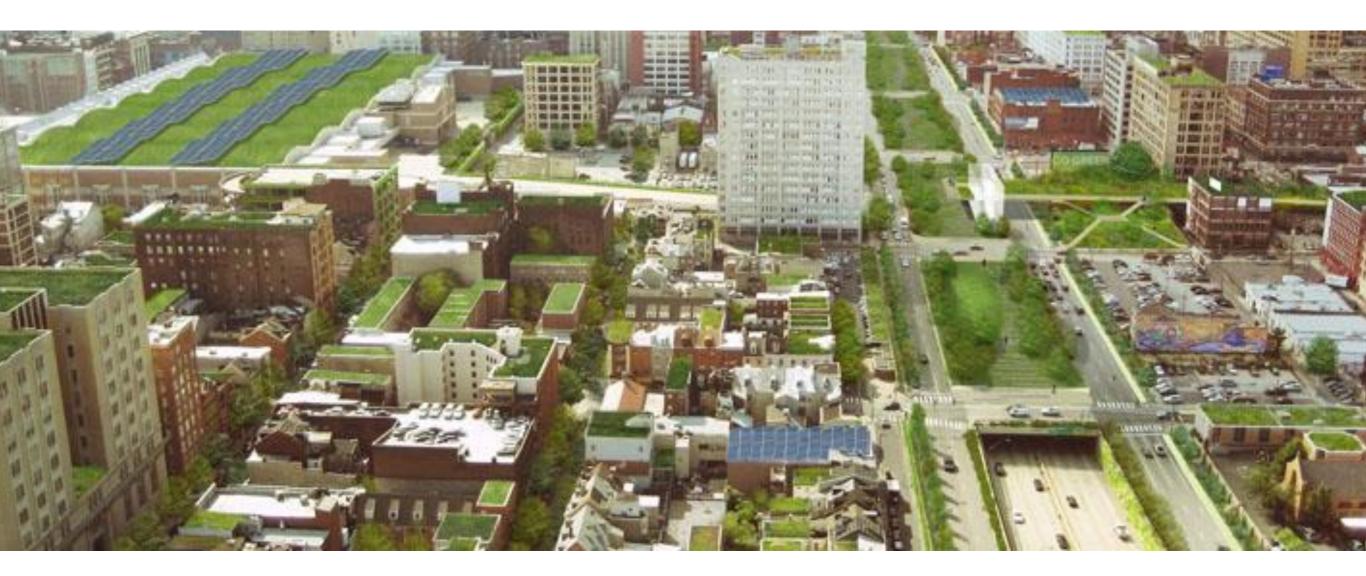
FOCUSING ON THE BASICS OF LIFE WILL SAVE US (AND THE PLANET)

Shelley Poticha, Director, Urban Solutions



FACT: Cities play a large role in reducing climate pollution



70% of emissions are generated by cities using energy to serve buildings, transportation, industry

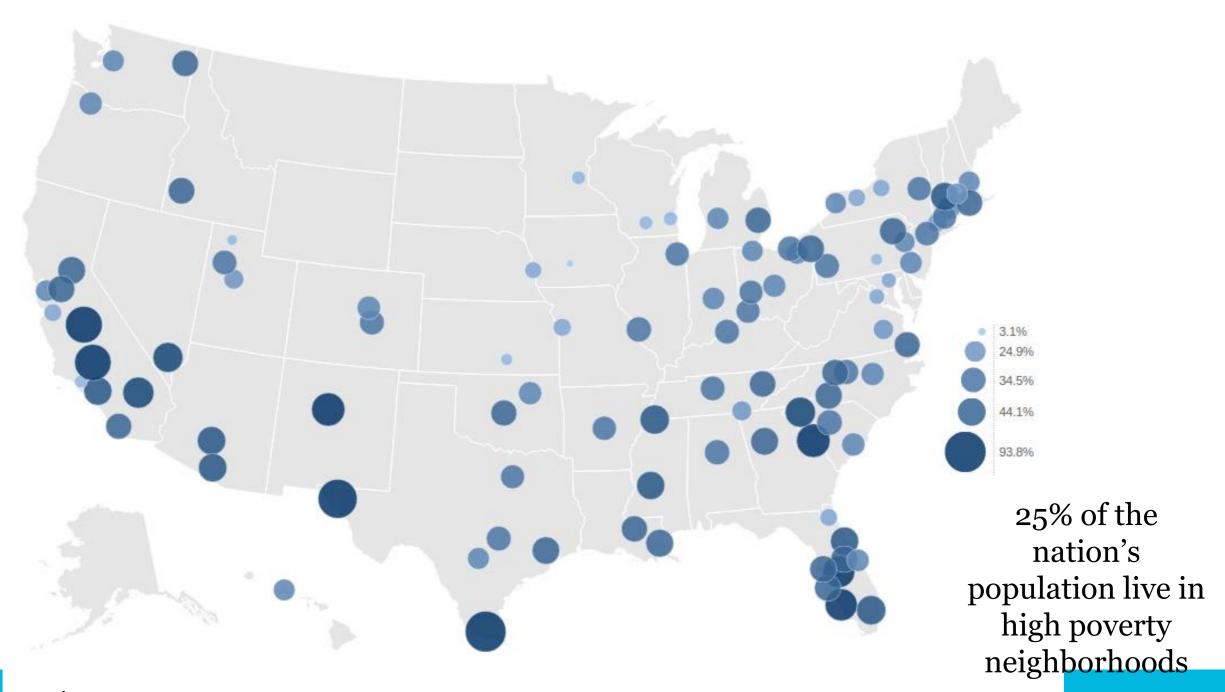
FACT: Our communities are highly vulnerable to climate change



