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“Leading Together”: Cross-Cultural Climate Justice Leaders

*Regional Transformation through Indigenous Values
for Climate Resilience & Urban Opportunity*

Final Plan

Developed by the Native American Youth & Family Center,
Coalition of Communities of Color, and
OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon

Presented to the Kresge Foundation

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
Overview	2
Assets & Vulnerabilities	3
A Trauma-Informed Climate Justice Collaborative	6
Our Approach	7
Climate Justice Action Plan	8
Goal 1: Cross-Cultural Climate Action Capacity	9
Goal 2: Transportation Justice	11
Goal 3: Housing Justice	14
Goal 4: Green Infrastructure	17
Goal 5: Disaster Resilience	18
Ongoing Administration	19
Impact and Evaluation	20

Executive Summary

The Native American Youth & Family Center, OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon, Coalition of Communities of Color and six CCC member organizations propose an Indigenous-led regional climate justice campaign. We will build cross-cultural power to organize and advocate for a paradigm shift that prioritizes equitable processes and outcomes in public climate policies.

As members of the Transportation Justice Alliance we will secure funding and equitable implementation of active transportation and transit infrastructure, and will secure a TriMet transit YouthPass. We will build momentum to lift Oregon's 15-year old ban on Inclusionary Zoning as an affordable housing regulatory tool and will seek implementation throughout the Portland Metropolitan Area. We will get out the vote in both May and September elections in 2016, with particular support for the Welcome Home Coalition's affordable housing tax ballot measure in May.

We will seek to replicate the Living Cully equitable eco-district model throughout the region will foster climate resilience development without displacement. Community participatory budget processes for green infrastructure, parks and natural areas development will bring workforce development opportunities to these green investments. Culturally specific Neighborhood Emergency Team trainings will build capacity within our day laborers and others on the front lines in the event of a disaster.

Our transformative, holistic approach will not only contribute to climate adaptation and mitigation, but will most importantly prevent Portland's pattern of green gentrification. Our adaptive capacity has carried us through 500 years of colonization and will produce creative results for climate resilience now and for future generations.



Cully Park Inter-Tribal Gathering Garden Land Blessing Ceremony (2012)

Overview

The Native American Youth & Family Center, OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon, Coalition of Communities of Color and six other CCC member organizations have developed a comprehensive climate justice campaign plan led by communities of color and low income. Over the past nine months we have convened a cross-cultural, interdisciplinary steering committee with representation from organizations that primarily serve communities of color, day laborers, and low-income bus riders.

NAYA, the CCC and OPAL joined together in order to build cross-cultural power to organize and advocate for a paradigm shift that prioritizes equitable processes and outcomes in climate policies. Through a CCC-led series of environmental workshops, interested member organizations built foundational capacities around the connections between their existing work and environmental issues. Six CCC partner organizations represented in this partnership self-selected into this project. Public policy's complex nature often presents a barrier to meaningful participation in policy by communities of color and low income. For these groups that experience the greatest lack of time and resources to carefully follow the processes, civic engagement can seem like a nice activity rather than a necessary activity. For this reason, our plan builds capacity primarily within our community-based organizations. Our implementation plan's monitoring signals vary. Through our increased relationships with policymakers and allies, we will monitor changes more quickly and will be able to adapt.

As members of the Transportation Justice Alliance we will secure funding and equitable implementation of active transportation and transit infrastructure, and will secure a TriMet transit YouthPass. OPAL, NAYA and APANO have participated in the Transportation Justice Alliance since Winter 2015, thanks to resources provided by the Bullitt Foundation for participation. With this funding, we can continue to support these members, and to resource other partner organizations to the table, including Latino Network and others in a lighter support role. We will build momentum to lift Oregon's 15-year old ban on Inclusionary Zoning as an affordable housing regulatory tool and will seek implementation throughout the Portland Metropolitan Area. We will get out the vote in both May and September elections in 2016, with particular support for the Welcome Home Coalition's affordable housing tax ballot measure in May. We will also participate in the external group, Anti-Displacement PDX, who is currently focusing on the update of the Portland Comprehensive Plan, and will provide a venue to pursue further collaborative housing organizing and advocacy opportunities.

We will seek to replicate the Living Cully Equitable EcoDistrict model throughout the region will foster climate resilience development without displacement. Through collaboration and shared learning, other neighborhoods with concentrated populations of color and low income (e.g. Jade District and Lents) can build capacity to adapt Living Cully initiatives to their own strengths and needs. Ultimately a network of these neighborhood scale solutions can make a meaningful regional impact on climate mitigation, adaptation and social cohesion. Community participatory budget processes for green infrastructure, parks and natural areas development will bring workforce development opportunities to these green investments. Culturally specific Neighborhood Emergency Team trainings will build capacity within our day laborers and others on the front lines in the event of a disaster. We will build ongoing relationships with key players throughout all policy areas in order to achieve equitable policy wins now and to create an adaptive framework for future organizing and advocacy opportunities related to climate resilience.

Our transformative, holistic approach will not only contribute to climate adaptation and mitigation, but will most importantly prevent Portland's pattern of green gentrification. Our adaptive capacity has carried us through 500 years of colonization and will produce creative results for climate resilience now and for future generations.

Assets & Vulnerabilities

In order to fully understand where our collaborative could make the most meaningful impact, we developed a comprehensive review on our communities' assets and vulnerabilities. Our organizations hold diverse capacities associated with policy analysis, community organizing and strategic advocacy.

History of Resilience

A long view of history helps to fully contextualize today's policy landscape associated with climate impacts and those most likely to be impacted. Since time immemorial, Chinook Peoples have called home what we now recognize as the Portland Metropolitan Area. All non-Chinook residents of this land are visitors.

We must respect this as Chinook land, and in doing so act as caretakers of its precious resources. Resilience has always characterized the way of life on this land, through an interdependent, intertribal economy that builds balance and fosters thriving land and people.

Over the past 500 years, an economy of natural resource extraction and exploitation has been built on the backs of people of color and low income. Those in power have disregarded Native American land tenure laws as disposable. The first federal Indian policy was that of extermination. Overt genocide did not last as a strategy, but evolved into other strategies masked in a positive way to dominant culture, including assimilation. Oregon's policy landscape tells a story unique to its own historic policies. *Looking Back In Order to Move Forward*² reveals a story often untold: a timeline of racist policies that affect our past, present, and future. For example, in 1850 the United States Congress enacted the Oregon Donation Land Act, which disregarded indigenous land tenure laws and presumed authority to grant land to whites in the Oregon Territory.

Oregon's Exclusion Law to keep African Americans out of the state was repealed in 1854, but was replaced with similar language three years later, much of which remained until 2000. Redlining through the mid-20th century defined exclusionary zones for African Americans and other communities of color by real estate, banking and insurance companies. This, among other exclusionary policies led to communities of color living in disinvested areas that would ultimately become gentrified as a result of newer public plans and investments. These policies paved the way for our communities of color to consistently bear burden of the deepest disparities across all areas of life.

