Building a Resilient South Ward: Community Visioning & Climate Planning 101

Scenario Planning Community Workshop in Newark, NJ

November 9, 2024 | Summary Report

COLLABORATORS

Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center (SU-EFC)

South Ward Environmental Alliance (SWEA)

Syracuse University College of Engineering & Computer Science
Environmental Finance Center

SOUTH WARD ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

ACCELERATING ACCESS TO FUNDING in EPA Region 2

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ACCELERATING ACCESS TO FUNDING in EPA Region 2

This collaboration with the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center (SU-EFC) delivers expanded assistance and customized solutions to communities throughout U.S. EPA Region 2, leveraging the expertise and resources of our team of providers. Understanding that communities all have unique challenges and needs, SU-EFC brings together a team of experts to offer tailored solutions that align with the goals of your community. Together, we provide comprehensive support to address water infrastructure needs, set priorities, develop shovel-worthy projects, and apply for federal and state funding.

I. PROJECT TEAM

The **Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center (SU-EFC)** was established in 1993 to help communities navigate infrastructure challenges and tackle the "how-to-pay" problem of environmental improvement. SU-EFC is a pillar of the **Institute for Sustainability Engagement (ISE)**, a hub for sustainability and community engagement efforts at Syracuse University that works to elevate the role of community-based work in sustainability efforts globally.[1]

In the fall of 2024, SU-EFC partnered with the **South Ward Environmental Alliance (SWEA)** to support the development of neighborhood-level climate action plans, which would help to identify, advance, and ultimately develop funding strategies needed for local infrastructure projects. As part of this process, SWEA and SU-EFC convened residents across three neighborhoods in a climate action planning workshop to inform the development of neighborhood-level climate action plans. This effort engaged community members in identifying vulnerabilities, setting priorities, and exploring strategies to inform future planning and project development. This Summary Report presents workshop goals, design, outcomes, and next steps needed to support the South Ward in developing neighborhood plans with clear and fundable projects.

Many individuals contributed to the success of this workshop, including but not limited to:

- **South Ward Environmental Alliance (SWEA):** *Kim Gaddy, Founder & Executive Director; Asada Rashidi, Environmental Justice Organizer; Tiarra Lee, Deputy Director, Grants and Program Management; and other SWEA team members.*
- **Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center (SU-EFC):** *Tess Clark, Assistant Director of Water Resilience; Averi Davis, Program Manager; Calista Albring, Project Assistant; Cristen Crew, Program Associate; and Francisco Guzmán-Alvarado, Technical Specialist.*

[1]https://sustainabilityengagement.syracuse.edu/inspiring-change-syracuse-university-introduces-institute-for-sustainability-engagement/

II. BACKGROUND

The **South Ward Environmental Alliance (SWEA)** is a community-based organization dedicated to addressing environmental justice issues[2] and fostering healthy, vibrant neighborhoods in Newark's South Ward. This area, located in the southwest region of Newark, includes the Dayton Street, Weequahic, and Clinton Hill neighborhoods.

Founded in 2015 by Kim Gaddy, SWEA Founder and Executive Director, SWEA offers local residents the opportunity to engage in local decision-making and voice their opinions on environmental policies that directly impact their neighborhoods[3]. The South Ward depends on the Pequannock Watershed, a 35,000-acre system that supplies Newark's drinking water.[4] However, the region faces increasing climate-related challenges, including flooding from the Passaic river[5] and extreme heat events, which threaten infrastructure, public health, and quality of life. Previous environmental monitoring efforts led by SWEA have described how South Ward residents routinely face exposure to air pollutants, contaminated floodwaters, the urban heat island effect, and lack of access to greenspaces. Although these impacts have been documented, in order to develop shovel-ready and fundable projects, a more concerted effort is needed to engage residents and understand their priorities.

III. CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING

Climate change is defined as the ongoing change in global weather patterns, primarily due to human-generated greenhouse gas emissions.[6] The increase in Earth's average temperature is responsible for the increase in more frequent and severe weather events[7], including heat waves and flooding, both of which impact the City of Newark and its communities.

