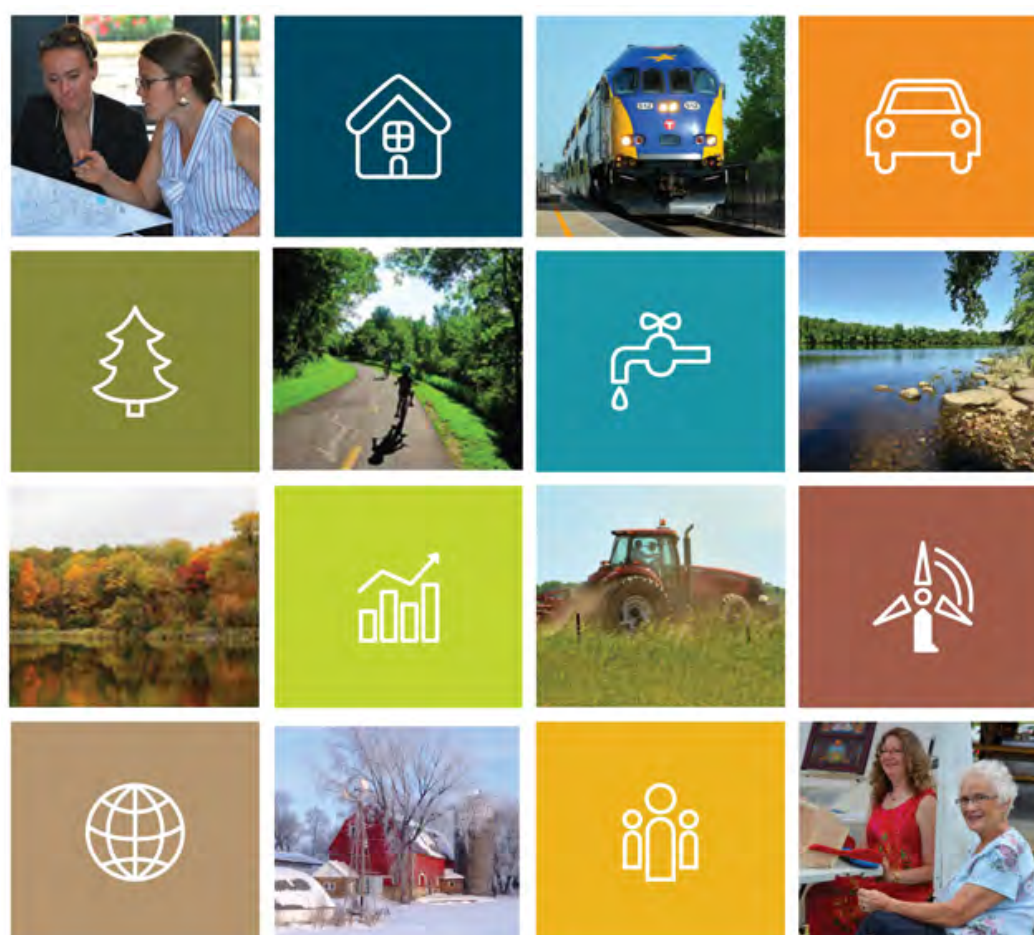


# Iterative, Inclusive Engagement in Pursuit of Climate Resilience in Ramsey County



**Spring 2023**

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**Resilient Communities Project**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

*Building Community-University Partnerships for Resilience*



The project on which this presentation is based was completed in collaboration with Ramsey County and the Metropolitan Council, as part of a 2022–2023 Resilient Communities Project (RCP) partnership. RCP is a program at the University of Minnesota’s Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) that connects University faculty and students with local government agencies in Minnesota to address strategic projects that advance local resilience, equity, and sustainability.

The contents of this report represent the views of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of RCP, CURA, the Regents of the University of Minnesota, the Metropolitan Council, or Ramsey County.



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## INTRODUCTION

Climate change continues to impact the health, well-being, and resilience of Ramsey County residents, with greater severity in racially/ethnically diverse and socioeconomically disadvantaged communities. Residents most vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change include Black, American Indian, and other underrepresented communities; the elderly; youth; those who are immunocompromised; those without permanent housing; pregnant individuals; those experiencing poverty; outdoor workers; and people with varying physical abilities.

A newly published (2022) County strategic priority states that Ramsey County is committed to leading in the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, elevating environmental justice, and fighting against the disparate impacts of climate change in Black, American Indian, and other underrepresented communities across the county. The County Manager's Office, in partnership with Saint Paul–Ramsey County Public Health, facilitated community engagement sessions in fall 2022, focused on identifying needed and desired services to address the health impacts of climate change on Ramsey's most vulnerable residents.

In spring of 2023, Ramsey County partnered with the Resilient Communities Project (RCP) at the University of Minnesota's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) for assistance advancing these initiatives. RCP was designed to build community capacity to adapt and thrive in the face of changing social, economic, technological, and environmental conditions, with a mission of connecting local government agencies with University of Minnesota students and faculty to work collaboratively on projects that both advance community resilience, equity, and sustainability and enhance student learning, knowledge, and skills.

Through RCP, Saint Paul–Ramsey County Public Health climate and health planner Abigail Phillips collaborated with five teams of graduate students enrolled in *PA 5145: Civic Engagement in Public Affairs*, taught by Dr. Fernando Burga. The teams identified target communities for engagement, potential engagement strategies, evaluation metrics, and recommendations and next step for Ramsey County public engagement around issues related to climate change and resilience. This report is a compilation of their work on the project.

The project is intended to inform current and future Ramsey County efforts engage community members who are representative of the broad range of county residents to ensure that their experiences, perspectives, concerns, and desires are considered in county efforts to develop programs, services, and support networks that strengthen community resilience in the face of climate change and climate uncertainty.

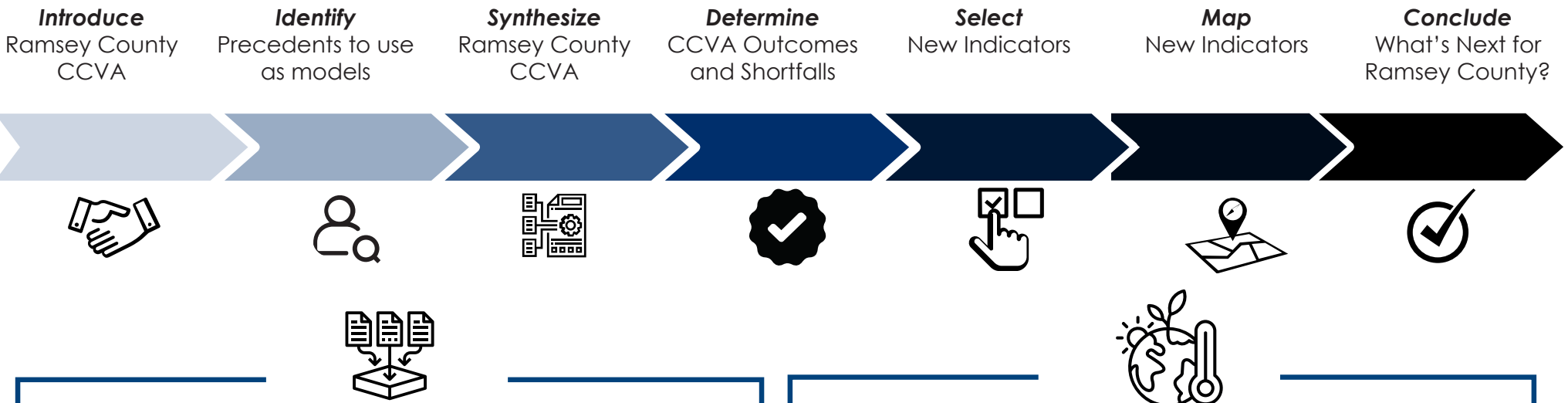
# Mapping for Engagement

Ramsey County Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment



**INTRODUCTION** Our team will outline challenges and opportunities of the 2016 Ramsey County Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (RC CCVA) to ensure vulnerable populations are included in the action plans. We will select new indicators for analysis including tree cover, health care access, health insurance infrastructure and transit access. Additionally, we will create preliminary maps to aid in the identification of stakeholders to shape an updated CCVA. Identifying stakeholders from vulnerable populations is a key step in achieving county climate justice goals.

## METHODS



### THE CHALLENGE: DATA

A challenge in updating the CCVA is selecting the correct data for analysis in order to identify the populations who are burdened most by climate change and contributing the least. In other words, ensuring that the CCVA uses a **climate justice** framework. Climate Justice is a subset of Environmental Justice highlighted in principles 2, 3, & 7. Learn more about Environmental Justice below.

### THE CONTEXT: CHANGE

**CCVA is insufficient & outdated**

- CCVA does not identify vulnerable populations or action steps.
- Recent studies include new indicators for identifying vulnerable populations
- Shifts in population and demographics.
- Housing shortage
- Inflation-triggered cost of living crisis.
- More extreme weather events.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FRAMEWORK

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, "Environmental justice (EJ) is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies." We have chosen this framework as it is widely used and recognized in global grassroots activism related to climate change. It is useful as a central guiding framework.

**#2** Environmental Justice demands that public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all peoples, free from any form of discrimination or bias.

**#3** Environmental Justice mandates the right to ethical, balanced and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in the interest of a sustainable planet for humans and other living things.

**#7** Environmental Justice demands the right to participate as equal partners at every level of decision making, including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement and evaluation.

### PA 5145: Civic Participation and Engagement

Brian Call | Jamila Boudlali | Yuping Wu

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# Mapping for Engagement

## Precedents for Mapping Climate Vulnerability

**INTRODUCTION** Climate vulnerability analyses (CVAs) and reports to date have mostly been done by coastal governments. As climate change starts to have more effects outside of the immediate threats of coasts, Midwestern and other governments are starting to produce their own CVAs. Increasingly, analyses must be centered around equity. In Miami, areas further from the coasts that were formerly low-cost are now skyrocketing in price, leading to displacement.\* We must be cognizant of making sure we understand our Midwestern geographies to not create deeper inequities.

\* Rivero, N. (2023, February 22). Miami's hidden high ground: What sea rise risk means for some prime real estate. WMiami Herald. <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/environment/climate-change/article272522151.html>

### SOUTH FLORIDA (2015)

**GOALS:** Focused on emergency response system - coastal population is dense and the most vulnerable in the US

**MEASURED:** Sea Level Rise, Storm-surge & Heavy precipitation flooding & strains to transportation

**FRAMEWORK:** Partnership between Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward & Palm Beach Counties

**CONTENTS:** Regional Climate Summits

### LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CA (2021)

**GOALS:** Identify vulnerable communities and those with heightened risk who were left out of prior analyses

**MEASURED:** exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity

**FRAMEWORK:** Climate Hazard Assessment, Social/Physical Vulnerability & Cascading Impacts Assessment

**CONTENTS:** Report + Online Mapping tool + Community-targeted one-page summaries

### HARRIS COUNTY, TX (2021)

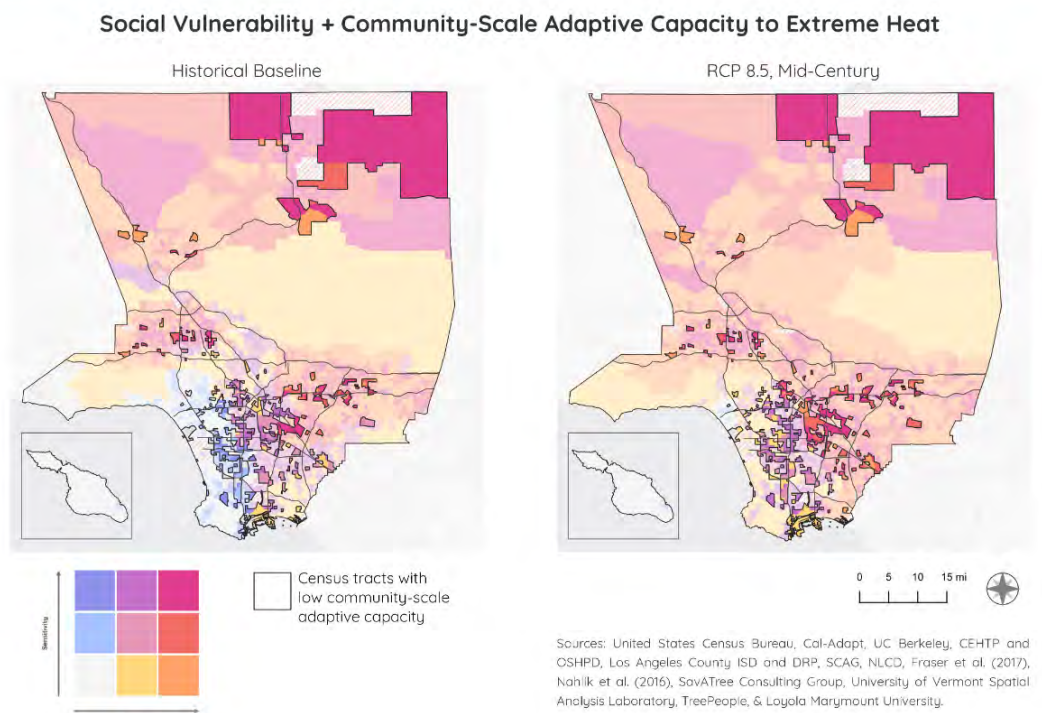
**GOALS:** Identify how climate change is affecting individuals. Identify key areas to insert public health interventions.

**MEASURED:** Specific indicators outlining exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity

**FRAMEWORK:** Public health framework focuses on Extreme Heat, Air Quality and Flooding and their interactions with health.

**CONTENTS:** Interactive maps with quantitative data. Does not include a formal report.

Social vulnerability by climate hazard - extreme heat



Source: LA County Climate Vulnerability Analysis, 2021

### KING COUNTY, WA (2021)

**GOALS:** Reducing GHG Emissions + Developing Sustainable and Resilient Frontline Communities + Preparing for Climate Change

**MEASURED:** Qualitative data from Frontline Communities section "brings the voice, experiences, and expertise of frontline communities disproportionately affected by climate change."

**FRAMEWORK:** Identify 5 year action steps, stakeholders and describe long term vision

**CONTENTS:** Guiding principles + multifaceted stakeholder engagement + extensive transit investments

**TAKEAWAY** Coastal regions such as South Florida have led the way in climate vulnerability analysis. Themes across analyses include measuring exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity as well as the need to engage diverse stakeholders and identify communities most at risk. Physical and social vulnerability are highly connected and climate change has cascading impacts.

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# Mapping for Engagement

## 2016 Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Review: Purpose and Methods

**INTRODUCTION** This project expands on Ramsey County’s previous work on climate vulnerability, particularly the 2016 report: Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA). The goals of the 2016 CCVA, were to:

1. Communicate climate change trends in Ramsey County.
2. Explain how these trends directly and indirectly affect human health.
3. Identify characteristics that increase individual vulnerability to the effects of climate change; and Demonstrate geographic regions of vulnerability in the county using a variety of maps.

### Impact Topics

Ramsey County identified six topics related to climate change that are particularly relevant to the local context. Vulnerabilities were identified for each climate change impact topic and then explored in depth using data.

#### Changing Ecologies

##### Vector-borne diseases & Invasive species

Impacts: West Nile Virus, human anaplasmosis, Lyme disease, compromised food and water quality and compromised water bodies used for fishing, recreation, or industrial processes

Vulnerabilities: those who spend a lot of time outdoors, older adults, the immunocompromised, and those who rely heavily on water bodies for food or recreation

#### Changes in Precipitation

##### Flash flooding & Droughts

Impacts: drowning, injury, exposure to mold and waterborne disease, economic loss, property damage, agricultural loss, economic loss, mental and physical stress, and exacerbated respiratory illnesses.

Vulnerabilities: Older adults (especially living alone), young age, respiratory difficulties, those with pre-existing health conditions, those with limited mobility, and those under economic strain

#### Psychological Impacts

Impacts: anxiety, stress, depression, PTSD, and more

Vulnerabilities: older adults, children, women, those with disabilities or poor physical or mental health, those with minimal education, those in poverty, and immigrants or refugees

#### Changing Demographics

Ramsey County’s population is aging and there are a large number of immigrants and refugees. These characteristics must be considered.

#### Poor Air Quality

Impacts: respiratory and cardiovascular threats.

Vulnerabilities: old age or young age and respiratory difficulties

#### Extreme Heat Events

Impacts: heat related illness

Vulnerabilities: poverty, old age or young age, and pre-existing medical conditions

### Vulnerability Indicators

Based on the 2016 assessment impact topics and vulnerable populations, Ramsey County identified a number of indicators to help determine where vulnerable residents live.

#### Mobility

Number of occupied housing units without vehicle access

People 16 years and older who walk or bike to work

#### Barriers in Communication

Number of occupied housing units without telephone service

Speak English < “very well”

#### Socioeconomic status

People living below 200% of poverty threshold

Less than high school diploma for those 25+

#### Additional Factors

All occupied housing units in multi-family housing

Number of occupied mobile homes

Employed people 16 years and older who work outside

Land Use

#### Age

Population under 5 years

Population over 80 years

Householders 65 years and older who live alone

**TAKEAWAY** The 2016 CCVA focused on identifying areas of vulnerability without meaningful consideration of the people who were impacted. The report identified where vulnerable communities might exist, but did not seek to understand these communities. This led to outcomes that did not address the needs and concerns of impacted residents.

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# Mapping for Engagement

## 2016 Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Review: Outcomes and Room for Improvement

4

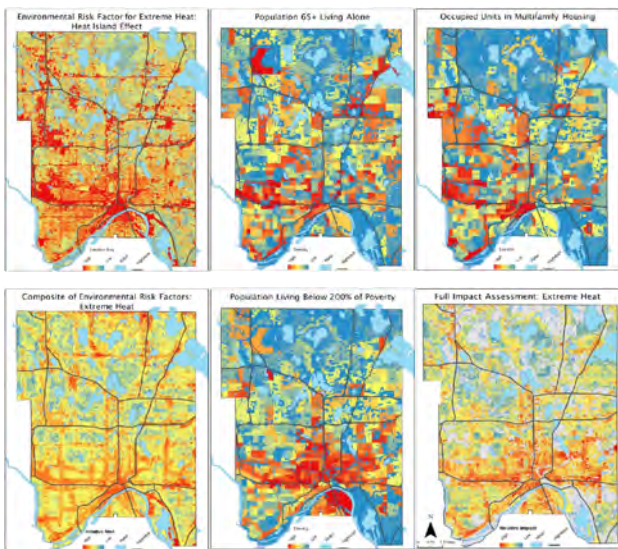
### MAPPING IN THE 2016 CCVA

The CCVA used maps to help identify areas of Ramsey County that were at increased climate risk. The identified indicators were compiled into a map of base vulnerability to climate change. These indicators increase risk across all impact topic areas.

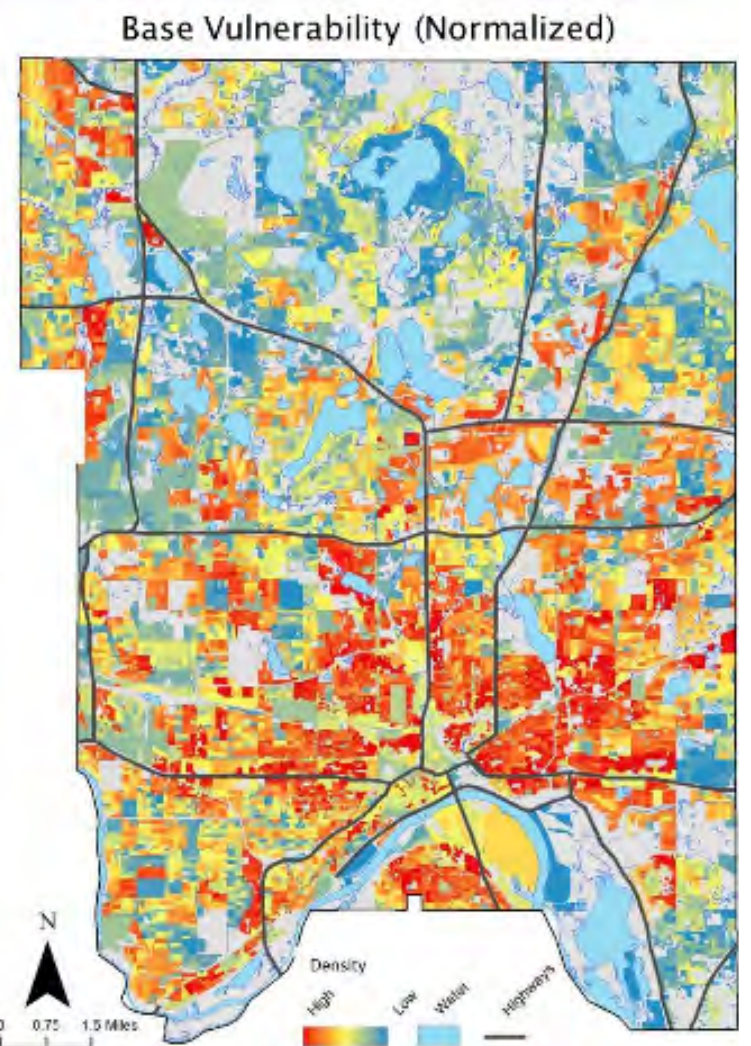
Hazard specific vulnerabilities were also compiled for different impact topics. An additional data category, environmental risk factors, was explored for extreme heat and air quality. Base vulnerability, hazard-specific vulnerability, and environmental risk factors (when explored) were combined to assess impact for each hazard.

