

## **EQUITY-FOCUSED COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

### **Heat Mitigation Project – City of New Orleans**

This document serves as a roadmap for engaging community members and partners who are impacted by and/or have a vested interest in heat vulnerability and climate resilience in New Orleans, particularly in areas with a high concentration of low-income, elderly, and unhoused residents. Successfully developing a strategic vision for heat mitigation will require intentional outreach and participation from a diverse range of stakeholders and residents.

As part of the Heat Mitigation Planning project, Arup will collaborate closely with the Local Engagement & Outreach Lead, The Villavaso Group (TVG), to shape and implement a thoughtful, equity-centered engagement process in partnership with the City of New Orleans. The team is developing this Community Outreach and Engagement Plan (COEP or “Engagement Plan”) to align the technical and public health project goals of the City, with the input and lived experience of community members and priorities of potential and existing regional partners.

This Engagement Plan focuses on capturing the voices of those most impacted by extreme heat events while creating space for inclusive dialogue and solution-building. Engagement activities will include direct outreach to impacted populations, virtual focus group meetings, a public meeting, and a public survey.

The overall objective of the Engagement Plan is to foster a collaborative and responsive planning process that ensures community ownership, builds public awareness, and informs future strategies for public health, infrastructure, and climate resilience.

The COEP defines:

- The purpose and objectives of engagement windows
- Target audiences and key outreach strategies
- Event formats and participatory methods
- Feedback mechanisms and data collection approaches

**Engagement Plan Contents**

I. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PURPOSE .....3  
II. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES .....3  
III. OUTREACH APPROACHES .....4  
IV. HEAT IMPACTS TO EXPLORE.....6  
V. OVERVIEW OF HEAT MITIGATION ENGAGEMENT APPROACHES AND  
PROTOCOLS.....7  
VI. HOW FEEDBACK WILL BE USED FOR PRIORITIZATION OF STRATEGIES..... 12  
APPENDIX ..... 14

## **I. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PURPOSE**

The City of New Orleans Heat Mitigation Plan will be guided by the best available climate science and analysis extreme heat and the urban heat island effect. The plan will also be informed by input from a range of stakeholders, including City representatives, community leaders, and residents, to identify projects that will have the most significant impact in mitigating the most severe effects of heat experienced across New Orleans.

The purpose of the community engagement, undertaken as part of the study of heat effects across the City of New Orleans, is multifold. The engagement strategies are intended to solicit meaningful input from a variety of stakeholders within New Orleans that will form the basis of a Community Priorities Report, which will inform the development of heat actions within the City's Plan. The Community Priorities Report will identify the types of locations or situations where residents encounter heat impacts and the solutions that stakeholders prefer.

Through these sessions, the project team intends to gain a deeper understanding of residents' lived experiences with heat impacts, including where and how they encounter the most severe impacts in their daily lives. Secondly, we wish to solicit their preferences for solutions to mitigate the adverse effects of excessive heat in the City. Additionally, through the engagement process, we endeavor to increase awareness of heat impacts and share steps that individuals can take to protect themselves. Finally, the engagements, through the nature of their inclusive and participatory design, will strengthen relationships between the City and community groups especially to mobilize interest in heat action going forward.

## **II. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **TVG/ARUP**

**Local Connections:** Maintain and activate a broad network of trusted community contacts and organizations with deep knowledge of neighborhoods disproportionately affected by extreme heat.

**Scheduling & Site Selection:** Identify engagement approaches and formats, and align events with existing local gatherings as appropriate. Build out the schedule of community outreach.

## CNO Heat Mitigation

### Community Engagement and Outreach Plan

10.15.2025

**Logistics & Coordination:** Develop meeting agendas, sign-in sheets, digital whiteboard, slides (for the public meeting), surveys, and bilingual notices. Coordinate interpretation, food, and ADA-compliant setup for in-person events. Support virtual facilitation.