Current Context

Our strengths-based approach carries us through this challenging work. While these past several centuries have had devastating impacts on our communities, we recognize that the resilience of our grandmothers and grandfathers has brought us to this work within this specific time and circumstances for a reason. Who better to heal the land and people than us who have fought for our collective health and wellbeing in a holistic way? Our communities hold the expertise necessary in order to ensure that any climate resilience efforts happen in a way that provides multiplicative benefits through adaptation,

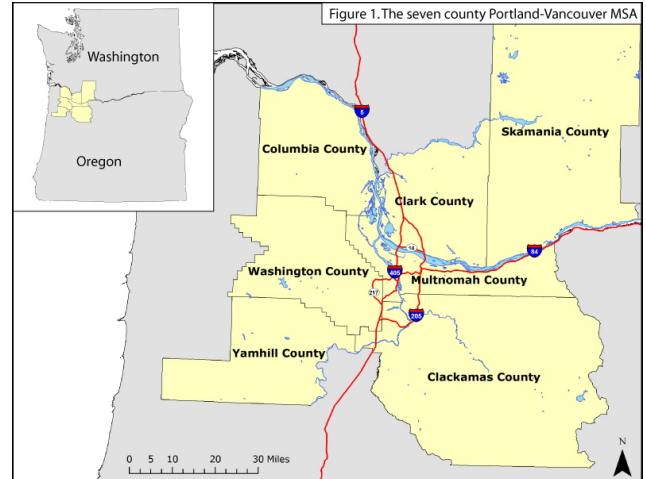


Figure 1: Seven counties of the Portland-Vancouver MSA (Portland State University Metro Knowledge Network)

² Rector, Elaine. [“Looking Back In Order to Look Forward”](#) (2010).

mitigation and social cohesion. The specious social construct of race has had devastating consequences on communities of color as dominant society has created economic, political and social structures that place preference on whites as a whole. While some may dismiss racism as a thing of the past, we recognize that it remains alive and well, although it may be more sophisticated and hidden to the mainstream culture. In Multnomah County, people of color earn half the median income of whites, \$16,636 annually. Our child poverty rate of 33.3% compared to 12.5% of whites. 30% of our students do not graduate compared to 7% of whites. We access management and professional positions at half the rate of whites and our unemployment rate is 35.7% higher. Our health is poorer across a wide range of metrics, including low birth weight rates 37% worse than our white counterparts.³

Urban Resilience: Risks & Vulnerabilities

The City of Portland-Multnomah County Climate Change Risk & Vulnerabilities Assessment⁴ indicates Portland will see increased risk of wildfires, flooding and landslides as a result of the increased temperatures and rainfall associated with climate change. These changes already have dramatic impacts on our quality of life. Severe weather includes drought, intense rain, wildfires, and heat. This impacts food availability and energy prices. It exacerbates heat illness, vector borne illnesses, carbon emissions and co-pollutants. Our communities already feel existing disparities, and will be faced with rapidly exacerbating disparities.

As demonstrated in the City of Portland-Multnomah County Climate Change Preparation Strategy⁵, neighborhoods of color and low income have higher exposure to airborne toxics and are more susceptible to urban heat island effect. We lie in close proximity to flood plains, and have increasingly less access to resilience infrastructure. This infrastructure includes affordable housing, active transportation and public transit, green infrastructure, healthy/culturally-relevant foods, renewable energy and conservation resources, green jobs, health services, and community centers.

In many regards, Oregon has produced innovative environmental policies that prioritize natural resource protection and urban density through the development of comprehensive plans and urban growth constraints. In 1973, Senate Bill 100⁶ created our statewide land use planning system, which seeks to plan for livable urban areas and strong farm and forestland protection measures, as well as urban planning constraints and guidelines. However, throughout the past 40 years we have recognized that a blanket concept of 'livability for all' takes an 'equal opportunity' approach that perpetuates historic injustices and inequities. Lasting solutions must prioritize communities of color and low income.

Urban Resilience: Vulnerable Populations and Complete Communities

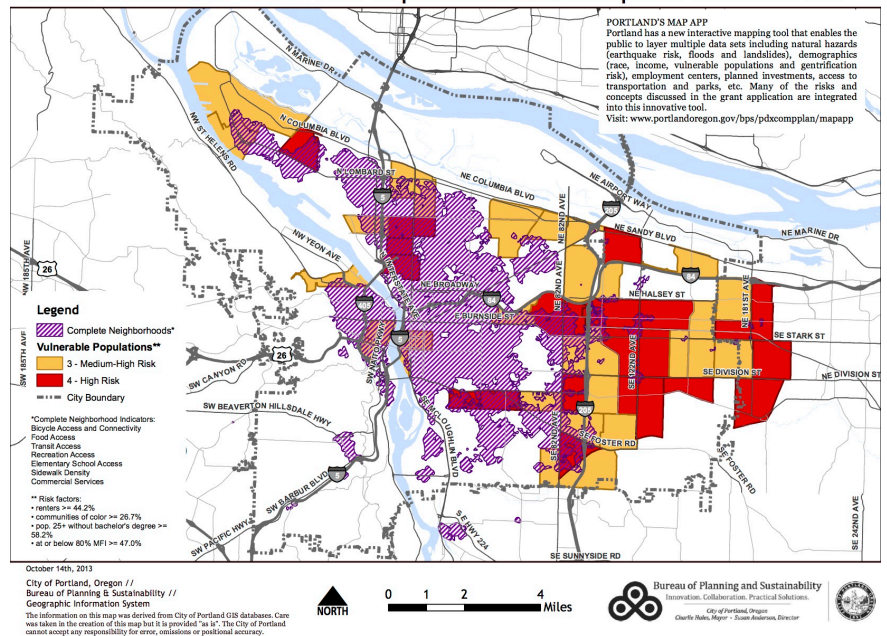


Figure 3: Urban Resilience (City of Portland Bureau of Planning & Sustainability)

³ [Coalition of Communities of Color – An Unsettling Profile](#) (2010).
⁴ [City of Portland-Multnomah County Risk & Vulnerabilities Assessment](#) (2014)
⁵ [City of Portland – Multnomah County Climate Change Preparation Strategy](#) (2014).
⁶ [Senate Bill 100](#) (1973).

Transportation

The State of Oregon's study on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through 2010⁷ shares, "Transportation [remains] the largest contributor to the state's in-boundary emissions (22.6 million metric tons CO2 equivalent, or million MTCO2e in 2010)," (p. 2). In 2009 the Oregon Legislature mandated that Metro, our regional government, develop and implement a strategy to reduce regional per capita greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks at least 20 percent by 2035. In December 2014 Metro responded through adoption of the Climate Smart Strategy (CSC).

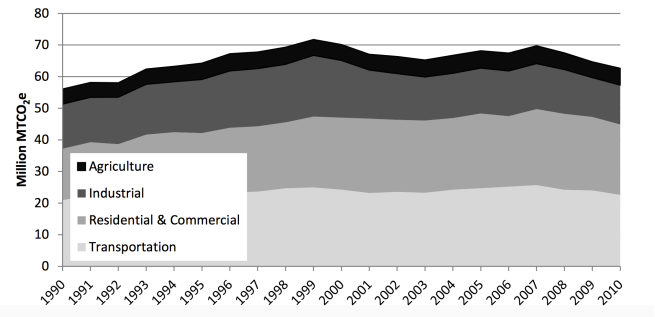


Figure 2: Oregon in-boundary emissions by sector, 1990-2010 (State of Oregon, 2010)

Green Gentrification

Portland's urban renewal policies and development over the past 20 years have resulted in a housing crisis. Fractured climate resilience infrastructure accelerates displacement due to insufficient housing stock for communities of color. The lowest vacancy rates in history are accompanied by rental prices in areas with public infrastructure investments. Displacement continues to accelerate in communities of color and low income from areas of investment and into the outskirts of the Portland Metro Area with cheaper housing, but inadequate or nonexistent infrastructure. The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) examined green gentrification⁸ as follows:

"From the perspective of gentrified [community members], it appears that the revitalization of their cities is being built on the back of the very citizens who suffered, in-place, through the times of abandonment and disinvestment. While these citizens are anxious to see their neighborhoods revitalized, they want to be able to continue living in their neighborhoods and participate in that revitalization."