To prepare for and mitigate the negative effects of climate change, communities can develop **Climate Action Plans (CAPs)**. CAPs outline a community's comprehensive goals for adaptation, or how the community will respond to climate-related threats and reduce vulnerabilities. The plan will also describe

[2]https://www.southwardea.com/about-us
[3] https://www.southwardea.com/home
[4]https://www.nj.com/essex/2023/03/for-some-students-a-tour-of-newarks-35000-acre-watershed-could-lead-to-an-interesting-job.html
[5]https://www.njspotlightnews.org/special-report/passaic-river-flooding-threat-as-building-surges-in-newark/
[6] https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change
[7] https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/weather-climate

how the community can reduce emissions that contribute to warming[8]. Climate Action Planning involves gathering and analyzing key climate data such as historical temperature trends, greenhouse gas emissions, precipitation trends, flood severity and frequency, and more[9]. However, climate data often come with uncertainties, including gaps in localized knowledge, inability to facilitate collaboration across various stakeholders, and inaccurate baseline data. These uncertainties make it difficult to predict exactly how climate change will impact a specific area, reinforcing the need for proactive planning and flexible, community-driven solutions that can adapt to changing conditions.

At the neighborhood-level, Climate Action Planning enables communities to address localized climate impacts[10], set actionable goals, and determine practical steps to reduce vulnerabilities and improve resilience.

IV. SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

The SU-EFC team, in collaboration with SWEA, gathered data at the local, city, and state levels, laying the groundwork for establishing neighborhood-level Climate Action Plans for each of the neighborhoods in the South Ward. Information such as previous weather events, state and local flood maps, state-wide heat trends, and urban heat maps from each of the South Ward neighborhoods were collected.

Scenario Planning, a powerful tool that helps decision-makers grapple with uncertainty, was chosen as a foundation for neighborhood-level planning during the workshop. Scenario planning allows stakeholders to explore different potential outcomes, assess risks, and develop actionable strategies to enhance community resilience. Before the workshop, the SU-EFC team developed two climate scenarios—(1) extreme heat and (2) flooding—to help participants better understand how climate change is impacting their neighborhoods. These scenarios were designed to reflect both local and state-level climate challenges, providing workshop participants with context for understanding neighborhood vulnerabilities.

To provide residents with an opportunity to examine both climate challenges, workshop attendees were grouped by neighborhood—Dayton Street, Weequahic, and Clinton Hill. Each neighborhood was then divided into two groups: one focused on extreme heat and the other on flooding, resulting in six total discussion groups. This approach ensured that participants could engage in meaningful discussions

[8] https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/environment/sustainability/climate-action-plans
[9] https://www.epa.gov/climate-adaptation/climate-adaptation-plans
[10] https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/climate-change/climate-change-adaptation-resilience-planning#:~:text=Climate%20change%20adaptation%20and%20resilience%20planning%20helps%20communities%20identify%20how,of%20their%20assets%20and%20ecosystems.

about their community's climate vulnerabilities while exploring adaptation strategies specific to their neighborhoods.

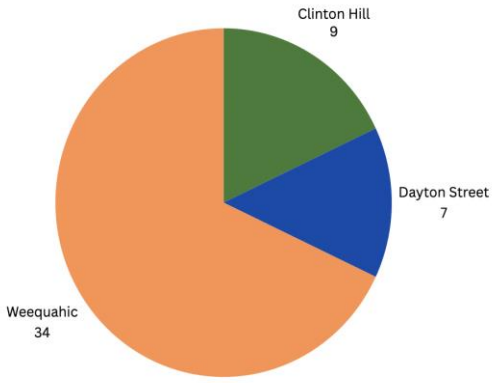
V. WORKSHOP DESIGN

The *Building a Resilient South Ward: Community Visioning & Climate Planning 101* workshop, hosted by SWEA and SU-EFC, took place on November 9, 2024, in Newark, New Jersey at the SWEA office location. Community members arrived at 10:00 AM and were grouped by neighborhood—Dayton Street, Weequahic, and Clinton Hill. As attendees entered, community members were handed a bi-fold folder containing workshop materials with their neighborhood written on the front followed by a "1" or "2". Using these numbers, each neighborhood group was then divided into two groups, with one focusing on flooding (group 1) and the other on extreme heat (group 2), resulting in six groups total.