Most maps are symbolized by relative risk. Areas with greater risk are red and areas with lower risk are blue. Risks are relative only to the rest of Ramsey County. It's also possible that risk doesn't vary significantly, but that won't be shown by the map.

These maps were the primary product of the 2016 CCVA process.



On the left: A set of five maps looking at: heat island effect, composite environmental risks, population 65+ living alone, population below 200% of poverty line, and occupied multifamily units are compiled to create a map of the extreme heat risk impact topic (bottom right). Maps show high risk in red and low risk in blue.



Above: A map of base vulnerability is compiled based on all impact areas and vulnerability indicators. High risk is in red and low risk is in blue.

### Conclusions

The conclusion of the 2016 CCVA were:

- Climate impact on health in Ramsey County is affected by both environmental risk and social vulnerability
- Understanding vulnerability is crucial to how the county responds to climate change, ensuring all residents are protected
- Although this is important work, the true value is in taking the information and turning it into action through climate adaptation plans and other policy

### Room for Improvement

The 2016 CCVA did not effectively address the needs of residents:

- Did not incorporate engagement with vulnerable populations to determine residents feelings and needs
- Relied on indicies which hide the impacts of specific vulnerability indicators in a community
- Avoided specific recommendations in favor of broad takeaways that advanced research but not policy

**TAKEAWAY** An evaluation of the 2016 CCVA shows that there was limited connection to residents and no effort to understand how they would be personally impacted by climate change. Without an understanding of those personal impacts, Ramsey County cannot create policy that will effectively address resident's needs. Updating the mapping work from the 2016 process and using the results to see where to prioritize community engagement, and prioritizing vulnerable populations, will help ensure Ramsey County's climate policy aligns with resident's needs. The following posters begin this process.

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# Mapping for Engagement

## New Vulnerability Indicators of Climate Change

5

**INTRODUCTION** Several new indicators are proposed by Ramsey County to be used for vulnerability assessment. Including both physical and social indicators. Four key additional indicators are showcased below. These four are chosen for magnitude of their differences from indicators used from the 2016 assessment.

### 1 HEALTH INSURANCE

Areas affected by climate change may result in more health checkups and hospital visits. Locations where the offered health insurance does not cover enough or if insurance rate is low may experience quality of life decrease from climate change-caused conditions.

**Benefits:**

- 1. Can act as a supporting indicator for economic factors as well due to the linking of insurance to employment.
- 2. Easy to map through US Census Data.

**Drawbacks:**

- 1. Climate change can raise insurance premiums and weaken the indicator

**Mapping Challenges:**

- 1. Data need modification before mapping because it comes separated by sex and age.

**Site Identification:**

- 1. Encourages civic participation with regards to increasing employment and improving the public health insurance marketplace.



### 2 HOME OWNERSHIP

Home ownership is a strong indicator for the economic welfare of a resident as renters in general have lower incomes than owners. Those who own property are also better equipped to handle social or physical issues that may arise as a result of Climate change.

**Benefits:**

- 1. Allows for identification of high income and low income areas which is important for potential engagement sites.
- 2. Important indicator of financial stability due to the long term nature of owning a property.

**Drawbacks:**

- 1. Climate change can increase the risk of property damage through various physical events such as empowered tropical storms.

**Mapping Challenges:**

- 1. Important to also considered the geographic aspects of property ownership as property may be cheaper in some areas compared to others. This is important for accurate income identification.

**Site Identification:**

- 1. Encourages civic participation regarding locations that may need affordable housing development or zoning changes to increase property ownership.



### 3 TREE CANOPY COVERAGE

The canopy coverage of an urban area helps contribute to cleaner air as well as providing more natural shade to alleviate heat island effects.

**Benefits:**

- 1. Indicator has links to several physical vulnerabilities including pollution, heat, shade, and urban sprawl.

**Drawbacks:**

- 1. Different types of coverage may have different efficacies when providing shade

**Mapping Challenges:**

- 1 Updated tree canopy coverage data is not as easy to obtain.

**Site Identification:**

- 1. Encourages civic participation for environmental protection, tree planting community groups, and green activism.



### 4 PUBLIC TRANSIT ACCESSIBILITY

Increased public transit accessibility increases the mobility of many living in urban areas particularly low-income residents who may not be able to own personal vehicles.

**Benefits:**

- 1. Public transit improvement also potentially reduces emissions with potentially less personal vehicles on the road.
- 2. Easy spatial nature of this indicator makes it easier to map.

**Drawbacks:**

- 1. Making changes to public transit can be hard due to frequent budget disputes regarding it.

**Mapping Challenges:**

- 1. The exact distance to be considered accessible is not set and can vary across different studies.
- 2. A lot of factors required to be considered like where a nearby bus or rail route is going to really determine accessibility

**Site Identification:**

- 1. Encourages civic participation with advocacy for increased bus routes and promotion of riding transit.



**TAKEAWAY** These four indicators each represent a different category of various factors. Health Insurance and Property Ownership are social parameters; Public Transit Accessibility and Tree Canopy Coverage are physical geography based. The purpose of these indicators is to enhance the vulnerability analysis from 2016 as well as to determine potential forms/sites of civic engagement with regards to the effects of climate change.

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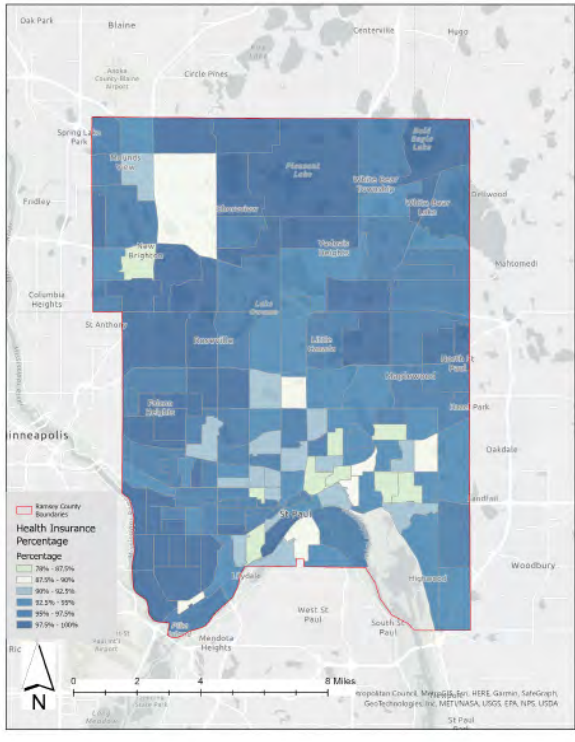
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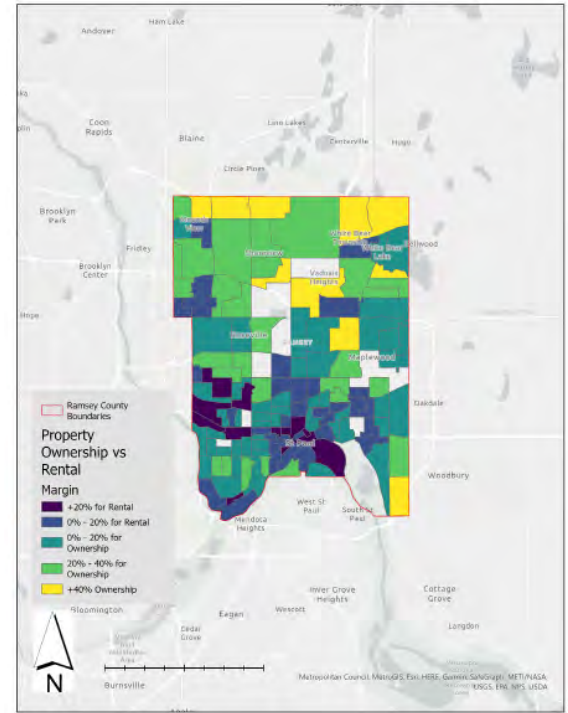
# Mapping for Engagement

## Mapping of the New Indicators in Ramsey County



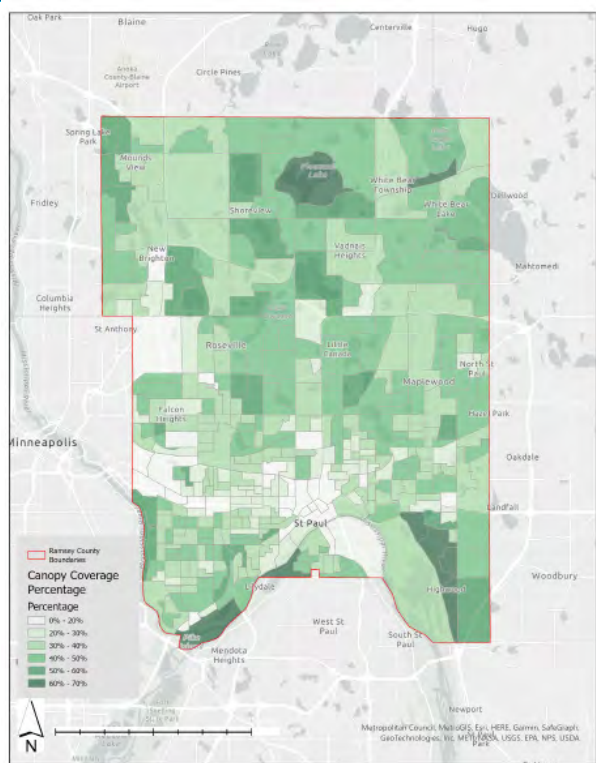
### HEALTH COVERAGE BY CENSUS TRACT

- Coverage may come from private insurance, public marketplace insurance, or medicare/medicaid programs
- Highest percentages are concentrated in the west adjacent to Minneapolis. Lowest can be found directly east of St Paul downtown area.
- Vulnerability increases as percentage decreases



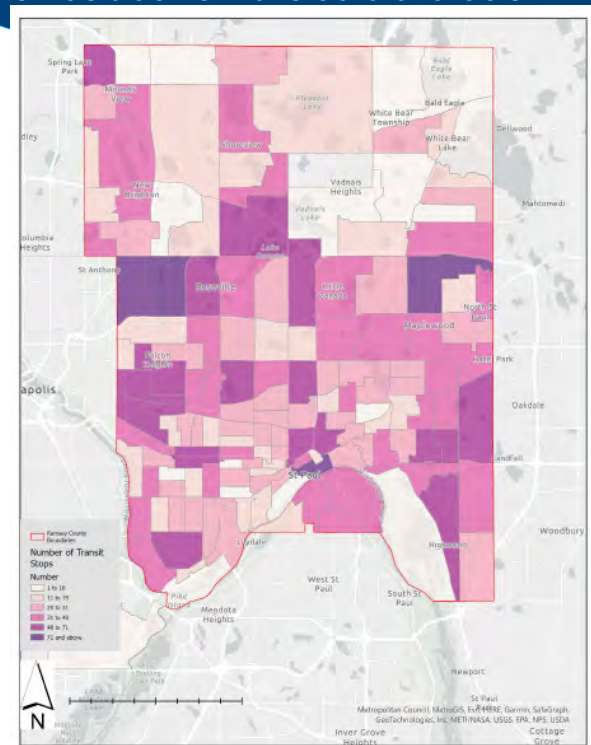
### HOME OWNERSHIP VS RENTAL BY CENSUS TRACT

- Defined as the percentage in favor of either ownership or rental.
- Highest rental areas are at or along major routes into the St Paul downtown region. Suburban cities to the north have home ownership as a lot higher.
- High Rental percentages is more vulnerable due to slightly reduced housing security
- Some Tracts do not have data available



### CANOPY COVERAGE BY CENSUS BLOCK

- Defined as areas with some form of shade/foliage coverage.
- Highest percentages located in the north and areas near the Mississippi River. Lowest percentages can be found in St Paul downtown core areas as well as adjacent to major highways.
- Vulnerability increases as percentage decreases.



### TRANSIT STOPS BY CENSUS TRACT

- Defined as total number of bus and rail stops in the defined area.
- Highest percentages located the St Paul downtown area as well as tracts close to Minneapolis. Lowest percentages in the northeastern suburbs such as White Bear Lake.
- Vulnerability increases as percentage decreases.

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# Mapping for Engagement

## Conclusion and Next Steps



### Conclusion

This set of posters synthesized previous efforts to analyze climate change vulnerability, including Ramsey County's own 2016 Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis (CCVA). To develop a more holistic understanding of climate change vulnerability, Ramsey County should include community engagement as a central part of future CCVAs, prioritizing connection with residents. In Ramsey County's next iteration of the CCVA, they should update the analysis with new data while engaging with community members. Deeper community engagement efforts will allow the County to develop more informed conclusions and meet **Ramsey County's strategic priority of Advancing Racial & Health Equity & Shared Community Power**.

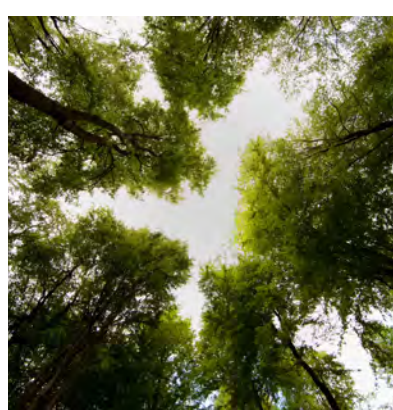
Posters 5 & 6 **identified** and **mapped** new indicators to identify residents that could be impacted by climate change:



Health insurance coverage



Property Ownership



Tree Canopy



Public Transit Accessibility

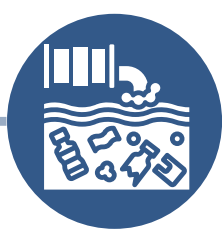
Ramsey County has also **identified** a number of new indicators including:



Medical Facilities



Natural Resources



Waste Infrastructure



Emergency Response



Access to Vehicles

### Next Steps

Ramsey County should use the above indicators to select sites for community engagement. The identification of sites should include a scan of key stakeholder participants from previous county engagement on this topic, and emphasize inclusion of populations that have not been reached. With the help of the indicators, Ramsey County can identify and prioritize vulnerable populations throughout the engagement process. After geographically identifying key stakeholders, Ramsey County can look for specific sites that will provide good locations for engaging with key stakeholders.

# Engaging Vulnerable Populations

## Piloting Climate Change Resilience Engagement for Ramsey County



### INTRODUCTION

Resilience can be described as the capacity of a system to maintain functionality or recover in the event of a disruption or disturbance. Resilience is important when chronic stressors or sudden shocks threaten widespread disruption or the collapse of physical or social systems. Ramsey County is looking to address these stressors and shocks caused by climate change. As stated in the Ramsey County 2040 Climate Reliance Plan, “Strategies to address climate-related health impacts must consider all residents and businesses, including the most vulnerable.”

In order to create Climate Resilience, Ramsey County is looking to work with historically underserved and marginalized communities to find equitable policy for communities to survive and thrive as climate conditions continue to worsen. Reaching these communities requires an engaging outreach effort on the part of Ramsey County.



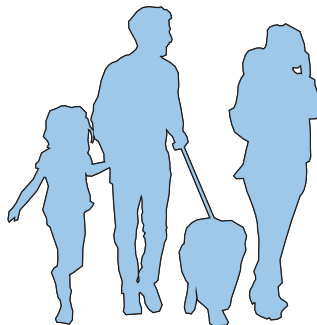
### PURPOSE

Creating a proper engagement tool is necessary to foster relationships with vulnerable communities in a non-extractive way. The purpose of this group was creating an engagement method that would allow those of vulnerable communities to voice their opinions in a non-extractive way.



### WHO IS INVOLVED?

Ramsey County’s 2040 Resilience Plan makes special note of the importance of engaging with communities that would be considered vulnerable. There are factors that contribute to both vulnerability to climate-related impacts and other vulnerabilities. Vulnerability includes factors that negatively affect an individual/community’s ability to anticipate, adapt to, and recover from the effects of an ever changing climate. Examples of conditions that would be considered vulnerable include: living in poverty, structural racism, limited mobility, inadequate healthcare, etc. In order to demonstrate the effectiveness of the tool, it needs to engage with a similar audience. Piloting in communities that would be considered vulnerable will give Ramsey County a good indication of the abilities of the tool.



### METHOD

A model was made which allowed participants to both identify and express what concerned them the most regarding Climate Change. These models were specialized for each community, with photo collages of the neighborhoods in which the facilitation took place. An important part of the engagement process was the facilitators meeting the community where they were. This required the facilitators to reach out to a number of community based organizations and receive permission to conduct the engagement opportunity as an accessory to an on-going community function.



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# Engaging Vulnerable Populations

## Piloting Climate Change Resilience Engagement for Ramsey County



### PURPOSE OF ENGAGEMENT:

Create And Sustain Adaptive Capacity For Ongoing Problem Solving And Resilience, By Emphasizing Social And Transformative Learning; Relationships, Social Capital, And Trust; And Sustained Engagement.



Key Stakeholders: Black/african, American Indian, Unsheltered Populations, The Elderly, Youth, Residents Who Don't Speak English, First Generation Immigrant Residents, Residents Living In Multi-family Complexes And Residents With Chronic Medical Conditions.

### ISSUES WITH THE PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS:

**LOW PARTICIPATION** - The previous engagement fell short of optimal participation level.

**LACK OF INCLUSIVITY** - residents most vulnerable to the effects of climate change may not be fully represented in the community response to engagement.

**INACCESSIBLE SURVEY** - The Concepts and vocabulary of the survey made it inaccessible to the participants.

**EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES** of the Engagement were not achieved as measured by the Content Analysis of the Assessment Engagement Surveys.

### SOLUTIONS:

**Design:** DELIBERATIVE, CONSENSUS-BASED, or collaborative approaches frequently facilitate transformative learning; include diverse perspectives to optimize learning and involve key stakeholders; support developing shared meaning via interacting and learning about each other's interests, preferences, values, and worldviews through collaborative science.

**Build;** SOCIAL CAPITAL among participants for ongoing work by building connections, enhancing relationships, and fostering trust that can carry on beyond a single decision-making process into future collaboration and communication. (Quoted in Bryson et al., 26)

### KEY GOALS:

1. ADAPT AND REDEPLOY: Review previous Survey; Re-design survey into formats that are more inclusive; Re-deploy new format
- B. CREATE MORE INCLUSIVE SURVEYS: For Vulnerable Populations.
- C. EXECUTE A SERIES OF ENGAGEMENT PILOTS: Document the experience Lessons learned.



### PARTICIPATION PROCESS DESIGN

#### RELEVANT DESIGN ELEMENTS:

**DIVERSITY** - Perform Stakeholder Analysis and recruit diverse stakeholders

**PARTICIPATION** - Enable diverse participation: Enable multiple ways to participate, providing language translation or child care, and

**ACCESSIBILITY** - Engagement must be accessible culturally, physically, and Mentally.

**BENEFITS** - Consideration of the distribution of benefits and harms

#### MILESTONES/PROGRESS:

**DIVERSITY OF STAKEHOLDERS** - survey participation approaches diversity in community.

**REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE** - of a neighborhood through multiple engagement tools

**BALANCE OF COSTS/BENEFITS** - to Participants of engaging outway the costs. Location(s) are accessible both physically and time wise

**SUSTAINED, DIVERSE PARTICIPATION** in management that adapts to changed circumstances

Use of COLLABORATIVELY AGREED CRITERIA for decision making or performance management

**SUSTAINED COLLECTIVE ABILITY** to address new problems and support ongoing management

**IMPROVED ALIGNMENT** of participants' expectations and actions with collective understandings and goals

#### EMERGING CAPACITIES/ TECHNICAL GAPS

CIVIC PARTNERS/

COMMUNITY LEADERS

Build Capacity by Identifying civic partners and community leaders for joint engagement scenarios.