### *City of New Orleans*

As a critical partner in the Heat Mitigation Project, the City of New Orleans is expected to support a successful and inclusive engagement process by:

- Reviewing logistics and coordination for community engagement activities
- Actively promoting engagement events (virtual and in-person) through official City communication channels, including:
  - City social media platforms
  - Departmental newsletters and e-blasts
  - Press releases and public service announcements
  - City websites and event calendars
- Supporting outreach by encouraging participation and information-sharing through existing City-supported networks, including:
  - Office of Neighborhood Engagement (ONE) contacts
  - Health Department partners and community coalitions
  - Public library branches, NORD centers, and senior centers
- Publicly acknowledging community feedback in City-led reporting or communications by:
  - Sharing updated timelines, findings, and next steps with the public
  - Participate in debriefs with the project team to review what was learned and how it will inform the City's planning

### **III. OUTREACH APPROACHES**

In devising our plan for outreach and engagement, we are relying on studies of heat impacts in the City of New Orleans and in other cities around the world to identify populations disproportionately impacted by heat.

- A. Engagement activities will consist of four progressive steps:
- **Focus groups** centered on a) seniors, b) outdoor workers, c) unhoused, d) transit-dependent, e) children, f) pregnant women, and families, and g) culture bearers. TVG will coordinate focus groups in collaboration with Arup and the City.

## CNO Heat Mitigation

### Community Engagement and Outreach Plan

10.15.2025

- **One public survey** that will focus on public ideas and preferences for heat action strategies. Arup will design the survey with support from TVG. The City will administer the survey and interpret survey results. Arup and TVG will incorporate these survey results into the Community Priorities Report.
- **One virtual public meeting** focused on informing the Community Priorities Report and feedback on heat action strategies for incorporation into the Heat Mitigation/Action Plan. Arup will prepare a PowerPoint and present potential heat strategies for feedback at a virtual meeting.

#### B. Outreach Priorities and Tactics

We will leverage existing networks with community-based organizations to target participants for focus groups. Our outreach tactics include:

1. Leverage respected community leaders and community-based organizations located in, or working with, the neighborhoods and sub-populations determined to be the most vulnerable to heat effects.
2. Garner interest in taking part and support in spreading the word about the survey and public meeting.
3. Use accessible and inclusive messaging.
  - Outreach materials and communications will use clear, concise, and motivating messaging so that community members understand how this topic is relevant to them and why their contributions are valuable.
  - Communications will clearly state how to participate and express interest as well as what is offered (for in person focus group sessions, light meal or snacks; opportunity for a gift card lottery)
4. Incorporate motivating factors to encourage participation.
  - a. **Timing:** We will hold sessions at times that work for the target population.

## CNO Heat Mitigation

### Community Engagement and Outreach Plan

10.15.2025

- b. **Accessibility:** The variety of feedback methods (focus groups, virtual public meeting, public survey) intend to maximize accessibility while creating avenues for meaningful feedback.
- c. **Nourishment:** A light meal and snacks will be offered for the in-person session.
- d. **Incentives:** We will offer a gift card lottery for virtual participants; three gift cards of \$25 each will be offered for each of the two sessions (sourced from TVG budget).

## IV. HEAT IMPACTS TO EXPLORE

In the engagement session, we will seek to understand the following heat impacts on community members:

- a. **Health impacts** such as increased emergency room visits and hospitalizations from heat-related illnesses, exacerbation of preexisting conditions, dehydration, increased risk to pregnant people, and elevated mental health risks.
- b. **Disruptions to daily life**, including limited access to safe transportation, reduced outdoor activity, increased utility costs, barriers to employment or school attendance, and challenges for caretakers and unhoused individuals in securing relief from extreme heat.
- c. **Energy impacts** such as increased air conditioning demand and resulting costs, and the prevalence of blackouts and brownouts.
- d. **Economic and social impacts** such as individually reported reduced productivity and capacity to work, impacts on outdoor workers, and avoidance of economic and social undertakings (shopping, dining out, entertainment, etc.)