Oregon law requires that all cities and metropolitan areas develop, implement and periodically review urban growth boundaries (UGB) in order to prevent sprawl and expansion into previous farm and forestlands. Current plans and zoning allow for a total of almost 1.3 million residences inside the urban growth boundary⁹. Our region's population has grown from 1,000,000 to approximately 1,500,000 between 1979 and 2014. Projected growth estimates range from just over 1,750,000 to over 2,000,000 by 2035.

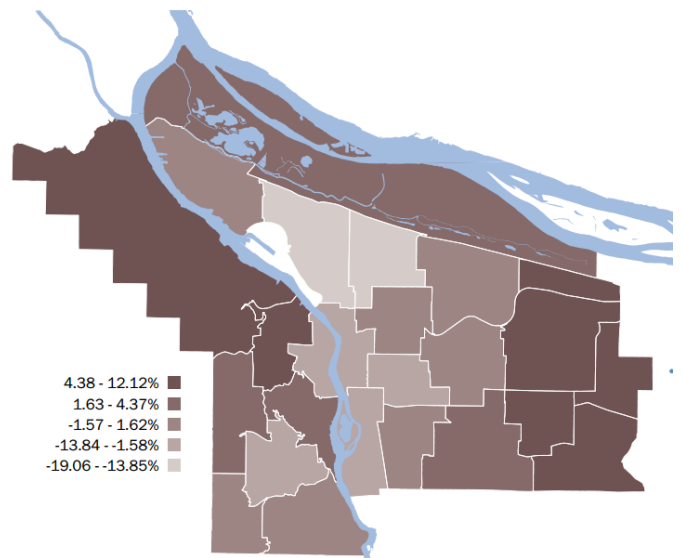


Figure 2: Change in Portland neighborhoods' racial diversity, 2000-2013 (City of Portland State of Housing Report, 2015)

⁷ State of Oregon Study on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through 2010

⁸ EPA: "The Unintended Impacts of Redevelopment and Revitalization Efforts in Five Environmental Justice Communities" (2006)

⁹ Metro Regional Government. "Urban Growth Report" (2014).

A Trauma-Informed Climate Justice Collaborative

Our greatest asset is our cross-cultural collaborative. The indigenous value of **Diversity** brings this effort into a collective impact framework. Each organization holds unique strengths and experience within our focus areas. The Native American Youth & Family Center convenes this partnership amongst the following communities of color and ally organizations:

The Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) offers backbone support to this partnership, through project management and coordination. NAYA provides wraparound social services, capacity building, leadership development and civic opportunities for Portland's urban Indian community.

The Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) will co-lead our disaster resilience work, and will provide support in all other areas of focus. APANO works to advance equity for Asian and Pacific Islanders through analysis, skill building, relationship building and community organizing.

The Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) will provide support in all areas through policy analysis, research and leadership development. The CCC acts as an alliance of 20 culturally-specific community based organizations with representation from six communities of color.

The Latino Network (LatNet) will co-lead our disaster resilience work, and will provide support in all other areas of focus. Latino Network facilitates opportunities, services and advocacy for the education, leadership development and civic engagement of Latino youth and families in Multnomah County.

OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon (OPAL) will lead our transportation and housing justice work, and will support with green infrastructure efforts. OPAL builds power for environmental justice and civil rights by organizing diverse communities to achieve a safe and healthy environment.

The Portland African American Leadership Forum (PAALF) will primarily support our housing justice work, and will provide support in other areas as capacity allows. PAAL seeks to enforce an action agenda that improves the health and wellbeing of local African Americans.

The Portland Youth & Elders Council (PYEC) will provide support in all areas of this work. PYEC facilitates grassroots advocacy, housed at NAYA Family Center, and open to self-identified Natives and allies interested in building a strong civic connection with the local Native American community.

Portland VOZ will co-lead our disaster resilience work, and will provide support on housing and transportation justice. VOZ, a worker-led organization, builds power amongst immigrants and day laborers to gain control over their working conditions through leadership development and organizing.

Verde will lead green infrastructure work and support on housing justice. Verde builds environmental wealth through Social Enterprise, Outreach and Advocacy. Verde brings environmental investments to Portland's neighborhoods in a way that benefits communities of color and low income.

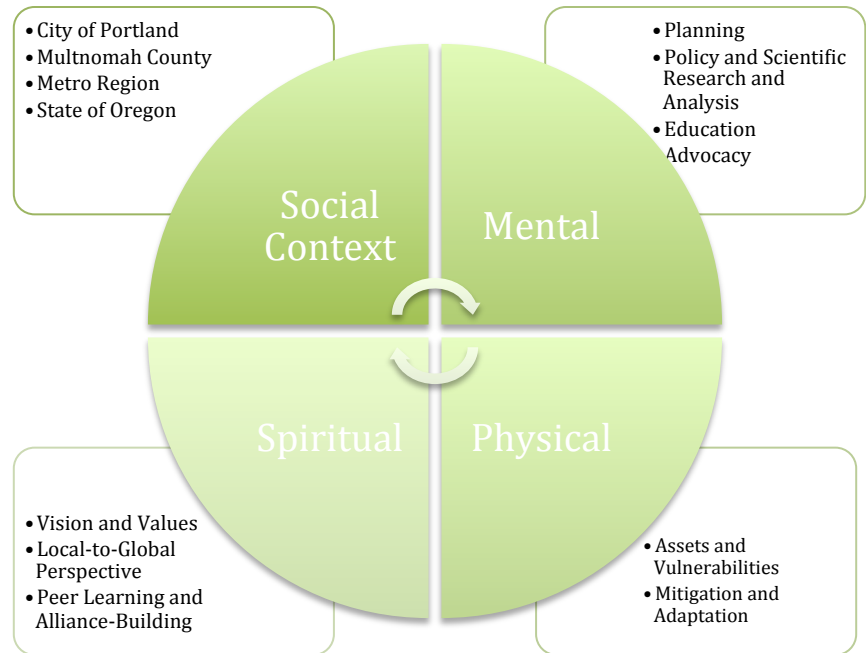
*Verde and NAYA also represent on behalf of **Living Cully**, a neighborhood scale partnership that also includes Habitat for Humanity and Hacienda CDC. This collaborative effort redefines sustainability as an anti-poverty strategy through an equitable eco-district neighborhood model.*

Our Approach

In accordance with the Relational Worldview Model we hold the vision that a resilient region equates to a balanced region. The Relational Worldview Model regards balance at many levels and across four major quadrants that represent holistic health. NAYA has adopted this model as its Theory of Change.

