



CLIMATE ACTION TOOLKIT



ABOUT THIS TOOLKIT

As the Earth warms and our climate changes, direct action is essential to protecting our planet from harm.

Communities across the country are coming together to address our environmental problems. These successful actions must be communicated so they can be replicated. By communicating climate actions, we are handling problems before they get worse and are actively being responsible for our environment. Utilizing these existing actions is a practical, feasible approach to making real progress in the face of climate change.

It's important to remember that climate change is happening globally, as it is affecting our blanket-like atmosphere surrounding the Earth. When we burn fossil fuels like coal, oil, and methane gas for energy, we release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, a heat-trapping gas, which is like thickening the blanket. The thicker a blanket gets, the more heat it traps underneath. As fossil fuels remain our primary source of energy, we will continue to thicken our blanket-like atmosphere, thus further disrupting our climate. Rising temperatures are causing significant harm to communities globally, such as experiencing extreme heat in areas lacking cooling infrastructures and green spaces, which disproportionately affects vulnerable populations. We have a shared responsibility to adapt and reduce these risks by changing our behaviors and advocating for climate resilience and mitigation in our communities. When we address these issues with appropriate climate actions, we protect our natural systems and people from harm.

Throughout this toolkit, you will find actions focusing on collective action rather than individual action. Transportation is a significant sector that our society heavily depends on. An equitable transportation initiative example, such as Shared Mobility Inc.'s electric bike library in New York, provides an accessible community-level action to either utilize or implement in your community. If your community doesn't yet have a program like Shared Mobility Inc.'s, this toolkit offers guidance for replication. This energy shift from fossil-fueled vehicles to electric bikes is a collective action that can be beneficial in reducing fossil fuel use. Community-shared electric bikes encourage a shift to renewable energy sources that don't add to the heat-trapping blanket effect. Through community-level solutions like this, we can responsibly handle problems before they get worse for current and future generations.

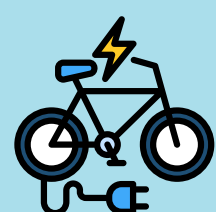
HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

When using this toolkit, first, identify which emissions group you want your climate action to address in your community?

Agriculture



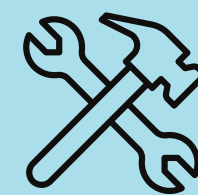
Transportation



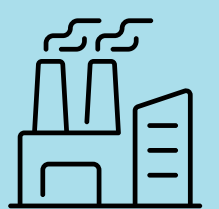
Energy



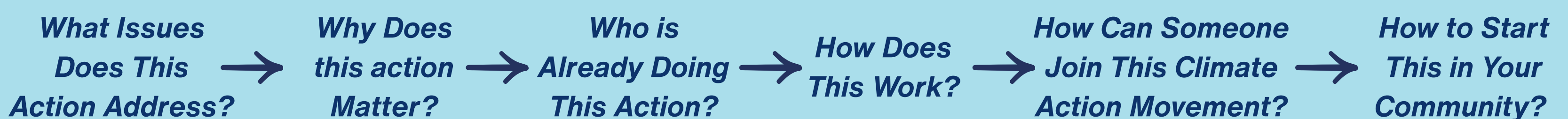
Construction

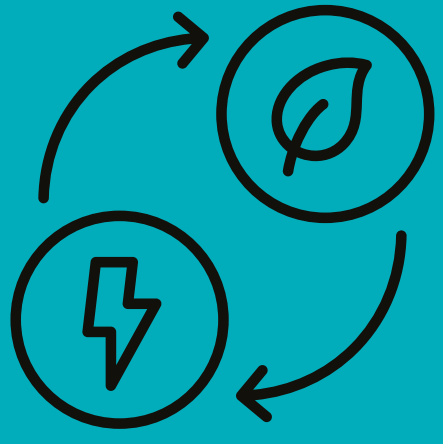


Industry & Buildings

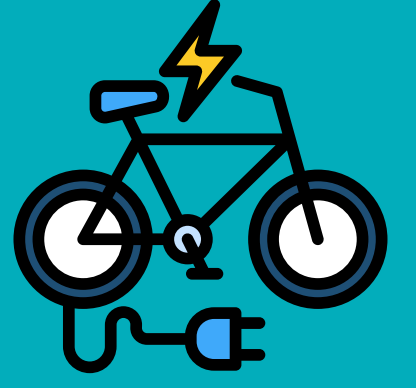


Based on your emissions group, each page will guide you through climate actions and ways to get involved or take action in your community as follows:





E-BIKE LIBRARIES



ENERGY SHIFT

TRANSPORTATION

WHAT ISSUES DOES THIS ACTION ADDRESS?