We will encourage participants to identify any other impacts that may or may not fall into these predetermined groupings. For all sessions, we will be exploring the following questions:

- What are the primary challenges to staying cool?
- What resources are available and preferred?
- What are the resource gaps?

## **V. OVERVIEW OF HEAT MITIGATION ENGAGEMENT APPROACHES AND PROTOCOLS**

### **Focus Groups**

- Host five focus groups (approximately 10-12 people each) to acquire input on the experiences of five population segments: outdoor workers, unhoused individuals, families (mothers/children), transit riders, and culture bearers
- Engage senior residents through in-person engagement at the Senior Voters Caucus Annual Meeting.
- Partner with trusted organizations (Senior Centers, Head Start, Unity, RTA, workforce unions).
- Locations of sessions will be structured for accessibility, (i.e. either held where communities already gather such as SeniorFest, childcare centers or held virtually).

<b>Population/ Group</b>	<b>Engagement Approach</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Invitees</b>
Seniors	In-person engagement at the Senior Voters Caucus Annual Meeting, with a possible incentive (gift card raffle) for survey participation.	September 17, 2025	All members present at the Senior Voter's Caucus Event
Outdoor Workers	A virtual focus group with representatives from major contractors (e.g., Bo Brothers, Gibbs, Renegade, Yates) and consider on-site engagement at safety meetings.	October 30 <sup>th</sup> 2025 between 10am-11:30 am	<b>Company Leads From:</b>  Boh Brothers Gibbs Renegade Yates Landis Gallo U.S. Postal Office UPS FEDEX RNGD Garden Doctors RCI Big Yellow Construction

**CNO Heat Mitigation  
Community Engagement and Outreach Plan**  
10.15.2025

Population/ Group	Engagement Approach	Date	Invitees
			Hard Rock Construction, LLC Richard's Disposal, Inc Barriere Construction , LLC DURR IV Waste DPW S&WB COX AT&T Entergy LADOTD
Houseless Population	Virtual focus group with shelter workers, not direct outreach to unhoused individuals.	October 28th between 10am- 1:00pm	<b>Company Leads From:</b>  Covenant House Unity of Greater New Orleans New Orleans Mission Ozanam Inn NAMI Southeast Louisiana Metropolitan Human Services District City of New Orleans Office Of Homeless Services And Strategy Catholic Charities City of New Orleans Shelter and Engagement Center The Salvation Army Depaul USA

**CNO Heat Mitigation  
Community Engagement and Outreach Plan  
10.15.2025**

Population/ Group	Engagement Approach	Date	Invitees
			Mobile Crisis Intervention Unit (MCIU) Travelers' Aid Odyssey House Sobering Center
Transit-Dependent	Virtual focus group including RTA Riders Advisory Committee, advocacy groups (Ride, Bike Easy, Committee for a Better New Orleans), and the Greater New Orleans Foundation's environmental program.	October 29th 2025 between 10am-1:00pm	<b>Company Leads From:</b>  Greater New Orleans Foundation – Environmental Program Ride Bike Easy Committee for a Better New Orleans RTA Riders Advisory Committee <b>GenCare</b>
Children, Families, Early Childhood, Pregnant Women	Virtual focus group with representatives from TCA (Total Community Action), Water Leaders Institute, YMCA, Nord, DePaul, Son of a Saint, United Way, Opportunity Center, Goodwill, Job One, and the New Orleans Public Schools Board, YouthForce NOLA, Early Childhood Agenda	October 29th 2025 4:00pm - 6:00pm	<b>Company Leads From:</b>  Total Community Action Water Leaders Institute YMCA NORD 18th Ward DePaul Community Health Services Son of a Saint United Way Prosperity Center Job1 Orleans Parish School Board YouthForce