Advertisement distributed to community members regarding workshop logistics and where to register.

The neighborhood breakdown of workshop attendees is provided below:

- **Dayton Street:** 7 participants
- **Weequahic:** 34 participants
- **Clinton Hill:** 9 participants



Neighborhood breakdown of workshop attendees

Due to uneven attendance numbers across the three South Ward neighborhoods, overlapping geography, and the need for manageable group sizes to improve participant discussion and facilitation, select residents from the Weequahic neighborhood were moved into the Dayton Street group. Although each neighborhood is unique, many participants brought valuable perspectives and knowledge that allowed them to contribute meaningfully across multiple workshop groups.

In the bi-fold folder provided to all workshop attendees, each participant received the following materials tailored to their assigned scenario (provided in the Appendix):

A. *Climate scenario (extreme heat)*
B. *Climate scenario (flooding)*
C. *Workshop agenda*
D. *FEMA disaster preparedness fact sheet (extreme heat)*
E. *FEMA disaster preparedness fact sheet (flooding)*
F. *"What is Climate Change?" fact sheet*
G. *Terminology Glossary*
H. *SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Bound) Goals handout*
I. *Post-workshop Questionnaire*

After all participants were seated, SWEA staff introduced the workshop and set ground rules for meeting participation. After the introduction by SWEA, the SU-EFC team presented the agenda for the day, provided a high-level overview of climate change terminology, and introduced the concept of scenario planning, highlighting its role in helping communities plan and prepare for the future while facing uncertainties.

Images taken at the "Building a Resilient South Ward: Community Visioning & Climate Planning 101" workshop

Breakout Session 1: Community Visioning and Goal Setting

During the first breakout group activity, group facilitators guided participants through a visioning exercise to explore what they valued most about their neighborhood and how they envision it adapting to climate change. Facilitators led discussions using prompts such as:

- *"What do you love most about your neighborhood?"*
- *"In 10 years, if we're effectively addressing climate change, what would we see?"*
- *"What do I want my community to look like?"*
- *"In a flood/extreme heat scenario, does it change what that would look like?"*

Based on this facilitated discussion, each group then developed SMART goals using the SMART Goals handout that reflected what they value most in their community and their vision for community resilience moving forward amid changing climate conditions.

Breakout Session 2: Scenario Planning

Building on the first breakout session, the second breakout group activity focused on translating community members' vision into action. After reviewing the assigned climate scenario (flooding and extreme heat), participants considered the following questions:

- *"At present, how is your community preparing for the conditions in your scenario?"*
- *"Who or what in your neighborhood is most vulnerable in this scenario? Why?"*
- *"To achieve our SMART GOALS, what do we need to change or modify?"*
- *"What are the opportunities to achieve our vision in this scenario?"*
- *"What are some doable next steps?"*

Facilitators used these questions to guide participant discussions on existing preparedness efforts, gaps in neighborhood resilience, and opportunities for improvement, helping participants outline realistic next steps to strengthen their community's response to flooding- or extreme heat-related climate risks.

Large Group Discussion

The workshop concluded with a large-group discussion, where participants reflected on their breakout sessions and other workshop feedback. This final conversation helped identify shared priorities across neighborhoods, highlight opportunities for additional stakeholder collaboration, and set the stage for continued community engagement in the climate action planning process for South Ward residents.

Finally, each workshop participant was asked to complete a Post-workshop Questionnaire (Appendix I) to provide organizers with feedback on the workshop, collect any remaining goals or priorities, and assess how community members would like to be engaged in the planning process moving forward. At

the end of the workshop, organizers collected the Post-workshop Questionnaire and SMART Goals handout (Appendix H) from attendees for later analysis.

