



February 10, 2023

Zach Monroe  
External Affairs Manager  
Office of Resilience and Sustainability  
City of New Orleans  
1300 Perdido Street  
Suite 8E08  
New Orleans, LA 70112

**Re: Letter of Commitment to Partner with the City of New Orleans on EPA Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program for the NOROT Project**

Dear Mr. Monroe:

The Deep South Center for Environmental Justice and the Greater New Orleans Foundation, as partners in and facilitators of the Climate Action Equity Project (CAEP) Advisory Group, are submitting this Letter of Commitment to the City of New Orleans to express our support for the project entitled “New Orleans Recycling Outreach and Training” or NOROT for the EPA’s Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program. We are pleased to submit this letter with Thrive New Orleans, which is represented in the CAEP Advisory Group.

The Climate Action Equity Project Advisory Group is comprised of six community leaders and four representatives of local organizations with expertise and advocacy experience in one of the areas of focus in the City’s climate action strategy – energy, waste reduction, transportation, and culture/workforce. The community leaders were recommended by community-based organizations serving residents of color, low-income residents and/or immigrant communities in each of the council districts. The subject-matter experts/advocates were recommended by peers in the field. The CAEP Advisory Group embraced this recycling project in our last meeting after discussing it with the City.

The Climate Action Equity Project report, [Taking Steps Together on Equity and Climate Change](#), identifies equitable climate action on waste reduction as a key priority. A full list of the CAPE Advisory Group members is also available in the report. Continuing the partnership developed between the City of New Orleans, the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, the Greater New Orleans Foundation, and all the members of the CAEP Working Group over our



more than five years of collective work will enable successful, equitable implementation of this important project.

We are willing to participate as your partners for this project on the following activities:

- Advising on education messaging, materials, and outreach plans during program design & development;
- Supporting the city-wide recycling campaign by sharing NOROT educational communications with our diverse constituencies;
- Promoting Mardi Gras sustainability initiatives; and
- Participating in various ad hoc opportunities to increase recycling, improve waste management, and curtail illegal dumping in our neighborhoods.

Specific details will be subject to the negotiation and execution of a mutually agreed written agreement between the City of New Orleans and our organizations as this project progresses.

We look forward to collaborating with you on this important project to achieve equitable climate action for waste reduction in New Orleans!

Sincerely,

Monique Harden, Director of Law & Public Policy | Community Engagement Program Manager  
Deep South Center for Environmental Justice  
Climate Action Equity Focus Area: Facilitator

Dan Favre, Director of Environmental Programs  
Greater New Orleans Foundation  
Climate Action Equity Focus Area: Facilitator

Chuck Morse, Executive Director  
Thrive New Orleans  
Climate Action Equity Focus Area: Culture/Workforce & Small Business Development



# TAKING STEPS TOGETHER ON EQUITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

A REPORT BY AND FOR NEW ORLEANIANS





## WHY READ THIS REPORT?

This report is about how we live in New Orleans and the steps we can take to achieve equity through citywide action on climate change. In our city, African Americans, other people of color, low income families and individuals, the elderly and youth face various forms of inequity and are also vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The National Climate Assessment warns that “low-income communities, some communities of color, children, and the elderly,” are at great risk of climate change that can “exacerbate existing social and economic inequalities...” And, according to the UN panel of climate scientists, the impacts of climate change will be devastating if action is not taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by fifty percent by the year 2030. These are warnings we cannot ignore.

Social inequities increase vulnerability to the damaging effects of climate change that include stronger storms, more frequent flood events, sea level rise, and heat waves. While inequities seem entrenched and climate change feels overwhelming, there are positive actions we can take together in our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, and city.

This report is the product of the **Climate Action**

**Equity Project**, a partnership between the City of New Orleans, the Greater New Orleans Foundation, and the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice.

This project was funded by the Greater New Orleans Foundation and Partners for Places – a project of the Funders’ Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities.

THE PROJECT’S MISSION IS FOCUSED ON IMPLEMENTING THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS’ CLIMATE ACTION FOR A RESILIENT NEW ORLEANS STRATEGY IN WAYS THAT ACHIEVE EQUITABLE RESULTS.

There are four parts to the New Orleans strategy: modernize our energy use, improve transportation choices, reduce waste, and create a culture of awareness and action. In 2015, the City of New Orleans adopted the Paris Agreement on climate change that sets the goal

of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by fifty percent by the year 2030.

Beginning in March 2018, the Advisory Group to the Climate Action Equity Project developed action steps for achieving equity in the implementation of the City's climate strategy. The Advisory Group is the unique assembly of New Orleans residents, who were nominated by community-based organizations in each city council district, as well as residents with expertise in energy, transportation, waste reduction, and workforce/small business development.

During the month of October 2018, The Advisory Group's recommended steps were further developed in the Climate & Equity Community Forums that took place in the Algiers, Central City, Gentilly, Hollygrove, Lower Ninth Ward, New Orleans East, and Tremé neighborhoods, where residents are at risk from the impacts of inequity and climate change. In these forums, facilitated by the Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy, residents explored the causes and effects of climate change, reviewed the city's strategy for climate action, gave input on the Advisory Group's action steps, and made their own recommendations for equitable climate action that are included in this report.

Not only are the action steps presented in this report needed to address the urgency of climate change, they also are long overdue.

“WE ARE NOW FACED WITH THE FACT THAT TOMORROW IS TODAY. WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW. IN THIS UNFOLDING CONUNDRUM OF LIFE AND HISTORY, THERE IS SUCH A THING AS BEING TOO LATE. THIS IS NO TIME FOR APATHY OR COMPLACENCY. THIS IS A TIME FOR VIGOROUS AND POSITIVE ACTION.”

- DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Whether you are a young person, an elder, a person looking for a better job or business opportunity, an educator, a city official, a business leader, or a leader of a neighborhood association, faith-based organization or civic group, this report is for you. There is something each of us can do that contributes to our city becoming more equitable and better prepared for climate change. We hope that you will read this report and consider action in New Orleans.



Children of the Climate and Equity Community Forum participants at the NORD Cut-off in the Algiers neighborhood.