**CNO Heat Mitigation  
Community Engagement and Outreach Plan**  
10.15.2025

Population/ Group	Engagement Approach	Date	Invitees
			NOLA Agenda for Children HANO Career Center For Providers By Providers We Play Center Zana Washington (Doula) Healthy Start New Orleans Children & Youth Behavioral Health Resources in the Greater New Orleans Area Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter
Culture Bearers	In-person focus group at Ashé Cultural Arts Center, with support from the "I Deserve It" program.	October 27th, 2025 6pm-7:30pm	<b>Cultural Leads From:</b> The Council of Black Masking Indians Baby Dolls Local Street Musicians and Bands Members of Ashe's "I Deserve It" Program New Orleans Musicians Clinic

**CNO Heat Mitigation  
Community Engagement and Outreach Plan**  
10.15.2025

<b>Population/ Group</b>	<b>Engagement Approach</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Invitees</b>
			Feed the Second Line

## **CNO Heat Mitigation**

### **Community Engagement and Outreach Plan**

10.15.2025

#### ***Public Survey***

The survey will leverage an existing online City platform, such as the Office of Resilience and Sustainability website (TBD).

The survey questions will focus on understanding preferences for heat mitigation solutions, as input into the Community Priorities Report.

Questions will be framed on answering the central questions of engagement:

- What are the primary challenges to staying cool?
- What resources are available and preferred?
- What are the resource gaps?

#### ***Public Meeting***

Virtual meeting to be held in March or April, 2026, in alignment with the development of the draft Community Priorities Report, to garner public feedback on heat action strategies for incorporation into the Heat Action Plan. The meeting will be held prior to finalizing the Community Priorities Report and will employ the use of surveys, break out groups, and whiteboards (e.g., Miro), to gather input.

## **VI. HOW FEEDBACK WILL BE USED FOR PRIORITIZATION OF STRATEGIES**

Community perspectives are fundamental to the prioritization of strategies to mitigate adverse climate change impacts. Following each session, we will organize the input received and assess the prevalence of aligned preferences. These will be mapped against our research on health, energy, economy, environment, infrastructure, and social impacts. From there, our team will be able to recommend strategies that have been shown to mitigate extreme and urban heat effects and are most likely to address the specific needs of the populations in the neighborhoods in which they are implemented.

We will be clear with participants regarding how input will be incorporated into the heat action planning process. This includes that all input will be synthesized and shared anonymously, with no particular preference or opinion attributable

## **CNO Heat Mitigation**

### **Community Engagement and Outreach Plan**

10.15.2025

to any one individual. In this way, we will encourage participants to be open, honest, and transparent in expressing their concerns and aspirations for ways that heat effects can be alleviated in their daily lives.

## APPENDIX

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR EXTREME HEAT MITIGATION: LITERATURE REVIEW SUMMARY**

#### **I. Purpose of Community Engagement in Heat Mitigation**

The main focus of community engagement is to ensure that the people most at risk from extreme heat have a real say in creating the solutions to mitigate the negative impacts of extreme heat. Full consideration of and input from the most vulnerable populations in the community makes heat plans more relevant, fairer, and more likely to succeed.

Four areas identified below represent key pillars of community engagement that support the goal of ensuring an equitable, actionable, and sustainable approach to extreme heat challenges.

1. **It's essential for fair and effective solutions.** Extreme heat is a growing public health threat, and it has a significant adverse effect on vulnerable groups. Sadly, these same groups are often left out of planning.
2. **Gives power to the people.** Good engagement helps underserved neighborhoods speak up about heat problems and push for solutions they need. This tackles unfairness and builds resilience.
3. **Makes plans actually work.** Community-driven approaches turn big ideas into local action by using residents' real-life knowledge and feedback.
4. **Builds trust and teamwork.** Bringing people together strengthens connections between neighbors and with local leaders. This trust helps everyone solve problems better when the community experiences high heat conditions.

#### **II. What Works Best: How to Engage People on Heat**

Studies indicate that community engagement, inclusive of the following steps, is highly effective. They are:

- **Work with Local Groups People Trust:** Team up with neighborhood organizations (CBOs) and local leaders who know the area. (Example: Phoenix, Arizona partnered with local CBOs who helped get residents involved). This builds trust and reaches the right people.

