem-solving. The project fostered a welcoming environment where community members could learn, connect, and contribute to local resilience efforts.

## How Did It Make a Difference?

By focusing on inclusion and practical action, the project empowered individuals to engage with climate resilience in meaningful ways. Successes included engaging diverse community members in co-learning activities, establishing clear collaboration guidelines, and leveraging libraries as trusted hubs for resilience efforts. The emphasis on intergenerational knowledge sharing made it a standout initiative.



A Sample of Flagstaff's Climate Resilience Project programs (Images: Jenna Ortega)

## Tips for How You Can Get Started

### For Community-based Organizations:

Collaborate with libraries to host community conversations or hands-on resilience workshops. Focus on hyperlocal solutions, like volunteer-driven environmental restoration or preparedness efforts. Start by identifying who in your community is already working on these issues to build partnerships that can multiply your efforts.

**For Libraries:** Host climate-themed events and facilitate discussions on resilience solutions tailored to your community. Partner with local sustainability offices or environmental experts to create educational programs. If available, use existing local sustainability plans to guide your programs and ensure alignment with broader initiatives.

**For Public Sector Agencies and Funders:** Support libraries and community-based organizations with technical resources and funding for community-led projects. Develop training programs for grassroots organizations to improve project execution and outreach. Encourage collective impact by investing in initiatives that intentionally connect and build on existing local work.

For more information about the project and ongoing work: [Flagstaff Climate Resilience Project](#)





# CONCLUSION

Communities across the United States are grappling with the increasing challenges of climate change. Public libraries are uniquely positioned to meet these challenges, serving as accessible and trusted hubs for information, resources, and programs tailored to local needs. To fulfill this role and their broader mission effectively, libraries need more than just baseline funding—they require robust financial support that empowers them to adapt, grow, and meet the evolving needs of their communities. With adequate funding, libraries can sustain their essential services, build meaningful partnerships, promote equity, and address pressing community priorities, making climate resilience a collaborative and achievable goal.

Polarizing topics like climate change in many communities further highlight the critical need for sustained financial investment, strong partnerships, and active allies. These resources ensure that libraries can continue to serve as vital community anchors, contributing to the overall health, resilience, and well-being of the populations they support.

Providing library workers with opportunities to build their understanding of climate change science is essential. This knowledge enables them to engage confidently with patrons' questions and concerns about climate impacts on health and well-being. At the same time, library leaders play a pivotal role in supporting staff—not only in developing and implementing climate action initiatives but also in creating an environment where staff feel empowered to share their perspectives and contribute to collective efforts.



Credit: Climate Resilience Project, Flagstaff, AZ





Credit: Climate Resilient Communities, Palo Alto, CA

## For Libraries

Some libraries are already taking bold steps to address climate challenges, demonstrating their potential to serve as hubs for community collaboration and collective action. Our call to these libraries is to sustain and expand their efforts, deepen their partnerships, and explore new ways to support their communities. By hosting workshops, facilitating cross-sector partnerships, and serving as heating or cooling centers during extreme weather events, libraries exemplify the power of collective impact. Together with their locally rooted partners, they can continue to help communities thrive while contributing to a sustainable, regenerative future.

For libraries that have yet to begin this journey, our call is simple: Take the first step, and don't do it alone. Climate action is not the sole responsibility of library staff—it requires the active support of leadership across all partner organizations. Leadership commitment, from library trustees to municipal leaders, ensures that climate action plans are prioritized, funded, and guided by clear goals. Libraries can draw on frameworks like the *Building Resilient Communities* project's Climate Action Plan Framework in [Appendix D](#) to develop plans that align with their community priorities and complement government-led initiatives. Another excellent resource is the [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#) that provides a step-by-step guide to resilience. See [Appendix F](#) for other valuable resources to get started with developing and implementing your climate action initiatives.

## For Funders

Our call to funders—government agencies, private foundations, and corporate sponsors—is to invest, or invest further, in public libraries and community-driven initiatives that integrate equity, sustainability, and local needs. By investing in scalable and adaptable projects, funders can support libraries in developing models and resources that others can use, as well as adapting or adopting successful approaches created by other organizations and communities to address pressing environmental and community resilience challenges. Support for programs like disaster preparedness workshops, renewable energy initiatives, and intergenerational programming on sustainability can amplify the impact of resilience efforts. Investments in training, resources, and tools—such as vulnerability assessments and public engagement guides—can further strengthen these initiatives and their long-term success. Support for additional surveys, like the *National Landscape Survey* described in [Appendix A](#), can provide a national perspective of climate action adoption by public libraries and their community partners. The education research community should be funded to examine climate action initiatives that involve libraries and community partners. The results should be disseminated broadly so that all communities can learn about promising practices that could improve their climate action plans.