## MAYOR LATOYA CANTRELL CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Climate change hits us at the core where we live. In Southeast Louisiana, we lose a football field of land every 100 minutes to coastal erosion and rising sea levels. More extreme weather events have led to increased rainfall, and that has impacts for New Orleans, as we all know. But higher temperatures and more emissions also threaten our quality of life and our public health.

The City of New Orleans' Climate Action Strategy addresses these crises by promoting targeted actions in the areas of energy, transportation, waste, and culture/workforce. Last year, my administration - in partnership with the Greater New Orleans Foundation - went into the community to explore the ways that the challenges of climate change are heightened by social inequity.

Hundreds of New Orleanians across every district came to meetings to discuss the causes and risks of climate change, and provide their feedback on neighborhood-level solutions. We need the voice of residents of color, low-income residents and immigrant communities in order to move us in the right direction. I believe that by speaking to

residents, we can more adequately address social equity and environmental justice challenges.

This Climate Action Equity Report represents a playbook for how to create win-win's for all of us on the issue of climate equity. We all want a safer city, with affordable energy, renewable technologies, reliable and efficient transportation, green jobs and healthy air, and green jobs that create opportunity for our residents. Making New Orleans a vibrant and thriving city - that's what we're about.



LaToya Cantrell

Mayor  
City of New Orleans

# ANDY KOPPLIN

## GREATER NEW ORLEANS FOUNDATION

New Orleans has been increasingly experiencing the adverse effects of climate change since Hurricane Katrina as evidenced by more intense and frequent storms, accelerated sea level rise, and urban heat island effect. For decades, communities in the Greater New Orleans region have been developing climate adaptation solutions to adapt to these effects. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines climate adaptation as actions taken to help communities and ecosystems cope with changing climate conditions.

Since Hurricane Katrina, the Greater Orleans Foundation has been working with and investing in numerous partners to develop and implement equitable climate adaptation solutions towards its vision of a vibrant, sustainable, and just region for all. In line with this, in 2010, we started building the movement to help our region live better with water with the creation of the Water Challenge, a business development program and pitch competition for entrepreneurs that have developed solutions to our region's coastal and urban water challenges. In 2013, GNOF launched the Urban Water Series, the first platform for New Orleans to learn about the emerging climate adaptation solution of green infrastructure. From 2010 until today, GNOF has invested \$3.3 million in the "living with water" movement.

In 2016, GNOF recognized that New Orleans not only needed to adapt to climate change but also needed to contribute to the fight towards climate change through more intensive climate mitigation measures. Climate mitigation is defined by the UNFCCC as efforts to decrease the amount of greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere and in reducing the current concentration of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) by enhancing sinks such as increasing

the area of forests.

Findings by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018 underscored the urgency of climate mitigation efforts. It concluded that the effects of climate change will be devastating if action is not taken to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent from 2010 levels by the year 2030.

GNOF believes that climate mitigation efforts must not exacerbate existing inequities in our region, especially for low-income communities and communities of color. In fact, GNOF believes that these efforts can instead contribute to the reduction of these inequities. Through this report and the work of the Advisory Group, GNOF in partnership with the City of New Orleans and the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice presents various programs, policies, and processes through which our City can fight climate change and contribute to greater equity and justice in New Orleans.

I hope that as you read these recommendations, you will determine the part that you can play in this worthy fight.



Andy Kopplin

President and CEO  
Doris Z. Stone Chair in Philanthropic Leadership  
Greater New Orleans Foundation



## DR. BEVERLY WRIGHT DEEP SOUTH CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

What you have opened is not a typical report. It is the work of New Orleans residents who care about their neighborhoods and dare to envision a city where people are treated fairly and climate change is taken seriously.

They live in Algiers, Central City, East New Orleans, Gentilly, Hollygrove, and the Lower Ninth Ward. They include residents who foster the development of local entrepreneurs, fight for energy solutions, lead volunteer efforts to reduce waste, and advocate for improving and expanding public transit. Together, as the Advisory Group to the Climate Action Equity Project, they have dedicated countless hours to identify the inequities that exist in our city and analyze how action on climate change can make real improvements. To engage more residents in this process, they organized the Climate & Equity Community Forums where they received valuable feedback from more than 200 New Orleans residents. The community feedback and the work of the Advisory Group are presented here as action steps we can all take together in New Orleans as residents and neighbors.

As a social scientist and advocate for environmental justice, I am keenly aware that Hurricane Katrina was more than a harbinger of climate change as it laid bare the racial inequities in our city that have grown worse in some respects. Too many African American

families in New Orleans, comprising 40 percent of total households, struggle to meet basic needs. In Louisiana, African Americans are disproportionately exposed to oil, gas and power plant pollution that harms their health and warms the planet. This reality is made worse with climate change, which further destabilizes people who are forced to live on the margins. The good news is that New Orleans residents are working to change this reality and offer a way forward for all of us on the pages that follow.

The Deep South Center for Environmental Justice appreciates the opportunity to partner with the Advisory Group, the Greater New Orleans Foundation, and the City of New Orleans in this important endeavor for equity and climate action in our beloved city.



Dr. Beverly Wright

Founder & Executive Director  
Deep South Center for Environmental Justice







TRASH

RECYCLE



## SECTION 1:

# RECOMMENDED STEPS FOR EQUITY AND CLIMATE ACTION

Residents of New Orleans have come together to recommend steps for achieving equity through climate action. Individuals participated in a ten-month long process as the Advisory Group to the Climate Action Equity Project, and took on the responsibility of developing the action steps recommended in this report. Members of the Advisory Group were nominated by community-based organizations in each council district, and included residents with expertise in energy, transportation, waste reduction, and workforce/small business development. Read more about the Advisory Group in Section 3.

More than 200 residents of New Orleans participated in the Climate & Equity Community Forums that took place in Algiers, Central City, Gentilly, Hollygrove, Lower Ninth Ward, New Orleans East, and Tremé during the month of October 2018. In these forums, facilitated by the Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy, residents explored the causes and effects of climate change, reviewed the city's strategy for climate action, gave input on the Advisory Group's action steps, and recommended additional action steps that are included in this report.

