



How might the City of Grand Rapids equitably pursue Climate Vulnerability Engagement?

Investigation and Synthesis by Maria Dozier (She/They)

Acknowledgements and Thank Yous!

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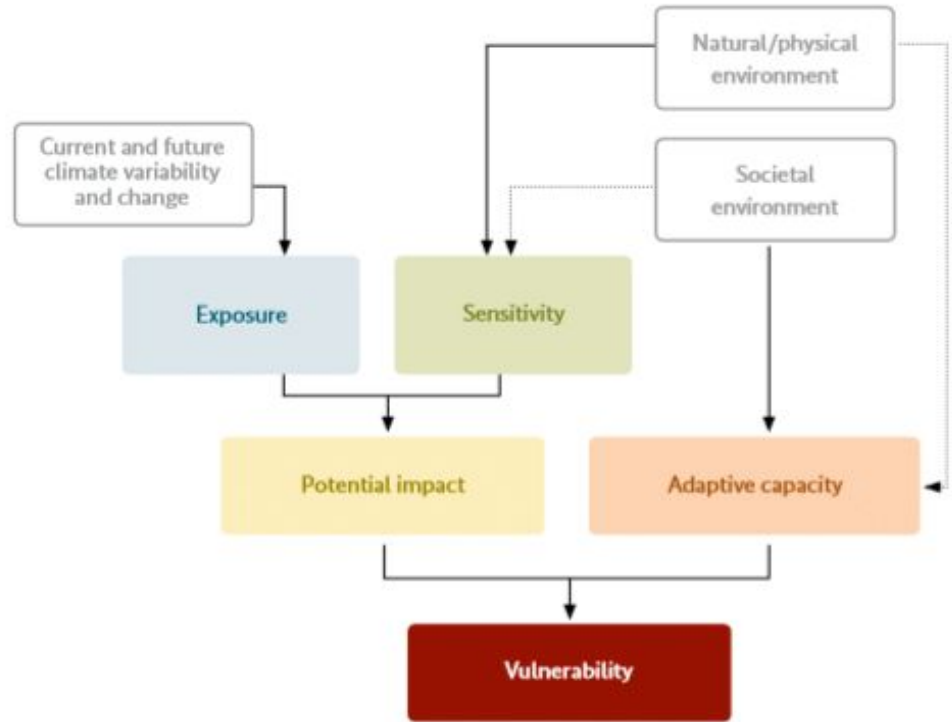
Holly Young, City of Grand Rapids Training and Organizational Development Manager

Introduction + Motivations: What is a Climate Vulnerability Assessment?

Exposure + Sensitivity = Vulnerability

- Also can help identify the strengths and adaptive capacity of a community

Figure 1: Components of vulnerability



Source: adelphi/EURAC 2014.

The “Traditional” CVA

= *The asset centric CVA*



Debunking the myths of CVAs

1. Community engagement is not a necessary element of climate vulnerability assessment
2. Qualitative data/testimony is not as important to climate vulnerability assessments as quantitative data
3. The only stakeholders that should be involved in the CVA are industry professionals
4. CVA's are an unbiased research tool that have no place for equity or justice frameworks

Our Mission and Methods

Equity

- Make CVA's more “people centric”

Requires:

1. Community Engagement
2. Qualitative Data Analysis - Or Narrative Analysis



Mission and Methods

Deliverables:

2 trainings

- Audience 1: Grand Rapids Community C4 Ambassadors
- Audience 2: Municipalities around Michigan

2 guideline documents

- One for each training with tailored slides for various audiences

2 flyers

Mission and Methods

Process to formulate deliverables:

1. Interviews with 3 cities: Detroit, MI; Cleveland, OH; and Providence, RI
2. Consultations and Draft reviews with experts from the Grand Rapids City offices as well as my peer fellows (thank you Katie, Jess and Michelle!)
3. Drawing from embodied knowledge of community engagement and organizing