In the last 3 years, extreme weather events have caused over \$188b in damages to homes and businesses and taken over 1,000 lives in the U.S.

Americans are starting to take climate change seriously.

FACT: Cities are also home to the highest rates of inequality...making a focus on people and equity essential



FACT: The Millennial generation has far lower earning potential than the Boomers

- Deep education debt
- Wages aren't keeping pace with costs
- Concerned about the burden of owning homes and cars
- Looking for ways to save money
- Far more diverse + proud of it



We know how to ensure that development works for the Environment:

Residents of compact, well-located and connected neighborhoods:

Use 30% less energy

Generate less air pollution

Use less water

Don't have to buy a car to get a job

Drive less

Are healthier and happier

Help protect surrounding farmlands, wetlands and watersheds



How can we also focus on People and improving the Basics of Life?

Lower the cost of living by looking at housing, transportation and energy costs together

Promote **job-generating infrastructure** that also builds **parks**

Increase low-cost access to jobs and education opportunities

Reduce emergency room visits by **eliminating mold** in affordable housing and **cleaning our air**

Improve health outcomes by **creating** walkable communities and access to healthy food

Open up access to **investing locally to build wealth**

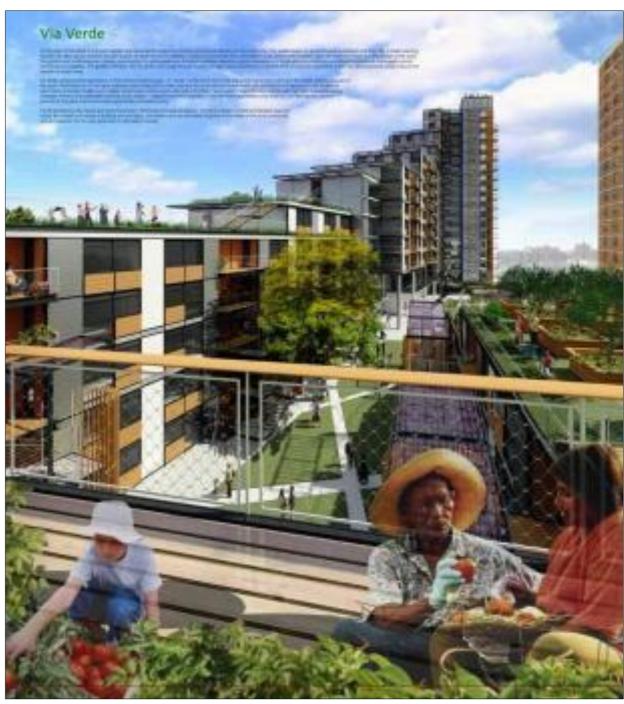


7 SOLUTIONS THAT BRING PEOPLE, PLACE AND NATURE TOGETHER

Solution 1: Build Complete Neighborhoods

Neighborhoods that promote walking, compact development and green infrastructure, not only <u>reduce GHG</u> by 30%, but help residents lose an average of 8lbs





Solution 2: Connect People to Opportunity

Locating affordable housing and jobs near transit helps families save money and get to work reliably.

Bike and Ride Share systems are transit extenders, making it realistic to take the trip without a car.

Every **car-share** car in a neighborhood takes <u>9-13 cars off</u> the streets as car-share members either sell a car or put off buying one. When people do sell a car, they drive <u>40-50</u>% fewer miles.