This section presents the work by New Orleans residents, who served on the Advisory Group and participated in the Climate & Equity Forums. Their recommended action steps focus on achieving equity in four areas that are based on the City of New Orleans' Climate Action for a Resilient New Orleans report. Accordingly, the following goal was set:

### Achieve equity in how we

- (1) **modernize our energy use;**
- (2) **improve transportation choices;**
- (3) **reduce waste; and**
- (4) **create a culture that supports workforce and small businesses opportunities in climate action.**

The recommended action steps are organized in four sections that identify the equity goals. Each recommended step is detailed to provide the “what,” “how,” and “potential key partners” for achieving equity through climate action in New Orleans.



Community members at the Climate & Equity Community Forum in the Lower Ninth Ward neighborhood.



# EQUITABLE CLIMATE ACTION ON ENERGY

## GOAL 1.

Modernize energy use in New Orleans that achieves equity by:

- alleviating financial stress on low income families who struggle to pay energy bills;
- providing residents with greater access to energy options that save money;
- expanding energy efficiency to support affordable housing and improve indoor air quality; and

- reducing pollution from the use of fossil fuels that harms human health and contributes to climate change.

## GOAL 2.

Support community engagement and local expertise in governmental decisions on energy issues.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- You can give input on energy issues to your representatives on the City Council. New Orleans is the only city in the US with the power to regulate its electric and gas utility company. Check out [www.council.nola.gov](http://www.council.nola.gov) for information about the Council and public meetings on energy issues.
- The services provided by the Energy Smart Income Qualified Weatherization not only reduce energy waste, but also have the added benefits of contributing to affordable housing with lower energy costs, improving

indoor air quality, and providing an upgrade to aging housing stock.

- The 2018 budget includes \$486,000 for the Energy Smart Income Qualified Weatherization Program. Based on an estimated cost of \$600 in program services per household, approximately 800 low income households can benefit from this program in one year. The budget also includes \$200,000 for energy efficiency programs designed for multi-family housing.

## NEW ORLEANS STATISTICS

**50%**



**percent** - more than five times higher than the national average cost burden of **3.5 percent**.<sup>[2]</sup>

Current energy use in New Orleans contributes to **50 percent** of the **3,606,199 metric tons** of greenhouse gases emitted from our city.<sup>[4]</sup> The greater the greenhouse gas emissions, the higher the temperatures we experience. Modernizing energy use is an important way that individuals can contribute to the fight against climate change.

**TOP 20**



In the **top 20** of US cities that generate the **largest amount** of solar energy power per capita thanks to New Orleans residents who installed solar panels on their homes and businesses.<sup>[3]</sup>

**18.9%**



**TOP 25**



Second in the nation for highest energy cost burden on low income households, which is **18.9**

First among the **top 25** US cities most at risk from climate change.<sup>[1]</sup>

## RECOMMENDED ACTION STEPS

WHAT	HOW	POTENTIAL KEY PARTNERS
Break the cycle of crisis created by unaffordable electric bills and power shut-offs experienced by thousands of New Orleans residents.	Support low-income residents, who cannot afford electric bills and face shut-offs, to participate in energy efficiency and home weatherization programs, like the Energy Smart Income Qualified Weatherization Program. Raise awareness of neighborhood, faith, cultural, and community service leaders on how they can connect residents to these programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighborhood Associations</li> <li>• Faith-Based Organizations</li> <li>• Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs</li> <li>• Directors of Community Centers</li> <li>• Energy Smart Administrators</li> <li>• Total Community Action Agency</li> <li>• Alliance for Affordable Energy</li> <li>• Energy</li> </ul>
Reduce the high cost of electric bills on low income households in New Orleans, which ranks second in the nation for the highest energy burden paid by low income households.	Grow participation in the Energy Smart Income Qualified Weatherization Program with a sliding scale on income qualifications to serve more residents in need. Engage landlords to participate in the program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Council</li> <li>• Council Utility Regulatory Office</li> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Energy Smart Administrators</li> <li>• Total Community Action Agency</li> <li>• Alliance for Affordable Energy</li> </ul>
Make an investment in low income neighborhoods with community solar programs, which are now enabled by a recent City Council resolution.	Encourage development of community solar projects that benefit low-income neighborhoods. These projects allow renters and other residents who cannot install solar panels on their homes to purchase solar energy together and defray the costs of their electric bills. Convene information sessions to educate residents and small businesses about the opportunities to reduce energy costs with shared solar. Engage with community solar developers and encourage community solar program growth from both new and experienced developers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor</li> <li>• City Council</li> <li>• Neighborhood Associations</li> <li>• Office of Neighborhood Engagement</li> <li>• Office of Resilience &amp; Sustainability</li> <li>• Local renewable energy companies</li> <li>• Greater New Orleans Foundation and other philanthropic organizations</li> <li>• Federal departments and agencies that provide community solar grants and other funding (e.g., US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Energy, Department of Health and Human Services, and Environmental Protection Agency)</li> <li>• Financing Institutions</li> </ul>

WHAT	HOW	POTENTIAL KEY PARTNERS
Help residents to reduce the cost of electric bills by generating their own electricity.	Expand affordable solar energy options for low income homeowners through financial incentives or utility programs. For example, private investment can be leveraged for third-party ownership or leasing to install solar panels on residential rooftops. An incentive as low as two to three thousand dollars per solar rooftop installation has proven to incentivize millions of dollars of investment. The incentive can be paid for through utility rates, or state/federal grant programs focusing on reducing energy burdens and improving climate resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor</li> <li>• City Council</li> <li>• Local renewable energy companies</li> <li>• Philanthropic organizations</li> <li>• Federal departments and agencies that provide grants and other funding to support renewable energy (e.g., US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Energy, Department of Health and Human Services, and Environmental Protection Agency)</li> <li>• Financing Institutions</li> </ul>
Establish local accountability on energy decisions in order to address the needs of New Orleanians and ensure equity.	Prioritize equity in governmental policies and decision-making on energy. Decrease reliance on out-of-state consultants and build local expertise and capacity by increasing in-house staff who will manage energy decisions in the Council Utility Regulatory Office, City of New Orleans Office of Utilities, and the Department of Property Management. Establish a citizen advisory board on policy matters and governmental practice involving energy and equity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor</li> <li>• City Council</li> <li>• Energy advocacy organizations</li> <li>• Housing advocacy organizations</li> <li>• Social justice organizations</li> <li>• Community engagement/civic participation organizations</li> </ul>