## For Community Organizations

Our call to community organizations—including nonprofits, public health agencies, environmental groups, and local businesses—is to recognize and embrace the vital role libraries can play as collaborative partners in addressing environmental challenges. Many organizations are already working closely with libraries to co-create impactful projects and programs. To these organizations, we encourage you to continue these partnerships and explore new opportunities for collaboration. Sustained engagement strengthens the collective impact of these efforts, ensuring they remain responsive to evolving community needs.

For organizations that haven't yet partnered with libraries, we urge you to take the first step by reaching out to your local library as a potential collaborator. Libraries are trusted, accessible, and deeply rooted in the communities they serve, making them ideal partners for initiatives focused on resilience, equity, and sustainability. Whether it's co-hosting events, sharing resources, or developing community-driven programs, libraries offer a wealth of opportunities for collaboration. To get started, consult [Appendix C: Tips for Working with Libraries](#). This resource provides simple and practical guidance for building strong, mutually beneficial relationships with libraries, ensuring your collaborative efforts are impactful and sustainable.



Creek Week activities in North Carolina.  
Credit: Swift Creek Media/NISE Network

## For Government Agencies

Our call to government agencies and their local offices is to integrate libraries into broader climate resilience plans. Libraries can support public engagement, data collection, and education, making them valuable allies in addressing local environmental challenges. Agencies at all levels—local, state, and federal—can collaborate with libraries to align goals, provide funding, and develop policies that prioritize equity, sustainability, and climate adaptation. This alignment ensures that libraries have the support needed to serve as resilience hubs and trusted community partners.

Through collaboration, shared learning, and a commitment to local action, libraries and their partners can transform climate resilience from an abstract goal into a lived reality. Together, we can build stronger, more connected communities equipped to meet the challenges of a changing world and flourish in the face of climate adversity.



Youth Climate Collective.  
Credit: Climate Resilient Communities, Palo Alto, CA



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## Symposium Participants and Supporters

We acknowledge the diverse voices of all who attended the symposium, shared their insights, and contributed to the dialogue. Your perspectives have shaped this work in meaningful and transformative ways. We thank the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in Washington, D.C. for hosting the *2024 Climate Action Symposium*.

Credit: NASA





# APPENDICES

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Credit: NASA



# APPENDIX A: KEY FINDINGS FROM BRC'S NATIONAL LANDSCAPE SURVEY

For the *Building Resilient Communities* project, STAR Net conducted a [National Landscape Survey](#) of public libraries to assess opinions, knowledge, and current library trends around climate change, environmental justice, and community health topics. The survey was open from January 15 through March 15, 2024. It was distributed through the following channels: the STAR Net Newsletter, WebJunction community sites, the Sustainable Libraries Initiative site, through emails from State Library Agencies, and ARSL (Association of Rural and Small Libraries) listserv. The survey had 281 respondents (response rate of 11%). Both the survey “n” and response rate were low compared to past STAR Net surveys that typically had over 400 respondents and response rates of 60%. For example, the Hakala et al. (2016), [STEM in Public Libraries Survey](#), had 455 respondents who completed the survey. More recent STAR Net surveys have had over 1,000 respondents.

The low number of responses for this survey and the response rate were noteworthy, as was the fact that many staff reached out and expressed discomfort to staff at STAR Net about responding to these issues on a work computer. It is essential that library workers are trained in how to respond to patron beliefs and questions about climate change, and its impacts on health. It is also critical that library leaders to support their staff not just in developing and implementing climate action initiatives, but even with feeling comfortable sharing their opinions around climate change with library leadership. See [Appendix D](#) for the key components to consider for developing a climate action plan including leadership support. Key findings from the landscape survey are listed below.