Our approach overlays the Relational Worldview Model with a Trauma-Informed Collaborative Model, which was developed by Portland Youth & Elders Council in partnership with other members from the Future Generations

Collaborative, which works toward healthy pregnancies and future Native generations.



This emphasizes that historical traumas in our communities remain as a source of intergenerational suffering, and that trust-building takes longer than expected in cross cultural settings, particularly with dominant culture organizations and agencies.

All people of color in the United States experience historical traumas – colonization, genocide, slavery, racism. Relational processes create ideal conditions for truth and reconciliation, which strengthens our adaptive capacity. As we build more ongoing relationships we can build trust and work more quickly when future opportunities for advocacy present themselves.

Our reflective process will actively document lessons learned associated with internal processes, community engagement, and external policy processes. Through our community driven planning model, we will continue to refine our vision and build power in order to identify creative solutions and promising practices for future climate policy issues.

Our leadership team will hold ultimate responsibility for the integration of the work. This includes those providing oversight from NAYA, OPAL and the CCC, as well as the leads from each policy area. Together we will check in on processes and outcomes within all policy and capacity areas formally in bimonthly meetings. We will use this space as an opportunity for learning, in order to present on the ever-changing policy landscape, as well as updated climate science.

Within each policy area, the identified lead will coordinate those that have committed to providing support. Some organizations have opted to participate in all policy areas, and others in one or more. These teams will meet on a more frequent basis than the leadership team, on a biweekly basis for more transportation and housing, and on a monthly basis for green infrastructure and disaster resilience.

Climate Justice Action Plan

This plan represents the culmination of a nine-month planning process for a three-year campaign to reorient our current climate discourse to prioritize equity so climate resilience investments do not further marginalize our communities of color and low income. We do this through the involvement of our region’s diverse communities in shaping the public processes related to climate resilience. Our campaign plan establishes top-level goals associated with active transportation, transit, housing justice, green infrastructure and disaster resilience. The overarching goal of cross-cultural leadership capacity is woven throughout all policy areas.

We have identified measurable objectives toward meeting our goals, strategies to be employed in achieving objectives, and specific tactics to be employed within each strategy. See specific policy areas for further details. A timeline roughly estimates which opportunities exist for our organizational representatives and community members to engage with public processes.

While we have identified a handful of policies that advance our vision for Portland, but we constantly evaluate and adapt our plan. Due to the constant change inherent within the policy landscape, our budget projections (2016-2018) are almost certain to shift, depending on opportunities and capacity. Any local advocacy or legislative action taken is framed through a lens of education, not lobbying.

Focus Area	Projected Year 1 Priorities	Projected Year 2 Priorities	Projected Year 3 Priorities
<p>Transportation Equitable funding and distribution of active transportation and transit access that produces human-scale mobility for greenhouse gas reduction and adaptation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Transportation Improvement Program • Regional Flexible Funds allocation • 2017 Legislative Session Preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2017 Legislative Session • Youth Pass campaign development • Metro Transportation Improvement Program • Other active transportation and transit funding advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Pass campaign implementation • Metro Transportation Improvement Program • Other active transportation and transit funding advocacy
<p>Housing Access for all to climate resilience infrastructure through regulatory tools implemented throughout Portland Metro Area jurisdictions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusionary Zoning: lift statewide ban and implement regionally • Regional affordable housing tax 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusionary Zoning regional implementation • Just Cause Eviction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy for affordable housing regulation
<p>Green Infrastructure Mitigation and adaptation within vulnerable areas through community based budgeting and contracting for implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Cully Signature Project development, and sharing • Budget advocacy within City of Portland • Inventory of potential Inter-Tribal Gathering Garden development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Cully Signature Project development, and sharing • Budget advocacy within City of Portland • Inventory of potential Inter-Tribal Gathering Garden development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget advocacy within City of Portland • Build capacity for others, including Jade District and Lents Green Ring
<p>Disaster Resilience Social cohesion and emergency preparedness through culturally specific contracting of Neighborhood Emergency Team trainings by CBOs for the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster Preparedness curriculum for communities of color • Disaster Responder curriculum (including health hazards and worker’s rights) for day laborers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement pilot Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) program for communities of color • Spanish-language Disaster Responder workshops for day laborers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand culturally-specific NET trainings into multiple languages • Spanish-language Disaster Responder workshops for day laborers

Goal 1: Cross-Cultural Climate Action Capacity

Impact Statement: We will centralize climate change discourse around voices of color that focuses on those most impacted by climate change through activities like workshops that build a shared narrative surrounding climate change. The current imbalance in leadership capacity associated with climate resilience work leads to a lack of representation of those most impacted by climate change. We will increase the number of leaders of color who are prepared to work on issues of climate resilience. Not only will we seek leadership placement opportunities at mainstream environmental tables, but also we will invite mainstream leaders into our circles of community expertise. This will shift the paradigm from a white-led environmental movement to one centered on those most impacted by climate change. The objectives outlined below are woven throughout all policy areas, but are outlined below generally.

We will elevate authentic voices and facilitate the pipeline of emerging climate resilience and Environmental Justice leaders from the communities we serve to affect ongoing policy development through climate narrative workshops and other community building opportunities. Throughout all community engagement opportunities, we will provide necessary supports to enable community leaders' participation such as transportation, childcare, meals, and accessibility.

Objective 1.1: Leadership Development (A bulk of activities to happen in 2016, then ongoing). We will cultivate culturally specific and cross-cultural leadership and public awareness to drive action on climate change and climate resilience and expand impact on the region and in our communities.

Education and strategic multimedia communications within our communities will illuminate the need and opportunity to change mainstream climate resilience efforts to a multicultural movement for Environmental Justice-based climate resilience and anti-displacement.

Key Outputs: Diverse participation in trainings, leadership skills developed, leadership placements in positions of influence, public awareness/viewership and number of types of media outlets, climate justice materials published in languages other than English.

<p>Strategy: Develop and implement a communications plan in order to facilitate transparency internally and externally.</p>	<p>Activities: The communications plan includes common messaging for both internal and external communications associated with our vision and stories. Consistently identify, edit and post news articles or postings relevant to policy areas. Notify journalists. Send bimonthly campaign email updates. Translate materials as necessary.</p>	<p>Timeframe: Jan – June 2016 for planning; June 2016 – December 2018 for implementation</p>
<p>Strategy: Trainings and community conversations to increase skills, knowledge and abilities of communities of color and low income.</p>	<p>Activities: Culturally specific trainings and listening sessions will be developed within distinct communities on climate justice and resiliency, including organizing, policy, and advocacy pathways. These will be followed by cross-cultural trainings and support as the climate justice movement and community member expertise broadens.</p>	<p>Timeframe: July – Oct 2016</p>
<p>Strategy: Match leaders to opportunities across interest areas in order to build capacity and workforce development.</p>	<p>Activities: Identify potential stakeholder audiences, assign leads, practice presentations, organize and conduct presentations. Identify and create opportunities for genuine community engagement and advocacy on boards, commissions, and advisory bodies.</p>	<p>Timeframe: Ongoing</p>

Objective 1.2: Organizational Capacity Building (January 2016 – December 2018). Our communities face capacity deficits in data, communications, and technical expertise. We must be resourced to close these disparities. Our collaborative has prioritized expanding organizational and technical expertise to compliment our strengths in organizing and engagement. Increased community and organizational expertise will increase opportunities for engagement and advocacy statewide.