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a goal for yourself, your family or housemate to reduce energy and water waste.
- Help a neighbor prepare for hot and cold seasons through weather-stripping, sealing air gaps, tuning up your AC unit.
- Install solar panels on your rooftop.
- Check out [energysmartnola.info](http://energysmartnola.info) for services to make your home energy efficient, which have the added benefits of lower electric bills and healthy indoor air quality.
- If you rent your home, ask your landlord to improve the efficiency of your home. The landlord can apply for services from the EnergySmart or Weatherization Assistance Project.
- Subscribe to a community solar project.

### SOURCES:

[1] The weather.com Climate Disruption Index: 25 U.S. Cities Most Affected by Climate Change, The Weather Channel.  
 [2] American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, Lifting the High Energy Burden in America’s Largest Cities, April 2016.  
 [3] Environment America Research & Policy Center and Frontier Group, Shining Cities 2018: How Smart Local Policies Are Expanding Solar Power in America, April 2018.  
 [4] City of New Orleans, Climate Action for a Resilient New Orleans, July 2017, p. 18.



# EQUITABLE CLIMATE ACTION ON TRANSPORTATION

## GOAL 1.

Make the choice for public transit an ideal one, rather than a last resort, by ensuring equity to:

- fund public transit improvements that meet the needs of underserved neighborhoods and residents who rely on buses to get to work and school, and to move around the city;
- require meaningful and effective opportunities for community participation in decision-making on public transit funds; and
- make bus rides a positive experience for existing riders.

## GOAL 2.

Support community engagement and local expertise in governmental decisions on transportation issues.

## GOAL 3.

Invest in underserved communities planning safer ways to get around by walking, bicycling, riding a bus or driving a vehicle.

## GOAL 4.

Connect transportation options to developing affordable housing and improving infrastructure.

## GOAL 5.

Increase access to innovative transportation options and the affordability of electric vehicles for low income families and individuals.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**\$8,849**

The average cost of owning a car is estimated at **\$8,849 annually** – so taking public transit can help your family save a lot of money. And for some families it’s absolutely necessary.

**\$ 264/2,222**



Only **264 bus stops** out of the **2,222 bus stops** in the RTA system have shelters. A bus shelter costs around **\$11,000** on average.

**12%**



New Orleans residents who rely on buses to get around are limited in their choice of work. The average transit-reliant New Orleanian can reach only **12 percent** of jobs in the area within **30 minutes**. Riding buses to go to work in our city can last longer than it takes to travel by car from New Orleans to Gulfport, Mississippi.<sup>[1]</sup>

**20 MINUTES**



The RTA has a number of lines that arrive every **20 minutes or less** during the day, including the #11 Magazine, #39 Tulane, #88 St. Claude, #94 Broad, and the Canal and St. Charles streetcar lines.

**44%**



How we move around New Orleans, mostly in personal vehicles fueled by gas, contributes **44 percent** of the **3,606,199 metric tons** of greenhouse gases emitted from our city.<sup>[2]</sup> The greater the greenhouse gas emissions, the higher the temperatures we experience. Taking transit is an important way that individuals can contribute to the fight against climate change.

**ALL-NIGHT**



The RTA also has a number of lines that run all night, including the #16 S Claiborne, #39 Tulane, #52 St. Bernard-Paris Avenue, #55 Elysian Fields, #84 Galvez, #88 St. Claude, #94 Broad, 114 Gen. de Gaulle-Sullen, the New Orleans East Owl, and the St. Charles and Cemeteries-Canal streetcar lines.

## RECOMMENDED ACTION STEPS

WHAT	HOW	POTENTIAL KEY PARTNERS
Fund public transit improvements in Algiers, Hollygrove, Lower 9th Ward, New Orleans East, and other underserved communities to improve bus routes, schedules, and on-time performance for faster and more reliable service that connects residents to schools, workplaces, and other points in the city and metropolitan region.	Encourage and support bus riders and other members of the public to participate in the New Links transit network redesign, a study to identify where funds should be invested to improve transportation services. With public input, New Links can be developed to address the concerns of people and communities with few transportation options. New Links is conducted by the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and the Regional Planning Commission (RPC). The RTA manages local buses and street cars. The RPC approves funding for transportation in the New Orleans Metropolitan Region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Transit Authority</li> <li>• Regional Planning Commission</li> <li>• Mayor</li> <li>• City Council</li> <li>• Ride New Orleans</li> <li>• Worker organizations</li> <li>• Parental organizations</li> <li>• Office of Neighborhood Engagement</li> <li>• Office of Transportation</li> </ul>