## CNO Heat Mitigation

### Community Engagement and Outreach Plan

10.15.2025

- **Conduct a Series of Hands-On Workshops:** Hold multiple workshops where residents help design solutions step-by-step. Make it easy to attend (e.g., Saturdays, nearby locations) and use clear language (provide translations if needed). (Phoenix Example: *Workshop 1: Find problems & hot spots. Workshop 2: Brainstorm solutions with experts. Workshop 3: Refine the ideas*). This step-by-step process ensures the final plan reflects what the community truly needs.
- **Community Sharing Experiences and Local Knowledge:** Encourage people to talk about their personal heat experiences. (Example: Starting workshops with stories helped residents feel comfortable sharing with experts). This builds trust and values local history. Using maps to mark hot/cool spots also builds shared understanding.
- **Mix Local Know-How with Expert Advice:** Bring residents and technical experts together in a relaxed way. (Phoenix Example: Used a "fishbowl" circle where residents could talk directly with City officials). This guides residents to ask questions and experts share ideas, while making sure solutions fit the local reality. It makes government less intimidating.
- **Show Quick Results ("Quick Wins/Low Hanging Fruit"):** Keep people motivated by doing visible projects fast. (Example: Planting trees or putting up shade structures in spots the community picked first). These early successes build excitement and ownership, demonstrating that action is happening.
- **Be Flexible and Keep Improving:** Every neighborhood is different. Be prepared to adjust your plans as you learn what works and what barriers arise. (Phoenix found this flexibility was key to keeping trust and staying relevant).

By following these steps, communities can create custom Heat Action Plans. Developing neighborhood plans based on local knowledge can be used to get resources and influence bigger regional guides. Good engagement leads to real action.

Over the last year, New Orleans has seen efforts to engage the community on heat-related issues through trusted community organizations. This has included sessions on "climate-ready" bus stops held by the City, the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (NORTA or RTA), and the Committee for a Better New Orleans, and a heat data collection training held at the Sojourner Truth Center

## **CNO Heat Mitigation**

### **Community Engagement and Outreach Plan**

10.15.2025

by the Greater New Orleans Foundation and Lafitte Greenway Partnership. The latter session trained community members on both how to collect heat data and use it to create cooler spaces. Most recently, RIDE has hosted community forums for residents to share their experiences with heat effects and transportation. Follow-up from these sessions to validate interpretations of community needs and perspectives, and to demonstrate how input is integrated into concrete solutions is crucial to maintain trust with residents that their contributions are valued and essential.

### **III. Building Capacity -Helping Communities Help Themselves**

Effective engagement also involves equipping communities with the necessary skills and resources to manage heat through:

**Strengthening Neighborhood Connections:** Neighbors who know and trust each other can check on vulnerable people, share resources, and work together during heat waves. Engagement activities (like workshops) help build these vital social ties and connect people to officials or groups who can help. Stronger communities are better at setting up cooling centers or pushing for better infrastructure.

**Educating and Raising Awareness:** People need to understand heat risks and solutions. Hands-on learning works great! (Example: In Roanoke, teens mapped temperatures with sensors and drones. This taught them and their families about heat patterns). Many people don't see heat as a big threat or understand the unfairness. Programs like this shift thinking – showing heat is a *shared* problem needing *community* solutions (like trees or cool roofs), not just individual coping. Workshops can also teach heat illness signs, cooling tips, and available resources.

**Creating Local Heat Hubs and Leaders:** Communities need local places and people focused on heat safety.

**Resilience Hubs:** These are trusted spaces (like libraries or community centers) that become support centers during heat waves, offering cool air, water, and info.

## **CNO Heat Mitigation**

### **Community Engagement and Outreach Plan**

10.15.2025

**Cooling Centers:** Cities need clear plans for where these are and when they open, plus easy ways to find them (like apps). Making sure everyone knows where to go saves lives.