VI. WORKSHOP FINDINGS

The following priorities and goals emerged from discussions among each South Ward neighborhood. Divided into two groups-one focused on extreme heat and the other on flooding-each group explored their neighborhood's vulnerabilities, identified key concerns, and brainstormed actionable strategies to improve resilience.

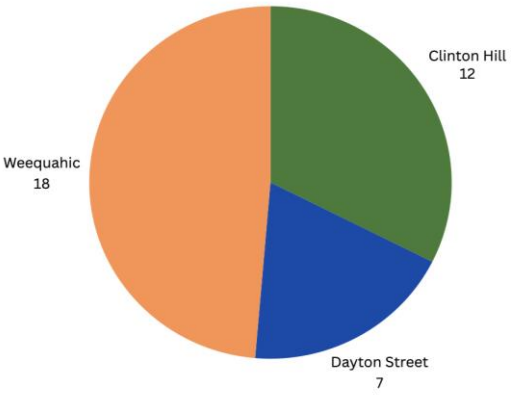
DAYTON STREET	
The findings below summarize priorities across both scenarios (extreme heat and flooding) within the Dayton Street neighborhood.	
Green Infrastructure	1. Increase tree canopy and green spaces by 50% within 3-5 years, with city officials and residents involved in monitoring and maintenance. 2. Expand the use of permeable surfaces and install solar panels to reduce heat buildup and manage stormwater more effectively.
Community Facilities	1. Install power generators at cooling centers to maintain access to electricity during extreme weather events. 2. Deploy mobile cooling stations and electric vehicles equipped with misting systems to assist residents and individuals experiencing homelessness.
Transportation	1. Upgrade bus shelters to include cooling misting stations and heating elements for extreme weather conditions. 2. Secure funding to improve transportation options and ensure accessibility during climate-related emergencies.
Community Wellness	1. Increase education and support for residents on their rights and strategies for holding landlords accountable. 2. Develop a neighborhood evacuation plan and establish a database of residents with disabilities to improve emergency response coordination and wellness checks.
Education & Emergency Response	1. Organize community workshops and meetings on disaster preparedness, ensuring participation from emergency response agencies, local and state officials, DEP, and public health agencies. 2. Implement automated robocall alerts to notify residents of impending natural disasters and extreme weather events.

WEEQUAHIC	
The findings below summarized priorities across both scenarios (extreme heat and flooding) within the Weequahic neighborhood.	
Green Infrastructure	1. Reduce flooding in streets, drains, and basements through expanded use of permeable pavement. 2. Implement rain gardens, green rooftops, and rainwater collection systems to improve stormwater management and reduce urban heat. 3. Install nets in catch basins to prevent blockages and improve drainage. 4. Increase green spaces to enhance air quality, with a goal of completion within 1-2 years.
Community Facilities	1. Establish emergency hubs equipped with generators, water supplies, charging stations, medical personnel, survival kits, and IT education assistance. 2. Expand cooling stations and designate safe locations for emergency support, especially in assisted living communities.
Transportation	1. Reroute truck traffic and designate specific areas for truck idling to reduce air pollution. Reserve resident streets for local use and protect from heavy vehicle traffic. 2. Introduce electric buses and alternative fuel options to improve transportation resilience.
Community Wellness	1. Strengthen neighborhood cohesion by forming block associations and improving communication with district leaders. Establish a measurable goal of ensuring all residents know their district leaders and block association contacts within 6-12 months through email updates and meet-and-greet events. 2. Conduct regular wellness checks for vulnerable populations to support preventative healthcare. 3. Require industry siting to consider cumulative environmental and health effects at the neighborhood-level.
Education & Emergency Response	1. Improve emergency alert systems to provide real-time information on evacuation routes and available resources. 2. Improve evacuation signage to direct residents to safe routes during extreme weather events. 3. Ensure adequate staffing of all emergency service personnel to enhance disaster response and recovery efforts.