Collectively altering our transportation systems can significantly reduce our reliance on unsustainable energy sources. Rather than overly relying on fossil fuel-powered transportation, electric bikes can run on renewable energy sources



Through this action, communities have an equitable opportunity to access an e-bike to get to their destination and improve their health, all while reducing emissions

WHY DOES THIS ACTION MATTER?



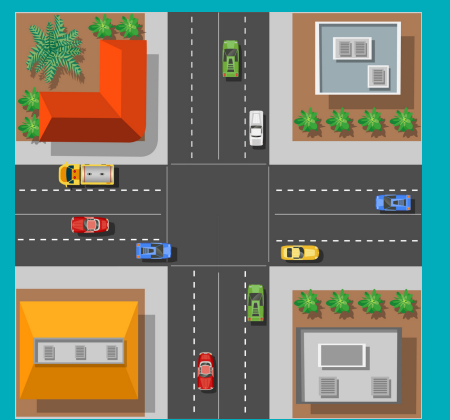
Alleviates health and economic disparities by providing free access, increasing mobility and supporting well-being



Providing a shared, equitable electric bike collection enables collective action



Low-income communities face barriers and lack opportunities to utilize sustainable transportation



WHO IS ALREADY DOING THIS ACTION?

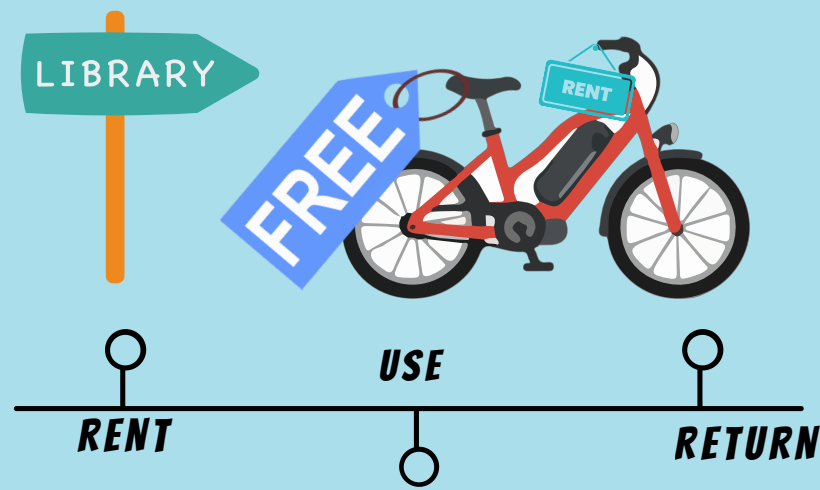


Shared Mobility Inc. works in New York to set up electric bike library programs that uplift low-income residents through its accessible and relationship-building nature, with 84% of users identified as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). Opening doors to greater engagement opportunities and improved health for underserved community members, **East Side Bike Club** is a grassroots bicycle organization that supports Shared Mobility Inc. and expands access to, and awareness of biking in communities of color through weekly bike rides and workshops



HOW DOES THIS WORK?

Much like a public library where people borrow books and attend educational events, e-bike libraries create inclusive and accessible places where folks borrow e-bikes for free and participate in community events centered around cycling. The E-bike Library allows residents to check out long-term rentals on a weekly basis. This action was developed by listening to community needs and identified challenges to effectively encourage residents to use the e-bike library



HOW CAN SOMEONE JOIN THIS CLIMATE ACTION MOVEMENT?