WHAT	HOW	POTENTIAL KEY PARTNERS
Foster deeper and diverse engagement of people and communities who are typically not included in transportation decisions but directly affected by them.	Build a network of community groups and organizations to regularly engage the Regional Transit Authority and the Regional Planning Commission in the transit decision-making process. This network would be ideally convened by the RTA and would have community representation from each council district with a focus on neighborhoods lacking reliable and frequent access to public transit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community-based organizations and neighborhood groups</li> <li>• Regional Transit Authority</li> <li>• Regional Planning Commission</li> <li>• Mayor</li> <li>• City Council</li> <li>• Ride New Orleans</li> <li>• Worker organizations</li> <li>• Parental organizations</li> <li>• Office of Neighborhood Engagement</li> <li>• Office of Transportation</li> </ul>
Improve the transit experience for existing riders and increase ridership by reducing the stigma of using public transit.	<p>Install and maintain clean, roofed, and well-lit bus shelters with benches at bus stops for riders in neighborhoods that currently lack them. Create a mid-to long-term plan for the installation of bus shelters in the city at locations where most bus riders live and work.</p> <p>Ensure easier and faster boarding times with new transit pass technology for paying fares. Connect this technology to other public services and benefits. Increase bus ridership with discounted bus passes and make them available for purchase at hospitals, health clinics, local universities, grocery stores and convenience stores that are part of the network of Lotto retailers, and at the workplaces of major employers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Transit Authority</li> <li>• Hospital administrators</li> <li>• Universities</li> <li>• Companies with 50+ employees</li> </ul>
Close the distance between affordable housing and reliable public transit.	Establish financial and zoning incentives to encourage affordable housing in new developments along high-capacity transit lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor</li> <li>• City Council</li> <li>• City Planning Commission</li> <li>• HousingNOLA</li> <li>• Housing developers</li> <li>• Industrial Development Board</li> </ul>
Improve infrastructure and transportation options for underserved neighborhoods.	Prioritize the equitable distribution of funds for the construction and repair of streets and sidewalks in underserved neighborhoods. Neighborhoods, such as those in New Orleans East, do not have sidewalks where residents can safely walk. Develop a set of criteria and metrics which enables and ensures this equitable distribution. Apply funds from local capital bonds, State-funded repairs, and federal resources. Include bike lanes as needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor</li> <li>• Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development</li> <li>• Regional Planning Commission</li> <li>• Office of Neighborhood Engagement</li> <li>• Office of Resilience &amp; Sustainability</li> </ul>
Community-led change to create streets and sidewalks that improve underserved neighborhoods.	Support collaboration between underserved neighborhoods and city departments to increase demonstration projects for making streets and sidewalks safer for walking and crossing, and improving streets for multiple users: pedestrians, bike riders, bus riders, and drivers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community-based organizations and neighborhood groups</li> <li>• Mayor</li> <li>• Bike-friendly groups: Bike Easy, Ride New Orleans, Girl Trek, bike retail and repair shops</li> <li>• Senior citizen groups</li> <li>• Disability rights advocacy organizations</li> </ul>

WHAT	HOW	POTENTIAL KEY PARTNERS
Increase access to innovative and affordable transportation options by placing car share and bike share locations in underserved neighborhoods.	Establish car share (e.g., Zip Car and Enterprise Car Share) and bike share facilities in low income neighborhoods. Allow SNAP recipients to receive discounts on membership fees for the car share and bike share programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bike Easy</li> <li>• Enterprise Car Rentals</li> <li>• Zip Car</li> <li>• Mayor</li> <li>• City Council</li> <li>• Neighborhood groups and community-based organizations</li> </ul>
Increase accessibility of electric vehicles.	<p>Require gas stations with six or more pumps to provide charging stations for electric vehicles.</p> <p>Encourage partnerships with major retail establishments and large grocery stores to provide charging stations.</p> <p>Require new construction or major renovation of residential rental property with 20 or more units, large parking lots, and large commercial retail developments to provide charging stations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor</li> <li>• City Council</li> <li>• City Planning Commission</li> </ul>

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Got an idea for improving how we get around by bus? Bring it to the Regional Transit Authority. The RTA has started a process called NewLinks to change and reimagine bus routes and schedules to make them better able to serve people. New Links is expected to be completed in 2020. You can learn more at [newlinksnola.com](http://newlinksnola.com), by emailing [info@newlinksnola.com](mailto:info@newlinksnola.com), or calling the RTA at **504-248-3900**. Ride New Orleans helps to get residents involved in the process as well. Contact RideNOLA at [info@rideneworleans.org](mailto:info@rideneworleans.org), **504-345-8360**, or learn more via [rideneworleans.org](http://rideneworleans.org).
- Attend an RTA meeting. The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority holds regular monthly meetings that are open to the public. Check out [www.norta.com](http://www.norta.com) for information about the RTA and public meetings.
- Download RTA's **GoMobile 2.0**, a free app for your smart phone that tells you exactly where the next bus is and how long it will take to get to you. You can even pay for the ride on your phone!

## SOURCES:

[1] Ride New Orleans, From Plans to Action: The State of Transit 2018, p. 11.

[2] City of New Orleans, Climate Action for a Resilient New Orleans, July 2017, p. 18.

# EQUITABLE CLIMATE ACTION ON WASTE REDUCTION

## GOAL 1.

Prioritize equity in efforts to reduce waste by:

- supporting residents in underserved neighborhoods to abate litter and increase recycling; and
- protecting neighborhoods targeted for the illegal dumping of tires and other waste.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- What we put in landfills contributes six percent of the 3,606,199 metric tons of greenhouse gases emitted from our city.<sup>[1]</sup> The greater the greenhouse gas emissions, the higher the temperatures we experience. Reducing waste is an important way that individuals can contribute to the fight against climate change.

## RECOMMENDED ACTION STEPS

WHAT	HOW	POTENTIAL KEY PARTNERS
Protect neighborhoods targeted for the illegal dumping of tires and other waste.	Create a comprehensive enforcement program against illegal dumping, including increasing fines for offenders, holding property owners accountable to secure their property, clearing existing illegal dumping sites and monitoring them to discourage continued dumping including in the New Orleans East, Lower Ninth Ward, and Algiers neighborhoods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighborhood organizations, including those in New Orleans East, Lower Ninth Ward, and Algiers</li> <li>• Sanitation Department</li> <li>• Department of Code Enforcement</li> <li>• Parks &amp; Parkways Department</li> <li>• Office of Neighborhood Engagement</li> <li>• Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development</li> <li>• Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality</li> </ul>
Promote recycling in underserved communities that includes both households and businesses.	Create and maintain a public education campaign on recycling and waste reduction that includes direct outreach to underserved communities and community members as spokespersons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Sanitation</li> <li>• Keep New Orleans Beautiful</li> <li>• Neighborhood associations</li> <li>• Office of Neighborhood Engagement</li> <li>• Schools</li> <li>• New Orleans Recreation Development Commission</li> <li>• The Collaborative</li> <li>• Black Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Disadvantaged Business Enterprise associations</li> <li>• Recycling and waste reduction non-profits: The Green Project, No Waste Louisiana, YLC Recycles, Sierra Club</li> </ul>
Make city recycling services accessible to underserved neighborhoods.	Expand the hours and add locations of recycling drop-off centers and waste transfer centers on both the East Bank and West Bank of New Orleans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor</li> <li>• City Council</li> <li>• Department of Sanitation</li> </ul>

