

A SNAPSHOT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT APPROACHES

[Climate Change, Health & Equity](#) (CCHE) is a 5-year \$30 million initiative from the Kresge Foundation that aims to build the capacity of health care and public health to promote equitable climate resilience practices, mobilize health care and public health practitioner engagement in climate advocacy, and strengthen community-based leadership to accelerate implementation of equitable policies that advance climate resilience and health equity.

UPROSE: GREEN RESILIENT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT IN SUNSET PARK NYC

In New York City, [UPROSE](#) partnered with the Pratt Institute Graduate Center for Planning and Environment, New York City Economic Development Corporation, an economic development nonprofit organization, and Sunset Park landowners to advance implementation of a [Green Resilient Industrial District](#) Just Transition strategy in Sunset Park.

From Adversarial to Collaborative

New York City's Economic Development Corporation (EDC) manages a large portfolio of properties, has ways to incentivize development, and plays a significant role in city planning, even though they are separate from the Department of City Planning.



UPROSE helped defeat an Industry City Rezoning effort led by EDC's CEO. Over time, the relationship

between UPROSE and EDC has significantly shifted. EDC's CEO is demonstrating support for UPROSE initiatives and has changed the way EDC engages with partners and workgroups.

With evidence from GCPE's research and qualitative interviews to understand the neighborhood, UPROSE's collaboration with EDC has grown. In activities related to supply chains and workforce development, EDC now views UPROSE and GCPE as partners to figure out solutions together. For example, EDC proactively requested feedback from UPROSE on EDC's draft Green Economy Plan and EDC is trying to create more alignment with the GRID, including within EDC Requests for Proposals.

"For example, in an Offshore Wind Council, UPROSE started with building a shared concept of justice, and we see EDC and the people EDC is accountable to acknowledging and engaging with equity and justice... it's a really big change. It is powerful to see EDC and partner organizations acknowledge power dynamics." - UPROSE Focus Group Participant

Gaining Momentum

GRID is becoming a community model across city departments, with GRID recommendations being integrated in city-led work even in the absence of a relationship with UPROSE. For example, the City's Comprehensive Waterfront Plan and text amendments for Carbon Neutrality use GRID recommendations and language.

Elected officials are shifting their thinking about involving community members. The model UPROSE

has created with the GRID demonstrates that community involvement is not an add-on, but rather a core component of any development or city planning project. Additionally, GCPE's understanding that community voice is required for urban planning has transformed the way they teach. Urban planning graduate students are learning from UPROSE about community engagement and power dynamics and changing their understanding of the role they can play as city planners in equitable community development.

"It's been a transformative effort; people are now looking at what is possible. UPROSE is changing [the way partners work together] and [power holders in the city] are aligning their work with the GRID recommendations. We have a host of local officials now working with each other and checking in with us." – UPROSE Focus Group Participant

We get to explain to colleagues the ethical and political aspects of being invited to a community to provide support, and in our classrooms, we also see students changing their perspectives. White students [see] a different way of working in solidarity with frontline communities. For students of color, it's transformative to see UPROSE and community teaching." – GCPE

OTHER EXAMPLES FROM CCHE GRANT-FUNDED PARTNERS



The [Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments \(ANHE\)](#) and [Eastside Community Network \(ECN\)](#) created

a guidebook on heat resilience in Detroit. The guidebook became an educational tool that defines medical jargon around environmental impacts and provides guidance to ECN's predominantly Black community as to why they need to utilize the resilience hubs. ECN successfully secured \$1.7 million in ARPA funds to further build out climate resilience hubs in Detroit.



In San Diego, California the [Environmental Health Coalition \(EHC\)](#) developed the 10 Transit Lifelines which represent community priorities from frontline communities impacted by the climate crisis in Barrio Logan, City Heights, and

National City. After a successful grassroots campaign led by EHC and their partners, the San Diego Association of Governments approved an \$8 million pilot program to increase bus trips in low-income communities of color and provide free youth passes.



The [Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability \(LCJA\)](#) developed an integrated policy advocacy strategy that promotes public health, community well-being and climate resilience for low-income communities and communities of color in the city of Fresno and Fresno County. In 2022, LCJA and its partners in the No on Measure C Coalition celebrated a monumental victory, defeating a transportation measure that would have authorized a long-term transportation plan void of community priorities and lacking focus on equity. LCJA and its partners then rewrote the measure and created a new community-driven plan and process.



With support from the [Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles \(PSR-LA\)](#), Los Angeles established its first Climate Emergency Mobilization Office to work directly with environmental justice communities to co-design policy on extreme heat and climate resilience. The CEMO was responsible for coordinating with the Mayor's Office, City Council, and community leaders to meet the commitments of LA's Green New Deal by collaborating with city bureaus and departments. The CEMO works with City Council members and local coalitions to ensure that building decarbonization policy implementation is community-driven and centers equity by using the Just Transition framework.



In December 2022, through advocacy efforts led by the [Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts \(PHIWM\)](#) and their partners, the Springfield City Council unanimously passed Community Choice Energy (CCE) legislation. CCE could bring price stability to a very unstable energy supply system; this policy was one of the main policy objectives of PHIWM's work within the CCHE initiative.