**Local Leadership:** Communities that help *create* heat plans gain the skills and confidence to keep pushing for solutions (like more trees or better infrastructure). Engaged residents become "heat ambassadors" who can educate others and advise the city long-term.

Combating heat isn't solely about infrastructure; it's about investing in people and relationships. Robust social networks, knowledgeable residents, accessible cooling areas, and vested leaders form a protective safety net for the community.

Many people still don't realize how dangerous heat is (only 37% of Americans see it as a significant health threat!). We *must* educate people about the risks, the link to climate change, and how to stay safe. Communications tools to achieve community awareness include:

**Public Campaigns:** Use radio, social media, texts, and newsletters to share heat safety info in simple, relatable language, especially before and during hot weather. Focus on both quick actions (drink water, know heat stroke signs) and the bigger picture (climate change, urban design).

**Use Ready-Made Tools:** Great resources exist for reference. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has an Extreme Heat Media Toolkit (flyers, social posts, fact sheets) and a Heat & Health Tracker to see local risks. Use visuals and stories to make the risks real.

**Host Learning Events:** Go beyond flyers. Host workshops, town halls, or "climate cafes" focused on heat. Get schools involved! Teaching kids about heat and climate turns them into messengers for their families. Hands-on activities (like community heat mapping or tree planting) help people see the local impact of heat islands and climate change.

**Send Real-Time Alerts:** Utilize tools such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA)s Heat Risk Forecast and Dashboard to notify individuals when dangerous heat is approaching (via text/email). Include practical info: cooling center locations, reminders to check on neighbors. Doctors can also help educate patients.

## **CNO Heat Mitigation**

### **Community Engagement and Outreach Plan**

10.15.2025

#### **IV. The Comprehensive View**

Raising awareness takes many approaches. Use existing tools and get creative in the community to help people understand *why* heat risk is rising, *who* it hurts most, and *what* we can do. Informed community members are more likely to get involved in solutions and protect themselves when a heat crisis occurs. We must strive to engage everyone in communities to face the heat challenge head-on. An informed community is more likely to participate in heat mitigation efforts and to take protective actions when heat emergencies occur.

#### **Article Information**

**Title:** [Building community heat action plans story by story: A three neighborhood case study](#)

**Date:** December 2020

**Authors:** Melissa Guardaro, Maggie Messerschmidt, David M. Hondula, Nancy B. Grimm, Charles L. Redman

**Study Subject/Area:** Heat Action Plan in Three Neighborhoods: Edison/Eastlake, Water Tower Improvement District, Lindo/Roesley Park of Phoenix, Arizona

#### **Summary Narrative**

Our recommendations for best engagement practices, key resources for raising awareness of climate change, and strategies for building community capacity to cope with and share their lived experiences are based on empirical studies conducted in Arizona, Mobile, and Baltimore. We especially highlight the “Nature’s Cooling Systems” initiative, which aims to co-create locally relevant heat action plans. Particularly, we focus on an example of addressing urban heat mitigation strategies in underserved neighborhoods in Arizona that emphasized narrative-based community engagement. “ From this initiative, residents reported feeling more empowered and visible when their lived experiences were heard. Solutions co-developed in workshops were better tailored to community needs—e.g., tree planting, cooling center scheduling, shaded bus stops. Using personal narratives fosters stronger trust and ownership, compared to top-down approaches.

## **CNO Heat Mitigation**

### **Community Engagement and Outreach Plan**

10.15.2025

#### **Best Practices on Engagement**

The use of The Nature's Cooling Systems project used four distinct steps to engage the community: Engage, design, plan, and implement. Each step was catered to the needs of each individual neighborhood based on the community's participation and input. "Throughout the engagement process, demonstration projects were implemented to keep enthusiasm high, identify potential barriers, create small wins, foster new relationships, and increase accountability to communities"(Grimm et al. 2020).

