Equitable Adaptation
Legal & Policy Toolkit

Launch Webinar
July 29, 2020

Welcome!
The webinar will begin shortly.
Equitable Adaptation
Legal & Policy Toolkit

• **The webinar is being recorded.** A captioned recording and presentation slides will be available after the event.

• **Questions can be submitted through the “Question” feature on the right-hand side of your screen.** All microphones will be muted throughout today’s call. We will answer as many questions as time allows at the end of today’s presentation.

• **Technical issues?** Email [climate@georgetown.edu](mailto:climate@georgetown.edu) for assistance.
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Executive Director
Georgetown Climate Center
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Kresge Foundation

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• Adam Gordon
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  US Environmental Protection Agency

• Surili Patel
  American Public Health Association

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Why equitable adaptation?

Adaptation Equity Portal

Two of the biggest challenges facing the United States - and the world - are the growing inequalities that unfairly disadvantage large segments of the population, and climate change, which exacerbates existing risks in our communities. The effects of climate change including rising temperatures, more polluted air, and more frequent and intense extreme storms, will disproportionately affect poor and disenfranchised people. Policymakers have always focused not only on the physical impacts of climate change, but also on the ways that policies can have an impact on certain individuals and groups. In this portal we will refer to people facing climate impacts as "frontline communities" since these are groups that are on the front lines of impacts from climate change.

Lisa Anne Hamilton
Adaptation Program Director
Georgetown Climate Center
What’s in the Equitable Adaptation Legal & Policy Toolkit?

Tiffany Ganthier
Adaptation Associate
Georgetown Climate Center
What’s in the Equitable Adaptation Toolkit?

I. Introduction to the Problem: Implementing Equitable Climate Adaptation

II. Procedural Equity: Tools for Planning, Engagement and Governance

III. Equitable Adaptation Solutions: Tools for Implementing Equitable Adaptation

IV. Financing & Funding Tools: Paying for Equitable Adaptation
II. Procedural Equity

Community Engagement & Social Cohesion

Governance & Budgeting

Data, Metrics & Monitoring
III. Equitable Adaptation Solutions

- Economic Resilience
- Resilient Water
- Natural Resilience & Green Space Access
- Resilient Energy & Utility Industry Measures
- Resilient Affordable Housing, Anti-Displacement & Gentrification
- Disaster Preparedness, Response & Recovery
- Public Health
Community-Driven Engagement Processes

Introduction

Many climate change adaptation plans and related policies do not currently consider the specific needs of frontline communities. Approaches to resilience have not traditionally taken a holistic view of the social, economic, and cumulative environmental challenges that communities face. As a result, governments often overlook the needs of the marginalized and underrepresented communities when planning and implementing climate adaptation solutions even though these communities are the most vulnerable to climate impacts. In recent years, an increasing number of governments have recognized the value of community engagement but unfortunately, when governments and decision makers do engage communities, it is typically at the end of the decisionmaking process. Rather than investing in robust and authentic community engagement at the earliest stages of project design and planning, decisionmakers often engage in community consultation as an afterthought by simply “checking the box” once the planning process is substantially completed. When decision makers engage in such an manner, it frustrates the principle of equity and can be misleading to the people being consulted.

Procedural Equity Principles and Action Items

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<th>Principle</th>
<th>Action Item</th>
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<td>Principle #1: Center Equity</td>
<td>Local governments can center equity when beginning planning processes and implementing resilience initiatives.</td>
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<td>Principle #2: Support Empowered Communities</td>
<td>By including the insights and first-hand knowledge of community members, policymakers can incorporate community insights in decisionmaking about project objectives and outcomes while building capacity and knowledge about climate impacts and potential adaptation solutions.</td>
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<td>Principle #3: Engage Effectively</td>
<td>When local governments hold effective engagement convenings and processes to collect input from all valued experts, including community members, the project is more likely to achieve desired outcomes and communities are more likely to benefit from the outcomes.</td>
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<td>Principle #4: Be Accountable and Transparent</td>
<td>Be accountable and transparent about promises and outcomes of engagement.</td>
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<td>Principle #5: Build Social Cohesion</td>
<td>Design engagement processes with a goal of building a socially cohesive society that is one that works toward the well-being of all members, promotes trust and belonging, and provides opportunities for upward social mobility.</td>
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Case Study: A Guide to Community-Centered Engagement

Melissa Deas
Climate Analyst
District of Columbia
Department of Energy & Environment
Breaking down the chapters:

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Equitable Disaster Preparedness, Response & Recovery

Introduction
One of the most apparent consequences of climate change is the increase in the frequency and intensity of severe weather-related and disaster events that have already occurred — and will continue to pose — significant threats to the health and safety of people and to communities. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a disaster event can include natural cataclysmic events, technological accidents, or human-caused events that have resulted in severe property damage, deaths, and/or multiple injuries. In the case of severe weather events, more and more disasters are not only “natural” given anthropogenic influences. Examples of severe weather events that have been, or are expected to be, exacerbated by climate change include heat waves, hurricane intensity, floods, wildfires, and droughts.

Catalyst Miami Disaster Matched Savings Account

The Catalyst Miami Disaster Matched Savings Account was established as a resource for low- and moderate-income individuals within Miami neighborhoods that help families build financial stability to better withstand disaster events. The purpose of Catalyst Miami’s Disaster Preparedness Program is to encourage savings behavior and offer the 1-to-1 match as an incentive, but also to provide important information about hurricane season along with resources available from local government and community partners both before and after storms. The program helps households build assets and savings through the use of financial coaching, credit coaching, and lending circles. In addition, Catalyst Miami distributes disaster preparedness kits to those who participate in the Program by saving a full amount of the cost of the kit. By supplying communities with these disaster preparedness kits, as well as with teaching participants how to bank and save responsibly, Catalyst Miami helps low-income, underserved communities better withstand the shocks — economic and otherwise — often associated with disaster events.

Based on a report done by the United Way, in Florida, 45% of households are only one disaster away from falling into poverty or financial crisis. In some cities, including Miami, based on households surveyed, this percentage is as high as 53%. Essentially, this means that in many households, and families are not economically stable, and would not be able to withstand the many of the financial hits associated with disaster events, such as repairs or rebuilds, medical care, lost electricity, etc. Many of these families are uncomfortable with banking systems, either because they are not knowledgeable about the benefits of savings accounts, or because they have historically not had access to them nor do they fully trust them based on historic discriminatory practices by banks.

To encourage active participation in the program’s financial coaching sessions, and ensure that clients are able to create and continue to contribute to their savings accounts, Catalyst Miami offers incentives, such as providing matching funds. Along with this financial planning assistance, the program also provides participants with disaster preparedness kits, which contain items like solar-powered radios, collapsible water jugs, and first-aid kits. With the program’s help, families are better prepared physically and financially for the next hurricane or disaster event.
Case Study:
Community-Based Disaster Matched Savings Account

Mayra Cruz
Climate Resilience Program Manager
Catalyst Miami
Questions & Discussion
Thank you!

Explore the Equitable Adaptation Legal & Policy Toolkit online:
georgetownclimate.org

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#GCCEAT

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