If you are near Shared Mobility Inc. or interested in related initiatives, here are a few resources to join:



Shared Mobility Inc.'s website includes resources to get involved with their work for Community-Controlled Transportation



East Side Bike Club is a grassroots organization in Buffalo, NY that holds community events and group bike rides to advocate for safe and reliable biking habits



The Tool Library is a non-profit tool lending program to help Buffalo residents have access to thousands of tools while fostering collaborative consumption in their community



Shared Mobility Inc. has partnered with Create a Healthier Niagara Falls Collaborative to start an e-bike rebate program for income-qualified residents

HOW TO START THIS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

If this is a suitable climate action to start in your community, advocate for mobility justice using these techniques:

1

Build trust by engaging in conversation! Hear what mobility barriers exist in the community and develop actions to tackle them

2

Find like-minded community partners. Check out book clubs, faith-based groups, non-profits and schools to see shared interests!

3

Invite the community to learn about e-bikes and practice riding. You can grow from this awareness to a shared library, partner events and job training

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY

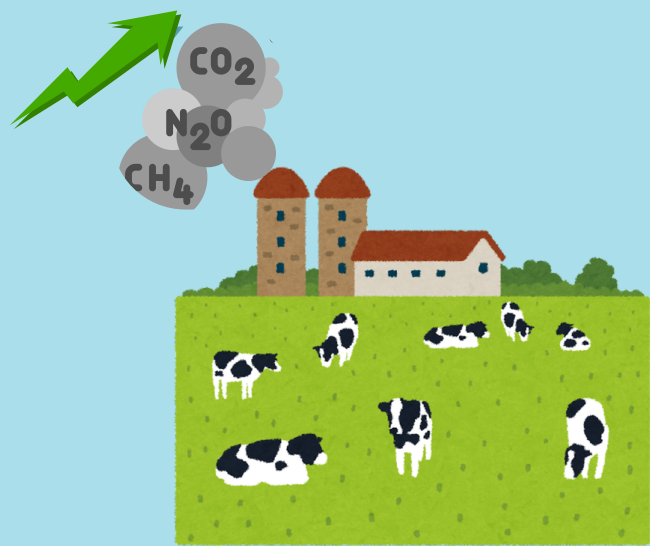
REGENERATIVE FARMING



AGRICULTURE

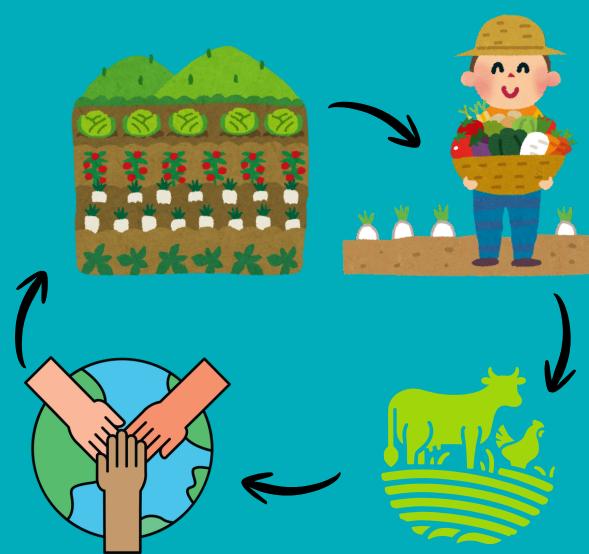
WHAT ISSUES DOES THIS ACTION ADDRESS?

Traditional farming overuses ecosystem services and relies on single-crop systems and toxic chemicals that increase pollution, diminish biodiversity, and worsen soil erosion. This issue goes beyond farming and sustainability, but also connects to social equity.



Sustainable farming can help mitigate environmental changes through intentional practices that support human and animal welfare. Regenerative farming is an example that prioritizes natural practices, like limiting soil disruption and increasing biodiversity, that restore degraded soils to a healthier state.

WHY DOES THIS ACTION MATTER?



The interconnections of our food system support social justice, wildlife welfare, and resilient crops



Centering community in farming ensures equitable food access for future generations



Renews community vitality by reducing harmful farming practices, improving health and socioeconomic well-being

THE
ECOLOGY
CENTER

WHO IS ALREADY DOING THIS ACTION?