Creation of new structures (relationships, partnerships, and resources) to support broad participation in ongoing planning, implementation, and evaluation

Provide feedback to residents.

**TAKE AWAY - Engagement Process Design Is Complicated And Requires The Coordinated Effort Of Many Different Teams To Be Successful.**



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Building Community-University Partnerships for Resilience  
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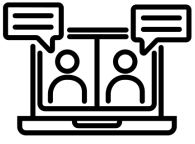
# Engaging Vulnerable Populations

## Piloting Climate Change Resilience Engagement for Ramsey County



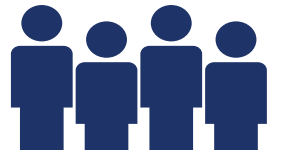
### Previous Engagement Efforts

In 2022, Ramsey County engaged residents on climate vulnerability and public health to hear about residents' concerns and priorities for County action. Engagement took three main forms:



#### Workshops with Equity Strategies

In 2022, Ramsey County contracted with Equity Strategies to host four virtual workshops, reaching about 100 Ramsey residents. Equity Strategies uses Adaptive Action methods in which they structure the workshop around the following questions: What? So what? Now what?



100

Adaptive Action



This structure is intended to guide participants from describing the current context to exploring the significance of current patterns to understanding and evaluating potential action. Workshops provided context on climate action and reviewed the County's 2016 Climate Health Vulnerability Assessment. Workshops then held discussions with participants focused on their experience of climate change within their communities and neighborhoods.

#### Successes

- Using the Action Planning framework, participants learned important context and weighed in on key questions.
- Equity Strategies contacted organizations of elders, youth, and other vulnerable populations that Ramsey County had previously struggled to engage. The attendees represented a range of communities in the County.
- A diverse group of high school students was very engaged in the workshop series.

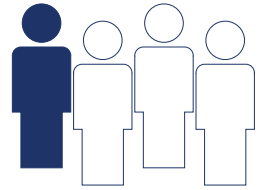
#### Opportunities

- Future efforts can explore different methods to connect with vulnerable communities including going to places where people gather.
- Future efforts can look at how to talk about climate impacts as connected to topics like housing, health, and affordability in ways that resonate with different communities.
- Future efforts should prioritize writing invitation language that avoids jargon.



#### Digital Survey

In 2022, Ramsey released a digital survey to engage additional residents outside the virtual workshops. The County sent the survey to 600 people that had previously been involved in climate activities. The survey was also sent out through Green Ramsey, an email that goes out to about 5,000 subscribers. The nine question survey was completed by 21 respondents. The County plans to re-release the survey in Spring 2023 through its social media channels in English, Spanish, Hmong, Karen, and Somali.



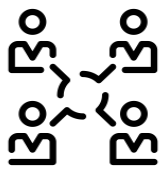
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#### Successes

- Survey responses were thoughtful and provided helpful information about the way community members thought about climate impacts.
- Participants completed all survey questions.
- Participants expressed a desire for Ramsey County to take a range of actions to address climate change.

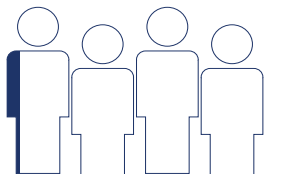
#### Opportunities

- The structure of questions could be improved to provide more helpful feedback by having more questions that are easy to quantify and asking residents to prioritize among potential County actions.
- Future outreach should look to share the survey through community organizations that have more personal or trusted relationships with residents. Future engagement could also look to have printed versions of the survey at community locations.



#### Focus Group

In fall 2022, a group of students worked with Ramsey County on a focus group format to engage residents in climate resilience. Ultimately, the students were not able to host a focus group with Ramsey County residents but were able to test focus group questions in a pilot focus group of students.



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#### Success

- Questions successfully had participants thinking about existing climate impacts, their communities, and what it takes for people to change their behaviors.
- Participants reflected on how climate change impacts both their daily lives and the lives of their families or communities whether or not they lived in Minnesota.

#### Opportunities

- Future efforts should look to build on relationships with community organizations and work with community leaders to help design the structure and compensation model for focus group participants.

#### Key Takeaway:

Different engagement strategies provided a valuable feedback to the County in 2022. Future efforts should focus on building more relationships with vulnerable communities and connecting climate change impacts with topics relevant to residents' everyday lives.

Intro

Purpose

Previous Engagement

Previous Engagement II

Principles Values/Tools

The Experience I

The Experience II

Conclusion

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# Engaging Vulnerable Populations

## Piloting Climate Change Resilience Engagement for Ramsey County

### Principles and Values in Community Engagement Tools



#### Principles

Ramsey County is guided by a set of strategic priorities that build towards the County's four Goals:



**Well-Being**

Strengthen individual, family and community health, safety and well-being



**Prosperity**

Cultivate economic prosperity and invest in neighborhoods with concentrated financial poverty



**Opportunity**

Enhance access to opportunity and mobility for all residents and businesses



**Accountability**

Model fiscal accountability, transparency and strategic investments

source: Ramsey County: Vision, Mission, and Goals

#### Values

A prominent value throughout Ramsey County's 2022 Strategic Plan is **RACIAL EQUITY** and **SHARED POWER**.

Ramsey County sees its initiative to respond to Climate Change and increase Community Resilience as one place it can demonstrate this value. Ramsey County plans to invite community members to help co-design, improve, implement and evaluate policies and services for those who are impacted by climate change in racially and ethnically diverse communities.

*"Ramsey County has a vision for a vibrant community where all are valued and thrive but has some of the worst racial inequities in the country, especially for Black and American Indian residents. To achieve equitable outcomes for all, Ramsey County must assess policies and practices rooted in institutional and structural racism while sharing decision making power with residents and communities, especially racial and ethnic groups who are experiencing racial inequities." -Ramsey County's 2022 Strategic Plan for a Vibrant Community*

#### Incorporating Racial Equity and Shared Power into Community Engagement: Values in Practice

##### Use Inclusive Processes to Engage Diverse Communities

- Reaching out to community stakeholders
- Providing language translation, child care, and transportation assistance
- Holding events at convenient times and locations
- Being open to topic shifts based on community priorities

##### Acknowledge and Manage Power Dynamics

- Shifting from formal meetings to smaller scale interactions
- Engaging community members in co-producing an agenda or process
- Valuing local knowledge of community members and actively avoiding privileging "expert" knowledge

#### Interplay between Values and Example Community Engagement Tools

##### Surveys

###### Benefits

- Can be completed on residents' own time
- Relatively easy to translate into multiple languages

###### Considerations

- County exerts power over topic and agenda through writing the questions
- Outreach through trusted community stakeholders helps increase diverse participation
- Language and structure of questions determines how much expert knowledge is used and how welcome local knowledge is perceived

##### Community Workshops

###### Benefits

- Can be located in spaces and at times where and when residents already gather
- Can provide transportation and child care help
- Can provide immediate compensation for participation

###### Considerations

- Structure benefit residents more comfortable in more formal spaces
- Translation should be structured so non-English speakers are equal participants
- Partnership with stakeholders to develop agenda helps shape conversation around community priorities
- Language and structure of presentations or questions determines how much expert knowledge is used and how welcome local knowledge is perceived

**Take away: Ramsey County strives to be resident centered advancing racial equity and shared power to increase community resilience.**

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# Engaging Vulnerable Populations

## Piloting Climate Change Resilience Engagement for Ramsey County



### Documenting the Experience: Creating the Engagement Activity

#### Creating an Engaging Activity

When we were designing the new engagement activity for Ramsey County, there were a number of goals that we had in mind. The first, was to make the interaction feel personal rather than extractive. Fulfilling this goal required the activity personal and interactive. Rather than a participant filling a survey of preselected answers, the engagement is open ended for the participants. Making it applicable to participants was also important for engagement. By creating posters in settings that resemble the engagement area, participants are better able to visualize the potential impacts that climate change will have on their lives.

#### Engagement 1 Sample:

##### Neighborhood House - Westside St. Paul

#### Engagement 2:

##### Peace Garden - Rondo, St. Paul

**Impact Statements** of common climate-related concerns provided background for participants.

**Color Scheme** was adjusted for the second engagement to create cohesion between posters

**Illustrated Graphics** provide visual appeal as well as added context to potential impacts of Climate Change

**Neighborhood Specific** photo collages were made for neighborhoods to add context for each engagement

**Human Shaped Notes** were given to participants to write their thoughts on. The participant was then encouraged to place the note on one of the posters near an impact statement or illustration.

**Digital Surveys** were created to collect anonymous feedback on participant's experience, demographic information. Contact information was separated from all other data.

#### How Will Climate Change Affect You?

#### How Will Climate Change Affect You?

#### Key Takeaway:

We found that it was important to provide a little background information while also leaving the engagement tool open ended. Since the data being collected was both quantitative and qualitative, we felt it was necessary to give participants an opportunity to express their concerns beyond pre-selected options on a survey.

- Intro
- Purpose
- Previous Engagement I
- Previous Engagement II
- Principles Values/Tools
- The Experience I
- The Experience II
- Conclusion

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# Engaging Vulnerable Populations

## Piloting Climate Change Resilience Engagement for Ramsey County

### Documenting the Experience: Piloting in Communities



#### Neighborhood House Engagement Pilot

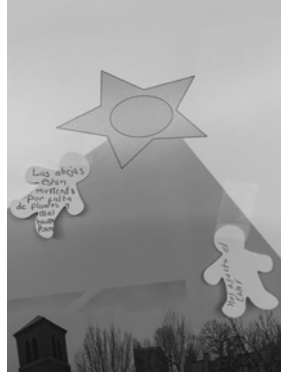


On Wednesday, April 12, we set up the engagement activity at Neighborhood House on the West Side of Saint Paul. Neighborhood House is a nonprofit organization in Saint Paul that runs a range of programs to support family needs, with a focus on immigrants and refugees. Services include food support, housing stability, early childhood education, and youth literacy. We worked with the adult education programs at Neighborhood House to connect with students in English classes.

We set up the activity in the hallway outside of classrooms to greet students as they left evening classes. All participants were Latinx and lived on the east side of the metro area in and around Ramsey County. In the 15 minutes after classes ended, about ten people participated in the activity.



Participants begin to arrive at the activity space outside Neighborhood House classrooms.



Participants share climate impacts.



Participants share climate impacts.



The posters at the end of the engagement activity.

#### Peace Garden Rondo Engagement Pilot



On Sunday, April 23, we set up the engagement activity at the Peace Garden, a community garden in the Rondo neighborhood of Saint Paul. We were hosted by Melvin Giles who established and manages the Peace Garden. Melvin reached out to friends and neighbors in the community to come to the garden and participate in the activity.

We set up the activity along the fences of the garden. About ten participants stopped by over the course of an hour and a half.



One participant reads a poster.



Participants are guided through the poster activity.



One participant writes about a climate impact.

#### Engagement Survey Results

Question 3: I would encourage other residents to participate in similar public engagement events.

Strongly Disagree  
Disagree  
Neutral  
Agree  
Strongly Agree



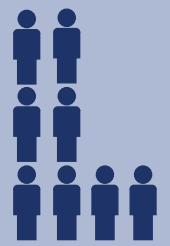
*"It was very welcoming and I felt heard."*

*"I don't speak English. My husband and child translated for me."*

*"I enjoyed everything from the setting to the speaker. I also enjoyed meeting new people from my community."*

Question 4: I felt that my voice was heard.

Strongly Disagree  
Disagree  
Neutral  
Agree  
Strongly Agree



#### Key Takeaway:

Setting up the activity in community spaces helped in engaging members of vulnerable communities. Participants explored the posters and found different ways of connecting to climate impacts. The pilots also exposed limitations of the activity in its current form including a lack of translation and explicit connections to how feedback would impact the County's activities.

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# Engaging Vulnerable Populations

Piloting Climate Change Resilience Engagement for Ramsey County



## Conclusion

### Neighborhood House Engagement Results

Survey Results	Engagement Activity
<p><b># of participants:</b> 2 participants</p> <p><b>Race/Ethnicity:</b> Participants identified as Hispanic</p> <p>*Majority of participants did not speak English and we did not realize the survey could translate into Spanish until most participants had left</p>	<p><b># of participants:</b> 6 participants</p> <p><b>Paper humans:</b> 8 paper humans were placed on the murals</p>

### Rondo Community Engagement Results

Survey Results	Engagement Activity
<p><b># of participants:</b> 10 participants started the survey and 8 participants completed the survey</p> <p><b>Race/Ethnicity:</b> Participants identified as Asian, Black, Caucasian, and Hispano/Latino</p> <p><b>Age:</b> Participants were between 20 years old and 60 years+</p>	<p><b># of participants:</b> 10 participants</p> <p><b>Paper Humans:</b> 15 paper humans were placed on the murals</p>



**CONNECTION:** Participants had deep connection to the community space where we gathered which created a safe space for participants to share

**PARTNERSHIP:** Built partnership with a community organization

**PILOT:** Created and piloted a tool that can be used in various settings

**COMPENSATION:** Participants were excited about receiving a stipend upon completion of the activity and the survey

#### Successes

**UNDERSTANDING:** Participants understood the engagement tool which allowed them to complete the activity and the survey

**CONNECTION:** Participants had deep connection to the community space where we gathered which created a safe space for participants to share

**CONVERSATION:** Pilot team members were able to engage with participants in deep conversation.

**COMPENSATION:** Provided stipends for participation completion for the activity and the survey

**TIME CONSTRAINTS:** limited outreach opportunity and capacity to conduct community outreach

**TRANSLATION:** we did not have enough time to organize translation for the content of the activity. This made it challenging to engage with participants who mainly spoke Spanish

**ATTENDANCE:** one of the English classes the night of our engagement had no students

#### Limitations

**TIME CONSTRAINTS:** limited outreach opportunity and capacity to conduct community outreach

**PARTNER ORGANIZATION:** we were not able to connect with a community organization, but instead partnered with a resident of the community at their community garden

**TECHNOLOGY:** Some participants had difficulty using the QR Code

**CONNECT:** Complete phone call with community leader before to ask about needs and concerns of the community

**COMPENSATION:** County to provide compensation to community organizations

**OUTREACH:** Broader outreach to include other vulnerable communities

#### Recommendations

**GRAPHICS:** future versions of the graphic tool should include a list of icons or graphic representations for each impact of climate change

**SO WHAT?:** create a section on the poster with actions participants can take in their own communities to combat climate impacts and actions they can share with their community

**TRANSPARENCY:** know going in how the County will use the information participants are giving

## Overall Takeaway

Participants seemed interested in the topic of climate change and they were able to describe how climate change impacts them. This engagement activity was highly **interactive** which we felt made it more accessible to the general public. Our strategy to meet where participants were already gathered or gathering participants in a comfortable space, helped us reach people we may not have been able to reach otherwise. One of the biggest takeaways from this pilot was about the **community mismatch** between community priorities and county priorities. There is a lot of power that the County/organizers hold in creating an activity to solicit feedback on a certain topic. If that topic isn't a priority for participants, they may disengage or push the boundaries of the topic. The county should **reformulate** what they are asking communities to reflect community needs. The County needs to continue **fostering relationships** with community groups to build **trust** and take time to **listen**.



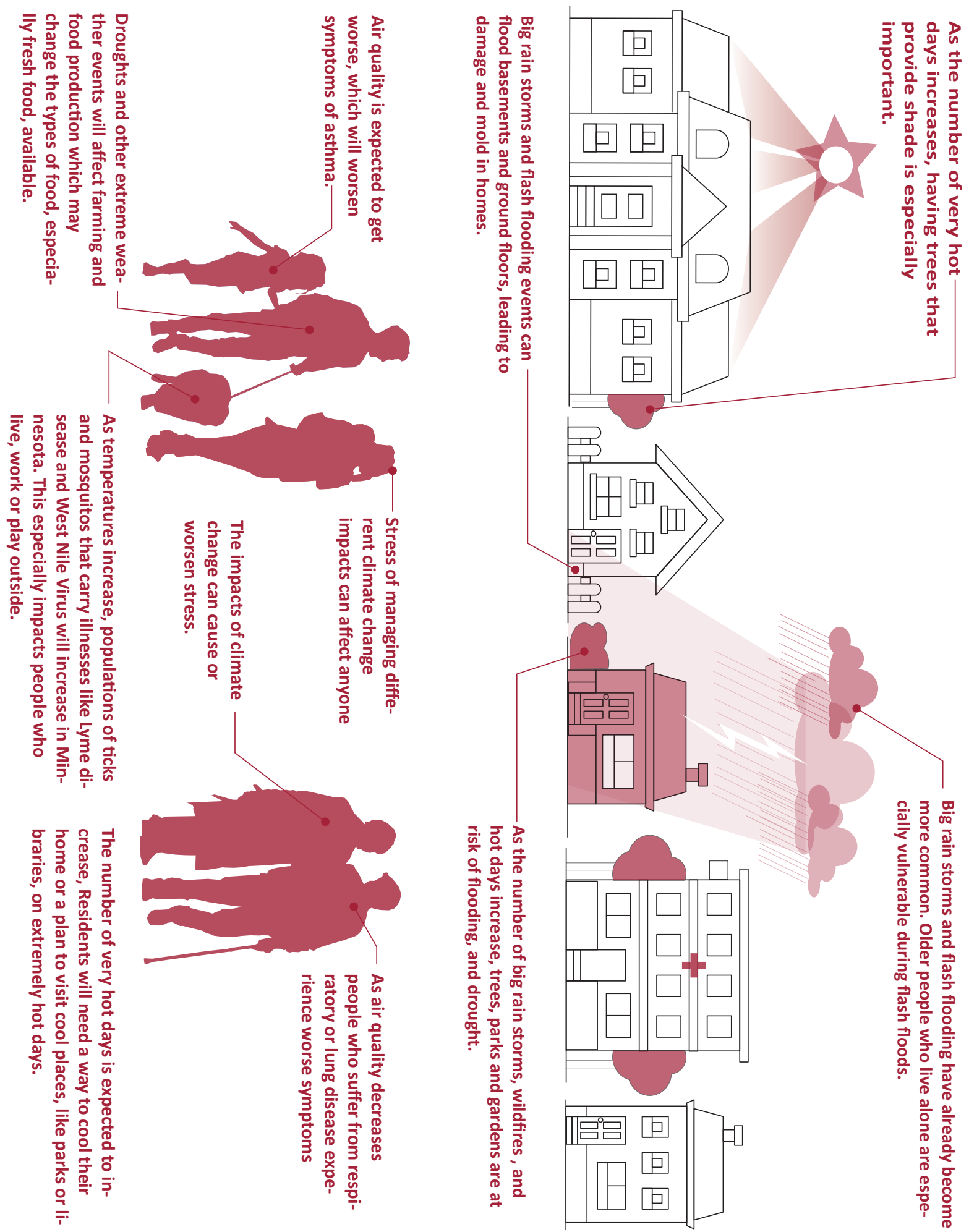
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# How Will Climate Change Affect You?



## Some Impacts of Climate Change.

-  **Extremes Becoming more Extreme**  
Droughts and other extreme weather events will affect farming and food production which may change the types of food, especially fresh food, available.
-  **Big rain storms and flash flooding have already become more common. Older people who live alone are especially vulnerable during flash floods.**
-  **As the number of big rain storms, wildfires, and hot days increase, trees, parks and gardens are at risk of flooding, and drought.**
-  **Big rain storms and flash flooding events can flood basements and ground floors, leading to damage and mold in homes.**
-  **Worsening Air Quality**  
Air quality is expected to get worse, which will worsen symptoms of asthma.
-  **As air quality decreases people who suffer from respiratory or lung disease experience worse symptoms**
-  **Stress and Heat**  
The Impacts of climate change can cause or worsen stress.
-  **Stress of managing different climate change impacts can affect anyone**
-  **The number of very hot days is expected to increase, populations of ticks and mosquitoes that carry illnesses like Lyme disease and West Nile Virus will increase in Minnesota. This especially impacts people who live, work or play outside.**
-  **Invasive Species and Disease**  
As temperatures increase, populations of ticks and mosquitoes that carry illnesses like Lyme disease and West Nile Virus will increase in Minnesota. This especially impacts people who live, work or play outside.
-  **Importance of Trees and Green Space**  
Trees provide shade and cooler temperatures on hot days.