This work will build climate capacity across all involved organizations and beyond. Our learning will happen continuously, and we will share our success stories with those doing similar work elsewhere. This will allow for cross-pollination and peer learning opportunities in order to strengthen our foundations both now and for similar work in the future.

Key Outputs: Increased funding directed toward our work, number of reinvestment mechanisms developed, number of participants in Kresge and non-Kresge-sponsored events, quantity and quality of relationships built with cohort peers.

<p>Strategy: Identify increased resourcing for this work through statewide carbon pricing and from both local and national funders.</p>	<p>Activities: Capture sustainable resourcing, with a focus on carbon pricing and other reinvestment mechanisms that serve as ways to resource community priorities.</p>	<p>Timeframe: 2017 Legislative Session; ongoing</p>
<p>Strategy: Participation in Kresge sponsored activities and build ongoing relationships with other cohort members.</p>	<p>Activities: Up to four staff/collaborative partners will attend Kresge convenings. Two staff/collaborative partners will travel to at least one site visit. We will participate in monthly shared learning activities, in addition to Kresge-sponsored gatherings. Meaningful relationships with national Kresge cohorts will inform our work through shared perspectives, common challenges and unique circumstances.</p>	<p>Timeframe: TBD</p>
<p>Strategy: Participate in non-Kresge sponsored events.</p>	<p>Activities: Two staff/collaborative partners will participate in up to three non-Kresge sponsored events per year. These may include local, national or international opportunities to grow our awareness and to share our experiences with others.</p>	<p>Timeframe: TBD</p>

Implementation and Adaptability Statement: The activities described above are not prescriptive but will be tailored to the changing needs of our communities as well as to changing policy opportunities. Examples of key ongoing activities include building capacity to advocate for transparent equity analyses in significant public infrastructure projects, as well as leadership in statewide comprehensive climate policy design and passage, including, but not limited to GHG and co-pollutant emission reduction, carbon pricing and clean fuel standards. The CCC has convened its membership around environmental issues in general, as well as specifically within the realm of statewide climate policy and local anti-displacement.

We will know if we are successful based on communications with one another’s organizations and involved community members. We will continue to ask questions about interest and awareness, both about climate resilience issues and about leadership placement opportunities. We will continue to steadily grow our network of support, which can be quantifiably and qualitatively measured.

Goal 2: Transportation Justice

Impact Statement: Transportation contributes the most to greenhouse gas emissions and airborne toxics in the state of Oregon. Transportation and land use decisions that promote car dependency degrade our environment, and contribute to cycles of poverty, segregation, and displacement due to the high cost of private vehicle ownership and the promotion of low-density, automobile-oriented suburban growth.

Improvement of our transportation system requires intentional investment in active and mass transit, as well as making the transit system accessible for low-income people. This will mitigate climate change impacts through greenhouse gas reduction, and will produce equitable opportunity for our communities to adapt to climate change through connected active transportation and transit infrastructure. Coalition partners will focus our efforts over the next three years on securing additional revenue for active transportation and mass transit priorities identified by communities of color and low-income, as well as expanding an existing but limited program that provides free transit passes to many High School students in the city of Portland.

Last year, OPAL convened the Transportation Justice Alliance (TJA). NAYA and APANO have become members, with financial support provided by the Bullitt Foundation between January – June 2015. In order to prevent recreation of the wheel, we will continue to resource the work of PYEC/NAYA, APANO and the Latino Network to participate at this table. This expansion of membership will show value for our participation and will drive prioritization of TJA action toward the following two objectives.

Objective 2.1: Secure funding for active transportation and transit infrastructure in communities of color and low-income to improve mobility and access to opportunity. Coalition partners are active in ongoing local, regional, and statewide efforts to increase funding for transit operations and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. We will continue to build the capacity of community members to meaningfully engage decision makers about these critical needs.

Local and regional governments currently bear the overwhelming burden of funding transit operations and active transportation infrastructure in Oregon. Formal transportation processes and plans, such as the 20-year Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), 3-year Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), and municipal Transportation Improvement Plans (TIPs) are required by Oregon land use laws and are currently being updated, however a need exists for more equitable processes and outcomes.

Moreover, policies that determine how federal Regional Flexible Funds (RFF) will be spent in our region are being updated in a parallel process. While RFF funds represent a small fraction of transportation spending in our region, restrictions on other revenue sources in our state mean that RFF represents one of the most significant sources of funding available for walking, biking, and public transit operations. We have the opportunity to organize community in order to bring greater awareness to this process' link to climate resilience, and to establish policymakers' public accountability to racial and social justice.

Multiple studies, including a comprehensive and influential state-wide report prepared for the Governor's office¹⁷, have significantly raised public awareness and interest in the need for additional transportation funding. While these studies highlight the environmental benefits of mass transit and active transportation to build the public case for need, none of the current state, regional, or local

¹⁷ [Oregon Non-Roadway Transportation Funding Options: Report to the Governor \(2012\)](#)

processes include strong equity lenses to prioritize projects and raise revenue in progressive ways. Our coalition will ensure that a strong equity lens and progressive revenue solutions guide transportation decision-making.

Key Outputs: Three new types of active transportation infrastructure and transit operations, at least a million dollars of dedicate funding toward new transportation investments within communities of color and low income, diverse participation in trainings from six communities of color, leadership skills developed, 100+ community members engaged in advocacy efforts, increased public awareness of transportation justice issues through both placed and earned media about these issues.

Strategy: Develop meaningful relationships and a shared agenda reflecting our coalition’s values with key players from state, regional, and local government (primarily ODOT, Metro, and City of Portland); influential mainstream environmental groups (1000 Friends of Oregon, Oregon Environmental Council, Sierra Club, Audobon Society); labor organizations (particularly the Amalgamated Transit Union and Oregon AFSCME); and transportation advocacy groups (Transportation for America/Oregon, Bicycle Transportation Alliance, Oregon Walks, Cycling Center).

Activities: Engage with public policy experts and elected leaders advancing new transportation funding options to ensure that a robust disparate impact analysis is conducted early enough in the process to meaningfully inform planning and prioritize implementation.

Timeframe: 2016 for regional RFF and MTIP processes, late 2016-mid 2017 for statewide legislative advocacy.

Strategy: Organize community members at local and state levels to ensure their meaningful participation in transportation decision-making and prioritization.

Activities: Build capacity within community members though a series of public education trainings on transportation finance, planning, and decision-making. Resource community members to participate in grassroots advocacy at all levels, and particularly in collaboration with key players listed above.

Timeframe: Late 2015-mid-2017

Objective 2.2: Secure Youth Pass throughout City of Portland. Climate resilience requires a fundamental shift in our society’s transportation habits. A free TriMet Youth Pass would facilitate the view of transit as a viable transportation option by our future generations, as well as increase mobility and opportunity for low-income youth displaced by gentrification. into more suburban parts of our region with disprate access to transportation, employment, recreation, and services.

Census data reveals that approximately 10,000 people of color were displaced from Portland’s central neighborhoods between 2000 and 2010, which is extremely high relative to the total population of color in our region. East Portland, were services and infrastructure are among the worst, is now home to approximately one-third of Portland’s population, but over half of Portland’s youth of color live there. Currently, only students in gentrifying central Portland neighborhoods receive free YouthPass. Portland Public Schools’ most recent school year enrollment figures¹⁸ indicate a total enrollment of 48,459, with 45% students of color. Of the total enrollment, 45.7% receive free meals, and 3.1% receive reduced-price meals.