The Ecology Center in San Juan Capistrano, CA is a regenerative community farm, running on agroecology, meaning they mimic nature rather than disrupting it. The Center has built a community of 150 regenerative-trained farmers and hopes to inspire members to sustainably address food and social inequities through community involvement



HOW DOES THIS WORK?

The farm is an ecological paradise around food, supported by local community members and encouraging people to visit and learn how to take part in regenerative farming



The Center's **Nourishing Neighbors** initiative launched during the COVID pandemic to provide food to local families struggling with food insecurity. They donated more than 100,000 pounds of homegrown food, promoting food accessibility and carbon storage

HOW CAN SOMEONE JOIN THIS CLIMATE ACTION MOVEMENT?



If you are near The Ecology Center or interested in related initiatives, here are a few resources to join:

If the Ecology Center's mission resonates with yours, here is a list of programs offered at the Center

Are you a farmer or know a community farm that could benefit from Regenerative Organic Certification like The Ecology Center? Apply here

Regenerative Farmers of America's website includes resources for farmers and non-farmers to help support and learn about regenerative farming

HOW TO START THIS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

If this is a suitable climate action to start in your community, use these techniques to advocate for regenerative farming:

1

Engage with your community to identify how local farms can thrive and address community disparity gaps

2

Connect with local farms to promote regenerative practices and highlight the equitable opportunities they create in the community

3

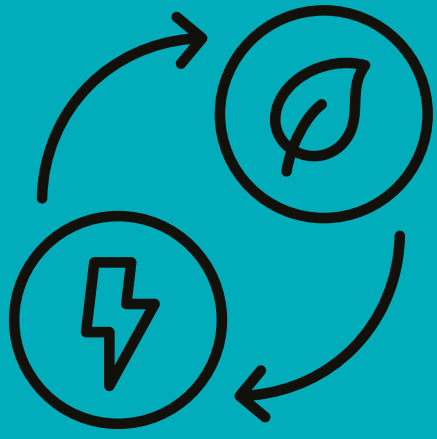
Invite community members to educational programs and interactive experiences exploring the entire food system that we depend on!

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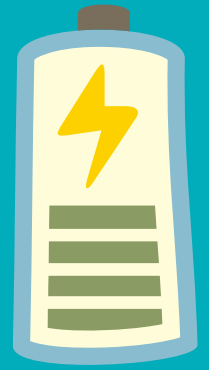
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ENERGY SHIFT

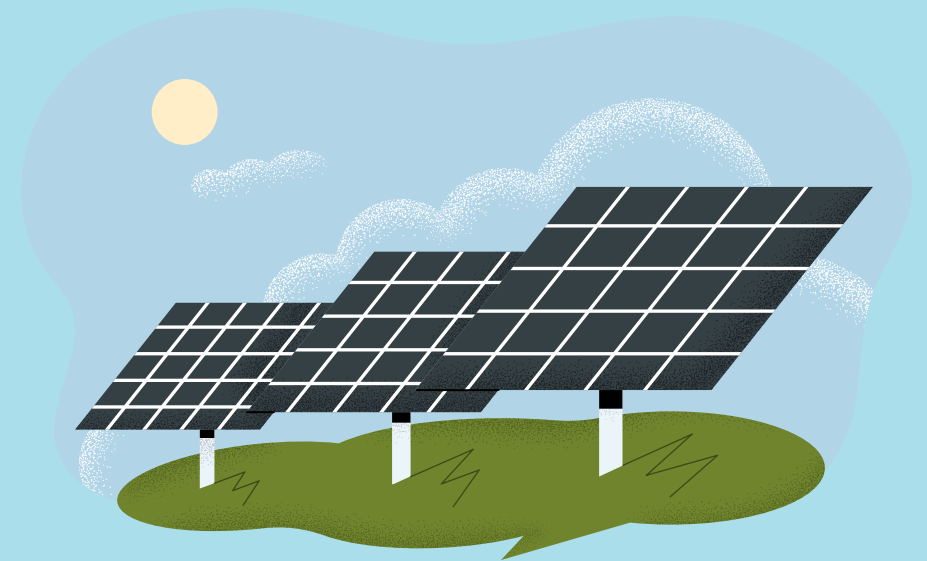
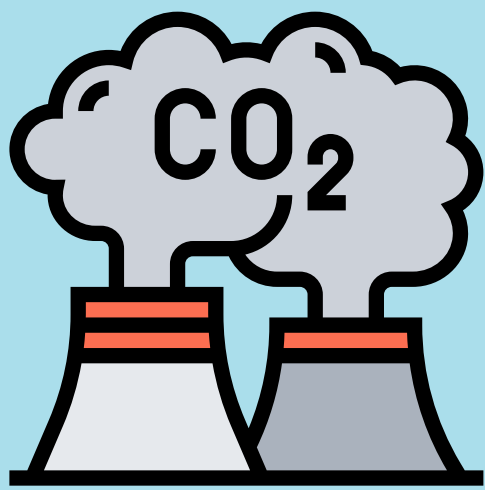
ENERGY SOVEREIGNTY