The community was provided an informational brochure explaining the public health implications of extreme heat in both Spanish and English. The City of New Orleans may want to consider expanding translation for other language groups, including Vietnamese.

#### **Approaches to Building Community Capacity**

Using a story format to explain climate science and climate change impacts to people in the community is often most effective. This method of awareness building centers on "accessibility of information, salience/relevance and increasing community members' receptiveness and willingness to use the information presented"(Grimm et al.2020).

Encouraging community members to share "stories of urban heat" that is, their accounts of coping and their perception of how heat impacts them generates input more openly and casually, which can encourage community members to feel comfortable contributing to the conversation. The City of New Orleans could also consider a system of more formalized cohorts to train residents in heat-science basics so that they can collect and share helpful community-based information more regularly.

Effective takeaways from the best practice examples we reviewed include:

- Provide a detailed, clear, and accessible explanation of the technical language used
- Prioritized accessibility in selecting the location of meetings within the community
- Allow space for community members to share stories
- Provide maps to the participants so they can pinpoint areas in their stories.
- Culminated concerns, goals, and solutions of the community

## **CNO Heat Mitigation**

### **Community Engagement and Outreach Plan**

10.15.2025

- Allow groups to vote on priorities and next steps
- Implement conversation techniques such as a Fishbowl or talking circle during meetings to allow experts and advisors to observe and engage with participants

### **Resources for Awareness on Heat**

The use of community-based organizations is a critical component when engaging the community on heat awareness. Established relationships with community leaders and other trusted groups facilitate the ability to recruit and support the outreach team to “identify municipal and community partners for participation in workshops, selecting locations for workshops, providing input and approval for workshops, agendas, and launching demonstration projects” (Grimm et al. 2020).

The Whole Measures framework developed by the Center for the Whole Communities, along with storytelling and evidence-based research from The Nature’s Cooling Systems project, was a practical resource for understanding the barriers faced by the communities.

“The Whole Measures framework is a flexible tool for community engagement, planning, and evaluation that can be adapted to the needs and perspectives of those who use it. When applied to a social or environmental change initiative, Whole Measures can serve as a foundation for a highly integrated, whole systems approach that effectively embraces a wide variety of values such as: social justice, biodiversity, human rights, ecosystem health, civic engagement, and economic vitality” (Whole Communities 2025)

Two maps were developed for each neighborhood to assist policymakers when pinpointing the residents’ “hot spots” and “cool spots”.

## **SUPPLEMENTAL PEER CITIES RESOURCES**

**CNO Heat Mitigation  
Community Engagement and Outreach Plan**

10.15.2025

Additional peer cities have been identified that are actively addressing or planning to address heat mitigation through community engagement strategies.

**Article Information**

**Peer City:** Memphis, Tennessee

**Title:** [Shelby County Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)

**Date:** 2021 Update

**Author:** Shelby County Hazard Mitigation Committee, Shelby County Emergency Management Agency

**Summary Narrative:** The plan has detailed and updated graphs of hazards that broadly impact Shelby County. The plan encourages all jurisdictions/districts within the county to continue to participate in the drafting and preparation of the plan update. The extreme heat this country encounters is slow and predictable.(Extreme Temperatures pg 55).

Community engagement was limited to key individuals, i.e., representatives, specialists, and those who could provide valuable/unique insights. The plan states that there was no public input since no members of the public were present. The plan includes a list of all participants on the Shelby County Hazard Mitigation Committee.

**Article Information:**

**Peer City:** Baltimore, Maryland

**Title:** [Baltimore County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update](#)

**Date:** 2021

**Author:**

**Summary Narrative:** The city utilized a public survey that was placed on the project's website. Throughout the project, the website was promoted and updated continuously. The plan outlines goals and strategies to address drought in the city. Chapter 2 describes the climate and how it impacts the community.

**CNO Heat Mitigation  
Community Engagement and Outreach Plan**

10.15.2025

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