¹⁸ [Portland Public Schools – October 1, 2014 Enrollment – Summary Comparison](#)

Key Outputs: At least one strong relationship with TriMet, the City of Portland, Multnomah County, Portland Public School District, David Douglas School District, Parkrose School District, and other potential key players, at least five educational visits with key decision makers, increased community awareness, increased leadership capacity, six community trainings, dedicated funding for YouthPass.		
Strategy: Develop meaningful relationships with key players in order to sustain the existing YouthPass program, ensure the development of a shared agenda for YouthPass expansion.	Activities: Organize visits with key decision makers at regional transit agency, TriMet, and other relevant jurisdictional players within the City of Portland, Multnomah County, Portland Public Schools (PPS), David Douglas School District, and Parkrose School District.	Timeframe: Early 2016 – Late 2017.
Strategy: Organize community members at select schools for initial expansion of the YouthPass program beyond PPS and into East Portland.	Activities: Identify and develop youth leaders at Parkrose and David Douglas High Schools. Ensure state law allows reimbursement to schools for purchase of transit passes.	Timeframe: Mid 2016 – Mid 2017.
Strategy: Organize community members at the regional scale to begin the second phase of YouthPass expansion beyond just the City of Portland.	Activities: Build awareness and leadership capacity within community members beyond pilot expansion programs. Connect to new leadership opportunities. Advocate for increased, dedicated resources to fund expansion and maintenance of program.	Timeframe: Mid-2017 – Mid-2018.

Adaptability Statement: OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon leads in its expertise on transportation justice. OPAL will take responsibility for overarching guidance on advocacy within the above listed objectives, including development of training materials for interested community members, as well as in the development of a detailed advocacy timeline within each policy area.

APANO, CCC, Latino Network, PYEC/NAYA, PAALF and Portland VOZ will support in these areas of focus, and at the same time will provide culturally specific guidance for engagement of our diverse communities. PAALF and VOZ expressed limited capacity and will likely step in, as greater support is needed. If their capacity and interest allows, they may take a larger role in this work over time.

In order to use this as an opportunity to build adaptive capacity and a foundation for future advocacy opportunities, we will build cross-sector partnerships. These include: state, regional, and local government (primarily ODOT, Metro, and City of Portland); influential mainstream environmental groups (1000 Friends of Oregon, Oregon Environmental Council, Sierra Club, Audubon Society); labor organizations (particularly the Amalgamated Transit Union and Oregon AFSCME); and transportation advocacy groups (Transportation for America/Oregon, Bicycle Transportation Alliance, Oregon Walks, Cycling Center). We seek ‘co-capacity building’ wherever possible, which includes not only building capacity in the transportation realm within our partners, but capacity with mainstream leaders for them to better understand the unique expertise our diverse communities hold through lived experience.

Progress will be assessed by the degree to which our priorities are represented in annual state, regional, and local budgets over the next three years, as well as quarterly assessments of both the policy landscapes and our community member capacity. Should progress not prove satisfactory, new partnerships as well as tactics will be explored.

Goal 3: Housing Justice

Impact Statement: Gentrification and displacement combine with climate change impacts to produce distinctly climate-related vulnerabilities. For example, inequitable energy investments can accelerate gentrification, and displacement can force low-income families to move far outside the city, away from accessible transit, which increases auto emissions and transportation expenses and reduces access to employment opportunities.

The Portland Metropolitan Area faces a housing crisis marked by dramatically rising prices, high levels of displacement, and legal prohibitions on effective strategies for addressing these concerns. A lack of affordable housing for our communities and the constant threat of displacement prevents meaningful connections to our neighborhoods and natural environments, and exacerbates existing environmental vulnerabilities. Communities of color are increasingly concentrated near high traffic and pollution corridors that are further from healthy food, employment, transit options, and other amenities. This contributes significantly to GHG emissions as a result of longer commutes, and prevents communities of color from benefiting from other climate investments and resilience infrastructure. In response, we will see increased stock of quality, affordable housing through a variety of policy opportunities.

Historical trauma already interferes with our collective ability to connect to feeling a sense of place. Restoring a sense of belonging is crucial to reconnecting to the land. We honor this connection through prudent stewardship of resources and implementation of climate resilient initiatives. Leadership over ongoing, seemingly distant climate policy is less relevant to climate-affected people of color if we continue to be pushed out of our own neighborhoods, away from climate resilience infrastructure. A climate resilient community requires adaptation and mitigation infrastructure that doesn't displace current residents, destroy social cohesion, and exclude them from the benefits of public investment.

A lack of affordable housing for our communities to rent or own prevents attachment to our neighborhoods and natural environments. Heightening displacement exacerbates existing environmental injustices and vulnerabilities such as communities located near high traffic and pollution corridors, increased distances to healthy foods and jobs, and inability to access transit. This directly contributes to GHG emissions and prevents equitable resilience benefits. In response, we will seek increased stock of quality, affordable housing through a variety of policy opportunities that build social cohesion.

Moreover, increasing climate impacts in other parts of the country are making the Portland metro region a more attractive place to live in. For the last two years in a row, Oregon was the #1 moving destination in the country¹⁹. The low vacancy rate and skyrocketing rents have led to the housing crisis. Communities of color and low-income families have been forced to move into the outskirts of the Portland Metro Area with cheaper housing, but inadequate or nonexistent infrastructure and services, or forced to become homeless. Portland City Mayor Charlie Hales recently declared a homelessness "state of emergency" one day after the Community Alliance of Tenants declared a "Renters State of Emergency." With renters and homeless people both struggling to find housing that they can afford, social cohesion of communities is being destroyed. Of course, climate change is just one factor among many that influence people to move, but as climate change heats up, many have theorized that migration to the Portland and the Pacific Northwest will accelerate²⁰, which will make housing even more expensive. Combating displacement through equitable development is thus a climate resilience strategy.

¹⁹ ["Oregon No. 1 destination for people on the move"](#)

²⁰ Culverwell, W. (2014, July 31). UW professor: Northwest is "a potential climate refuge." *Portland Business Journal*. Retrieved from <http://www.bizjournals.com/portland/blog/sbo/2014/07/uw-professor-northwest-is-a-potential-climate.html>

Objective 3.1: Repeal ORS 197.309 (2016 Legislative Short Session). Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) is a useful tool in combating displacement as it mandates regulations within zones, promoting affordable housing development and mixed income habitation by requiring that a specific share of housing developed is sold or rented at below-market level rates. IZ is a highly customizable tool that allows jurisdictions to meet the needs of their local communities by addressing housing needs at every level, from rental to homeownership, and the best IZ policies are developed in recognition that housing is a continuum, with homeownership being the goal for households to attain wealth and stability. Currently banned at the state level in Oregon since 1999, efforts have been steadily ramping up and gaining support from diverse jurisdictions to repeal ORS 197.309.

Key Indicators: Five new meaningful relationships with key players and decision-makers in the Oregon state legislature, six trainings of diverse communities of color focused in areas of needed influence, increased community capacity and leadership in local housing issues. We will track local housing policies that attempt to work around the current ban and encourage development of policies which challenge the ban. Other housing policies, such as increasing the percentage of Tax Increment Financing for affordable housing, are what we are seeking to make progress on with the ultimate goal of housing justice.