- ◆ 77% of participants were from rural areas, and 33% were from urban/suburban areas (based on population served).
- ◆ More than 70% of libraries surveyed conduct general health programs and programs with outdoor activities. Sample programs included installing solar panels and geothermal systems, hosting butterfly gardens, planting native seeds, seed swaps, first aid classes, composting classes, walking trails, vehicle charging stations, loaning exercise equipment, community science programs, and joining the Sustainable Library Initiative.
- ◆ Respondents partnered with their local governments, national environmental groups, summer camps, local schools, parks and recreation departments, local botanical gardens and zoos, master gardeners, conservation groups, churches, senior centers, museums, universities, community colleges, utility companies, emergency management departments, fish and wildlife departments, tribal groups, and agricultural groups such as 4-H.
- ◆ While 64% of libraries provide recycling access for patrons, only 10% provide composting access, mostly in urban areas.
- ◆ Most respondents were very familiar/familiar with terms such as climate change (96%), equity (80%), and sustainability (80%). However, they were not as familiar with terms such as environmental justice (52%), STEM learning ecosystems (60%), and climate resilience (50%).
- ◆ 60% of respondents believe it is within the role of public libraries to discuss climate change with their community (35% were unsure). 75% feel safe talking about climate change with colleagues, but only 51% within their community.
- ◆ 50% of respondents felt they had the support of their leadership to discuss climate change with patrons. 20% disagreed they had this support, and 28% were unsure.
- ◆ Less than 5% of respondents felt their library has a clear policy outlining their stance on climate change. 64% felt no such policy existed. While over 30% were unsure. There was a weak positive correlation between urban libraries and clear policies, but rural libraries fared no worse than their suburban or suburban/urban counterparts.



# APPENDIX B: KEY THEMES FROM BRC'S BACKGROUND REPORTS

The *Building Resilient Communities* (BRC) project produced four in-depth background reports exploring critical aspects of climate resilience. These reports examine topics such as climate change communication, STEM learning ecosystems, the role of public libraries in climate action planning, and the importance of centering health equity and climate justice in community partnerships. All reports are freely available as PDFs via the STAR Net's [Building Resilient Communities project](#) webpage.

1. [“How a health narrative can enhance communication of six key truths about climate change with diverse audiences,”](#) by John E. Kotcher. This report focuses on using public health narratives to make climate communication more accessible and engaging for diverse audiences.

**Key themes:**

- ◆ Effective communication—via simple, clear messages repeated by trusted sources—is crucial for building community understanding and action.
- ◆ Evidence-based messaging, centered on the “Six Key Truths,” can increase public engagement.
- ◆ Framing climate issues as public health concerns reduces polarization and makes them more personally relevant.

2. [“Centering health equity, environmental justice, and climate justice to support communities,”](#) by Sarah Levin-Lederer and April Wright. This report emphasizes the need for equity-focused frameworks to address climate challenges in underrepresented and vulnerable communities.

**Key themes:**

- ◆ STEM learning ecosystems foster community-wide partnerships that ensure equitable access for learners of all ages.
- ◆ Ecosystems adapt to cultural, societal, and geographic contexts, creating experiences that resonate with diverse audiences.

3. [“STEM learning ecosystems,”](#) by Rae Ostman. This report explores how community-wide STEM partnerships can advance climate education and engagement.

**Key themes:**

- ◆ Addressing climate challenges requires cross-sector collaborations that focus on equity and inclusivity.
- ◆ Public libraries are vital partners in achieving climate justice and health equity.

4. [“Public libraries as critical agencies in multi-sector climate action plans, policies, and actions,”](#) by Rebekkah Smith Aldrich. This report highlights the role of public libraries as catalysts for multi-sector collaboration and community resilience.

**Key themes:**

- ◆ Libraries are well-positioned to lead climate action as trusted community hubs.
- ◆ They play a key role in promoting climate awareness, resilience, and the potential for sustainable futures.



# APPENDIX C: TIP SHEET FOR WORKING WITH LIBRARIES

Tip sheet created by  WebJunction®

## Why Partner with Public Libraries?

Public libraries are invaluable community hubs that offer a wide range of resources and services.

- ◆ **Extensive reach:** With approximately 17,000 library locations across the country, libraries are accessible to diverse populations, often extending beyond traditional business hours.
- ◆ **Program delivery:** Annually, libraries host millions of visitors and offer a vast array of public programs, providing platforms for community engagement and education.
- ◆ **Community trust:** Libraries are trusted institutions where individuals seek reliable information, making them ideal partners for delivering solutions to community needs.
- ◆ **Bridging the digital divide:** Libraries provide consistent and reliable internet access, especially vital in rural and underserved areas.