ENERGY

WHAT ISSUES DOES THIS ACTION ADDRESS?

Indigenous communities are inequitably impacted by harmful emissions, yet deeply reliant on their environment's resources; there should be equitable opportunities to meet modern needs while honoring cultural practices



Off-grid renewable energy sources, such as solar, empowers remote communities through energy sovereignty, supporting livelihoods and building resilience

WHY DOES THIS ACTION MATTER?



As Indigenous principles revolve around natural resources, renewable technology innovation provides new energy avenues



Through energy sovereignty, future generations achieve environmental justice free from industrial energy dependence



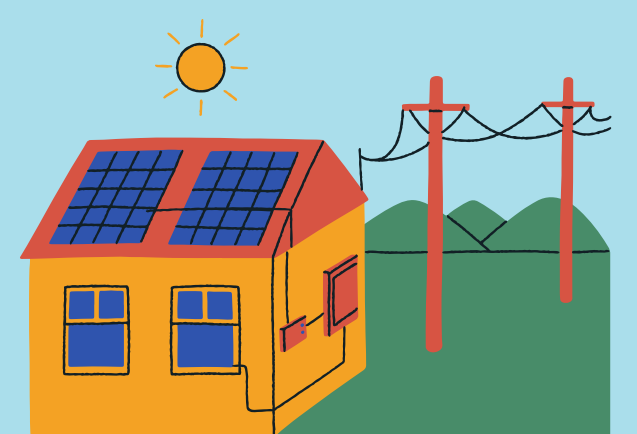
Indigenous social, economic, and cultural identities provide pathways to equity and strengthen climate resilience

WHO IS ALREADY DOING THIS ACTION?

INDIGENIZED

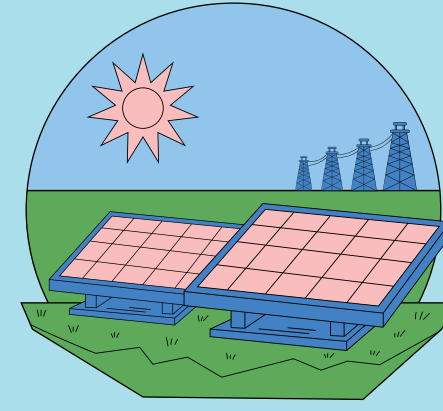


Indigenized Energy is an organization partnering with Indigenous groups to reach energy sovereignty through locally-controlled solar energy networks. The organization is partnering with off-grid Indigenous communities to develop projects, such as The Off-Grid Buffalo solar installation project on Northern Cheyenne tribal land, to help build their own energy network with renewable energy



HOW DOES THIS WORK?

Indigenous energy sovereignty supports locally controlled energy grids that are deployed and maintained by Indigenous peoples. Including local people in all project phases ensures the work is grounded in shared cultural values and traditional knowledge



Energy sovereignty aims to bridge ancestral traditions with modern technology. Projects help communities adopt renewable energy by partnering with local residents to build off-the-grid solar systems paired with reliable battery storage

HOW CAN SOMEONE JOIN THIS CLIMATE ACTION MOVEMENT?



If you are near Indigenized Energy or interested in related initiatives, here are a few resources to join:

Interested in energy sovereignty? Indigenized Energy offers numerous resources to empower Indigenous communities, ensuring they have agency in sustainable energy resources

Want to be trained in solar installation to support future projects? Indigenized Energy offers training to ensure solar thrives and Native leadership is at every level!

