



## CENTERING RACIAL JUSTICE IN PLANNING FOR URBAN FLOOD RESILIENCE

# PRINCIPLE #4 | CENTER EQUITY IN DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

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**Urban resilience solutions should be evaluated using equity-centered approaches to determine whether solutions have translated to racially just outcomes.** Evaluations should engage frontline communities in the design of the data collection process and evaluation, as well as incorporate both quantitative and qualitative forms of data.

### Putting this Principle into Action

Local governments and their planning departments can:

- ✓ Identify and prioritize frontline communities for flooding and priority areas for engagement
- ✓ Involve frontline communities in data collection processes—both qualitative and quantitative
- ✓ Disaggregate data and indicators by race
- ✓ Conduct an inventory of green infrastructure projects
- ✓ Involve frontline communities in the siting and maintenance of green infrastructure projects
- ✓ Conduct analyses of the impact of green infrastructure projects on neighborhood change

### Example from the Great Lakes

In 2008, Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice (DWEJ) launched its Build Up Detroit (BUD) program. This program trained local Detroit youth in GIS and guided them in mapping their own communities to identify hazards and clean-up sites. These sites were then targeted for revitalization through a green jobs training program, where participants learned to redevelop abandoned brownfields into affordable housing. By providing local community members with the skills to perform data collection themselves, the BUD produced information that empowered Detroiters.

All trainees in the initial cohort were placed into jobs upon completion of the program. This multifaceted approach to equity and sustainability cleaned and

greened the City of Detroit while decreasing income insecurity for local residents.

### USEFUL TOOLS AVAILABLE

The Government Alliance on Race and Equity's toolkit, [Racial Equity: Getting to Results](#), can be used to identify resilience metrics through a Results-Based Accountability (RBA) process.

The [Map Your Future Toolkit](#) created by Bay Localize can be used by communities and sustainability professionals to support community engagement. It provides tools to survey community members, identify and map community assets, identify present issues and needs, and envision long-term community resilience.

[Rooted in Resilience's Local Resilience Assessment](#) was created for individuals, schools, community centers/organizations, and city planners. Participants explore what makes a community resilient, assess the resilience of their community across a range of factors/features, and identify where improvements should be made. Planners can add flood-specific questions to this assessment.

The [Spatial Justice Test](#) allows cities to upload data, such as the locations of green infrastructure, to the tool to determine whether the demographic make-up of those located near the set of points differs with respect to race and income from those living farther away.