Strategy: Build and maintain meaningful relationships with key state legislators leading up the 2016 short session.	Activities: Convene past and present endorsers and additional interested stakeholders. Coordinate with previous legislative champions to identify updated strategy. Make direct asks of CBOs, jurisdictions, business reps and potential leads. Meet with Racial Equity Report Card leadership and Western States Center. Meet with local policymakers, e.g. City Council, regional decision-making bodies and planning commissions..	Timeframe: Late 2015 – Jan 2016.
Strategy: Organize community members in order to pressure legislature to pass bill.	Activities: Leverage relationships with decision makers and allied organizations, and support organizations and communities of color in direct legislative action.	Timeframe: Late 2015 – Jan 2016.

Objective 3.2: Advance local application of incentive-based Inclusionary Zoning. A repeal of ORS 197.309 would make Inclusionary Zoning available as a tool to local jurisdictions. In order for IZ to be effective, buy-in is required in all jurisdictions throughout the Portland Metropolitan Area.

Strategy: Build and maintain meaningful relationships with key players to develop a local IZ policy that addresses rental and homeownership needs.	Activities: Meet with Mayor, Commissioner-in-Charge and staff of BPS and BDS, and other elected officials in region.	Timeframe: Winter 2015 – Spring 2016.
Strategy: Hold local policymakers and policy implementers accountable to progressing a local IZ policy and/or developing other housing policies alongside it to generate affordable housing units.	Activities: Meet with and track BPS oversight and consultant analysis of pro forma. Identify opportunities. Research failed or missed attempts at IZ.	Timeframe: Spring 2016 – onward.

Objective 3.3: Build momentum for a dedicated funding source for affordable housing in the Portland Metropolitan Area. A new dedicated revenue stream can build a sustainable affordable housing infrastructure. We intend to build our capacity to meaningfully participate in the development and execution of a campaign for a dedicated revenue stream for affordable housing, focusing on revenue tools with substantial scalability and flexibility to meet the entire continuum of housing need in our communities, from emergency temporary housing to homeownership. Current patterns of displacement

puts people further out from access to services and jobs, therefore increasing their carbon footprint, regardless of their method of travel. Highlighting the connection of the economic and environmental inefficiencies of displacement will certainly catalyze more stable communities into action.

<p>Strategy: Bring advocacy of climate-affected communities into Welcome Home Coalition (WHC) campaign.</p>	<p>Activities: Align membership with existing housing advocacy coalition currently conducting research and preliminary polling on potential funding mechanisms. Develop a member 'speaker bureau' to be advocates to build grassroots support. Adapt WHC messages and materials for our communities. Activate community volunteers as the WHC campaign identifies opportunities.</p>	<p>Timeframe: 2016.</p>
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Adaptability Statement: OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon leads in its expertise on housing justice and in creating the link between housing, land use and transportation. It has led the efforts associated with Inclusionary Zoning advocacy at the statewide level, and with regard to community understanding of housing justice issues through workshops and other events. OPAL will take responsibility for overarching guidance on advocacy, including development of training materials for interested community members, and in development of a detailed advocacy timeline. Partners will provide culturally specific guidance for engagement of our diverse communities on these issues. Past efforts around Inclusionary Zoning has not engaged environmental partners as meaningfully as we will in this effort; the climate argument for diverse housing stock in areas of high opportunity as a means to reduce a household's carbon footprint is compelling, if not readily apparent.

Our approach depends largely on whether or not Inclusionary Zoning is passed in the 2016 Oregon Legislative Session. If it passes, we will spend energy advocating to local jurisdictions for implementation. If it fails, we will have created the necessary momentum to push for other strategies at the local level, such as reworking incentive-based inclusionary policies to meet current housing needs. Several other opportunities may arise associated with a ballot measure in 2016 to bring more revenue and/or regulatory mechanisms to affordable housing. Just Cause Evictions may arise as a focus area, depending on momentum built in other areas.

Goal 4: Green Infrastructure

Impact Statement: We will seek a climate change-literate community that can educate its local community via a ‘train the trainer’ model that includes civic engagement, ongoing quarterly education forums to keep abreast of the climate change issues, activate & advocate at the local and state level to testify on incoming bills and issues and recommend policy.

Data shows multiple public health benefits and climate mitigation outcomes associated with improvement of air quality and green space access. We seek to promote an institutional shift in the distribution and development of natural resources, which we also see as cultural resources. Our connection to the natural world exists inherently. As we re-establish interrupted relationships to the plant world, we heal from historical trauma and deepen our connection to place.

Objective 4.1: Showcase Living Cully as a replicable neighborhood-scale model that reinterprets sustainability as an anti-poverty framework. Through Living Cully: A Cully Ecodistrict, Verde and partners bring new environmental investments to the Cully Neighborhood. We will build community power to drive environmental resource development, in response to existing community needs. Cully Park creates access to a park for 407 low-income households. Living Cully Plaza eliminates criminal activity, improves safety and creates access to jobs and needed retail services.

Driving environmental investments like Cully Park into low-income communities like Cully is essential to creating environmental wealth, reversing years of disinvestment and disproportionate siting of blighted properties like landfills. To live a low-carbon lifestyle, low-income residents need access to parks.

Strategy: Build community momentum for development of Living Cully signature projects.	Activities: Fundraising, advocacy, and community engagement for design and implementation. Share model to other CCC members for replication in other areas, such as the Jade District and Lents Green Ring.	Timeframe: Launch in 2016; workload to increase through 2017 and 2018.
Strategy: Scale up Cully Park “Inter-Tribal Gathering Garden” (ITGG) model throughout region.	Activities: Continue to develop, implement and refine Portland Parks & Recreation co-management model for Inter-Tribal Gathering Garden at Cully Park; use as template for other initiatives. Build vision plan for regional ITGG network.	Timeframe: Co-management model work in 2016; develop vision in 2017 and 2018.

Objective 4.2: Connect communities of color and low income to green infrastructure. Communities of color have been left out of the planning, advising, and participation though continually we are always the most vulnerable and suffer the greatest impacts due to language, poverty, and other exclusionary and oppressive factors.

Strategy: Advocate for accountability in green infrastructure development within communities of color.	Activities: Advocate to Portland Parks and Recreation for increased funding for involvement of climate-affected communities. Educate and advocate communities around access to and development of green infrastructure.	Timeframe: Launch in 2016, workload to increase through 2017/2018, with most work in months leading up to budget approval (Feb-May).
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Adaptability Statement: Seek other opportunities, such as a parks bond measure and brownfield amelioration efforts. We will use timelines of park construction and development activities in order to measure progress, and will seek meaningful relationships with representatives from Portland Parks & Recreation, Portland Development Commission and Portland City Council in order to gain support and resources for our initiatives.

Goal 5: Disaster Resilience

Impact Statement: Climate change intensifies existing natural hazards and make disasters more extreme. Disasters disproportionately impact communities of color and low-income communities, who often lack financial and social capital to adequately prepare, respond and recover from natural disasters. In collaboration with local government, we seek to create and implement culturally specific disaster preparedness training series. This workshop series will serve as a more accessible alternative to the current Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) training, which requires 25 hours of uncompensated training only in English. By offering the trainings in a variety of languages, with stipends to ensure that income is not a barrier, the number and diversity of trained neighborhood emergency leaders expand considerably to better serve vulnerable communities.