CLINTON HILL	
The findings below summarized priorities across both scenarios (extreme heat and flooding) within the Clinton Hill neighborhood.	
Green Infrastructure	1. Increase tree canopy and green spaces by 50%, with a goal of planting 1,000 trees to reduce urban heat impacts. 2. Establish a catch basin ambassador program and increase storm drain maintenance. 3. Implement policies requiring developers to replace removed trees and minimize environmental impact.
Community Facilities	1. Install emergency generators in high-rise buildings and cooling stations in public spaces. 2. Provide shaded and misting-equipped bus stops for relief during extreme heat events. 3. Repair and elevate power lines to reduce outages and improve reliability.
Transportation	1. Expand electrification efforts, including increased access to electric vehicles. 2. Repair streets and increase the number of bus stops to improve accessibility.
Community Wellness	1. Implement stricter regulations on waste disposal for landlords and businesses. Increase the number of garbage bins and improve overall sanitation efforts. 2. Establish policies requiring businesses and developers to engage with the community and consider environmental impacts.
Education & Emergency Response	1. Increase environmental education, including public awareness campaigns on recycling and reuse, sustainability, and climate impacts. 2. Expand public safety and emergency management training for first responders and community members. 3. Improve awareness and access to emergency alerts via phone, text, and local news.

VII. POST-WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

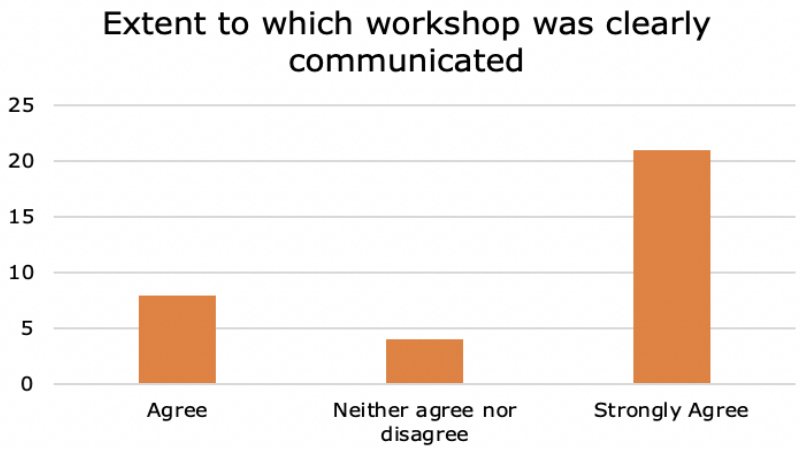
A total of 37 participants completed the post-workshop questionnaire, including 7 from Dayton Street, 18 from Weequahic, and 12 from Clinton Hill. 30 responses were collected during the workshop and 7 were collected in an electronic questionnaire sent in a follow-up email to attendees. Key priorities identified for building a climate-resilient future in the South Ward included community engagement and education, emissions reduction, accountability of elected officials, and increasing green spaces. Participants also highlighted areas such as recycling, EV charging stations, and the environmental impact of development as future areas for discussion that were not covered during the workshop.



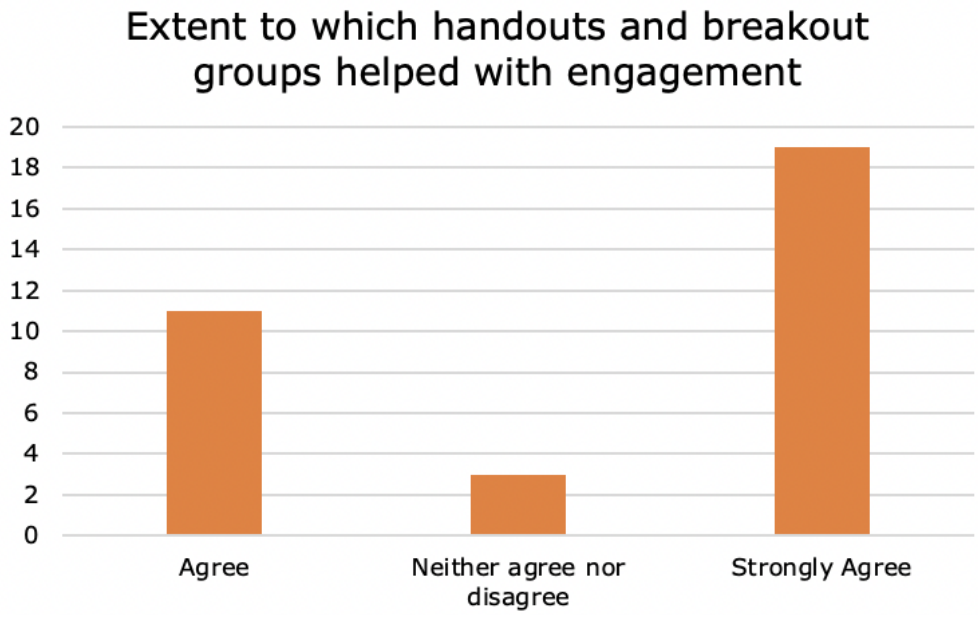
Breakdown of participants that completed the post-workshop questionnaire