Seeking equitable support to transition to renewable energy? The Honnold Foundation partners with organizations to uplift marginalized communities and support the shift to renewable energy

HOW TO START THIS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

If this is a suitable climate action to start in your community, use these techniques to advocate for energy sovereignty:

1

Listen to your community to understand local needs and concerns, to identify what barriers this action could overcome

2

Connect local community members with cultural groups and energy organizations for resources to develop locally-controlled energy!

3

Build a coalition in your community or support local Indigenous communities by equitably including local residents in all phases of projects

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY

PASSIVE BUILDINGS



CONSTRUCTION

WHAT ISSUES DOES THIS ACTION ADDRESS?

Our environment continues to warm, driven in part by the growing energy demand. Buildings rely on energy for everyday functions, such as heating, cooling, and electricity



Passive buildings utilize smart designs to achieve around 50% of energy efficiency and low-carbon emissions through techniques like super insulation and air tightness. Constructing affordable, efficient buildings promotes equitable climate investments

WHY DOES THIS ACTION MATTER?



Construction projects are energy-intensive, consuming significant amounts during and after building

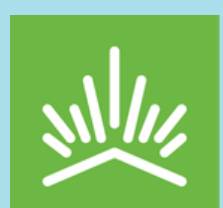


Smart designs utilize science innovation to reduce emissions for future generations



Energy efficiency is a cost-effective solution for buildings, advancing socioeconomic inclusion

WHO IS ALREADY DOING THIS ACTION?



PASSIVE BUILDINGS CANADA



Passive Buildings Canada is a non-profit organization working on housing projects built on the foundation of energy efficiency. This organization has utilized thoughtful techniques to reduce energy consumption where it counts. Their key principles include super insulation, eliminating thermal bridges, and ensuring homes are air-tight to ensure efficiency. An example of their innovative strategies include intentionally orienting buildings to receive or limit free heat from the sun, depending on the location's climate

HOW DOES THIS WORK?

Passive Buildings Canada uses its platform to support passive home projects through its resources and knowledge that prioritize affordable, energy-efficient homes for current and future generations of families



With the help of knowledgeable volunteers, its principles are relayed to other organizations, furthering the movement

HOW CAN SOMEONE JOIN THIS CLIMATE ACTION MOVEMENT?



If you are near Passive Buildings Canada or interested in related initiatives, here are a few resources to join:

Want to build your knowledge on passive buildings? Here are online courses you can sign up for on Passive Buildings Canada's website

Passive Buildings Canada provides videos of research presentations, tools, and other general talks to expand your passive building knowledge!

Passive Buildings Canada offers in-person and online events, such as conventions, to engage with other passive building enthusiasts, promoting and implementing sustainable methods to tackle constructability issues

HOW TO START THIS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

If this is a suitable climate action to start in your community, use these techniques to advocate for constructing passive buildings:

1

Join community meetings and construction networking opportunities to engage with members and resources to build a foundation for your future conversations

2

Connect with local organizations, businesses, and other residents to share accessible information on passive buildings

3

Build a coalition of passive building enthusiasts and experts to showcase how smart designs can overcome current and future community energy inefficiencies

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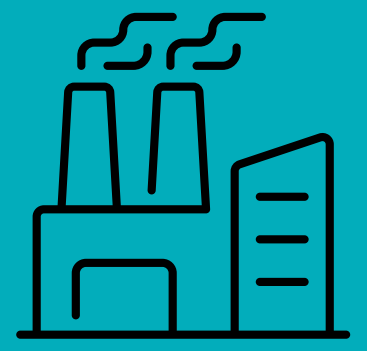
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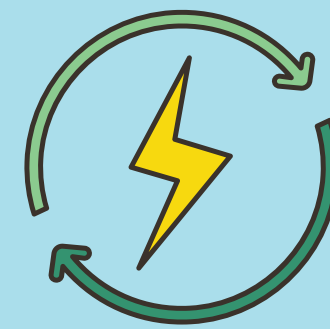
RESILIENT HOME UPGRADES



INDUSTRY & BUILDING

WHAT ISSUES DOES THIS ACTION ADDRESS?