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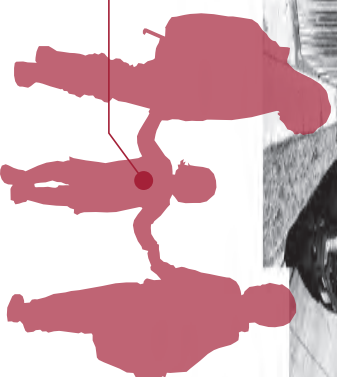
# How Will Climate Change Affect You?

The number of very hot days is expected to increase, Residents will need a way to cool their home or a plan to visit cool places, like parks or libraries, on extremely hot days.



Droughts and other extreme weather events will affect farming and food production which may change the types of food, especially fresh food, available.

As air quality decreases people who suffer from respiratory or lung disease experience worse symptoms



Air quality is expected to get worse, which will worsen symptoms of asthma.



The impacts of climate change can cause or worsen stress.



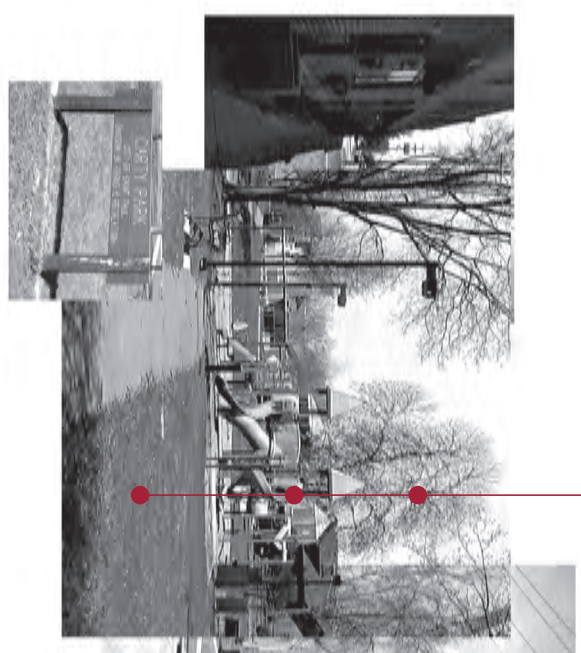
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As temperatures increase, populations of ticks and mosquitos that carry illnesses like Lyme disease and West Nile Virus will increase in Minnesota. This especially impacts people who live, work or play outside.

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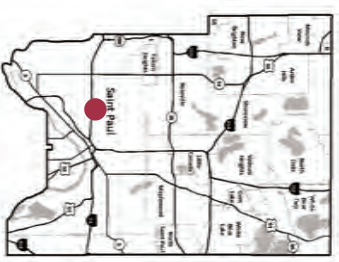
As the number of big rain storms, and hot days increase, trees, parks and gardens are at risk of flooding, and drought.



Big rain storms and flash flooding events can flood basements and ground floors, leading to damage and mold in homes.



Big rain storms and flash flooding have already become more common. Older people who live alone are especially vulnerable during flash floods.



MAP OF RAMSEY COUNTY  
● = AREA OF ENGAGEMENT

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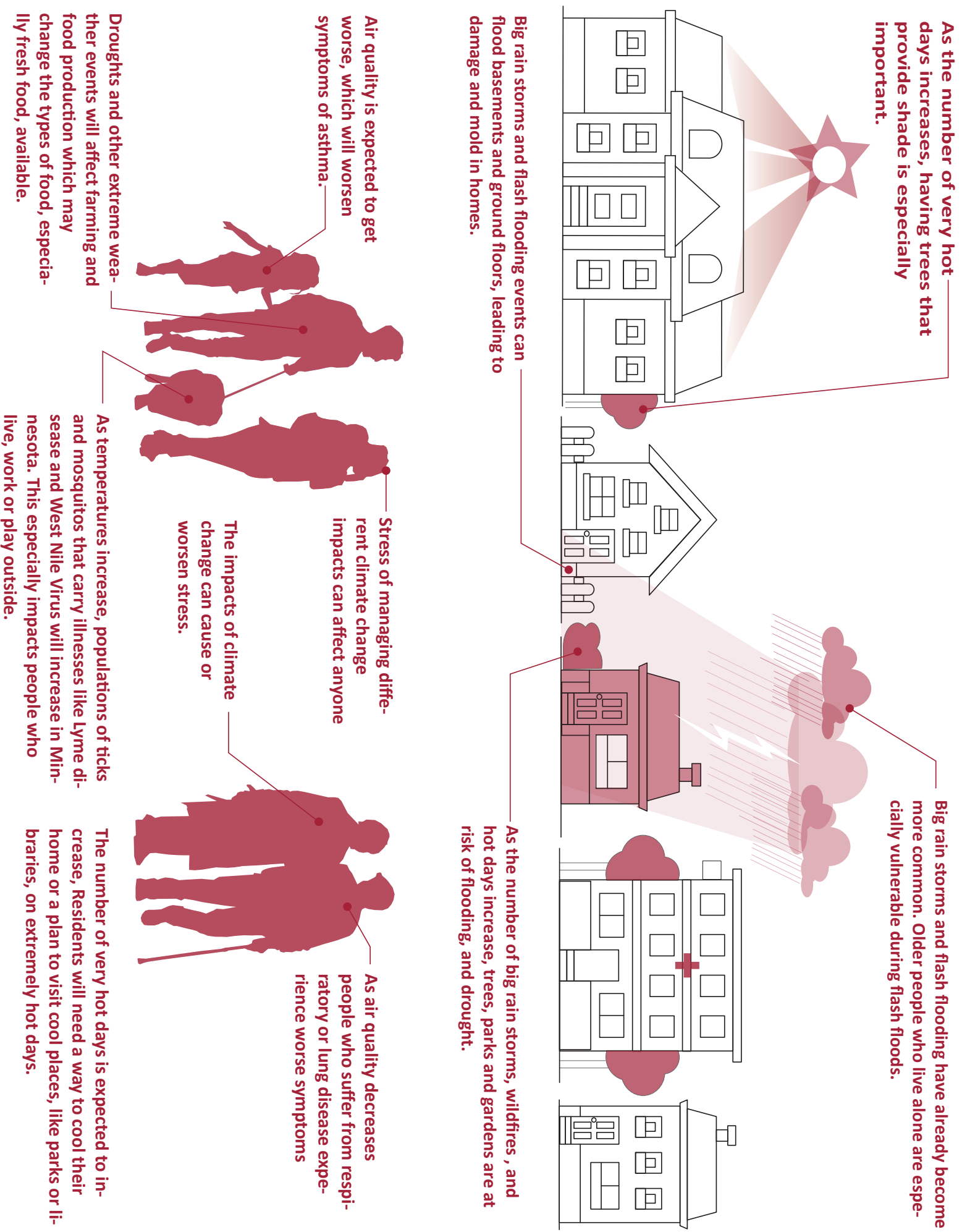
Link to:  
Saint Paul Ramsey Co.  
Public Health Climate Change  
Vulnerability Assessment

Link to:  
University of Minnesota RCP  
Resilience Engagement Survey














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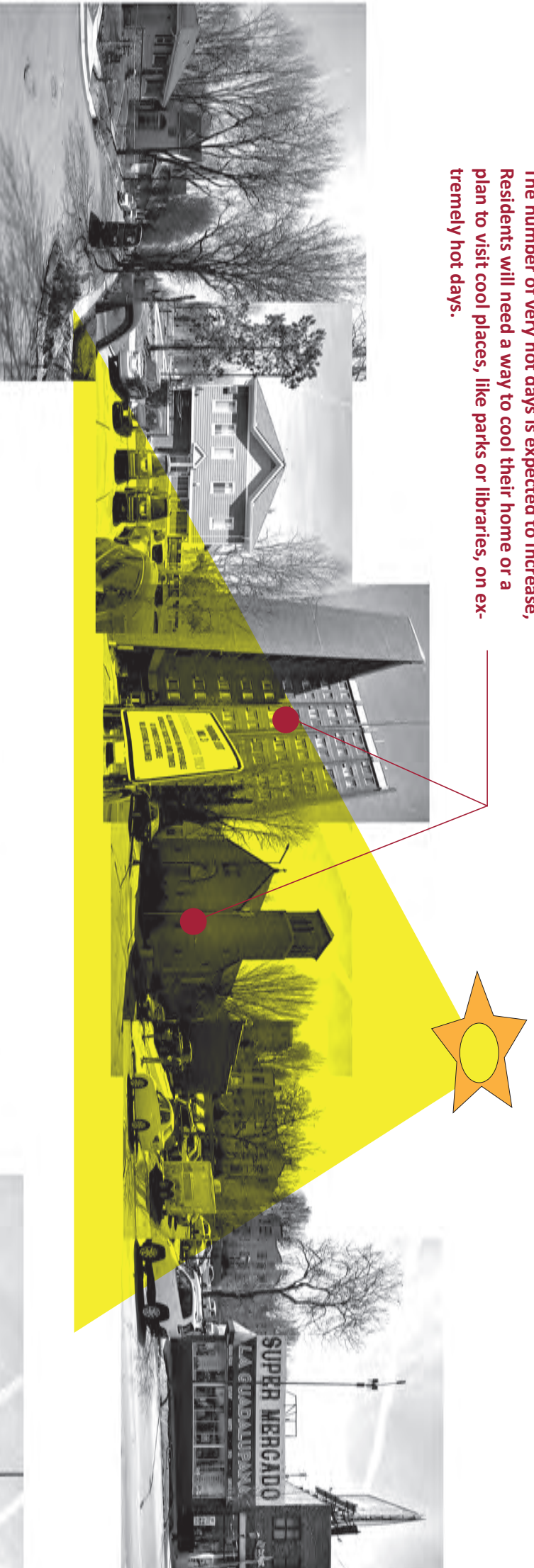


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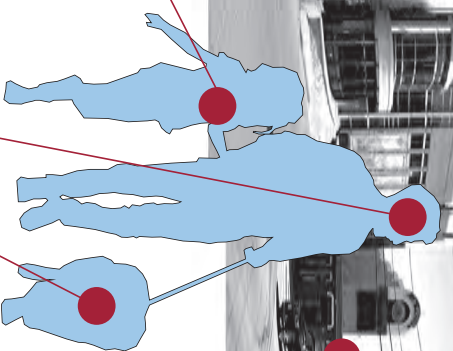
The number of very hot days is expected to increase, Residents will need a way to cool their home or a plan to visit cool places, like parks or libraries, on extremely hot days.



Air quality is expected to get worse, which will worsen symptoms of asthma.

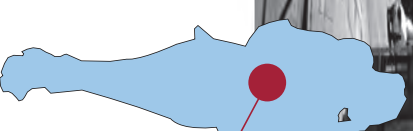
As air quality decreases people who suffer from respiratory or lung disease experience worse symptoms

The impacts of climate change can cause or worsen stress.



Droughts and other extreme weather events will affect farming and food production which may change the types of food, especially fresh food, available.

As temperatures increase, populations of ticks and mosquitoes that carry illnesses like Lyme disease and West Nile Virus will increase in Minnesota. This especially impacts people who live, work or play outside.

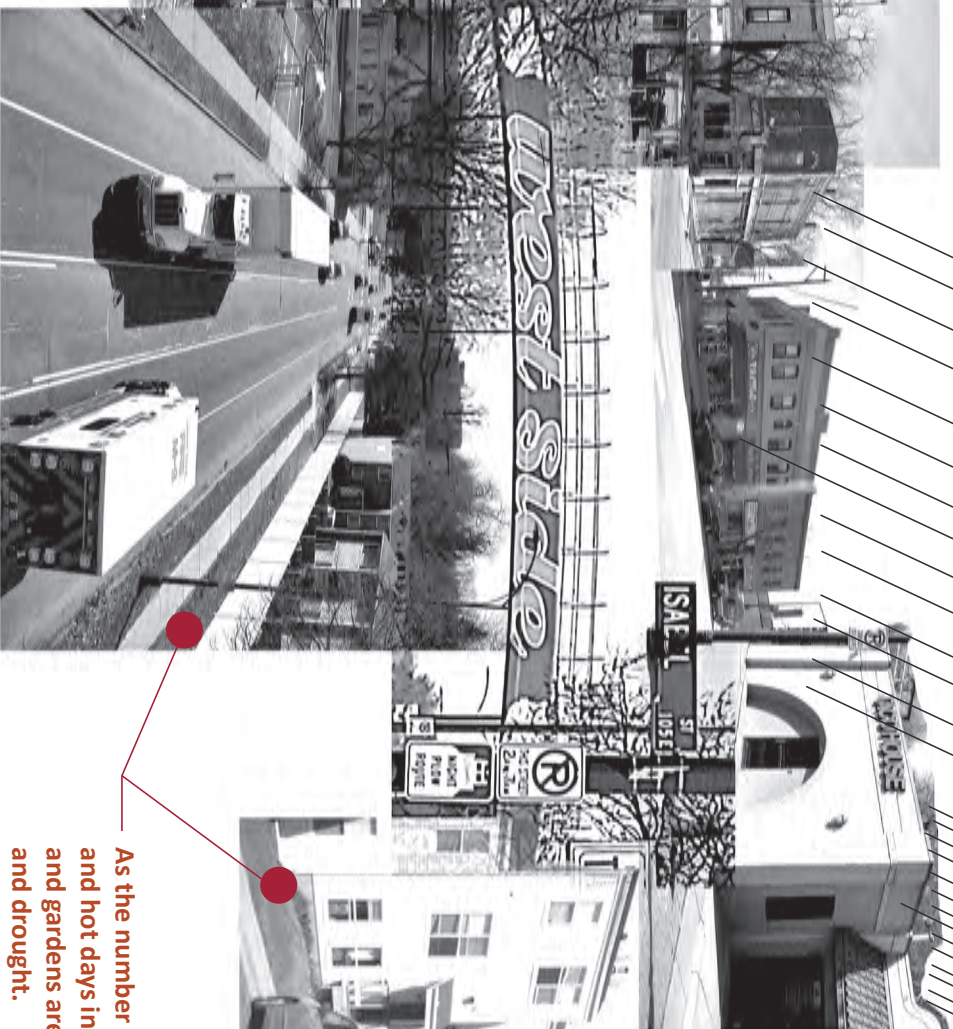
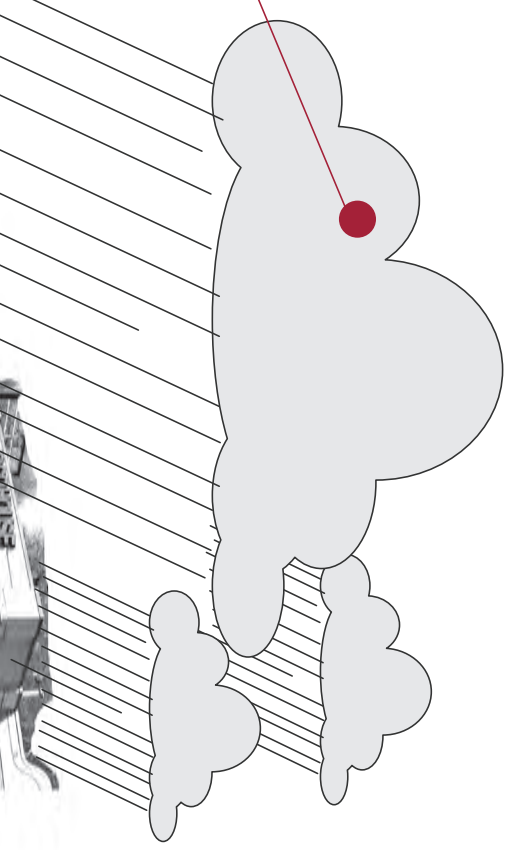


Stress of managing different climate change impacts can affect anyone but especially impacts residents with lower incomes.

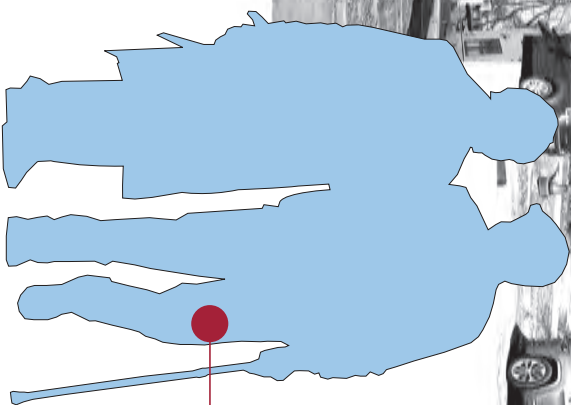
PA 5145 Civic Participation and Engagement  
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# How Will Climate Change Affect You?

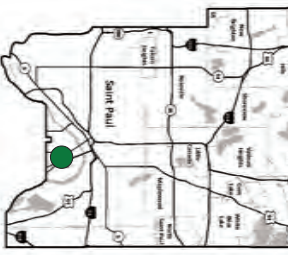
Big rain storms and flash flooding events can flood basements and ground floors, leading to damage and mold in homes.



As the number of big rain storms, and hot days increase, trees, parks and gardens are at risk of flooding, and drought.



Big rain storms and flash flooding have already become more common. Older people who live alone are especially vulnerable during flash floods.



● = AREA OF ENGAGEMENT

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Link to:  
Saint Paul Ramsey Co.  
Public Health Climate Change  
Vulnerability Assessment

Link to:  
University of Minnesota RCP  
Resilience Engagement Survey



Building Community/University Partnerships for Resilience  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
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# Fostering Empowerment

## Resilient Engagement in Ramsey County



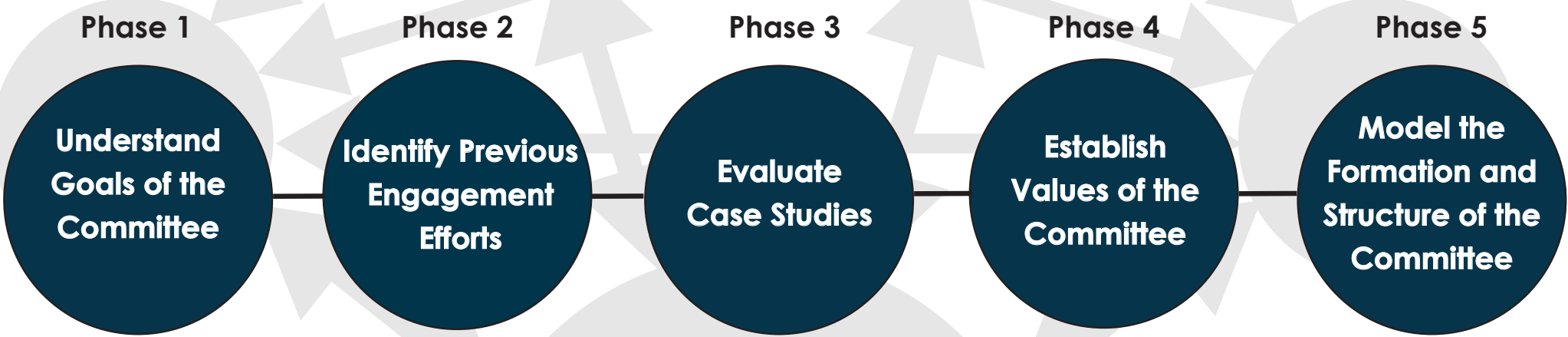
A stakeholder committee is important to creating a participatory planning process. We highlight the **principles of participatory process design** as a **starting point** and as a **framework for our project**.