When asked about key stakeholders who should be "at the table" in future discussions, respondents identified elected officials, educators, youth, nonprofits, code enforcement, and county representatives. Interest in continued community engagement in the climate action planning process was strong, with 32 respondents expressing interest in attending future workshops, 25 requesting email updates, 16 interested in joining a working group or committee, and 18 willing to volunteer to help with specific tasks or future events. The preferred method of engagement for community members to receive updates on the climate action plans once they have been developed is to attend community meetings for updates.

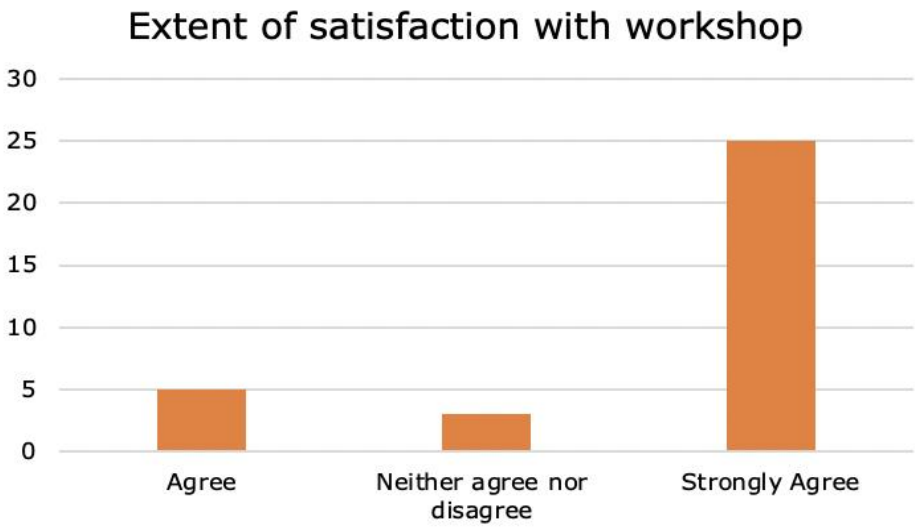
Overall, participants found the workshop's objectives were successfully met. Many found the breakout groups helpful and expressed overall satisfaction with the workshop experience. Finally, when asked for additional comments or suggestions to improve future workshops, the desire for elected officials to be in attendance at meetings was reiterated.



Response to the post-workshop question: "The workshop objectives were clearly communicated and met (extent to which you agree or disagree)."



Response to the post-workshop question: "The handouts and breakout group activities helped me engage with the subject matter effectively (extent to which you agree or disagree)."



Response to the post-workshop question: "Overall, I am satisfied with my experience in this workshop (extent to which you agree or disagree)."

VIII. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Dayton Street

Dayton Street neighborhood residents identified green infrastructure, community facilities, transportation, community wellness, and emergency preparedness as key priorities for neighborhood resilience to extreme heat and flooding. Residents emphasized expanding green infrastructure to reduce extreme heat and flooding, including increasing tree canopy, installing permeable surfaces, and incorporating solar panels. Community facilities improvements focused on placing power generators at cooling centers and deploying mobile cooling stations for at-risk residents.