Solution 3: Invest in Green Infrastructure + Urban Parks

Cities that implement comprehensive green stormwater infrastructure programs <u>save millions of</u> <u>taxpayer dollars</u>, <u>generate jobs and small businesses</u>, <u>improve water quality and reduce urban flooding</u>





20% Savings

Solution 4: Make Existing Buildings Efficient, Healthy + Resilient

Directing energy retrofits to affordable multi-family housing saves \$\$, reduces exposure to mold, cuts wasted energy and reduces harmful GHG.







12-state initiative to make multifamily homes healthier + more affordable through energy + water efficiency + access to clean energy.

Potential to reach 5 million homes inhabited by Americans living on limited incomes.

Solution 5: Incorporate Arts & Culture

It makes it more fun...and builds identity, commitment, uniqueness



Solution 6: Restore, Protect, and Connect to Natural Resources

Children's brain activity is promoted through regular access to nature.

Natural systems make us resilient and are key to reducing risk from major storms.

Nature in the city or at the edge of the city can shape urban form and reinforce the identity of a region.

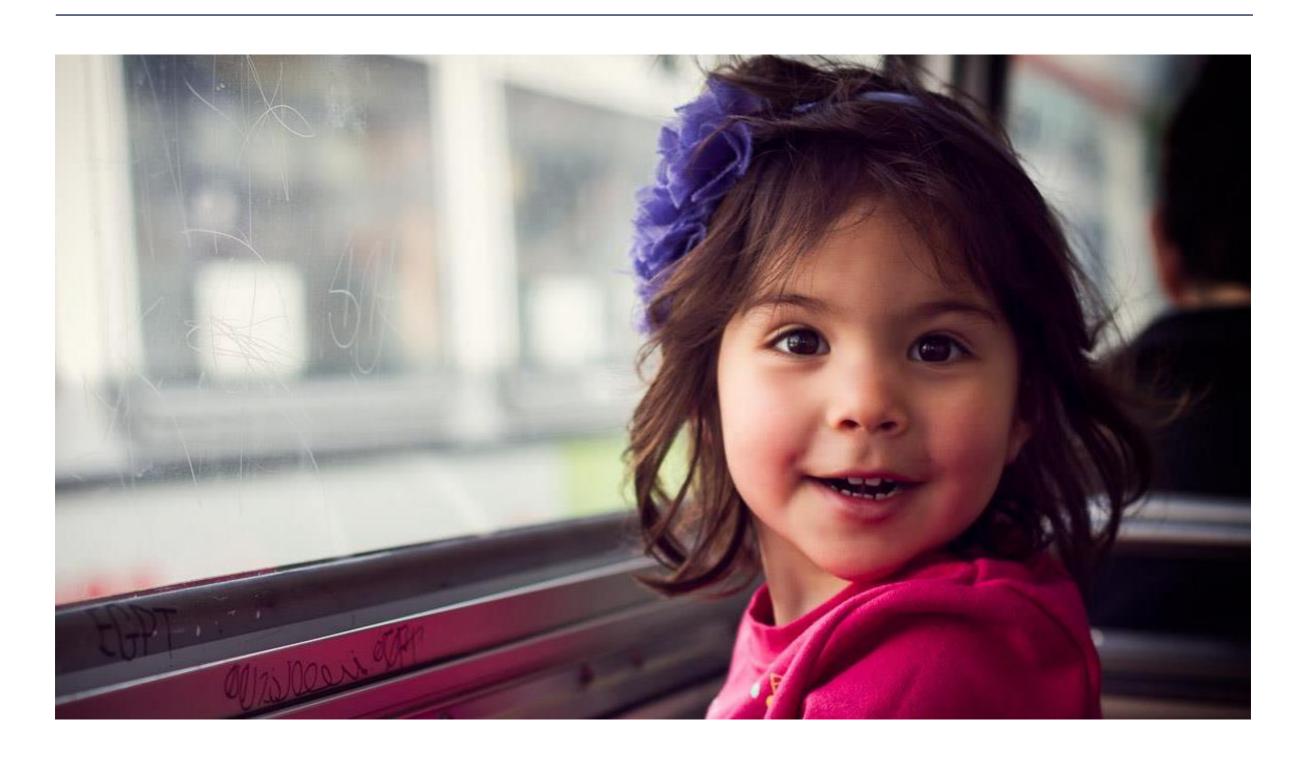


Solution 7: Involve and Empower Everyone!

Decisions last longer



Let's get put people at the center of our work...



Thank you!

Shelley Poticha spoticha@nrdc.org