## Steps to Building a Successful Partnership

Partnering with libraries can amplify your organization's reach and impact. Here's how to establish and nurture successful collaborations with public libraries:

- ◆ **Initiate contact:** Reach out to library staff to introduce your organization and explore potential collaboration. In larger systems, consider contacting the director, research librarian, or outreach coordinator. In smaller or rural libraries, staff may have multiple roles, simplifying the process of finding the right contact.
- ◆ **Understand library services:** Familiarize yourself with the library's programs, resources, and community engagement strategies to identify alignment with your organization's goals.
- ◆ **Identify mutual goals:** Collaborate with library staff to pinpoint shared objectives that address community needs, ensuring that the partnership is mutually beneficial.
- ◆ **Develop collaborative programs:** Design programs that leverage both organizations' strengths, such as workshops, informational sessions, or resource sharing, to effectively serve the community.

- ◆ **Promote joint initiatives:** Use both your organization's and the library's communication channels to publicize collaborative efforts, reaching a broader audience.
- ◆ **Evaluate and adapt:** Regularly assess the partnership's impact and remain open to adjustments that enhance effectiveness and address evolving community needs.

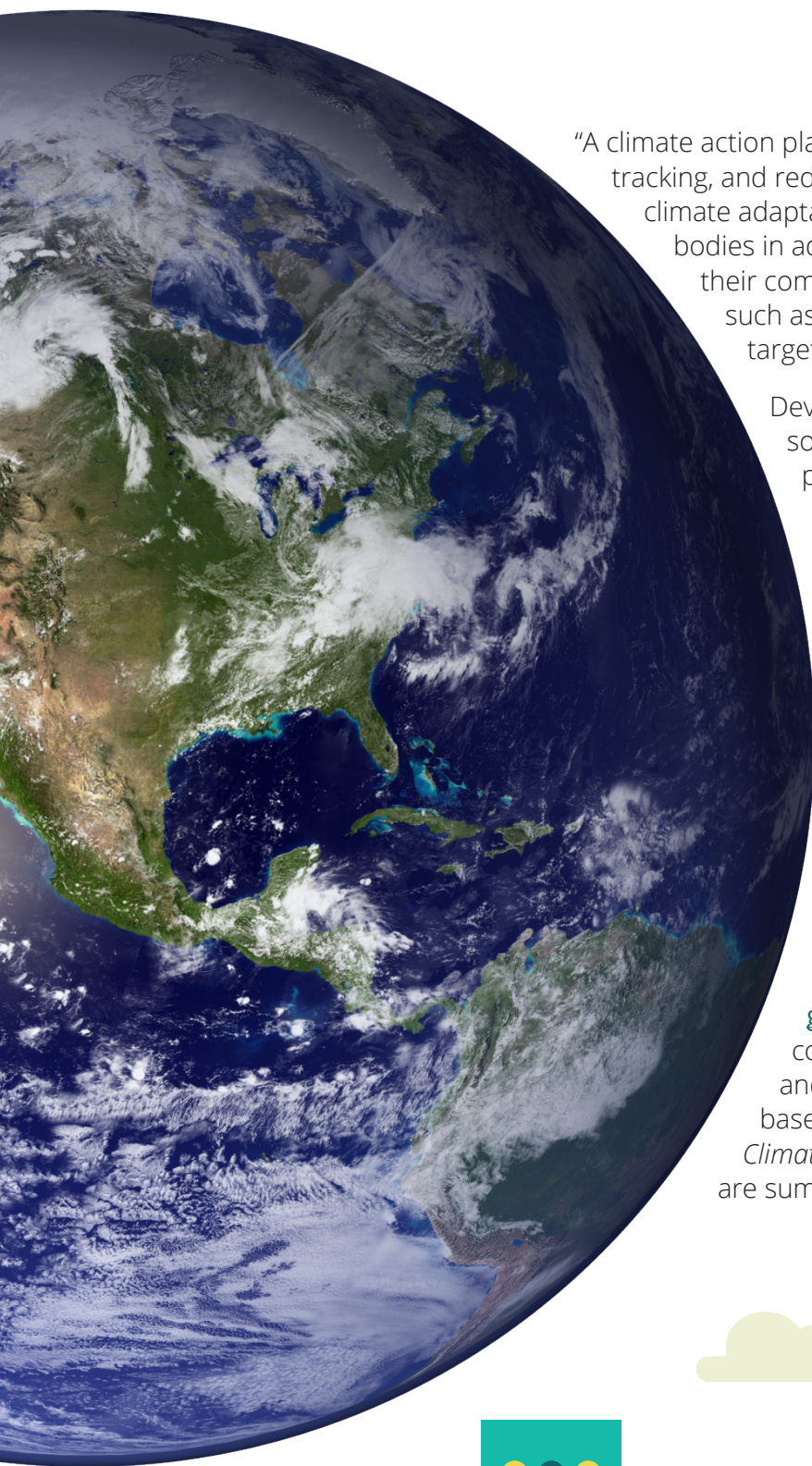
## Getting Started

By following these steps and fostering open communication, your organization can build a fruitful partnership with public libraries, enhancing community engagement and access to valuable resources.