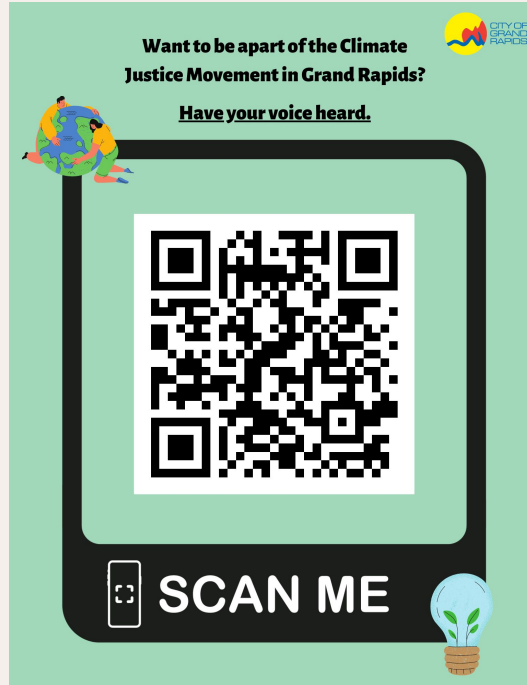


Results

Two flyers

How do you and your neighborhood experience:

- Heat?
- Cold?
- Extreme Weather?



Want to be apart of the Climate Justice Movement in Grand Rapids?

Have your voice heard.

Please carefully answer these questions below. All personal information shall remain anonymous.

1. What neighborhood in Grand Rapids do you reside in (please include the area code)?
What are some of the key characteristics?

2. How do the people in your neighborhood experience heat, cold, and extreme weather?

3. How does the infrastructure (buildings, schools, parks, roads, ect. in your neighborhood experience heat, cold, and extreme weather?

4. Fill in the blank: Something that would help my neighborhood would be...

2 Comprehensive Trainings



How might municipalities equitably pursue Climate Vulnerability Engagement?

A comprehensive training.

Climate Vulnerability Engagement



**Welcome to the Grand Rapids
Community Leader Training
on Climate Vulnerability
Engagement**



Climate Vulnerability Engagement

Training Sections

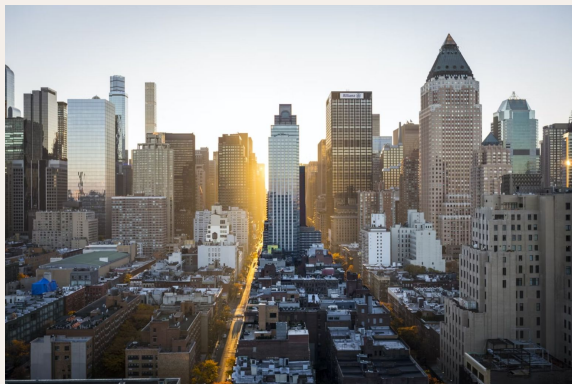
- Community Agreements of the Training of Dialogue;
- What is a climate vulnerability assessment? (Defining this tool and Naming the myths);
- Strategies for engagement with disproportionately at risk community members;
- Opportunities and limitations around engagement

Ambassadors:

- What does climate change mean for the city of Grand Rapids

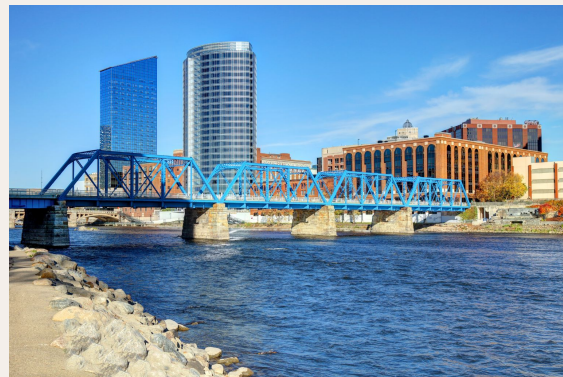
2 Training Guides

2 slide by slide
handbooks for
the training
facilitators



HOW MIGHT MUNICIPALITIES EQUITABLY PURSUE CLIMATE VULNERABILITY ENGAGEMENT?

This training was prepared by: Maria Dozier



CLIMATE VULNERABILITY ENGAGEMENT TRAINING GUIDE

Prepared by: Maria Dozier

Results - Striving for Community ownership



Rosa Gonzales, Facilitating Power, 2020

Lessons Learned: Why is equitable engagement important to a CVA? -

- 1. Provides context around harmful/beneficial infrastructures**
- 2. Offers a chance to develop more specific insights around exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity**
- 3. Captures historically marginalized voices that wouldn't otherwise be heard**
- 4. Incorporates real lived human experience into the assessment**
- 5. Provides more opportunity for community ownership**

Recommendations

- **Create a training participant guide**
- **Conduct a qualitative narrative analysis once you get feedback from the surveys**

Call to action: Prioritize community engagement in your municipality's Climate Vulnerability Assessment process for a more equitable future.



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Q&A