WHAT	HOW	POTENTIAL KEY PARTNERS
Offer recycling services to renters.	Establish a city ordinance requiring apartments of 10 or more rental units to provide recycling service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor</li> <li>• City Council</li> <li>• Department of Sanitation</li> <li>• Property management companies</li> <li>• Private waste collection companies</li> <li>• HousingNOLA</li> </ul>



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Recycle all your paper, cardboard boxes, plastic bottles and metal cans.
- If you live in a house or apartment building with four units or less, the City of New Orleans will provide you with both trash and recycling pickup. To register for the curbside recycling program and receive a blue recycling bin, call 311.
- The City of New Orleans Recycling Drop-Off Center accepts many materials (such as old TVs) and offers an annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day for safe disposal of harmful chemicals.
- Visit the website [recycle.nola.gov](https://recycle.nola.gov) to learn about more ways to recycle in New Orleans.

### SOURCES:

[1] City of New Orleans, Climate Action for a Resilient New Orleans, July 2017, p. 18.

# EQUITABLE CLIMATE ACTION FOR JOBS & SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

## GOAL 1.

Create a culture that values and supports members of underserved communities gaining the skills to work or manage a business in the areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

## GOAL 2.

Support efforts to raise awareness and support for climate action at cultural celebrations and events.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### 12X FASTER



Solar and wind jobs have grown at rates of about **20%** annually in recent years and are each creating jobs at a rate **12 times faster** than that of the rest of the U.S. economy. There are almost **2.2 million people** working in energy efficiency nationwide, a **7%** overall growth from 2015. Job creation in this sector has outstripped the fossil fuel industry.<sup>[1]</sup>

of Electric Power Generation employment. Firms that support the nation's wind technology sector employ a total of **101,738** workers—a **32 percent increase since 2015**.

### \$18.98



A solar panel installer is the fastest-growing job in eight different states. The role is also known as a "PV installer," and "assembles, installs, and maintains solar panel systems on rooftops or other structures." In 2017, the occupation saw a median pay of **\$18.98 per hour**, or **\$39,490 per year**. It's projected to grow **105%** by 2026, which is significantly faster than the national rate.<sup>[3]</sup>

### 101,738



Wind generation provides the third largest share



## RECOMMENDED ACTION STEPS

WHAT	HOW	POTENTIAL KEY PARTNERS
Lower the high unemployment rate among African American residents with targeted jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities in renewable and efficient energy technologies, zero waste, transportation, and water management sectors.	In the environmentally sustainable sectors, expand the outreach and scope of local workforce and small business development resources to lower the unemployment rate among African Americans through training, job placement, and business management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deep South Center for Environmental Justice</li> <li>• StriveNOLA</li> <li>• Groundwork NOLA</li> <li>• Good Will Industries</li> <li>• Louisiana Green Corps</li> <li>• LaunchNOLA</li> <li>• Delgado Community College</li> <li>• Good Work Network</li> <li>• Office of Resilience &amp; Sustainability</li> <li>• Greater New Orleans Foundation</li> </ul>
Increase participation of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in climate action strategies and city projects involving environmental and infrastructure improvements.	Prioritize meeting equity goals for jobs and business opportunities in city contracts, procurement, vendor selection, grant awards, and federal/state appropriations that support any of the climate action strategies on energy, waste, and transportation, or other city projects involving environmental and infrastructure improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor</li> <li>• City Council</li> <li>• New Orleans Legislative Delegation</li> <li>• Water Collaborative of Greater New Orleans</li> <li>• Urban League of Louisiana</li> <li>• New Orleans Business Alliance</li> <li>• LaunchNOLA</li> </ul>
Value jobs in recycling and sanitation that support families and the city.	Create safe, livable wage jobs in recycling, composting, and waste collection by setting quality standards with city contractors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Sanitation</li> <li>• Trash disposal companies contracted with the City of New Orleans</li> </ul>
Sustain our unique culture with awareness of action on climate change.	Engage culture bearers, such as social aid and pleasure clubs, cultural arts centers, museums, in conversations to raise awareness of need for climate action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater New Orleans Foundation</li> <li>• African American Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs</li> <li>• Asian and Hispanic culture and heritage organizations</li> <li>• Ashé Cultural Arts Center</li> <li>• McKenna Museum of African American Art</li> </ul>

### SOURCES:

[1] Crowe, J., Gessesse, E., Grady, N., Whitehouse, K., Jon Crowe, Delaney, L., Hanley, K., Marchyshyn, A., McKeon, N. Now Hiring: The Growth of America's Clean Energy and Sustainability Jobs; Environmental Defense Fund and Meister Consultants Group, 2018.  
 [2] U.S. Energy and Employment Report, U.S. Department of Energy, January 2017.  
 [3] Belmonte, A. "The fastest-growing job in each U.S. state", Yahoo Finance, February 4, 2019.





It's the South's Finest Thing!  
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## SECTION 2:

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

### MAKE SMART ENERGY CHOICES

- Set a goal for yourself, your family or housemate to reduce energy and water waste.
- Help a neighbor prepare for hot/cold seasons: weather-stripping, seal air gaps, tune up AC.
- Install solar panels on your rooftop.
- Check out [energysmartnola.info](http://energysmartnola.info) for efficiency programs.
- If you rent your home, ask your landlord to improve the efficiency of your home. The Landlord can apply for services from the EnergySmart or Weatherization Assistance Project.
- Subscribe to a Community Solar Project.

### REDUCE YOUR WASTE

- Recycle all your paper, cardboard boxes, plastic bottles and metal cans.
- If you live in a house or apartment building with four units or less, the City of New Orleans will provide you with both trash and recycling pickup. To register for the curbside recycling program and receive a blue recycling bin, call 311.
- The City of New Orleans Recycling Drop-Off Center accepts many materials (such as old TVs) and offers an annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day for safe disposal of harmful chemicals.
- Visit the website [recycle.nola.gov](http://recycle.nola.gov) to learn about more ways to recycle in New Orleans.