We hope to build community capacity through hazard mitigation and disaster preparedness. We also seek to address community challenges in disaster response and recovery. As we saw after Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, immigrant day laborers will play a crucial role in the rebuilding process. They frequently bear the brunt of exposure to environmental health hazards and labor exploitation. We will work with OSHA and local authorities to ensure policies to educate and protect day laborers' rights.

Objective 5.1: Development and implementation of culturally appropriate, and responsive disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery processes, plans, and investments. We will gather community to educate and learn about disaster resilience, collect cultural information related to disaster resilience, build a culturally specific and overall immigrant, refugee and COC plan that can be incorporated in to the larger plan (County Emergency Plan and City Hazard/Disaster Mitigation Plan). We will build government entities' awareness and knowledge base about immigrant, refugee, and COC. We will build a plan and implement in partnership with government partners.		
Strategy: Increase work with City, County, OSHA, and related agencies in order to leverage capacity.	Activities: Participate in City of Portland Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, County Mass Shelter Plan. Develop relationship with OSHA to co-create disaster response and recovery plan with a focus on workers' rights.	Timeframe: 2016-2018.
Strategy: Build capacity within day laborers to become trained in disaster response.	Activities: Work with City of Portland to develop Spanish-language workshops to explain contracting and funding processes for disaster response, as well as how to protect themselves from health hazards and labor exploitation.	Timeframe: 2016-2017.
Strategy: Develop and implement culturally appropriate, incentivized Neighborhood Emergency Team program, or alternative.	Activities: In language workshops. Clear messaging and ongoing communication among communities and with public entities. Build meaningful relationships between communities of color and the City of Portland to change how current NET program runs to fit our communities' needs. Advocate to City of Portland to adapt training curriculum and incentivize participation.	Timeframe: 2016: Curriculum Development; 2017: Pilot program 2018: Program Expansion.

Adaptability Statement: Participation and implementation can increase with leveraged resources. Each community of color will develop and inform a culturally specific model of disaster resilience that reflects, values, practices and practical experiences from the community. This will lay a framework for similar efforts in the future, and will build community disaster resilience.

Ongoing Project Administration

We work under the loose guidance of the five pillars of Collective Impact, a framework to build our adaptive capacity that allows for greater representation of climate impacted communities across the region within this initiative: 1) *A Common Agenda* to bring multiplicative benefits of climate resilience to our communities, 2) *Mutually-Reinforcing Activities* include leadership and support activities within policy areas, 3) *Consistent and Frequent Communication* includes ongoing resilience policy tracking, bimonthly leadership meetings, and a defined process for external information exchange. 4) *Shared Measurement and Evaluation* follows the data and trusts the process. Community-defined metrics are measured and reported to the collaborative through our backbone organization (NAYA), 5) *Backbone Organization* NAYA convenes the collaborative, monitors processes, and serves as an information clearinghouse on ongoing resilience work across the collaborative.

Through this planning process we have identified key areas in which we can make a meaningful impact. As we initiate implementation, we will have more resources to conduct deeper research to refine measurable objectives related to our overarching goals. As we have a stronger understanding of the exact numbers of desired infrastructure improvements, we can tailor our advocacy toward a specific vision.

We have demonstrated our adaptive capacity within our planning process. For example, we had hoped that the statewide ban on Inclusionary Zoning would be lifted during the 2015 Legislative Session. Much to our chagrin, it did not pass. Therefore we have pushed our timeline out, in accordance with our desire to continue this push in the 2016 Legislative Short Session. If it passes, we will begin to advocate for implementation of this tool within jurisdictions throughout the Portland Metropolitan Area. If it does not pass, we will focus our capacity in Housing Justice on the development of other regulatory tools and mechanisms to increase an equitable distribution of affordable housing. In preparation for future work associated with climate resilience, we will build foundational skills through this project.

Because transportation is a top priority in terms of GHG emissions reduction, this policy area requires a large portion of our resources. The greatest lift will take place in 2017 (Year 2) around legislative advocacy and YouthPass, with preparation taking place in late 2016. An OPAL Organizer (half time) leads this work, with greatest capacity building/support coming from APANO, Latino Network and PYEC/NAYA, with some support from CCC, PAALF and VOZ. Please note that while the greatest need exists within this area of focus, this is also where greatest capacity currently exists. This reflects why the housing budget is larger than this one.

Leadership will continue to seek sustainable resourcing for this work. Through policy victories and strengthened organizational capacity, we will seek greater philanthropic support from environmental programs that we otherwise would not have participated in before. We will also continue to seek public contracting investments into our activities. Currently, government agencies expect our involvement on issues, yet they do not provide meaningful incentives in order to show value for our community wisdom and input on climate resilience issues.

Impact and Evaluation

These capacity and policy victories will contribute to the healing from centuries of Environmental Racism through an Indigenous-led multicultural movement that will continue beyond this three-year timeframe.

Adaptation

Climate change has already begun to impact our community. Racial and economic disparities increasingly drive our communities to areas of our region plagued with unsafe, unsustainable infrastructure, if any at all. Our adaptive responses seek to reduce existing and inevitable consequences from climate change.

Collectively, we seek to obtain:

- Inclusive access to human-scale transportation infrastructure and options, in which walking, cycling and transit become achievable community norms
- Racially and economically diverse neighborhoods characterized by equitable housing options throughout all areas of the Portland Metropolitan Area
- Improved green infrastructure in areas with highest potential for adverse climate impacts, with an emphasis on carbon sequestration, urban heat island effect mitigation, and food security
- Improved community responsiveness to potential disaster events, including prolonged heat, drought, wildfire, flooding and landslides

Mitigation

Prevention of further damage from climate change requires a transformative reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, with Oregon's primary carbon emissions source from transportation. We seek to obtain:

- Carbon and co-pollutant reductions from carbon pricing mechanisms and management programs, green space improvements, active and public transit and energy efficiency
- Green spaces, green jobs in energy / efficiency / renewables / green spaces
- Improved green spaces in areas with potential for climate impacts with an emphasis on carbon sequestration, urban heat island effect mitigation, and food security

Social Cohesion

Climate change, and lack of preparedness for climate change, exacerbates the rifts in our communities.

Mending these rifts in the face of our challenges will involve:

- Community-based leadership embedded in ongoing resilience work
- Improved sense of belonging and connection to place, in climate-affected communities
- Increased intergenerational support (mentoring, volunteering, Elder involvement)
- Reduced impacts of gentrification to keep communities together through household stabilization
- Dedicated revenue from all levels of policy to support engaging climate-affected communities

Policy area leads will measure impact, which will be reported through biweekly meetings to those providing oversight, as well as amongst one another. We will report on quantifiable metrics, including hours spent in planning and implementation by program leads and supports and headcounts of community member participants at trainings or other activities. We will measure the involvement and interest of our communities in the priorities this collaborative identifies, to ensure the process is authentic and rooted in community priorities. We will gauge participation of members of climate-affected communities in our multiple engagement opportunities as a key metric in determining the authenticity of our approaches. We will observe how the landscape of policy-making and implementation shifts pre-and-post-engagement, to determine which tactics and strategies are most effective.