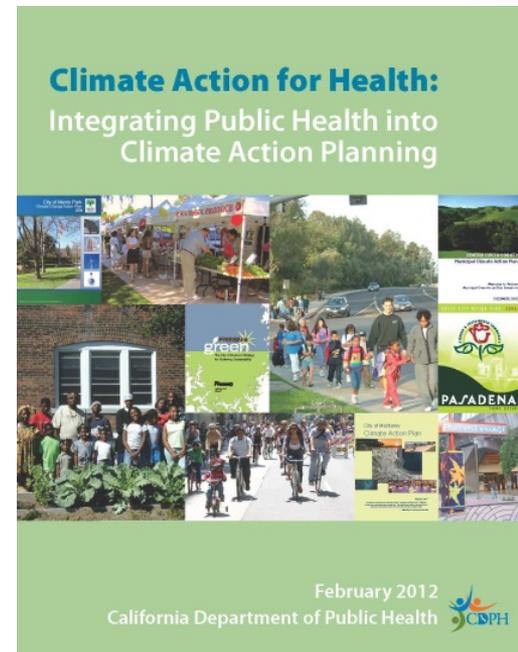




Climate Change and Public Health: What are the Local Planning Connections?

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Climate Action for Health: Integrating Public Health into Climate Action Planning

Health Goal

- CAP Strategy
 - Reduce vehicle miles traveled using fossil fuels
 - Reduce household energy use
 - Reduce energy use in food system
 - Create green economic opportunities
 - Get community involved
- Increase physical activity
 - Improve healthy housing, reduce \$ for low income households on energy
 - Increase access to and consumption of local, healthier foods
 - Create economic opportunity and equity
 - Get community involved



Maximize co-benefits and avoid negative health impacts



- Planning and public health can work together to ID key co-benefits achievable by linking GHG reduction efforts and complementary health effects
 - What health goals are already in place or needed?
 - Active transportation offers more health co-benefits than driving EV's (where people are still inactive)
- Also need to avoid creating new health risks or shifting risks:
 - Walking and biking may lead to more injuries to this need to be addressed
 - Home weatherization or building efficiency needs to pay attention indoor air quality and “healthy homes”
 - Avoid negative impacts on low-income and vulnerable populations (density with no green space, more air pollution)

Opportunities to link public health prevention and climate planning

- General Plans with health elements
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Plans
- Safe Routes to Schools Plans
- Healthy Community Plans, etc.
- Emergency response/health plans



- Climate Action Plans (and increasingly adaptation)
- Sustainable Community Strategies (SB 375) (MPO, county, city)
- Green City and local sustainability plans, etc.
 - Urban greening/parks /open space
 - Local food supplies, community gardens, urban agriculture

Examples of health depts involved in local climate action/SCS planning

- San Mateo DPH developed a health template for their city CAPs and participated on county adaptation planning team
- San Diego DPH (with stimulus \$) hired a planner to work at SANDAG to promote health *within* the MPOs SCS process on active transport, SRTS, built environment and health
- Contra Costa DPH worked on county (unincorporated area) CAP with a focus on vulnerable populations and equity issues
- SF DPH has developed a city-wide climate/heat vulnerability assessment with GIS maps of vulnerable pops, risk factors and recommended interventions
- LA DPH conducted a study of the cost to build-out the county's *entire bicycle plan* and ID'd necessary priorities



Santa Clara County Dept. of Public Health

(linking chronic disease prevention to climate action)

Cupertino	<p>Implement Bicycle Master Plan through commute recommendations and engage new businesses in alternative commute opportunities and incentives. Add bike racks, promote bike ambassadors.</p> <p>Use <i>Let's Move Cities, Towns, and Counties</i> to increase accessibility and affordability of fruits and vegetables through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) for employees and low- to moderate-income residents.</p>
Gilroy	<p>Develop and print a bilingual bicycle map and safety instructions, and collaborate with Parks and Recreation Department and Safe Routes to Schools to distribute broadly to residents and community partners.</p>
Saratoga	<p>Develop ordinance to reduce on-street parking and encourage local businesses to install bike parking. Conduct outreach to new businesses affected by policy.</p>
Mountain View	<p>Develop zoning studies and design standards for El Camino Real Corridor, to implement active transportation policies in Mountain View General Plan Update.</p>



Urban Agriculture zoning and codes



- Counties and cities adopting urban agriculture zones and codes
- Allows greater food production in city or unincorporated area
- Allows larger garden spaces and sale of products below a certain level
- Encourage gardens in areas without easy access to healthy, fresh foods
- Covers: Private, backyard farms, community gardens, other
- Reduce barriers (costs, permits, fencing, etc) to such operations