### RIDE PUBLIC TRANSIT MORE

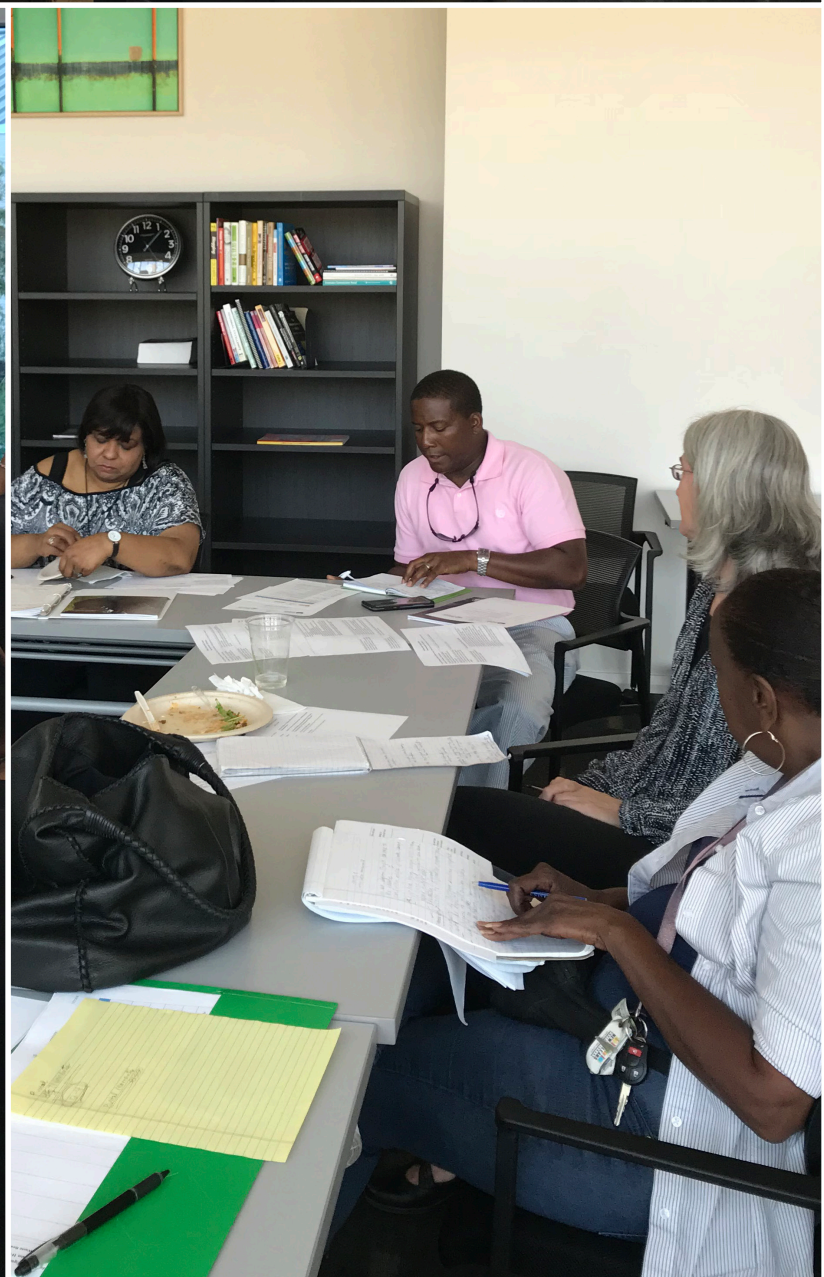
- Got an idea for improving how we get around by bus? Bring it to the Regional Transit

Authority. The RTA has started a process called NewLinks to change and reimagine bus routes and schedules to make them better able to serve people. New Links is expected to be completed in 2020. You can learn more at [newlinksnola.com](http://newlinksnola.com), by emailing [info@newlinksnola.com](mailto:info@newlinksnola.com), or calling the RTA at **504-248-3900**. Ride New Orleans helps to get residents involved in the process as well. Contact RideNOLA at [info@rideneworleans.org](mailto:info@rideneworleans.org), **504-345-8360**, or learn more via [rideneworleans.org](http://rideneworleans.org).

- Attend an RTA meeting. The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority holds regular monthly meetings that are open to the public. Check out [norta.com](http://norta.com) for information about the RTA and public meetings.
- Download RTA's **GoMobile 2.0**, a free app for your smart phone that tells you exactly where the next bus is and how long it will take to get to you. You can even pay for the ride on your phone!

### CONNECT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY AND REPRESENTATIVES

- Contact your City Councilmember to express your support for the sustainability actions laid out in this document.
- Work with your neighborhood association on implementing / supporting the actions in your neighborhood.
- Share this report with your family and other community members, including the youth.
- Reach out to organizations listed in this report for assistance in addressing concerns related to clean energy, waste management, transit, and culture/workforce.



## SECTION 3:

### MEET THE ADVISORY GROUP



#### **IRVIN L. BELL**

**Executive Director,  
Abundance of Desire Wellness Center**

Reverend Irvin L. Bell was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. Immediately after their wedding in 2006, Irvin and his wife Sarah relocated to New Orleans to serve the Gulf Coasts of Louisiana and Mississippi in recovery efforts. Irvin is currently a strategic partner with Desire Street Ministries and the Founder and Executive Director of the Abundance of Desire Community Wellness Center in the Upper 9th ward community of Desire. Abundance of Desire is a neighborhood centered not for profit organization focused on holistically improving the lives of the underserved through the tenets of health, education, and spirituality.



#### **LOGAN BURKE**

**Executive Director,  
Alliance for Affordable Energy**

Logan Burke is the Executive Director of the Alliance for Affordable Energy, the Louisiana energy consumer advocacy organization. Since joining the Alliance in 2013, Ms. Burke has worked to encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy for Louisiana, and to ensure residents have a voice at the negotiating table at both the City of New Orleans and the Louisiana Public Service Commission.



