



## CENTERING RACIAL JUSTICE IN PLANNING FOR URBAN FLOOD RESILIENCE

# PRINCIPLE #3 | CO-OWN PLANNING EFFORTS WITH COMMUNITIES

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Urban flood resilience plans must employ a bottom-up approach that centers the lived experiences and histories of communities. Planners can support co-production of urban flood resilience plans by using participatory design and community engagement strategies.

### Putting this Principle into Action

Local governments and their planning departments can:

- ✓ Acknowledge the legacy of mistrust and harm between local government and communities prior to commencing community engagement or collaboration
- ✓ Promote engagement of local officials and planners in community leadership development and frontline community-readiness work
- ✓ Establish a community advisory board
- ✓ Include grassroots organizations and BIPOC participants in co-planning efforts
- ✓ Provide multi-lingual networking platforms and coalition building space for communities to provide input into flood planning
- ✓ Perform community assessments of assets and critical infrastructure
- ✓ Identify local leaders and stewards as key partners for long-term actions

### Example from the Great Lakes

People United for Sustainable Development (PUSH) Buffalo founded its Green Development Zone (GDZ) program to address residents' concerns about vacant lots and unaffordable utility bills. The GDZ model is characterized by a bottom-up, community-driven approach. As a community developer, PUSH Buffalo purchased lots and hired and trained residents to redevelop them into green spaces or sustainable, energy-efficient housing. A Community

Planning Congress was engaged to help determine design solutions.

### USEFUL TOOLS AVAILABLE

[Are you a climate change survivor?](#) is a workbook designed by the Pacific Institute and Oakland Climate Action Coalition that provides a set of activities communities can use to help establish local strategies for climate adaptation.

[The Racial Equity Evaluation Tool](#) developed by Equity Matters can be used by municipalities to engage BIPOC communities in assessing organizational preparedness and participating in decision-making.

[The Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership](#) provides a toolset to identify where an action or policy may affect a move towards community ownership of planning processes. Context-based activities and resources help cities and communities establish goals and actions that focus on consensus-building and community-generated ideas and needs.

[The Spectrum of Public Participation](#), created by the International Association of Public Participation, presents a range of categories delineating participatory processes toward a shared decision-making process. Each step outlines key strategies and examples of the extent to which a plan is centering community input.