### Purpose of Project

Ramsey County is considering the development of a stakeholder committee that will advise and guide the implementation and evaluation of planning efforts and initiatives, as it relates to climate change. **The committee has the opportunity to empower community stakeholders in decision-making and enhance participation in the County's work.**

### Project Scope & Method

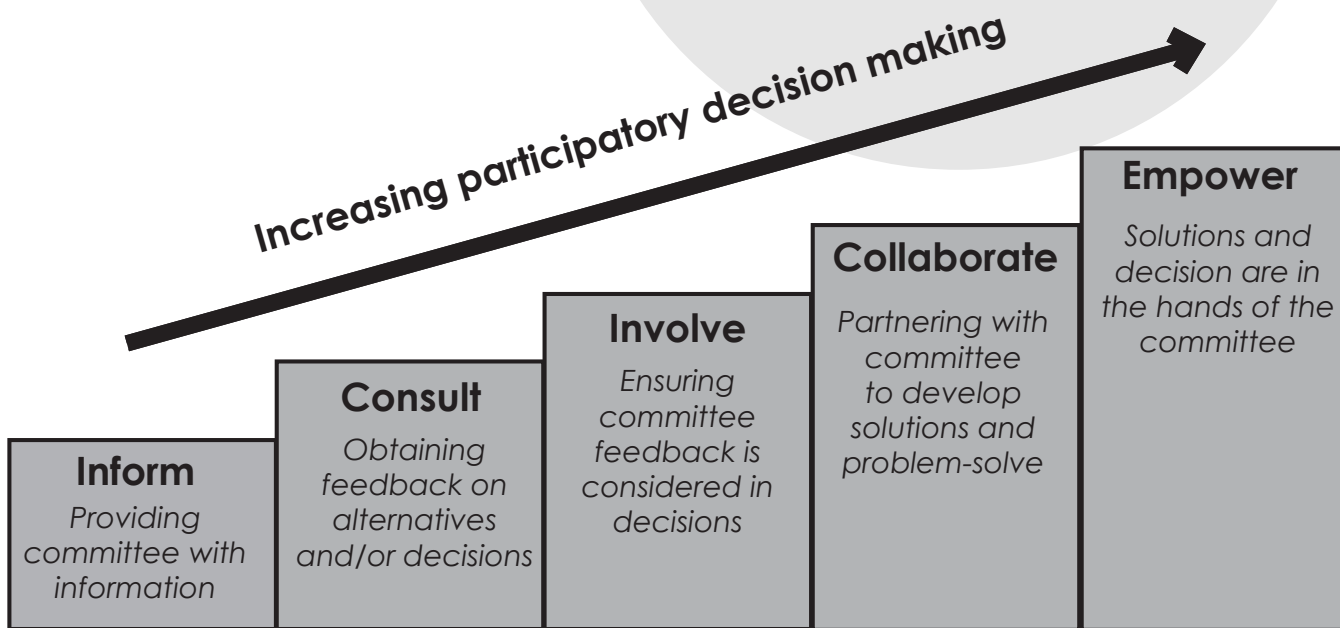
Our project includes five phases:



### What is a Stakeholder Committee?

The stakeholder committee provides an opportunity for people to more meaningfully connect to the decision-making process. **The main goal is to build capacity to problem solve and foster collaboration within the community beyond a single decision.** Stakeholder committees are usually made up of community members and groups that are representative of the community at large.

As we dive into exploring case studies and different models of participation, it will be important to keep in mind how different levels of participation may shape the committee's work. **Using the International Association of Public Participation's (IAP2) spectrum on public participation, there are five levels of participation that a stakeholder committee might embody:**



**Takeaway:**

We focus our work on modeling a stakeholder committee, as a form of public participation. To empower the community, the stakeholder committee would have authority over final decisions and solutions.

**Citations**

1. Bryson, J. M., Quick, K. S., Slotterback, C. S., & Crosby, B. C. (2012). Designing public participation processes. *Public Administration Review*, 73(1), 23–34. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1540-6210.2012.02678.x>

2. International Association for Public Participation. (2018). IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation. Advancing the practice of public participation. Retrieved April 30, 2023, from [https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/pillars/Spectrum\\_B.5x11\\_Print.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/pillars/Spectrum_B.5x11_Print.pdf)



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**Resilient Communities Project**  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

**RAMSEY COUNTY**

Building Community-University Partnerships for Resilience

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# Fostering Empowerment

## Visions for Empowerment

2

To design a stakeholder committee that advises and guides engagement with vulnerable populations focused on climate action planning in Ramsey County, we consider a number of key goals below, as well as the actions that can lead to their implementation.

Key Goals	Necessary Elements of Engagement
Increase and maintain the ability to empower the public in Ramsey County	Facilitate <b>transformative learning</b> by involving key stakeholders' diverse perspectives. <b>Develop social capital among participants</b> by building connections and fostering trust beyond a single decision-making process.
Enhance Ramsey County's understanding of public problems	<b>Maintain transparency</b> about County decisions. <b>Balance technical expertise with broader stakeholder experience</b> using processes for sharing and exchanging views among participants to <b>promote understanding and discovery</b> .
Explore new solutions to produce higher quality plans and policies	<b>Utilize local knowledge</b> and experience using deliberative, collaborative approaches. <b>Create relevant and resilient solutions</b> that are applicable across Ramsey County
Generate support for decisions and their implementation	<b>Produce solutions that address the public's needs</b> and concerns. <b>Involve stakeholders</b> with consensus-oriented approaches to <b>ensure decisions reflect the values of the public</b> .
Advance social, environmental, and climate justice	Recruit diverse stakeholders to <b>enable participation</b> and <b>empower vulnerable populations</b> .

### Questions to Consider:

- What previous efforts has Ramsey County made to establish participatory committees or governance structures to enable inclusion?
- What are the principles, values, and norms that could empower a community stakeholder committee around issues related to community engagement and resilience?
- What are examples of successful stakeholder committees providing inclusive representation around resilience and climate change issues and decision making?
- What are the elements and steps for a successful stakeholder committee model that represents traditionally vulnerable population?
- How can a stakeholder committee focused on climate resilience be integrated into the comprehensive planning cycle?

What other driving values might be important to this committee?

Sticky Notes Here!

#### Takeaway:

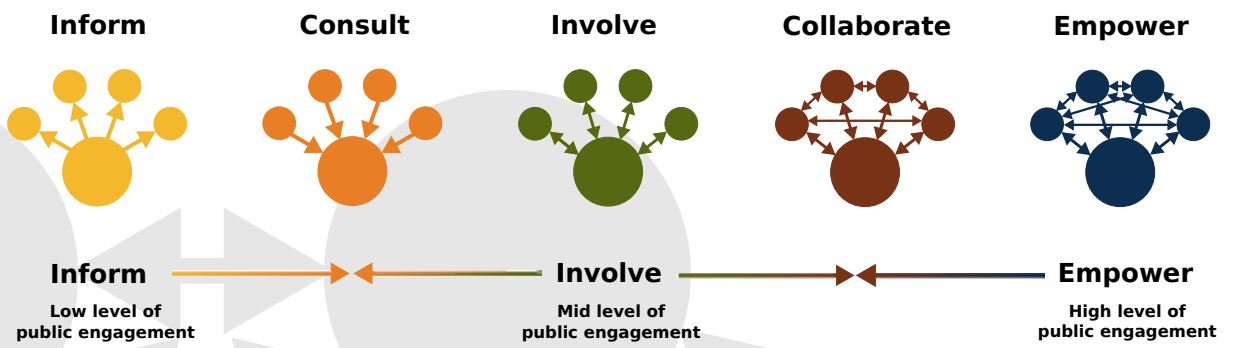
The identified goals and elements can inform the development of a stakeholder committee and facilitate evaluating its effectiveness at achieving these goals.



# Fostering Empowerment

## Previous Engagement Efforts in Ramsey County

One of Ramsey County's most robust outreach and engagement efforts took place early in the COVID-19 pandemic to **create a community-wide, resilient response**. We examine this and other outreach efforts, and rate them based on the **IAP2 spectrum of public participation**, which shows the amount of influence community members have in decision-making from least to greatest. **The higher level of engagement, the more a community feels empowered in decision-making efforts.**



PROJECT	ACTIVITIES & ACTIONS	IAP2 SPECTRUM
<b>Climate Change Engagement with Equity Strategies (2022)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equity Strategies held <b>7 conversations, including 4 online sessions, and an online survey, engaging around 111 community members</b> in Ramsey County to discuss climate change - and how they would like to see the County respond.</li> <li>Participants did not self-identify by <b>race, ethnicity, or other demographic characteristics.</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Ramsey County Trusted Messengers (2020-Present)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>15 contracts</b> awarded to <b>individuals and organizations already embedded in the community.</b></li> <li>Trusted Messengers <b>shared critical COVID-19 updates with their communities</b> on behalf of Ramsey County.</li> <li><b>Program to be expanded in 2023</b> to focus on additional health topics.</li> </ul>	
<b>Racial Equity &amp; Community Engagement Response Team (RECERT) (2020-2021)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Equity Action Circle of 15 community members</b> who applied to serve in the group.</li> <li>Worked with Ramsey County to <b>improve COVID-19 response strategy and solutions.</b></li> <li>Created a report of <b>recommendations and policy ideas for Ramsey County staff.</b></li> </ul>	



**Takeaway:**  
Using the IAP2 spectrum of engagement can help Ramsey County both analyze earlier engagement techniques, and reimagine goals to develop new opportunities for residents to influence policies and change within the community.

# Fostering Empowerment

## Learning from Previous Efforts

Government agencies frequently receive criticism for holding listening sessions and other engagement opportunities **yet not using the feedback they receive from participants**. This issue arose during the Ramsey County Climate Change Engagement sessions in 2022. By studying successful engagement techniques from past Ramsey County events and considering the IAP2 Spectrum, we look back on what worked and look ahead to ways to leverage those successes.

### AREAS OF SUCCESS

### AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

**EMPOWER**



Equity Action Circle **empowered** community members to **work independently & make recommendations** to staff.

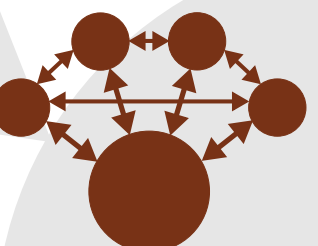
**COLLABORATE**



Expand outreach to **Ramsey County youth**, create **volunteer and paid opportunities for kids** to **collaborate** with Ramsey County through its climate change & resilience work.

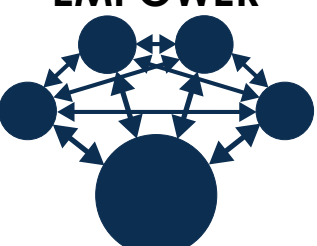
Trusted Messengers **collaborated** with Ramsey County staff to provide their communities with critical Covid-19 information in culturally appropriate ways.

**COLLABORATE**



Provide a **“meeting in a box”** with paper, pens, and supplies to **empower community leaders and groups** to hold their **own meetings** to discuss climate resilience **without government staff present**.

**EMPOWER**



**INVOLVE**



Community conversations about climate change included open-ended questions to **actively involve** residents in leading the discussions.

**COLLABORATE**



**Collaborate with staff in cities within Ramsey County** to identify additional community connections, and **expand use of the Trusted Messengers Program** already in place.



**What do residents need?** Combine outreach events with **providing a service or need within the community**, such as food distribution or child care. **Community members aren't likely to engage if their basic needs aren't already being met.**



**Takeaway:**  
 Ramsey County's previous work sets a positive baseline to foster **even more empowerment and collaboration** in future engagement work.  
 Next, see how empowering and collaborative values are used in **other nationwide engagement examples.**

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# Fostering Empowerment

## Analyzing Previous Stakeholder Committees

There are a wide variety of existing stakeholder committees and organizations dedicated to centering the voices of socially vulnerable communities in government decision making. The examples listed below vary in many aspects; some are government-adjacent institutions, while others include every registered voter. Some of these committees only provide advice to institutions with legislative or executive authority, and some can control which projects are undertaken or not through the power of the purse. We critically examined a variety of stakeholder committees, exploring their origins, strengths, and shortcomings so as to better create a plausible option for Ramsey County.

COMMITTEE	ACTIVITIES & ACTIONS	IAP2 SCALE
 <p><b>SAINT PAUL MINNESOTA</b> St. Paul Climate Justice Advisory Board</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14-17 member committee appointed by mayor and ... approved by city council, emphasis on <b>representating .. socially vulnerable communities.</b></li> <li>• <b>Advises City Council</b> and the mayor's office about the .. implementation of the Climate Action and Resilience Plan.</li> <li>• <b>Advocates for equitable benefits</b> from clean energy ... investments for St. Paul's most vulnerable populations.</li> <li>• <b>Brings feedback to City Council</b> in annual reports.</li> <li>• Previously gave feedback to MnDOT on Rethinking I-94.</li> <li>★ <b>SERVES AS AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTING</b></li> </ul>	 <p><b>CONSULT</b></p>
 <p><b>MPCA Environmental Justice Advisory Group</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisory group members appointed by MPCA ..... commissioner with input from a selection committee.</li> <li>• <b>Currently defunct</b> but actively seeking members. Majority of <b>members resigned in Nov 2020</b> following MPCA ..... providing a permit to Enbridge to <b>expand controversial Line 3 pipeline.</b></li> <li>• <b>Advised and provided feedback</b> to MPCA commissioner regarding <b>environmental justice principles</b> for policies and procedures.</li> <li>★ <b>DEFUNCT DUE TO MPCA NOT HEEDING TO ADVISORY GROUP'S WISHES</b></li> </ul>	 <p><b>CONSULT?</b></p>
 <p><b>Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Smart Akwesasne, ON &amp; QC</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community-led committee</b> formed to <b>consult community members at public events and open houses</b> to <b>determine usage of \$5 million grant</b> from Canadian government.</li> <li>• <b>Published monthly columns</b> in Akwesasne newspapers to <b>inform residents of discussed policies</b> and of future .... meetings.</li> <li>• <b>Prioritized community input through interactive exercises</b>, creating "heat maps" of relevant issues.</li> <li>★ <b>LED TO CREATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE RIDE-SHARING PROGRAM FOR AKWESASNE COMMUNITIES IN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC</b></li> </ul>	 <p><b>COLLABORATE</b></p>
 <p><b>New York City Council Participatory Budgeting</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 city council members ask <b>residents to propose . infrastructure spending projects</b> that cost at least \$50,000. <b>Proposals are voted on</b> in March and April, and then . included in the following year's budget.</li> <li>• <b>Empowers local municipalities to vote on allocating .... portions of NYC budget on infrastructure projects</b>, primarily improvements for schools, parks, libraries, public housing, and road infrastructure.</li> <li>• <b>Requires strong and consistent civic engagement and participation</b>, otherwise it can be hijacked by corporate interests.</li> <li>★ <b>LETS COMMUNITY MEMBERS VOTE ON SPENDING PROJECTS</b></li> </ul>	 <p><b>EMPOWER</b></p>



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# Fostering Empowerment

## The Role of a Stakeholder Committee



The stakeholder committee may involve conflict and require negotiation among members representing different community ideas and perspectives. Conflict or disagreement is important to acknowledge and work through as a part of a participatory decision-making process.

### The committee serves as an opportunity to...

#### Establish Legitimacy

Participation serves as the basis for a decision-making process to be considered legitimate. Without participation by citizens in the planning process, it is difficult to establish that decisions are being made in the best interest of the community. **A stakeholder committee should be oriented in a way that upholds legitimacy.**

#### Encourage Expression

Participation serves as a form of expression. **A participatory committee can serve as a space that allows for residents to voice and share their opinions, expressing what they think, believe and feel with other people.**

#### Communicate Information

Participation serves an informational role by **informing those on the committee or in government about the opinions and thoughts of residents**, which can support decision making. It can also serve as a way to **communicate information to the public**, so people understand how planning decisions may impact their day-to-day life.

#### Foster Empowerment

There is a philosophy that participation should be equitable. Decision-making can empower communities disenfranchised by previous decision-making processes. **Equitable participation involves elevating historically under-represented groups in the decision making and participation process.**

... among community stakeholder groups and the entire community.

## Negotiation and Re-Negotiation: An Ongoing Journey

Participatory decision making that truly incorporates community perspectives has to be an ongoing journey that includes agreement and disagreement. Through a stakeholder committee, community knowledge is shared. This community knowledge will likely not be the same for every group or member. Through conversation and listening, community stakeholders can form a mutual understanding of one another and the issues at stake.



### In this journey, the facilitator can serve the roles of...

#### Advocate

The facilitator of an engagement process has **opportunities to facilitate action**. This involves elevating a stakeholder voice and committee in addressing their identified issues.

#### Collaborator

This idea envisions the facilitator as a person that facilitates dialogue, with the idea that **all stakeholders are collaborators in the decision-making process**.



#### Takeaway:

A participatory decision process will not be a linear path but will serve as an opportunity to elevate and empower community voices.

# Fostering Empowerment

## Functions of the Proposed Committee

A functioning and effective stakeholder committee needs responsibilities and duties to give it meaning, and the tools and authority to carry out its duties. Taking previous case studies into account, Ramsey County's engagement efforts, and the values of stakeholder committees, we propose a multi-functioned stakeholder committee to assist Ramsey County's climate resilience efforts.

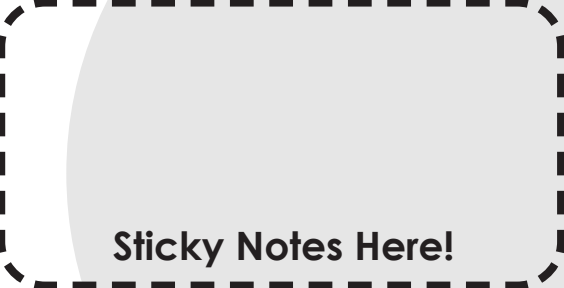
### Function 1: Advising the County

- **Advises the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners** about what they should/ could act on regarding climate resilience from the **perspective of local stakeholders**.
- Meets monthly with pre-set agendas, public minutes, and a public audience.
- **Meets with planners** and relevant officials from other departments to **help both groups to better understand climate resilience** and relevant government offices' actions.
- Members appointed and approved by board of commissioners to serve for 2-year terms, limit of 3 terms of consecutive service.
- Led by a Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson, both elected by the members of the committee to serve for a 2-year term.
- **Able to hold public meetings to better understand the needs of the community** and bring issues to the attention of the board related to climate change and climate resilience.

### Function 2: Participatory Budgeting

- **Host public meetings** in which **community members identify problems and priorities**.
  - Smart Akwesasne's **sticker heat maps, incentives for participation, timing outside of work hours**.
  - Potential priorities:
    - Transportation infrastructure investment
    - Public green spaces
    - Residential electrical panel upgrades
- **Led by committee members** with moderate oversight from Ramsey County to ensure compliance, accountability, coordination, and that **projects are relevant to climate resilience**.
- 3-4 month time period for **residents to submit proposals for minor projects**. Residents will **work with committee members and planners** (or relevant county representatives) to **assess for feasibility, cost, and alignment with local priorities and policies, and collaborate** on any changes needed to make it viable for implementation.
- **Ranked-choice voting in county elections for preferred programs** to be included in the following year's budget.
  - If including budgeting votes in elections is determined to be too expensive for the County, the stakeholder committee could bring the most popular proposals to the County for consideration.

Ramsey County's stakeholder committees often have seats reserved for members of relevant stakeholder groups. Which stakeholder groups would you reserve seats for in a climate resilience committee?



### Empowered & Deliberative Democratic Design

Using Fung's Model of Empowered Deliberative Democracy, we propose a stakeholder committee that uses the strengths of both bureaucratic government structure and community organizing while minimizing their weaknesses. Both functions of the stakeholder committee's design are inspired by the three principles of Fung's model.