As our atmosphere continues to warm, resilient strategies can help ensure our livelihoods are adapting to our changing climate. Our personal connection to our homes may lead us to overlook their heavy reliance on energy, often from fossil-fueled energy



Rather than being forced to move, improving resiliency and efficiency in existing homes, for both owners and renters, creates an accessible solution for sustainable living. Resilient home upgrades ensure communities can equitably work toward sustainable buildings

WHY DOES THIS ACTION MATTER?



Not all families have accessible resources to build or move to a new, sustainable home



Low-income communities have inequitable barriers, reducing engagement with climate actions at a household level



Efficient home improvements can protect communities facing climate-related crises before they occur, or worsen

WHO IS ALREADY DOING THIS ACTION?



BayREN is a coalition operating in all nine Bay Area counties in California that offers a range of programs spanning from residential, cross-cutting, commercial, and the public sector to improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions. Their Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Home Program (EASE) provides homeowners and renters with upgrade opportunities to improve energy efficiency and resiliency through weatherization updates



HOW DOES THIS WORK?

BayREN's income-qualified programs cover 80% of project costs, limiting customer payment to no more than \$1,000, making sustainable home upgrades affordable and equitable for residents. Their work with commercial and public facilities enhances resiliency through microgrids and resilience hubs, equipping communities to face current and future climate impacts. BayREN values fostering partnerships, particularly with local governments, to grow capacity and uplift underserved, low to moderate-income Bay Area communities



HOW CAN SOMEONE JOIN THIS CLIMATE ACTION MOVEMENT?



If you are near BayREN or interested in related initiatives, here are a few resources to join:

Do you want resilient-home improvements? Learn more about BayREN's [programs](#) for Multifamily Property Owners, Homeowners, Business owners, and renters!

If you want a chance to help build your community's resilience, BayREN provides a calendar for [Events & Training](#)

[EnergyRight](#), in Tennessee, provides their communities with similar opportunities as BayREN

If your community is in California, here is a [connection](#) to contractors focused on supporting clean energy

HOW TO START THIS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

If this is a suitable climate action to start in your community, use these techniques to advocate for resilient home upgrades:

1

Identify climate-related stressors your community faces. What sustainable and climate-resilient upgrades would local buildings benefit from?

2

Hold community discussion forums to gain insights into barriers and build partnerships for resilient upgrade programs

3

Create bridges between underserved communities, local energy organizations, and contractors to ensure equitable, practical solutions

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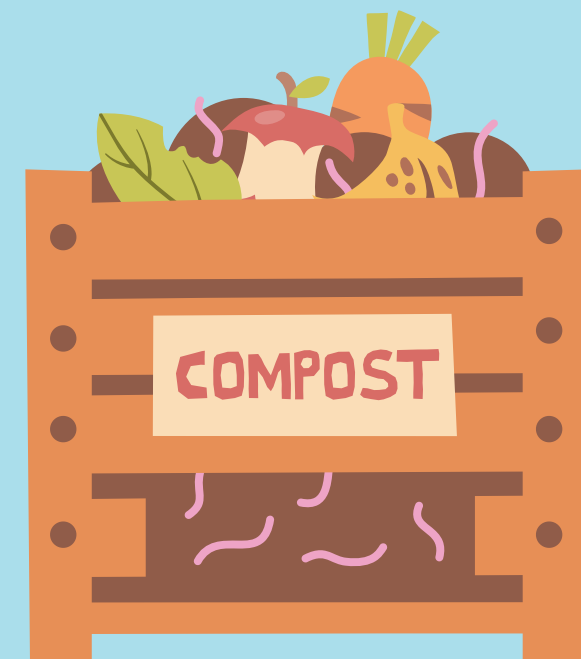
COLLECTIVE COMPOSTING



AGRICULTURE

WHAT ISSUES DOES THIS ACTION ADDRESS?

