
Bridging Climate Change and Public Health
Energy Insecurity Workgroup Meeting
Meeting Agenda – | September 30th | 2:30PM -3:30PM

Purpose of Meeting:

1. Discuss the connection between energy insecurity and public health, climate change, and vulnerable populations through the lens of health equity.
 2. Discuss the need for community and stakeholder engagement: establish the energy insecurity workgroup
 3. Facilitate communication and collaboration across different community sectors
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Energy Insecurity Workgroup: A Year in Review – (20 minutes)

Vjollca Berisha, Maricopa County Department of Public Health, Office of Epidemiology, Climate and Health Program

- Review of Energy Insecurity Workgroup priorities
 - Understand experience of energy insecurity among M.C. residents
 - Develop Energy Insecurity Index-utilized by stakeholders to identify vulnerable communities
 - Advance collaborative policies and initiatives that increase access to affordable and reliable energy
- Energy Insecurity Project
 - Learn and Community Engagement
 - Energy Insecurity Webpage- www.maricopa.gov/energyinsecurity
 - Features: Future workgroup member sign-up, about the IRL team, about the project, more on topic of energy insecurity, community resources, workgroup meeting resources
 - Publish community survey

- In progress- Energy Insecurity Survey Community Report (by Tianna Baker, MCDPH), Academic Article (by Tony Bishop, MCDPH in collaboration with Diana Hernandez, Columbia U)
 - Goal to publish academic article in the American Journal of Public Health and present at American Public Health Association Conference
 - Empower community health workers
 - From Salud en Balance CBO and Unlimited Potential CBO
 - Understand Impact of Energy Insecurity in Community
 - Stakeholder survey in progress
 - Developing Energy Insecurity Index
 - Reminder to explore the Greenlink Equity Map
 - Community Solutions
 - Maintaining Mobile Home Workshop October 23rd
 - Utility stakeholders took lead on organizing workshop training session
- Examples of Actions from EI workgroup
 - Heat Toolkit- Teresa Sosa of Salud en Balance
 - Encouraging community members to sign-up for heat alerts, community members were curious about the Heat Toolkit
 - Workshop training on maintaining mobile homes and cooling systems- Bonnie Temme of SRP
 - Opportunity for the workshop participants to learn more about how their utility company can work with them (monthly discount, cost-saving programs)
 - Collaborative effort from several stakeholders
 - Foundation for Senior Living (FSL): Healthy Homes Air Conditioning Program – Emma Viera of Unlimited Potential
 - Opportunity to take information from community survey into action
 - Able to make the program based on evidence
 - Engaging community members in the intersection of community and health
- Looking forward to the Next Year
 - A focus on more cross collaboration, community education, and further actions

Maricopa County Department of Public Health Resources Presentation – (15minutes)

Aaron Gettel, Maricopa County Department of Public of Health, Office of Epidemiology, Climate and Health Program

- Highlight resources Maricopa County Public Health has that can be used in conjunction with the Greenlink Equity Map
- Part of the Data Services Department is to fulfill data requests – <https://phdra.maricopa.gov/>
 - Data available:
 - Hospital data
 - Vital Records -death, birth
 - Survey Data
 - Perception on Environmental Heat
 - Coping Mechanisms
 - Barriers to Resources
 - Maricopa County Mapping Resources
 - [MCDPH Story Map](#)
 - [Tree Matter Map Viewer](#)
 - ASU Map Viewers by City
 - [Tempe](#)
 - [Phoenix](#)
 - [Avondale](#)
 - [Mesa](#)
- Non-MCDPH Resources
 - ADHS/ EPHT Viewer
 - <https://gis.azhds.gov/ephtexplorer/>
 - CDC Social Vulnerability Index
 - <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html>
 - Maricopa Association of Governments
 - <https://www.azmag.gov/Programs/Maps-and-Data>
- Reach out to Aaron Gettel aaron.gettel@maricopa.gov if you have questions regarding resources or data requests

Celebrating Success and Champions – (10 minutes)

Tony Bishop, Maricopa County Department of Public of Health, Office of Epidemiology, Climate and Health Program

Recognize individuals, researcher, and organizations who are climate and health champions.

- Individual Winner: Gail LaGrand

- “I admire people who do this work as it is one of the biggest humanity issues. Centering the voices of our community, they deserve to be at the table. I’m glad that we are valuing their experiences and partnering with them to take action to change the situation.” She is a champion for working with and advocating for community base organizations as well as the communities that they serve. Worked with Salud en Balance on their Healthy Urban Environments initiative.
- Researcher: David Hondula
 - He is an associate professor at Arizona State University. He conducts impactful research to understand heat exposure and how governance can best implement solutions. He continues to be an advocate for improving health equity in the community by working cross collaboratively on policies to reduce heat impact of those in our community.
- Organization: Salud en balance
 - Helps Maricopa county mobile home communities in Central Phoenix. Gave out over 600 heat tool kits to 6 mobile home communities. Educating residents on risks of extreme heat. Helped MC residents sign up for heat alerts. Organized workshop on maintaining mobile home and has made great strides in fostering culture on health in their communities
- Organization: Unlimited potential
 - Played a vital role in the Energy insecurity project serving as the bridge between MCDPH and the South Phoenix community. Connected CHW’s with community member to assist with applying for utility assistance programs and educating CHW’s on topic of climate and health. Unlimited Potential’s insight and involvement on these projects has been invaluable.
- Organization: Waste not
 - Champion in eliminating food insecurity. They accomplish this by rescuing food from local restaurants.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JOnduKmHdmw&t=1s>
 - Address two issues with one solution. Work with over 80 nonprofits. Rescued 4.5 million lbs. of food from landfills which is the largest source of methane.
 - hillary@wastenotaz.org

Next Steps – (5 minutes)

Discussion:

Ronda Seifert: More weatherization work and training for community members to do their own weatherization

David Hondula: NYC has what appears to be a very nice program that trains and hires community members to do cool roof retrofits. I don't know all the details, but it seems to be well regarded!
<https://www1.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/article/nyc-coolroofs>

Ronda: Today, the Senate is debating passage of the Build Back Better Act and it could contain money to do more community climate mitigation and adaptation, such as a having a Civilian Climate Corp. I encourage you to call your senators and encourage them to include more climate funding. Can also encourage the funding of more mitigation, reduction, and emission strategies. Emphasis on funding going towards the communities most affected by climate change.

Vjollca:

- Air Condition/ Mobile Home Weatherization Training on October 23rd, 2021. We hope this workshop/informational session can be reoccurring.
- Next workgroup meeting we will do a strategies workshop that will be a great opportunity to brainstorm what actions to take with our cross-sector knowledge
- Project ends next year in September. Would like to see workgroup continue long term and think about more funding for this workgroup.