#### DEVOLUTION

#### CENTRALIZED SUPERVISION & COORDINATION

#### STATE-CENTERED & NON-VOLUNTARISTIC

Advising on issues related to climate resilience delegated to appointed stakeholders

Letting community members propose their desired development projects with minimal input from the County

Climate resilience stakeholder committee acting under a framework and charter written by Ramsey County to ensure clear responsibilities and powers

Participatory budgeting funds are still subject to oversight and implementation by the County, and Ramsey County will have the final say in how participatory budgeting projects are implemented and in what timeframe

Formalized structure gives the stakeholder committee a greater degree of authority and validity over an informal and external organization

Having a formalized process for participatory budgeting makes it significantly more effective and reliable than community members petitioning for multiple similar projects at the same time







# Fostering Empowerment

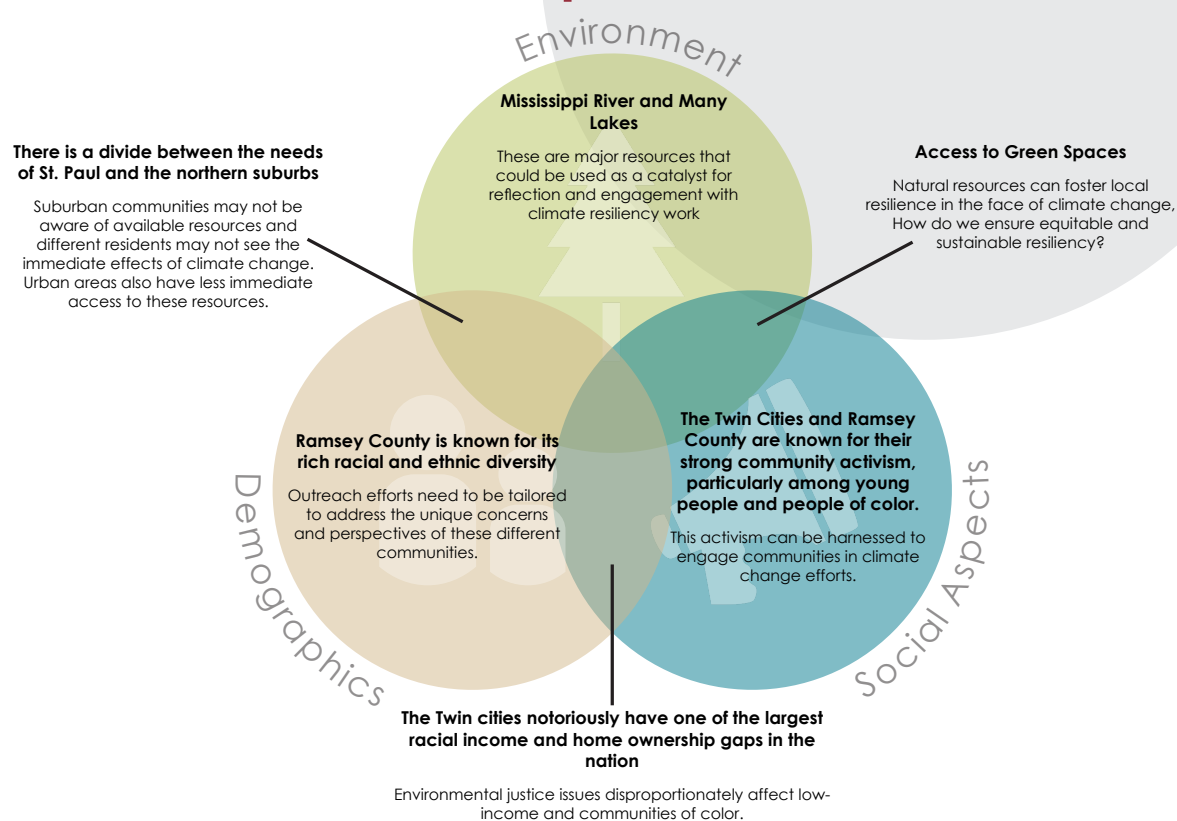
## Adapting the Model to Ramsey County

Using the proposed values and functions of the stakeholder committee as a critical lens, we now look at Ramsey County itself. We examine how the unique features and conditions present in the county can inform the stakeholder committee to make it effective locally. In addition, we list an assortment of organizations local to Ramsey County that could be engaged to further the values and goals of the stakeholder committee.

### How could local groups be engaged?

Who	What	How
	An active and diverse neighborhood hub intersecting 3 Ramsey cities, trying to help guide investment in the neighborhood, and shepherding a community advisory board guided by values of representation, inclusion, and non-displacement.	<b>Communicate Information</b> Organizations such as this are perfect for collecting and amplifying the concerns of residents and disbursing news from the County to the community
	Based in St. Paul, Indigenous Roots provides accessible space and programming for artists and organizations dedicated to supporting and cultivating opportunities for Native, Black, Brown, and Indigenous people.	<b>Foster Empowerment</b> Spaces like this already aggregate ideas and people from underrepresented communities. Engaging this willing source will further the goals of both parties by including people and their ideas in government decision making, and building connections between the County and these communities.
	Beacon is a St. Paul collaborative committed to establishing community and making sure all people have a home.	<b>Encourage Expression</b> Local groups like this work with people who are generally left out of typical planning processes. Engaging them can elevate the voices and needs of such people.
	A monthly community advisory council committee focused on helping community members living with disabilities who are limited in their abilities to live independently	<b>Establish Legitimacy</b> Ramsey County already has community advisory council committees focused on specific goals and demographic groups. These established committees are a model for the stakeholder committee's role, and these can be continually evaluated against each other to ensure they are as effective as possible.

### What are some unique elements of Ramsey County?



**What else should Ramsey County consider?**

**Sticky Notes Here!**

**Takeaway:**  
There are many unique physical and demographic features in Ramsey County that must be considered when constructing the stakeholder committee. The County can work with local organizations to effectively identify and account for these features.



# Fostering Empowerment

## Piloting a First Meeting



To pilot a first meeting, we recommend that Ramsey County (1) **shares power** with community members by co-designing the agenda and purpose of the group, (2) **ensures that meetings are accessible** for community stakeholders, and (3) **empowers members through education and communication**.

### Ensure Meeting is Accessible



**Time of day** must be convenient for all stakeholder committee members



**Providing childcare and transportation assistance** allows for parents and others to more easily participate



**Compensation** should be provided to encourage participation in meetings (stipend)

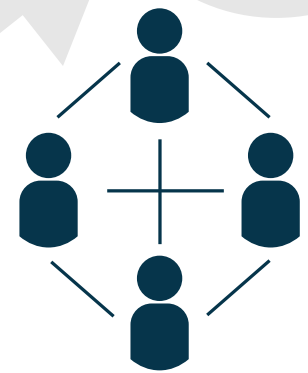


**Location** must be convenient and accessible for all community stakeholder members

### Share Power through Co-Design

#### Build Trust through Collaboration

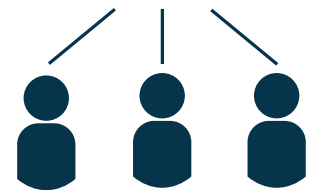
It is important for the public participation process to incorporate all interests by engaging proactively and including perspectives historically excluded from decision making. Ramsey County can **build trust with community members by starting with co-designing the agenda for the meeting and providing a framework on what the committee will do.**



#### Emphasize Local Knowledge

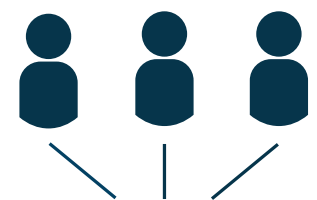
Community members must feel like their perspectives are valued and being incorporated into the participatory process. The meeting should **emphasize the importance of local knowledge and provide a space where community members can share their own perspectives on issues** related to climate change, housing, mobility, and a whole range of issues.

#### Local Knowledge



#### Share Information to Empower

Providing education and information to community members should be prioritized. Stakeholder members should be briefed on issues, organizational structure, and other important aspects of county planning efforts with climate change. This could include videos, one-on-one meetings before the first meeting, and other resources. **By providing education and information, stakeholder members would be more empowered to provide ideas, feedback, and support the County's planning efforts.**



#### Information



#### Takeaway:

The first meeting must be accessible to all to empower. It also serves as an opportunity to build trust and share community knowledge.

# Evaluating Engagement

## Why Evaluate?

The goal of this effort is to **develop a scorecard that evaluates the success of a community engagement process focused on climate change and the inclusion of vulnerable populations.** The effort aims to identify the principles, values and practices that should be evaluated - both qualitatively and quantitatively, how they can be measured, and how they can be incorporated into a scorecard format. To start this project, we wanted to clarify the validity to creating a scorecard.

## What We Gain Through Evaluation:

**Evaluation is a measurement tool.** The CDC defines evaluation as "the systematic collection of information about the activities, characteristics, and outcomes of programs, for use by people to **reduce uncertainties, improve effectiveness, and make decisions**" (Patton, 2008, p. 39).

- + Reduce Uncertainties  
create transparency
- + Improve Effectiveness  
create a feedback loop & track progress
- + Make Decisions  
create internal and external accountability & make sure projects happen

Thus, evaluation has the potential to improve engagement and, thus, improve outcomes. **HOWEVER**, it is important to note that the evaluation scorecard is aimed at **evaluating the community engagement** completed around climate change and vulnerable communities, **and NOT how climate change is being addressed with and for those communities.**

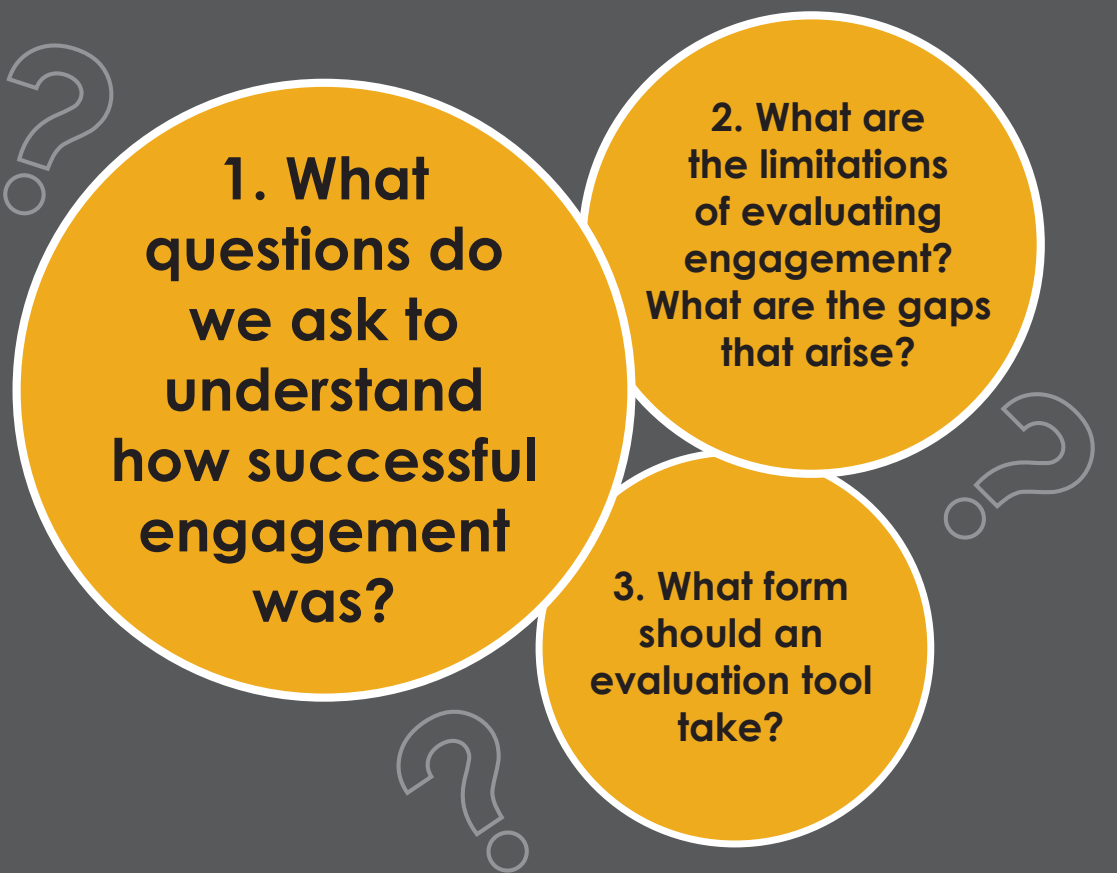


## Central Project Questions:

A scorecard is a tool to **measure** the **success** of Community Engagement. **However....**

several questions arise when we try to pin down how to evaluate community engagement. Many organizations are grappling with topic and there are not clear answers.

The **3 questions** displayed here became central to our process. We often returned to them throughout the development of the scorecard, and we recognized that they may not have clear answers.



# Evaluating Engagement

## Our Approach to Creating a Scorecard

This board outlines the process we followed for creating the scorecard. The following boards will cover each step in the process in greater detail.

### 1 What does “success” look like?

Make space to explore

- Define what successful community engagement is
- Define what successful tool



Summarize the Exploration

Identify the principles, values, and goals that we want to pull forward into the precedent exploration and the scorecard development

### 2 What should we score? How should we score?

Precedent Review:  
Zoomed Out - Worldwide



- What is possible for Ramsey?
- What worldwide/national scorecard examples might we draw from?

Create a Back-end Tool

Organize the research in a back-end tool that can be utilized to build out the scorecard

Bringing it together  
Scorecard Development



Combine what we have explored in phase 1 and the precedent studies, to develop the scorecard tool.

### 3 How does the scorecard perform?

Test The Tool At the  
Engagement Team's Event

Work in collaboration with the Community Engagement team to test the tool at their event in the Rhondo neighborhood



Re-evaluate and Reiterate

We want to encourage users to engage in continuous reflection on what successful community engagement looks like and revise the tool accordingly.

### 4 How can the scorecard be revised?

Summarize how the tool performed

- Identify pros and cons
- Make recommendations for changes



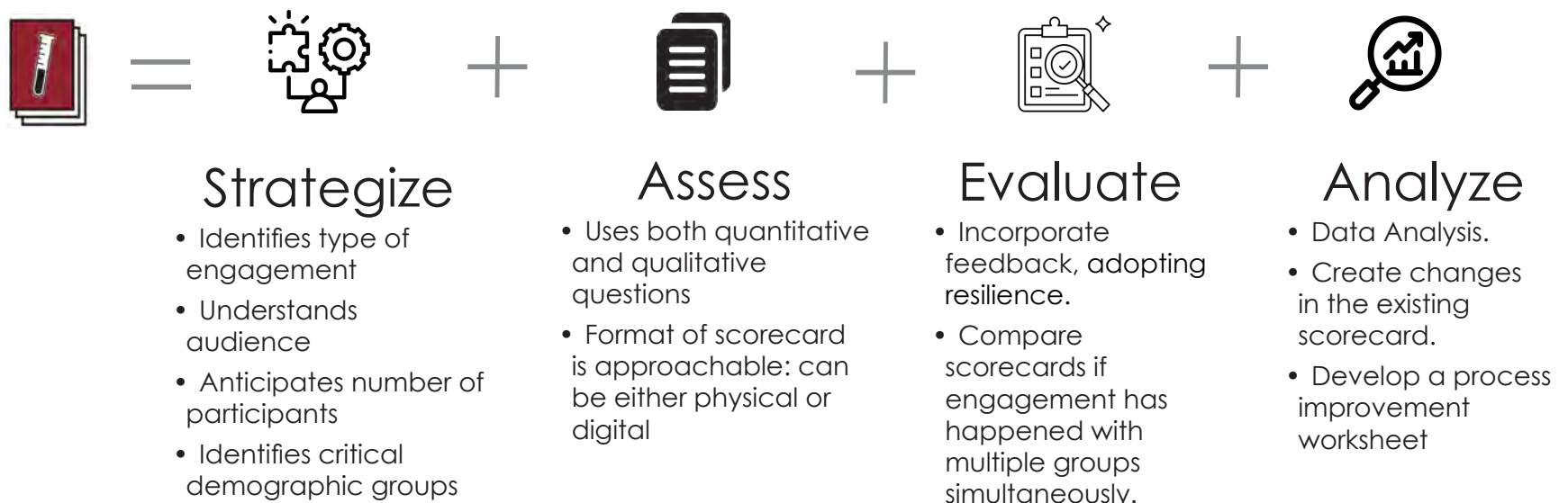
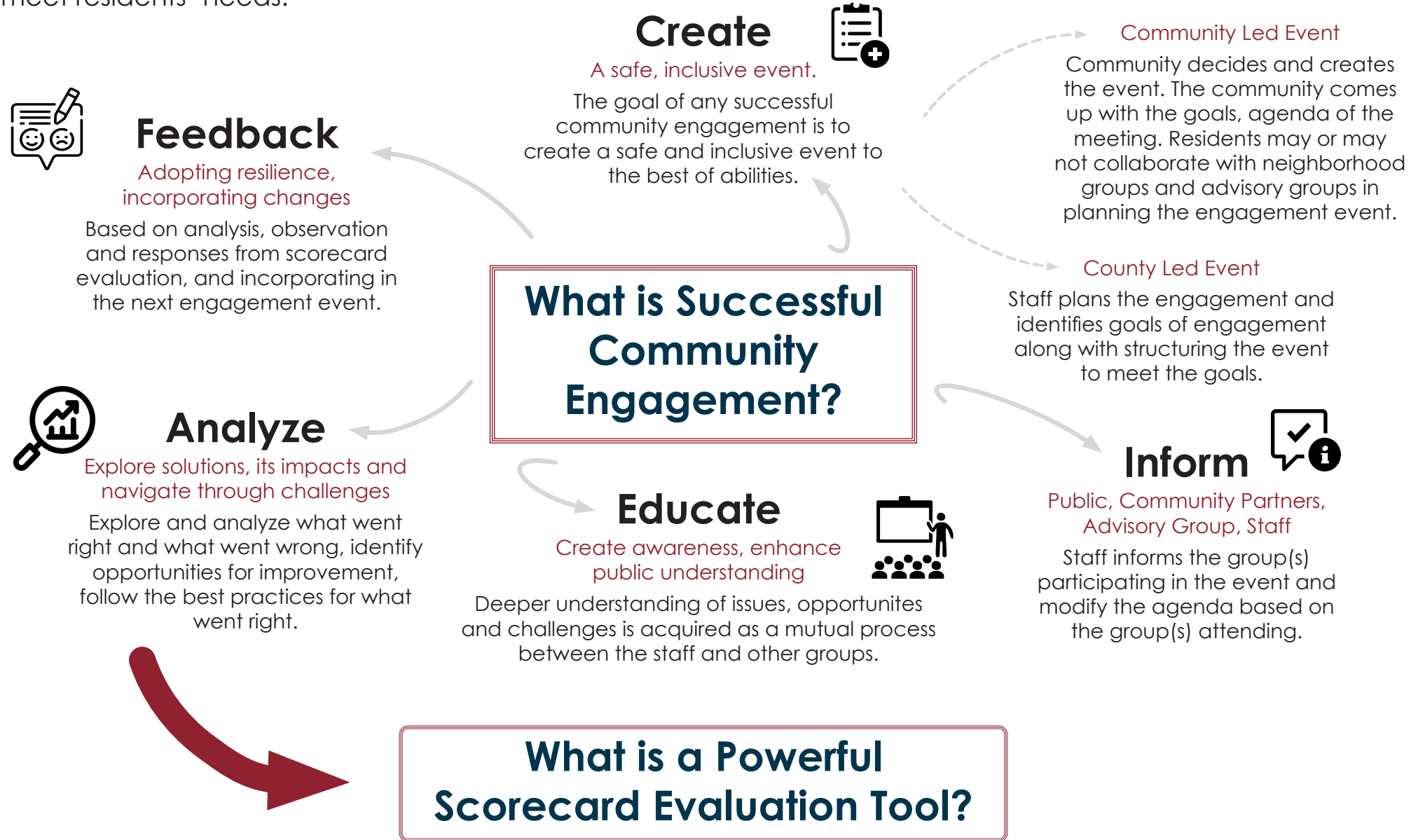
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# Evaluating Engagement

## 3 DEFINING SUCCESS

### Defining Successful Engagement

This poster aims to answer the question: What are the necessary elements required for successful community engagement, and therefore, a powerful scorecard? We worked with our client to understand and define “successful” community engagement. Is it the number or demographics of participants? The structure of the engagement? The ability of community members to shape Ramsey County policy? We concluded that **successful community engagement uses an iterative process** to continually create and evaluate processes that meet residents’ needs.



### Takeaways

A successful community engagement and a powerful scorecard evaluation are **interdependent**, but both of them involve a variety of dynamic factors. Both evaluations are **dynamic and iterative**.



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# Evaluating Engagement

## Case Studies: Scorecard Examples from International, State, and Local Levels

4  
CASE STUDIES

Many levels of government now use scorecards to evaluate multiple aspects of their work. From disaster resilience, to equity, to public engagement, organizations use these tools to create baselines, assess progress, and meet high-level goals. The following examples show three approaches to creating and using scorecards.



### UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Disaster Relief Resilience Scorecard

The UN's Disaster Relief Resilience Scorecard uses a 5-point system to assess multiple dimensions of a city's disaster preparedness.

#### Strengths

- **Simple scoring system.**
- Straightforward scoring tables.
- **Examples** describe each scoring level to help users with assessment.
- Tells users which data they will need to gather before completing the scorecard.
- **Links** the scorecard's evaluation framework **with the UN's core goals.**
- Includes glossary with key terms

#### Weaknesses

- **Lengthy** assessment, meant to be completed over 1-2 days.
- Focuses on multiple topics related to disaster resilience, not just community engagement.
- Examples of scores may be **rigid and overly detailed.**

### California Institute for Local Government Public Engagement Rapid Review Worksheets

The Rapid Review Worksheets, developed by the California Institute for Local Government, are a set of three worksheets that use a multi-step scoring process to assess public engagement processes.

#### Strengths

- Emphasizes **community input** in evaluation.
- Uses **simple** agree-disagree scale.
- Set up to be an **iterative process** that emphasizes next steps and continuous improvement.
- Includes Glossary with key terms.
- Specifically **focused on public engagement**

#### Weaknesses

- Works best when **participants** fill out evaluations, which may not always be possible.

### Multiple Twin Cities Organizations Equitable Development Scorecards

The Equitable Development Scorecards use a 10-point system to evaluate equity-focused development in the Twin Cities.

#### Strengths

- **Developed in collaboration** with multiple grassroots community organizations.
- Straightforward, **simple scoring sheets.**
- Includes a section related to public engagement.