Around a quarter of our landfills contain food waste; as we continue to heavily rely on our landfills for our waste, the decomposition process ends up producing significant emissions, thickening our blanket-like atmosphere

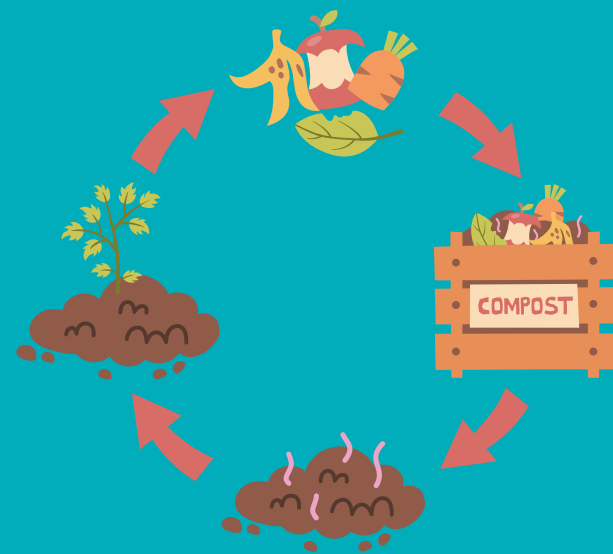


To mitigate this, composting can be a solution to ensure our organic waste is sustainably managed and can lower our emissions by increasing the amount of carbon stored in soil

WHY DOES THIS ACTION MATTER?



Around one third of all food ends up as waste in landfills and is a major source of emissions, which composting can transform into soil



Collective composting transforms food waste into nutrient-rich soil that nourishes plants and strengthens community resilience



Collectively shifting our mindsets to reduce our significant food waste responsibly handles the problem before it gets worse

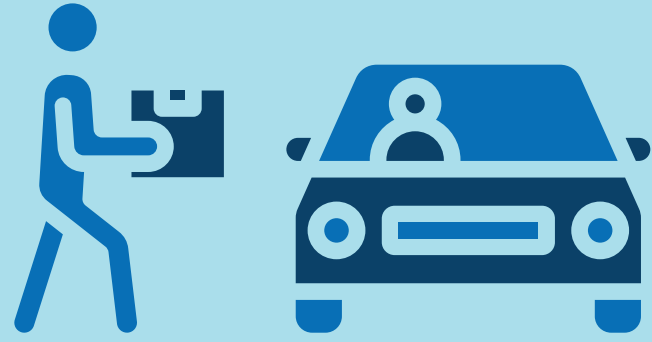
WHO IS ALREADY DOING THIS ACTION?



Groundwork Rhode Island (GWRI) is making great strides in creating an accessible neighborhood composting program, Harvest Cycle Compost, in a densely populated area where there is only one active landfill. To reduce continuous harm to the environment, the composting program simplifies the action for community members to join food waste solutions. Its mission is to connect community members to accessible green spaces, limit barriers, and empower stewardship

HOW DOES THIS WORK?

This is a composting hub that highlights community benefits through educational materials, hands-on tours, and local creative work. GWRI's curbside composting program offers community members accessible, subscription-based composting services. Their food waste drop-off sites are open to members 24/7, available even to non-residents. Through this initiative, GWRI collects around 200,000 pounds of food waste to compost and recycle back to community gardens and farms



HOW CAN SOMEONE JOIN THIS CLIMATE ACTION MOVEMENT?



HOW TO START THIS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

If you are near GWRI or interested in related initiatives, here are a few resources to join:

If you want to be a member of their [Harvest Cycle Compost project](#), learn about their customer service options and sign up for their curbside composting program!

Here is a [link](#) to support Groundwork Rhode Island's initiatives, either through volunteering or fundraising. Also, view upcoming events on their organization's [calendar](#)!

[CompostNow](#) is another composting opportunity servicing areas in Raleigh-Durham, Atlanta, Asheville, and Cincinnati

[LA Compost](#) is an organization in Los Angeles that empowers and educates communities through accessible compost hubs

If this is a suitable climate action to start in your community, use these techniques to advocate for collective composting:

1

Listen to and understand your community's barriers to composting. Use these insights to start brainstorming solutions to food waste challenges

2

Work with your local waste management companies! Advocate for a local composting program by sharing the co-benefits

3

Partner with local farms to use nutrient-rich compost in soil, fostering transparent reciprocal relationships that equitably benefit everyone involved

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