- ◆ **Make the first move:** Initiate contact by visiting the library, making a phone call, or sending an email to introduce your organization and propose a meeting.
- ◆ **Be clear and collaborative:** Clearly articulate your organization's mission and how a partnership can benefit the community, and be open to the library's ideas and feedback.



# APPENDIX D: CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING FRAMEWORK



“A climate action plan is a framework document for measuring, tracking, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adopting climate adaptation measures that can guide administrative bodies in addressing the impact of climate change in their communities. Plans may also include elements such as resilience strategies and clean energy targets.” (see [Climate Check](#) for more ideas).

Developing a climate action plan cannot be the sole responsibility of library staff! An effective plan must be supported from all levels of every partner organization, including top management. Many communities have already developed and are implementing their climate action plans while others are just getting started.

The *Building Resilient Communities* project developed a climate action planning framework that is useful for grassroots organizations such as libraries to develop a climate action plan that can support government-led plans. The *BRC Climate Action Planning Framework* has the following four components: 1) leadership support that includes setting [SMART goals](#), 2) community assessment, 3) whole community engagement, and 4) education and program development. This framework is based on program ideas presented at the *2024 Climate Action Symposium*. The four components are summarized in the table on the next page.



Credit: NASA

# Climate Action Planning Framework

## 1. Leadership Support

For a climate action plan to thrive, it needs visible, sustained commitment from leadership across all participating organizations. This includes library trustees, governing boards, municipal leaders, and other key decision-makers. Leadership can:

- ◆ Recruit and manage cross-sector partnerships to address climate crisis challenges locally. Successful partnerships require a shared vision, aligned goals, consistent communication, and organizational support.
- ◆ Advocate for the integration of climate resilience into organizational priorities.
- ◆ Allocate funding and resources to support the plan.
- ◆ Build accountability by setting SMART goals and progress markers.

By modeling engagement and collaboration, leaders set the tone for broader community involvement and ensure the plan has the momentum to succeed.

## 2. Community Assessment

Understanding the unique strengths and challenges of your community is essential for tailoring effective climate actions. This involves assessing local assets, such as trusted institutions, environmental resources, and social networks, as well as identifying vulnerabilities, such as underserved populations or high-risk areas. Some key steps can include:

- ◆ Community asset mapping—the process of intentionally identifying the human, material, financial, entrepreneurial and other resources in a community—is an important process for community projects of all kinds such as climate action initiatives. Check out this workshop resource: [Community Asset Mapping: A Critical Strategy for Service](#).
- ◆ Use tools like the [IMLS Community Catalyst Resources](#) to guide data collection and analysis.
- ◆ Leverage local data to identify gaps and opportunities for targeted interventions using tools such as [CDC's Environmental Justice Index](#) and the [Climate Vulnerability Index](#).

## 3. Whole Community Engagement

A key to engaging the whole community is through building sustainable partnerships to harness the power of collaborative programs using collective impact and cross-sector strategies. Some strategies for engagement include:

- ◆ Engage community members to share their lived experiences and priorities using community conversation tools like [STAR Net's Community Dialogue Framework](#)
- ◆ Authentic partnerships are built on trust! [The Principles of Trustworthiness Toolkit](#) is AAMC's foundational ready-to-use framework and tools for organizations working to become trustworthy partners.
- ◆ Foster collaboration among residents, local governments, businesses, and organizations.
- ◆ Establish partnerships that recognize the unique strengths and perspectives of each participant.
- ◆ Create open lines of communication to share ideas, resources, and solutions.

## 4. Education and Program Development

Education and programming are the engines of a climate action plan, equipping library staff, partners, and community members with the tools and knowledge needed to act. Examples of programs:

- ◆ LEED Certification. See <https://www.usgbc.org/leed> for more information.
- ◆ Hands-on projects like habitat restoration, reforestation, and clean-up initiatives.
- ◆ Science-focused activities such as citizen science projects (see [SciStarter](#) for library-based examples) and workshops on energy efficiency.
- ◆ Educational offerings like eco-focused book clubs, climate-themed storytimes for children, and youth ambassador programs.
- ◆ Collaborate with local health organizations and professionals to offer programs on a variety of health topics, such as nutrition, mental health, and physical fitness.