- Resource: *Seeding the City: Land use polices to promote urban agriculture*,

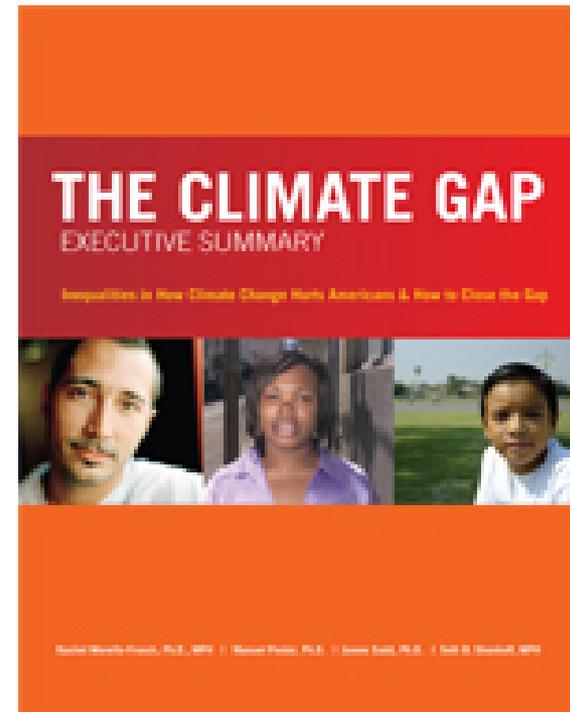
- Change Lab Solutions, 2011

Climate planning, health and equity

- SGC Sustainable Community Planning grants support the inclusion of goals and projects to address the needs and *involvement* of disadvantaged communities
- AB 1532 and SB 535 (Cap and Trade Revenue Plan) will provide funding for mitigation efforts in disadvantaged communities
- Important to address vulnerable communities early in climate action and adaptation planning, as these communities and populations experience health inequities today and under a changing climate face some of the greatest challenges.

The Climate Gap

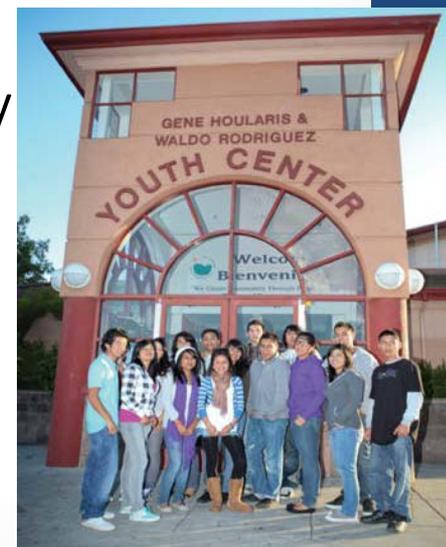
- Low-income & minority at increased risk for:
 - Heat effects
 - urban heat islands (more concrete, fewer trees, less green space)
 - less access to AC, fewer transportation options
 - Increased occupational exposure (agricultural and construction work)
 - Air pollution impacts
 - proximity to traffic, ports
 - higher baseline respiratory/CV illness
 - Impacts of extreme weather events
 - less able to prepare for disaster
 - less able to recover after disaster
 - Fuel poverty with rising energy costs
 - Food insecurity with rising food costs
 - Economic impacts of climate-related job loss
 - decline in agriculture
 - decline in tourism



Community education and engagement strategies

- The public needs to learn more about climate change -- the importance of protecting our health is one way to promote this information
- Some communities are developing city-wide climate action coalitions in order to “unleash” community buy-in
- Solutions that can illustrate *co-benefits* TODAY may gain more support and make climate change efforts more accessible/possible to achieve.
- Public Health departments have expertise in community education with diverse populations, languages and needs

Resource: National Academy of Science Workshop on Climate Change Education: Goals, Audiences and Strategies, 2011



Communicating climate change as a *human health issue*

- Preponderance of effort on climate change to date has focused on explaining scientific, environmental or energy issues
- Put PEOPLE in the picture, create personal connections
- Health is a strongly held value that spans the political spectrum (e.g., “*we want a healthy community*”)
- Emerging evidence shows value of public health “frame” in making climate change relevant using familiar issues (children with asthma, elderly at risk of heat wave, air pollution, floods displacing whole communities)
- In the face of challenges and fears about climate change, connecting with health solutions/adaptation can add positive action.

Connecting with our audiences



OR



CDPH Climate Adaptation and Health

- New 4 year climate adaptation grant from Centers for Disease Control
- Work with 10 counties, health depts and stakeholders, to:
 - Develop capacity of state and local health depts to address climate impacts
 - Assess climate effects and social and health vulnerability
 - Forecast specific health burdens and costs
 - Identify or improve interventions to reduce risks and improve resilience
 - Evaluate and identify longer term needs

Questions?

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