#### Weaknesses

- Scoring **scale is vague** and somewhat subjective.
- Questions may oversimplify circumstances.
- Many questions are **focused on development** and land use rather than community engagement.
- Somewhat unclear how the scorecards were created.

## Takeaways

These three scorecards use various scoring systems and levels of complexity to evaluate the effectiveness of programs in question. Despite their differences, all three share some commonalities, such as: glossaries, scoring tables, and brief background information. Each scorecard contains possible strategies for a Ramsey County Evaluation Scorecard, and **the following posters will explore how we selected elements from each** to create a Ramsey County-specific process.



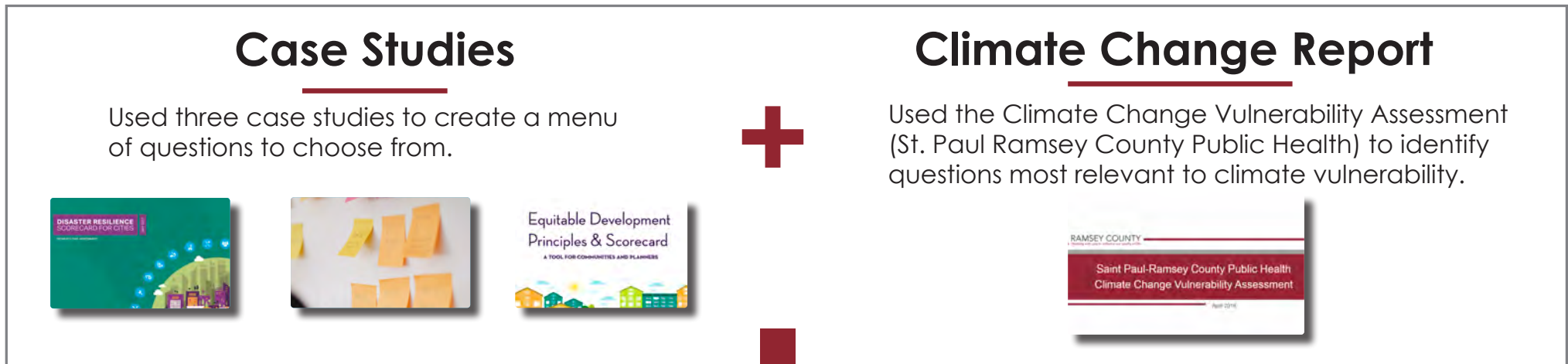
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# Evaluating Engagement

Creating the Scorecard Tools: Using Case Studies and existing Ramsey County resources to develop a “menu” of evaluation questions



We combined the Case Studies with the St. Paul Ramsey County Climate Vulnerability Assessment to create a back-end Excel “menu” consisting of 80 questions. These questions were both qualitative and quantitative in nature, and were divided into questions related to participant demographics and questions related to engagement effectiveness.



## Quantitative and Qualitative Question Menu

The question menu includes **80** potential quantitative and qualitative questions related to community engagement.

Each menu also notes who the target audience is for each question - for example, participants, staff, or community partners.

Question Category	DRAFT Question for Scorecard	Type of Question / Scoring	Who responds to this question? (Participant in community engagement event, Ramsey County staff, or other)
<b>ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS</b>			
Community Engagement Event: Preparation	1. The notice, advertisement or invitation to participate was clear and welcoming.	Lichert Scale: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree	Participants AND Ramsey Co Staff
	2. Information about the meeting topic, provided to me (participants) before or at the meeting, helped prepare me (participants) to participate more effectively.	Lichert Scale: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree	Participants AND Ramsey Co Staff
	3. The purpose of the meeting was clear to me (to participants).	Lichert Scale: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree	Participants AND Ramsey Co Staff
	4. Before the meeting, I believed that any individual views offered would be taken seriously by policymakers.	Lichert Scale: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree	Participants AND Ramsey Co Staff
	5. Before the meeting, I believed that any collective views or recommendations developed would be seriously considered by policymakers.	Lichert Scale: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree	Participants AND Ramsey Co Staff

Question Category	DRAFT Question for Scorecard
<b>ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS</b>	
	For you, were there any surprising or unanticipated results from this public engagement process?
	For you, what would have most improved this public engagement process?
	Is there a topic that you think many people seemed to agree on or be on the same page with today? If yes, what?
	Is there a topic that you think many people seemed to disagree on today? If yes, what?
	In one word - describe your experience today.
	What is a positive from the experience today?
	What is a negative from the experience today?
	What questions do you have after this experience?
	Do you think there are ppl who should have been involved in the conversation that are not here? If yes, who?
	Describe clearly the priority actions to be taken to make the identified improvements in your public engagement activities. Where appropriate, include the full name of the person responsible for implementation.

## Client Feedback



We met weekly with the Ramsey County Project Lead to refine the question menu into shorter, digestible evaluation tools.

The client provided feedback on question type, survey length, staff capacity, and additional key elements.

**This process was critical in developing evaluation tools that would meet Ramsey County’s needs.** Some of the key questions discussed are outlined at right:

Client Question	Response	Scorecard Results
What is the ideal <b>length</b> of the scorecard?	Short, 5-10 question scorecards	All Scorecards are <b>less than 10 questions</b> .
<b>Who</b> will complete these scorecards?	Participants, staff, and community partners.	<b>Four scorecards</b> that target different stakeholder groups.
What <b>quantitative and qualitative</b> information is most useful to collect?	Perceptions of event and feedback about what participants did not like.	Scorecards use both “ <b>Agree, Neutral, Disagree</b> ” and <b>open-ended questions</b>
Are you most interested in <b>who</b> participated in the engagement event, <b>how</b> participants felt about the engagement event, or <b>both</b> ?	More interested in how participants felt about the event than in demographics of participants.	Questions <b>focus on how participants felt</b> about the event. Minimal demographic information collected.



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# Evaluating Engagement

## Using Stakeholder-Specific Scorecards

6

USING THE TOOLS

By combining the Case Studies, existing Climate Change Report, and Ramsey County staff's feedback, we created four distinct scorecards. Each scorecard's questions and format are tailored to a specific audience. These scorecards will allow Ramsey County to better evaluate and understand their engagement efforts.

### Scorecard 1: Participants

This Scorecard would be used at in-person community engagement events. Participants can complete this short feedback form that describes their experience, and Ramsey County staff would analyze the results.



5 Five Questions Handwritten

My ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Community Member**

This was a safe & fair environment:

— —

I would do this again:

— —

My voice was heard:

— —

This is something I didn't like:

\_\_\_\_\_

### Scorecard 2: Community Partners

This Scorecard provides feedback to the County from Community Partners, such as those co-hosting or partnering on engagement events.



5 Five Questions Handwritten OR Online

12:29

Our organization would work with the County on an event(s) like this again

Strongly disagree

Somewhat disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat agree

Strongly agree

What did you not like about the engagement event(s)?

\_\_\_\_\_

Selected Questions

### Scorecard 3: Advisory Group

This Scorecard is an opportunity for climate and vulnerability-related Advisory Groups to provide feedback on their processes.



8 Eight Questions Handwritten OR Online

The participants in the group reflected the diversity of the people and views of our community.

Strongly Disagree   Somewhat disagree   Neither agree nor disagree   Somewhat agree   Strongly agree

Relationships with the community were established throughout the process

Strongly Disagree   Somewhat disagree   Neither agree nor disagree   Somewhat agree   Strongly agree

Selected Questions

### Scorecard 4: Ramsey County Staff

The final scorecard is intended for Ramsey County Climate and Engagement staff. Staff can then compare their assessments of engagement with community assessments.



8 Eight Questions Online

The County has a plan to follow-up with the event(s). (e.g. further communication to participants, scheduling additional events, publishing information online, etc.)

Strongly disagree

Somewhat disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat agree

Strongly agree

What could be improved about the event(s)? Name at least 2 things.

\_\_\_\_\_

Selected Questions

### Takeaways

By compiling the results from all four scorecards, Ramsey County staff can build a comprehensive picture of their engagement efforts. Comparing the results from the scorecards can allow the County to identify gaps and areas of improvement in community engagement.



Scan to access Full Scorecard Templates



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# Evaluating Engagement

## Testing the Scorecard at an Engagement Event



The developed Scorecard was tested at a community engagement event held on 23rd April, 2023. An engagement event was planned to be held at the Peace Garden in St.Paul. Most of the participants were from Rondo Neighborhood. Participants were made aware of an engagement event through their community garden. The piloting engagement team engaged with the participants to make them aware of climate changes and how it might impact their lives.

### Engagement Evaluation Questions

#### Participant Scorecard

(1)The facilitator(s) provided a safe, fair and well-managed environment for participants.

Lichert Scale: Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree.

(2) I would like to participate in events like this again.

Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree

(3) I would encourage other residents to participate in similar public engagement events.

Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree

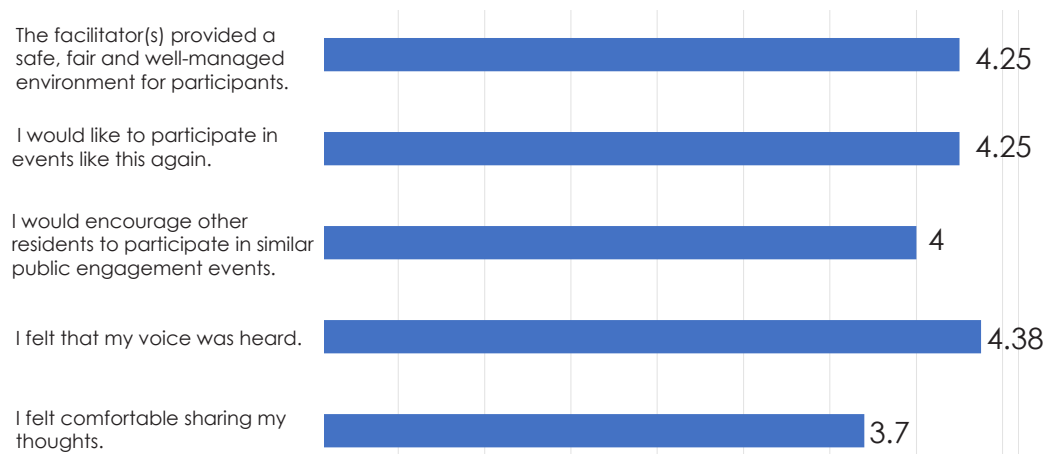
(4) I felt that my voice was heard.

Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree

(5) I felt comfortable sharing my thoughts.

Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree

(6) Was there anything that you did not enjoy about the engagement process? Open ended



Minimum score: 1 (Strongly disagree)  
Maximum score :5 (Strongly agree)

### Responses and Feedback



Number of Participants : **10**



**90.5%** of participants gave positive feedback about the engagement event.



**Improve** event by:  
Addressing **language barriers**, providing enough **refreshments**, creating a **safer space**.

### Takeaways

- The **placement** of engagement related questions in the survey plays a vital role in evaluation. The survey should be designed such that a participant can not skip a question.
- It takes **longer time** for people to get comfortable enough to share their thoughts and trust the engagement event. Multiple engagement events, partnering with neighborhood organizations, advisory groups might create a positive impact.
- **Community-led engagement** events might see a higher turnout rate because of connections that are already established.
- The place where the engagement takes place, weather that day also play a role.
- Incentives and refreshments provided play a role in the response rate and feedback of the participants.



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# Evaluating Engagement

8

TOOL RESULTS

## Conclusion: Opportunities for Further Improvement

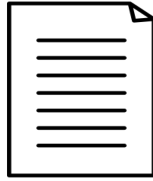
By creating a step-by-step process of development for the scorecard, it allowed us to lay the groundwork for more inclusive, transparent, and candid discussions about what future goals may look like, & how to attain said goals. In tandem with the decision to acknowledge the role of privilege in regards to who may most benefit from the engagement process and will likely be represented in

### 1. Thank You Note



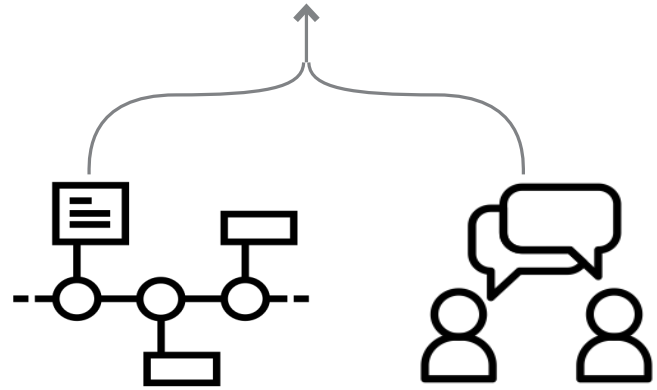
1. Incorporate a **personal touch** depending on the demographics of the population (i.e., a thank you note, family fun activity, Ramsey County relevant coloring page for kids,

### 2. Translated Discussion Points



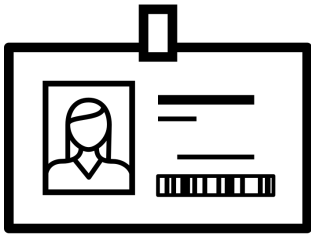
2. Have a set of **translated** sentences (that are commonly used) for facilitating discussions

### 3. Process of



3. Have a **process** for reviewing evaluations/ feedback/revisions of the scorecard

### 4. Dedicated



4. Have a **dedicated staff** member appointed as the point-of-contact for further communication/information about upcoming events during the engagement event. Have a dedicated staff member for data collection/

### 5. Online Portal



5. Have an **online portal** where feedback from previous events with relevant changes in policy outcomes have been described along with

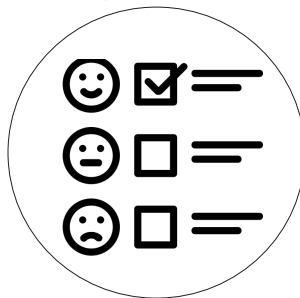
What was the goal going in?  
How did the evaluation compare to the original goal?

## Key Points + Lessons

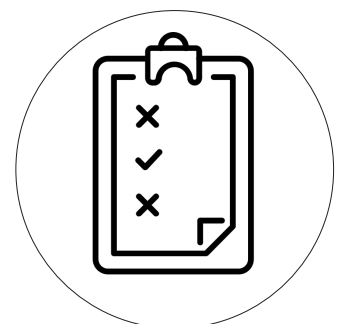
- The residents who attend engagement events likely have the flexibility to do so; they may not be representative of how



- Not all attendees will complete the questionnaire, & many who do may be very dissatisfied/very satisfied; the scorecard isn't always accurately reflective



- The engagement process & the scorecard can always be improved and adjusted. However, human error will occur at some point. This process



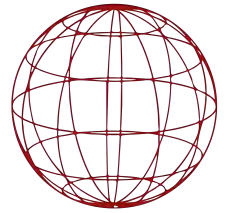
**Takeaways:** There are limitations both to the engagement process and to the information that can be gathered as a result of the scorecard. To have a successful engagement event does not directly correlate to the success of the scorecard, nor does it reflect the efforts of Ramsey County & it's staff. A successful



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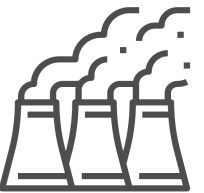


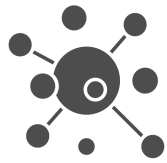

# Ramsey County: Global to Local

## Literature Review - Localizing a Global Problem



While Ramsey County doesn't face as acute a risk of climate disasters as other locations worldwide, by no means is it out of danger as the climate continues to change. With the forecasted growth of climate migration and climate refugees, what challenges will Ramsey County contend with and need to mitigate in the coming decades?

### Ramsey County Climate Vulnerabilities

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Extreme Heat</b></p>	<p>Ramsey County is expected to soon experience a <b>20-59% increase in cooling degree days</b> (number of days needing cooling multiplied by amount of cooling needed). This will strain power grids, contribute to greater carbon emissions, and put those without reliable access to cooling at greater risk of health impacts.</p>  <p>In the past 30 years, the <b>risk of a 3+ day heatwave</b> in Ramsey County with a heat index temperature above 100°F <b>has</b></p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Air Pollution</b></p> <p>Increasing fire risk in Minnesota and the West complicates local air quality, as do greater emissions created by a growing population.</p> <p>The health risks include <b>greater rates of asthma and cardiovascular disease</b>, lower productivity from reduction of outdoor work, and lower rates of physical activity for children when events are postponed or canceled due to harmful air risk.</p> 
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Flooding</b></p>	<p>More than 8,500 properties in Ramsey County currently lie within the 1-in-100 year flood zone. With more frequent extreme precipitation events, these properties and others will be put at further danger of damage/destruction.</p>  <p>Locally, the <b>amount of rain</b> that falls in the heaviest storms <b>has increased 37%</b> from historical averages. The significant increase in intensity of storms overwhelms local infrastructure and threats to property and lives statewide.</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Food Supply Constraint</b></p> <p>Greater population pressures combine with a more unstable climate to <b>threaten food security</b> locally. To maintain local food supply quality and quantity, a reduction in agricultural land conversion is necessary and more resilient systems for food production and distribution will be required.</p>  <p>Changes to diet and behavior may become required as global food supply is stretched due to resource and geopolitical constraints.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Allergens and Diseases</b></p>	<p>Greater heat and precipitation have <b>lengthened the pollen season by 21 days</b> in the Twin Cities from historical patterns, putting more physical strain on the bodies of those with allergies.</p>  <p>The shorter ice season and earlier spring melting in the region also lengthen the mosquito season, adding to a greater <b>threat of mosquito and tick-borne illnesses</b>, such as Lyme disease and West Nile Virus</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Environmental Degradation</b></p> <p>With further population growth and climate migration, more <b>land will be converted</b> for development in Ramsey County and out-state Minnesota from wildlife habitat. This <b>worsens water quality</b>, biodiversity, and threatens <b>accelerated climate change</b>.</p> 



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Source: "An Assessment of Heat Vulnerability in Ramsey County," Minnesota Dept of Public Health in collaboration with St. Paul Ramsey County Public Health  
 Source: riskfactor.com; "Flood Factor," "Heat Factor"  
 Source: "Climate Change in Minnesota: 21 Signs," Minnesota Public Radio, 2/2/2015  
 Image: flooding by brand marks from "no heat"/https://ramseycountyproject.com/browse/icon/ram/flooding/" target="" data-bbox="684 901 976 920"/>  
 Image: Global Warming by emilegeographics from "no heat"/https://ramseycountyproject.com/browse/icon/ram/global-warming/" target="" data-bbox="684 901 976 920"/>  
 Image: virus by Pascal H&B from "no heat"/https://ramseycountyproject.com/browse/icon/ram/virus/" target="" data-bbox="684 901 976 920"/>  
 Image: Air Pollution by marks from "no heat"/https://ramseycountyproject.com/browse/icon/ram/air-pollution/" target="" data-bbox="684 901 976 920"/>  
 Image: Corn by Creative Staff from "no heat"/https://ramseycountyproject.com/browse/icon/ram/corn/" target="" data-bbox="684 901 976 920"/>  
 Image: forest by Iconify from "no heat"/https://ramseycountyproject.com/browse/icon/ram/forest/" target="" data-bbox="684 901 976 920"/>