# APPENDIX E: INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING PRINCIPLES OF CO-CREATION AND CO-DESIGN

The following program design principles are drawn from Acevedo and Dusenbery's 2017 report, "[Community Collaboration and Empowerment](#)," which was written for the National Science Foundation-supported summit, Generating Engagement and New Initiatives for All Latinos (GENIAL). The report presents principles developed at the summit that can be applied broadly to working with all community groups to ensure program success.

## Respect

One of the most important values to consider when working with CBOs is respect. It is of utmost importance to understand and focus on the human element of the relationship instead of transactional ones if an organization is interested in establishing a real collaboration or partnership. Spending time getting to know and understand the organization you're engaging with is vital, and by extension you should get to know and empathize with the community that the organization serves.

## Understand the Community

Establishing a collaboration or partnership with a Latino community looks very much like creating an interpersonal relationship. You need to start by getting to know the community, its dynamic, and communication style. The panel identified a few guidelines:

1. **Actively seek to include the knowledge base of the intended audience in all phases of an initiative.**
2. **Identify connectors or cultural brokers who are respected in their communities, seeking their input throughout the process.**
3. **Recognize power dynamics.** Just as with any group of people, there are power dynamics at play that you might not be aware of or might not recognize because of cultural differences. But it's always safe to assume that they exist and must be acknowledged.
4. **Build trust with the community, which takes time.** Strong community partnerships take a long time to form and maintain, so planning for the long term is best. When planning new initiatives, it is always a good idea to establish a connection and invite partners from the very beginning, ideally to brainstorm and co-create ideas, so they can feel ownership from the very beginning of the process (i.e., a shared vision). [The Principles of Trustworthiness](#) from the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) has an excellent resource for this topic. Even though it is focused on health equity, it also pertains to environmental and climate equity and justice.

## Value Resilient Communities

Resilience is an important cultural value of the Latino population (and many others as well). We identified the following elements to valuing a resilient community:

1. **Ascertain priorities.** Many Latino communities, especially immigrant ones, struggle every day with needs that for many might be an afterthought because they are so fundamental, such as the assurance that your family won't be torn apart from one day to another. Asking the community what is important to them (instead of assuming that they need and should value climate action programs for example) and using that understanding to move forward in ways that make sense is vital and a very important way to show respect.
2. **Persistence is in the communities' DNA.** With closed-knit communities based on strong networks, the Latino population has endured many struggles for many years, yet resilience is based on persistence over time. Politics change, always going through cycles, but there's a clear sense that by sharing stories and inspiring and empowering people, communities always prevail. Persistence and resilience are strong cultural values.

# APPENDIX F: LINKS TO SELECTED RESOURCES

## Building Resilient Communities project websites:

- ◆ [Building Resilient Communities](#) on the Star Library Network (STAR Net), explore further relevant websites [here](#).
- ◆ [Building Resilient Communities](#) on WebJunction
- ◆ [WebJunction's Sustainability Resources](#)
- ◆ [Sustainable Libraries Initiative](#)
- ◆ [National Academy of Medicine's Climate Communities Network](#)
- ◆ [CDC's Climate and Health website](#)
- ◆ [Center for Climate Change Communication \(George Mason Univ.\)](#)
- ◆ [Association for Advancing Participatory Sciences](#) (community science and citizen science program resources, training, and ideas)
- ◆ Association of Science and Technology Centers: [Seeding Action—Cultivating a culture of action to improve planetary health](#)
- ◆ American Geophysical Union: [Thriving Earth Exchange](#)

## Collective Impact Resources

- ◆ [What Is Collective Impact?](#)
- ◆ ["Collective Impact' and STEM Learning: Joining Forces to Make a Difference in Communities"](#)

## Climate Action Planning Tools

- ◆ [U.S. Climate Action Toolkit](#)
- ◆ [CDC's Environmental Justice Index](#)
- ◆ [Climate Vulnerability Index](#)
- ◆ [STAR Library Network Community Dialogues Toolkit](#)
- ◆ Capacity Building for Environmental Justice – National League of Cities (<https://www.nlc.org/resource/capacity-building-for-environmental-justice/>)
- ◆ [Climate Action Guide](#)
- ◆ [Climate Smart Communities Initiative](#)
- ◆ [United Nations: Climate Action Coalitions](#)

