

**Partnership for Resilient Communities
2022-2023 Planning Phase Cohort**

Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Location: Richmond, CA

Project Title: Climate Resilience via Community-Owned and Community-Governed Solar Projects

Project Description: Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) and RYSE Youth Center have long partnered to organize Richmond community members, center youth voices and build power in Richmond. The organization's latest collective effort is to embed youth-led climate resilience approaches at RYSE Commons, a 45,000-square-foot resilience and liberation hub for art, healing and community transformation. Over the project, APEN and RYSE will organize and ensure the long-term social infrastructure of resilience hubs; support resilience infrastructure; and coordinate between host sites, levels of government and technical partners. APEN and RYSE are also ensuring robust community engagement in developing the resilience hubs and sharing the model and building advocacy tools.

California Indian Museum and Cultural Center

Location: Santa Rosa, CA

Project Title: Resilient Native Generations

Project Description: California Indian Museum and Cultural Center (CIMCC) will build out an incubator that focuses on building the capacity and authority of Native peoples and communities to revitalize traditional foodways and restore the traditional food system to serve everyone. It works from a multi-pronged approach to accomplish this: (1) advocate for and participate in local policy development work to increase access and stewardship by Native peoples of their homelands; (2) provide community foodways education to Native peoples and a strategic educational strategy for Tribes and tribal organizations to consider, and center Native youth as foodways leaders; (3) cultivate successful traditional food producers capable of maintaining and expanding their businesses, serving the needs of other Native peoples for traditional diets, (4) serve as a center for distributing traditional foods to Native peoples to improve their health status; and (5) educate the wider community about the benefits of Native foodways and systems for sustaining life.

Eastside Community Network

Location: Detroit, MI

Project Title: LEAP Sustainability Fellowship

Project Description: Eastside Community Network (ECN) will expand the LEAP Sustainability Fellowship, a program that ECN began in 2019 to build the capacity of eastside residents around leadership, engagement, sustainability and project development. ECN will transition the fellowship into a two-year model where the first year focuses on classroom training in leadership and sustainability, allowing the fellows to learn, grow their understanding of what sustainability looks like, and spend more time developing ideas for projects in their community. The second year will have fellows focusing specifically on implementing a project.

Emancipation Economic Development Council

Location: Houston, TX

Project Title: Lots to Love - Vacant Land Revitalization for Economic Sustainability

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Project Description: Emancipation Economic Development Council (EEDC) seeks to galvanize residents, business owners and property owners to address the observed needs of the community. This project aims to address illegal dumping, clean up lots and activate vacant parcels of land to not only manage stormwater but also to help stabilize the economic ecosystem of the community. The Lots to Love project will create a network of activated parcels that feature vendor markets, rain gardens and other green infrastructure features to revitalize the community while encouraging economic vitality and improving quality of life. Lots to Love seeks to work with business owners, property owners and residents to develop a community plan that will increase economic sustainability and improve public health and safety. EEDC will train residents and youth in green careers. Residents will be hired to implement the green infrastructure projects on demonstration lots. EEDC will assist business owners with building flow-through planters to capture stormwater and learn about permeable pavement options to capture stormwater runoff.

GreenRoots

Location: Chelsea, MA

Project Title: Mitigating the Impacts of Heat Islands through Community-led, Nature-based Solutions

Project Description: GreenRoots will implement a resident-led, multi-prong approach to combat environmental injustice, mitigate the impacts of extreme heat and climate change, achieve climate and community resilience, and ultimately build capacity. Through three different goals, (1) greater green and open space, (2) resident engagement, and (3) implementation of cool block strategies, GreenRoots will transform a vacant urban parcel, 212 Congress Ave, into an urban oasis with trees, plantings, shade structures and hydration stations. In hyper-urban, impervious-surfaced, industrial corridor neighborhoods, the combination of creating a heat/carbon sink that is a verdant oasis has multiple benefits for physical and mental health.

Groundwork Ohio River Valley

Location: Cincinnati, OH

Project Title: Growing an Ecodistrict: Cincinnati's Industrial Mill Creek as a Green Corridor

Project Description: Groundwork Ohio River Valley, through the Climate Safe Neighborhoods (CSN) initiative – a collaborative project that builds on the City of Cincinnati's efforts to develop and implement an equity-driven approach to neighborhood-level climate resilience planning – will develop Cincinnati's first Ecodistrict. The CSN raises awareness that climate change and racial injustice share roots and must be addressed together. The CSN centers historically underserved voices, supports frontline communities to participate in civic processes through a resident-centered Climate Advisory Group (CAG) process, and co-creates community-driven resilience plans that incorporate science, historical and cultural knowledge, and frontline community vision to bolster future planning and projects. Community leaders and members of the Climate Safe Neighborhoods' CAG have created a shared vision for the Lower Mill Creek Watershed to become the city's first Ecodistrict. The overarching goal of this Ecodistrict is to address environmental risk factors such as flooding, air pollution, and urban heat by prioritizing public green space, neighborhood walkability, active transportation methods and green workforce development and training.