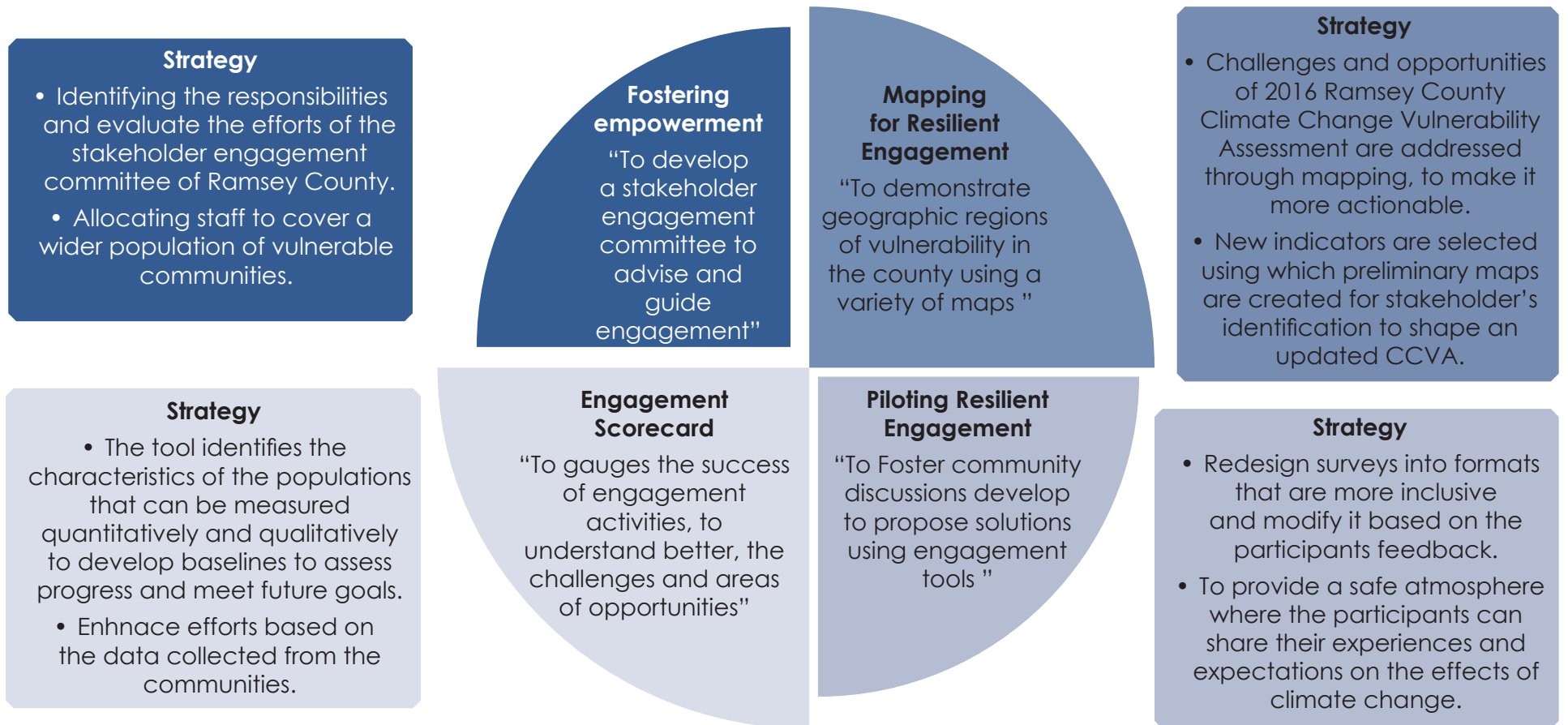
# Ramsey County: Global to Local

## Next Steps - Areas of Opportunities

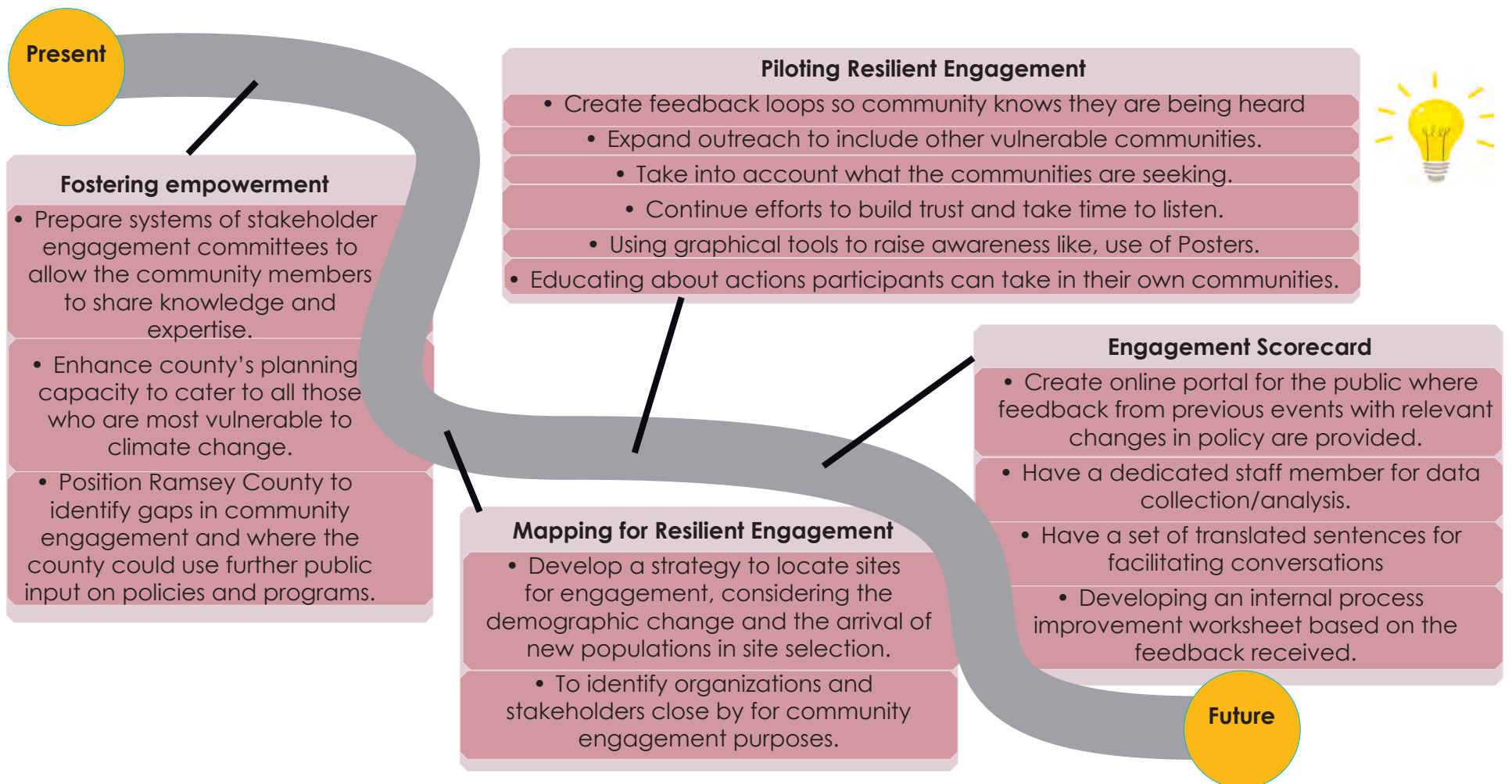


The purpose of Ramsey County's engagement efforts is to include vulnerable communities and bring them together to discuss topics of Climate Change in order to develop plans and policies to help in the adaptation and resilience building through strategies that can also be transformed to be executed in various places including in other counties, statewide, regionally, country wide and even expand to global scale.

Using the results from the following four areas to obtain information to prioritize vulnerable populations will help ensure Ramsey County's climate policy aligns with the needs of those affected.



## NEXT STEPS - Areas of Opportunities as Compared to the Successes



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# Ramsey County: Global to Local

## Previous Engagement Efforts by Ramsey County on Climate Change



Throughout the engagement efforts by the Ramsey County the intention has been to adopt an equity lens to facilitate a series of engagement sessions to guide the development of county programs and services that help vulnerable community respond to climate change and build resilience. Through inclusion of community members, leaders, stakeholders, and partners to jointly identify, co-design, improve, implement, and evaluate policies, practices and service delivery centering the experience of those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.


**Engagement through community collaboration**

Previous engagement efforts of Ramsey County incuded collaboration with the community member as partners to inform the masses by having a greter outreach. (More details on the successes, opportunities, key findings are available on posters 3 and 4 of "Fostering Empowerment")

**Engagement through community events**

Following community engagement events were carried out to bring in vulnerable populations of the communities in Ramsey County; (More details on the successes, opportunities, key findings are available on posters 3 and 4 of "Engaging Vulnerable Populations")

**Virtual Community Conversations**



Ramsey County working with Equity Strategies, LLC. host a series of virtual community discussions. Equity Strategies has facilitated six conversations between county staff and the community.

Goal: To understand the experience of vulnerable community members in Ramsey County and begin to develop recommendations for the county to implement in response to climate change.


Following events were a part of this series;

- \* Date: October 25, 2022 (Attendees received \$50 gift card for participation)
- \* Date: November 1, 2022
- \* Date: September 13, 2022
- \* Date: September 15, 2022

These conversations revealed some emerging themes and community recommendations for the implementation of an action plan.


Stakeholders: Intentionally reaching out to elders, youth and community members who may otherwise not participate or be invited.

**Focus Groups**



Group of students worked with Ramsey County on a focus group format to engage local residents in climate resilience. Participants included five graduate students, recruited from Humphrey School of Public Affairs and School of Public Health, activity conducted on December 8, 2022, at the U of MN's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) office.

**Surveys**



Ramsey County released a digital survey in 2022 to collect data from local communities. The County sent the survey to 600 people that had previously been involved in climate activities. The survey was also sent out through Green Ramsey, an email that goes out to about 5,000 subscribers. The nine-question survey was completed by 21 respondents.

These initiatives have set the ground work for future civic participation efforts by Ramsey County and as it continues to expand the engagement efforts to other vulnerable communities, the following posters will highlight the areas in which this is being carried out and what are the areas of opportunities as compared to the success so far.

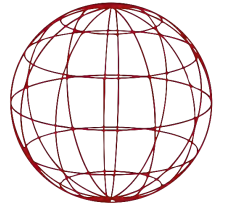
PA 5145: Civic Participation and Engagement

Johnny Menhennet, Azra Bano, Grace DeLee

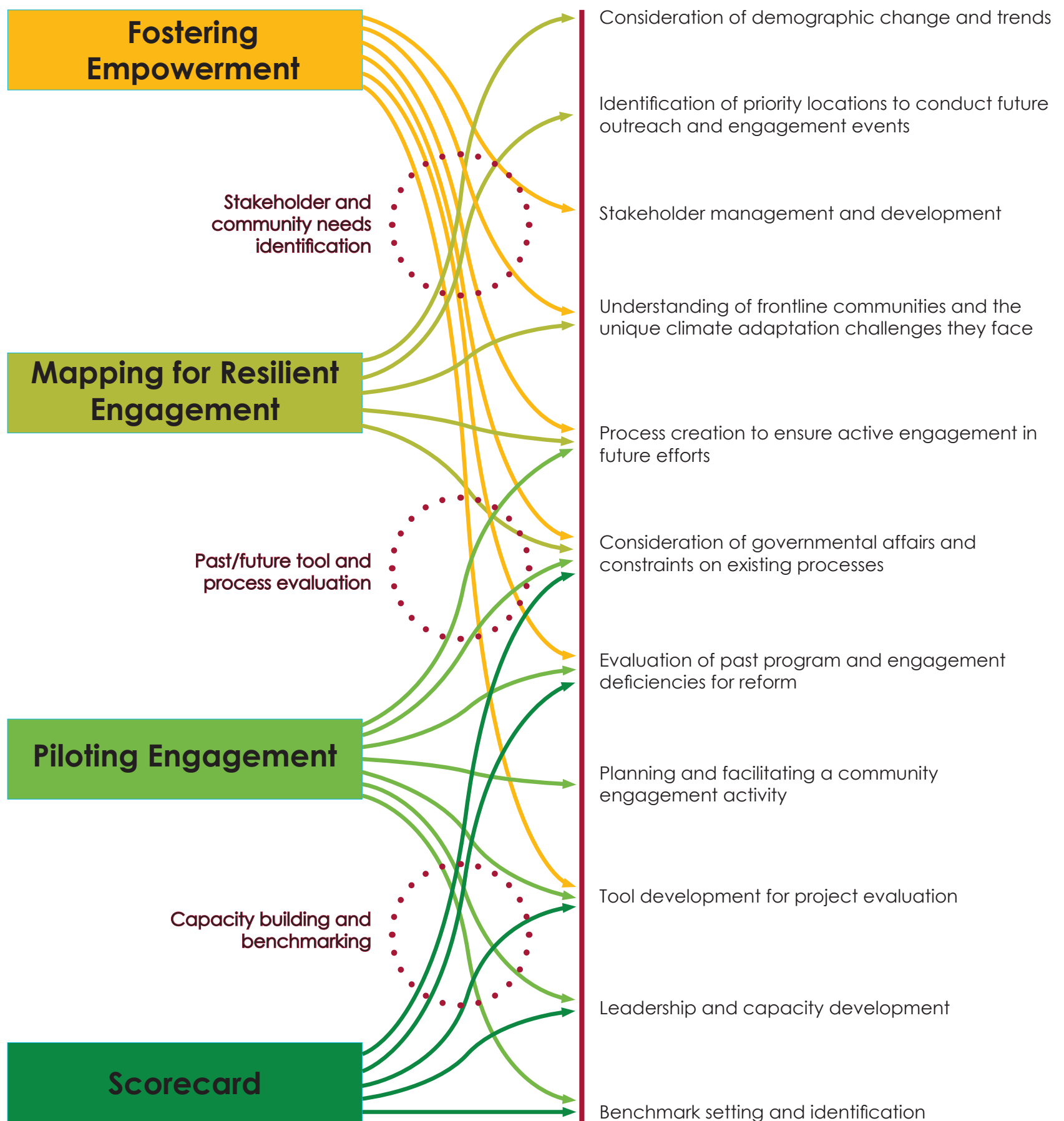
Instructor: Fernando Burga Phd, Teaching Assistants: Madeline Bergum & Joseph Lehman

# Ramsey County: Global to Local

## Understanding Shared Process and Objectives

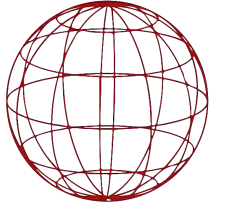


Each of the Ramsey County groups has a uniquely-defined scope and set of intended outcomes. However, there are many outcomes and processes that are shared amongst the projects! Key shared features of process and outcomes include an evaluation of **existing programmatic and governmental constraints**, analysis of **past program implementation** strengths and weaknesses, and **creation of tools** to guide more robust and inclusive engagement in future climate efforts with regard to the County's frontline communities.



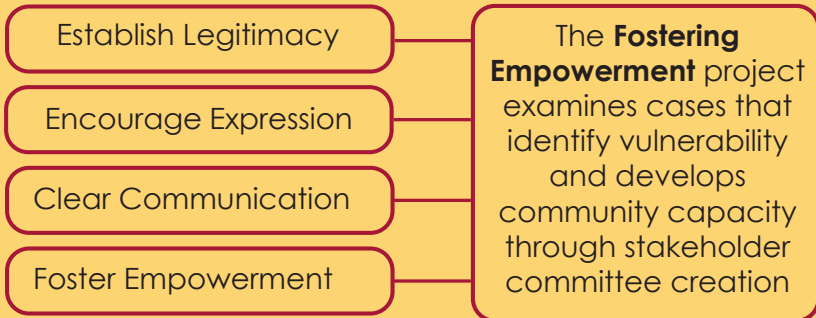
# Ramsey County: Global to Local

## Building Connections Between Ramsey County Climate Action Projects

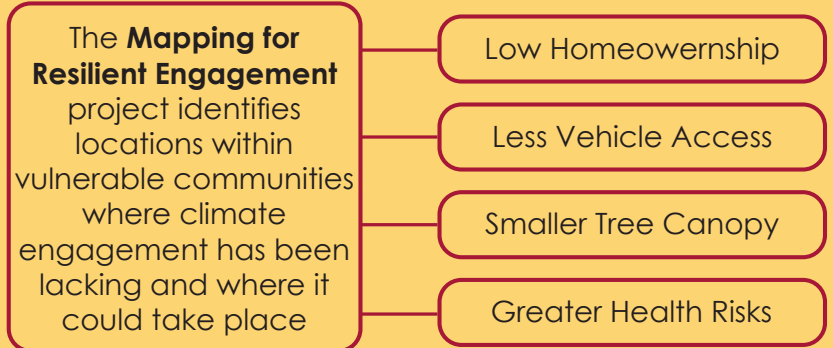


### How will Ramsey County measure engagement in vulnerable communities?

#### Committee Goals and Values

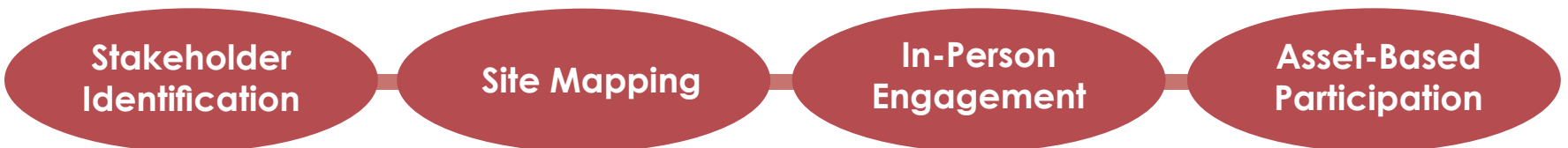


#### Vulnerable Community Indicators



### How will 'Mapping for Resilient Engagement' assist the development of 'Piloting Engagement'?

- Mapping for Resilient Engagement has **identified stakeholders** left out of past engagement efforts.
- After determining communities that lacked proper inclusion in the climate engagement process, they **mapped intentional locations** to conduct future outreach with frontline communities.
- These suggestions and recommendations to better conduct more thorough outreach were used to **inform the in-person engagement efforts** brought to life by the Piloting Engagement team!
- Engagement efforts are likely to now be more inclusive and **build on existing community strengths** and capacity.



### How can the success of an 'Engagement Pilot' be measured using an engagement 'Scorecard'?

#### Purpose of piloting an engagement activity:

- To identify the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities
- Emphasis on community- and relationship-building, and on giving voice to community members

The scorecard goes further, to gauge the success of participation and engagement activities. It will provide context to better understand challenges, areas of opportunity, and next steps using qualitative and quantitative metrics.

#### These initiatives both aim to:



- Develop tools and collect data to enhance community engagement
- Highlight importance of community voices and feedback
- Use engagement history and new efforts to make recommendations for future improved community collaboration

Each of the four projects within Ramsey County have **built capacity to improve community collaboration** on topics surrounding climate change. The group work progressed from community stakeholder and indicator identification, to the creation of engagement events, and then ultimately a process by which metrics that measure engagement can be used in the future to maintain community trust in climate engagement efforts.

# Ramsey County: Global to Local

## Global Impacts



Environmental Degradation



Natural Disasters



Natural Resource Depletion



Extreme Heat

## Domestic Impacts



More Natural Disasters



Severe Weather



Rising Sea Levels



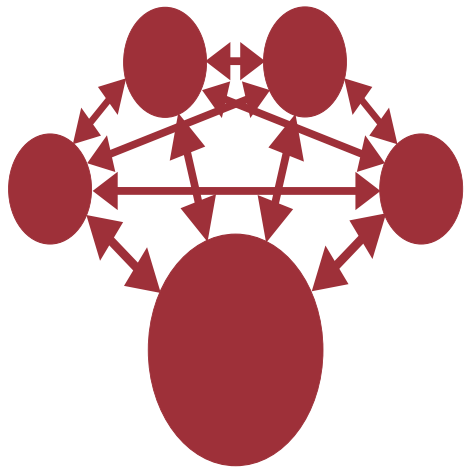
Extreme Heat

Which path  
will Ramsey County  
Take?



# Ramsey County: Global to Local

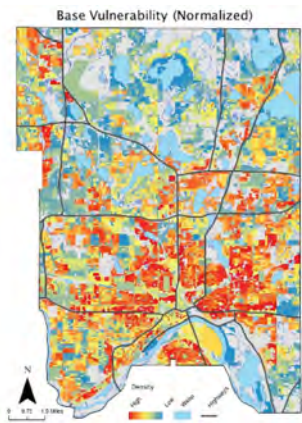
## Ramsey Project Scope



### Resilient Ramsey: Fostering Empowerment

#### How will Ramsey County empower Under Represented Groups?

This portion of the project explores and recommends structures for a long term resident stakeholder committee to review and guide the county's climate action work, to ensure it continues to benefit vulnerable community members. However, there was a lack of stakeholder advisory committees compared to what was recommended.



### Resilient Ramsey: Mapping for Resilient Engagement

#### How will Ramsey County Identify Vulnerable Communities?

This element of the project builds off of Ramsey County's 2016 Climate Vulnerability Assessment to identify engagement sites located within county communities that are vulnerable to health impacts of climate change. However, no stakeholders were identified due to a limited amount of resources.



### Resilient Ramsey: Piloting Engagement

#### How will Ramsey County Engage Vulnerable Populations?

This aspect of the project developed an adaptable engagement tool that can be used to better understand the experiences, concerns, and desires of residents who are especially vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change. Gaps in the project included language barriers and not connecting with a community organization.

### Resilient Ramsey: Scorecard

#### How will Ramsey County Measure Community Engagement?

This piece of the project developed a collection of evaluation tools that can be used after each engagement session and on an annual basis to review and improve upon climate action engagement methods. However, the context for which the scorecard was created and will be used is unclear.




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