#### **LIZ DAVEY**

**Executive Director, Keep New Orleans Beautiful**

Liz Davey is the director of the Office of Sustainability at Tulane University. She also leads Keep New Orleans Beautiful, a network of individuals, organizations, and local government agencies addressing waste reduction, recycling, litter prevention and neighborhood beautification.



#### **JENNIFER GREEN**

**Vice President, Gentilly Terrace and  
Gardens Improvement Association**

Jennifer Green co-owns and has operated Nationwide Real Estate Corporation for the last 30 years. Nationwide is a full service brokerage firm specializing in property management and rehabilitation. Always active in her community, Green has served as Vice-President and Treasurer at Edward Hynes Charter School Parent Teacher Organization and as President of the Benjamin Franklin High School Parents Association. Green attended Harvard University where she met her husband of 35 years New Orleans native, Eugene J. Green, Jr. They have 3 children and a grandchild. She is originally from Brooklyn, NY.



**VEDISIA GREEN**  
**Hollygrove Neighbors Association**

Dee Dee Green is the Area Program Director for American Friends Service Committee’s Peace by Piece New Orleans program. She is a Fellow with Tulane University’s Mellon Graduate Program in Community-Engaged Scholarship. She serves on the boards of the Hollygrove Neighbors Association and Ubuntu Village NOLA.



**DAWN HEBERT**  
**East New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission**

Dawn Hebert is a resident of New Orleans East and a dedicated Advocate for her community for over 13 years. Her involvements include working with several organizations that work to improve not only her community, but the residents of the City of New Orleans.



**YVONNE MITCHELL-GRUBB**  
**Algiers Economic Development Foundation**

Yvonne Mitchell-Grubb is a consultant, providing expertise in the areas of information technology, project management, and political consulting. Her professional positions have included Community Relations Manager for Harrah’s New Orleans and Software Engineering Manager for Lockheed Martin. Yvonne is also a community activist and has served with organizations such as Agenda for Children; the boards of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, the Algiers Economic Development Foundation (AEDF) and

Committee for a Better New Orleans (CBNO), the Algiers Neighborhood Presidents Council (ANPC), League of Women Voters and is president of the Walnut Bend Civic Association.



**CHUCK MORSE**  
**Executive Director, Thrive NOLA**

Chuck Morse is a management executive and consultant with more than twenty years experience in business development, marketing, strategy, government relations and community engagement. Morse currently serves as Executive Director of Thrive NOLA, a small business development organization, Morse is responsible for managing and overseeing daily operations, including fundraising, business development, mentorship, and marketing.



**MARLENE PETE**  
**Lead Community Health Ambassador, Sankofa Community Development Center**

Ms. Marlene Pete, a Lower Ninth Ward Resident, Retiree, Advisory Group Member of the Climate Action Equity Project, Educator, Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother, Community Activist with ACV, Tour Guide for Sankofa Wetland Park and Nature Trail, and Lead Community Health Ambassador for Sankofa Community Development Center.



**ALEX POSORSKE**  
**Executive Director, Ride New Orleans**

Alex Posorske is the Executive Director of Ride New Orleans, the New Orleans region’s leading

advocate for world-class and equitable bus, streetcar, and ferry service. Alex directs Ride's campaigns and organizing efforts, manages fundraising and communications, oversees staff,

and works with the board to develop overall strategy. He lives in the 7th Ward with his wife, Leslie, a special education teacher at a New Orleans high school.

## MEET THE TEAM



### ELLA DELIO

**Director of Environmental Programs,  
Greater New Orleans Foundation**

Ella Delio oversees the Greater New Orleans Foundation's programs and grantmaking in the areas of urban water management, water economy, sustainability, and coastal restoration & resiliency with a focus on equity. She has led the Foundation's work in helping build the "living with water" movement in Southeast Louisiana and collaborating with partners from the public, private, and non-profit sectors. Ella lives in the Carrollton-Riverbend neighborhood with her husband and two young daughters.



### MONIQUE HARDEN

**Assistant Director of Law and Policy,  
Deep South Center for Environmental Justice**

Monique Harden is the Assistant Director of Law and Policy at the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and families harmed by pollution and vulnerable to climate change. Ms. Harden has more than 20 years of legal experience in environmental human rights litigation and advocacy that has helped predominantly African American communities in Louisiana and Mississippi achieve important environmental justice victories. Her work at the Center includes supporting community engagement in public policy.



### NATALIE MANNING

**Community Engagement Manager,  
Office of Resilience and Sustainability,  
City of New Orleans**

Natalie Manning is a public servant with over a decade of diverse experience in civic government. In her current role as Outreach Specialist for the Office of Resilience & Sustainability and RoadWork NOLA, she oversees the community engagement / outreach efforts for the City of New Orleans' green infrastructure projects - specifically the Gentilly Resilience District \$141M project portfolio; funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development's, National Disaster Resilience grant.



### CAMILLE POLLAN

**Energy Efficiency Program Manager,  
City of New Orleans**

As energy efficiency program manager for the City of New Orleans' Office of Resilience and Sustainability, Camille works in partnership with public and private sector entities to create innovative, practical solutions that cut energy waste, support occupant energy management, and improve energy policies. Her past work includes various professional and volunteer positions in support of building and rebuilding a more sustainable New Orleans, as well as disaster recovery work in post-tsunami Indonesia. She also taught English in the Peace Corps in Romania.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the members of the Climate Action Equity Advisory Group for sharing their knowledge and expertise in developing these recommendations for a more equitable, climate resilient, and healthier New Orleans and for persevering through the various discussions to come up with these recommendations.

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Equity Project including increasing awareness of the City's Climate Action Strategy during the community forums - Natalie Manning, Siobhan Foley, Camille Pollan, Dwight Norton, Mary Kincaid, Greg Lawson, and Dwight Norton. Without you, this project would not have been accomplished.

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

### **CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, OFFICE OF RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY**

1300 Perdido Street, Suite 1W03  
New Orleans, LA 70112

[www.nola.gov/climateaction](http://www.nola.gov/climateaction)

### **GREATER NEW ORLEANS FOUNDATION**

919 St. Charles Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

504-598-4663 | [www.gnof.org](http://www.gnof.org)

### **DEEP SOUTH CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

9801 Lake Forest Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70127

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