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Healthy Community Services

Location: New Orleans, LA

Project Title: Advancing Community-Led Green Infrastructure Projects in BIPOC

Neighborhoods: Build a Larger Vision to Reality

Project Description: The Waterwise Collective will continue to organize the Water Wise Neighborhood Champions and build a movement for community-led green infrastructure in the City of New Orleans. This project will increase the Collective's capacity by streamlining and growing the Water Wise Neighborhood Champions Training Program. The Collective will reinvigorate past Water Wise Neighborhood Champions by offering additional training programs and also involve them in helping lead the bi-annual Visioning Sessions.

La Mujer Obrera

Location: El Paso, TX

Project Title: Creating a Community-Sustained Resilience Hub with Cooling Gardens to Combat Urban Heat Island Effect and Climate Crisis

Project Description: La Mujer Obrera will create the Barrio Chamizal Cooling Gardens. This project will focus on implementing and sustaining green infrastructure demo sites, such as natural cooling gardens in desert settings.

Overbrook Environmental Education Center

Location: Philadelphia, PA

Project Title: Resilient Equity and Capacity-Building Hub (REACH) at the Overbrook Farmacy

Project Description: Overbrook Environmental Education Center, through the REACH project, will transform a former blighted auto storage and parking lot into a viable community green space. This 1-acre site, located on a commercial corridor, is a safe and secure space that residents of all ages can access with a brief walk from their residences. As envisioned, this parcel will support a 1/3-mile-long, 4-foot-wide trail, installed with weather-tolerant and sustainable materials. It will also feature a high tunnel greenhouse, an orchard, high sensory gardens and an amphitheater. Along the trail will be markers and signage that motivate and inform walkers. Outdoor benches, sanitizer, and handwash stations will also be situated along the route for safety, rest and good hygiene. The planned REACH project site is an "urban oasis" surrounded by an urban tree canopy and high tunnel greenhouse supplied through a Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture grant.

Power52

Location: Baltimore, MD

Project Title: P.O.W.E.R. 4 ALL (Partners Offering Workforce, Energy & Resilience 4 All)

Project Description: Power52 will work with a broad-based coalition of community groups, local officials and local faith-based organizations to conduct extensive community engagement efforts to increase the understanding of residents about microgrids and green infrastructure implementation. This engagement work will result in the development of metrics for measuring equitable and inclusive outcomes for residents from the investments made in these systems and their operation.

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Sustaining Way

Location: Greenville, SC

Project Title: A Holistic Approach to Resident Sustainability in Low-Income, Historically Marginalized Communities

Project Description: Sustaining Way will implement a holistic, systems-level approach to supporting resident sustainability in four focus communities in Greenville County, SC. The program will include workforce development, energy efficiency work, a citizen scientist program, and community education around energy and sustainability topics that improve resilience to environmental hazards and climate change.

Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative

Location: Petersburg, VA

Project Title: Partnering for a Resilient Petersburg (P4RP)

Project Description: Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative's second phase of Partnering for a Resilient Petersburg (P4RP) addresses causes of climate vulnerability by examining unsustainable development patterns such as land use, marginalization, lack of political will and historical and ongoing patterns of inequity. P4RP will increase climate resilience, economic investment and workforce opportunities by adding battery storage to its solar-powered Community Resiliency Hub and securing economic investment by contributing to workforce development through the establishment of a commercial kitchen that will employ several individuals at the Hub. The project will also facilitate solar PV installation training and certification and continue to promote community-controlled funds through its Community Advisory Board along with Arm in Arm training to foster long-term impact through community strength and the ability to self-advocate.

Walnut Way Conservation Corp.

Location: Milwaukee, WI

Project Title: Wisconsin Environmental Justice and Infrastructure Initiative

Project Description: Walnut Way, through the Wisconsin Environmental Justice Infrastructure Initiative (EJII), will bring together diverse grassroots groups, specifically people of color, to develop an innovative statewide Environmental Justice Initiative that is community-driven and equity-centered. The priorities of the EJII are housing resilience, equity and climate adaptation.

Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice, Inc

Location: Bronx, NY

Project Title: Soundview Economic Hub

Project Description: Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice (YMPJ) will activate a coordinated network of critical food system sites in the South Bronx: the thriving Bronx River Foodway, the recently redeveloped and activated Morrison Plaza, and the Soundview Economic Hub, which is currently in development. Key focus areas for the Bronx River/Soundview Sheridan-Bruckner Community Food Sovereignty Network (BxRSFSN) include expanding urban agriculture efforts, increasing engagement of BIPOC farmers, community-led activation of BxRSFSN sites to support environmental justice and community health goals, expanding economic opportunities

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for residents and businesses, increasing access to open green space and new green infrastructure and clean energy at or near the sites.