Dayton Street residents identified the following populations as being most vulnerable: individuals with preexisting health conditions, elderly residents, children, immigrants, travelers, and individuals experiencing homelessness. Infrastructure concerns, including outdated sewer systems and inadequate stormwater management, further exacerbate climate risks.

To improve transportation, residents recommended upgrading bus shelters with misting and heating elements and securing funding for expanded transit options. Community wellness efforts highlighted tenant education, stronger landlord accountability, and an evacuation plan with a disability-inclusive database. Emergency preparedness strategies included disaster workshops and automated robocall alerts to enhance communication during severe weather events. These priorities underscore the need for collaboration with local agencies, emergency responders, and community organizations to develop an effective, community-driven climate action plan for Dayton Street residents.

Weequahic

Image of Weequahic Park, Newark, NJ

Weequahic neighborhood residents identified green infrastructure, pollution reduction, community facilities, and emergency preparedness as top priorities for neighborhood resilience to extreme heat and flooding. Outdated sewer lines, catch basins, and drainage systems were identified as vulnerabilities that contribute to flood risks. Residents emphasized the need for rain gardens, permeable pavement, and expanded green spaces to improve both stormwater management and air quality. Pollution from truck traffic was another major concern, with recommendations to reroute heavy vehicles and establish designated idling zones to reduce emissions

in residential areas. To strengthen emergency preparedness, residents called for emergency hubs with generators, cooling stations, and medical resources, especially in assisted living communities.

Improving community engagement was also a focus, with goals to establish block associations and improve communication with district leaders within 6-12 months. Residents also stressed the need for clear evacuation routes, real-time emergency alerts, and increased disaster response staffing to enhance neighborhood safety. These insights emphasize the need for infrastructure upgrades, pollution mitigation, and stronger emergency response systems in collaboration with local and state officials.

Clinton Hill

Residents identified green infrastructure, community facilities, transportation, waste management, and emergency preparedness as key priorities for strengthening climate resilience in the Clinton Hill neighborhood. Extreme heat and flooding were major concerns, with residents emphasizing urban heat mitigation through tree planting, expanded green spaces, and improved stormwater management. A goal of increasing tree canopy by 50% and planting 1,000 trees was set to address rising temperatures, particularly near schools and areas with vulnerable populations. To improve flood resilience, residents proposed a catch basin ambassador program to maintain storm drains and reduce localized flooding, particularly in trouble spots such as Hawthorne & Reeves, Reeves & Tillinghast, and Avon & Peshine.

Residents emphasized improving emergency facilities, including cooling stations, emergency generators in high-rises, and shaded bus stops with misting systems for extreme heat relief. They also called for the repair and elevation of power lines and expanded bus routes to improve reliability and accessibility. Waste management and public engagement were also key concerns. Residents stressed the need for stricter waste disposal regulations, more public garbage bins, and better sanitation enforcement. They also highlighted the importance of climate education, emergency preparedness training, and stronger outreach to renters and vulnerable populations. These findings underscore the need for green infrastructure expansion, strengthened emergency response, and smart urban planning in collaboration with local stakeholders.

IX. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT STEPS

To build on the momentum following the workshop, the following steps are recommended to advance neighborhood-level climate action planning in the South Ward:

- **Form a Community Advisory Group:** Establish a group of residents, local businesses, and institutional partners to help shape plan development. This group should represent community members across all three neighborhoods and include key stakeholders who can provide expertise and guidance.
- **Engage Local Experts and Increase Participation of Local and State Authorities:** Organize a virtual workshop with city/county officials and professionals in urban planning, sustainability, and engineering/design to assess the feasibility of proposed solutions and refine strategies for implementation. Experts in these areas can confirm the viability of projects and support coordination with other local and regional resilience efforts.
- **Refine CAP Outline:**-The SU-EFC team has developed a draft Climate Action Plan (CAP) outline, included in the Appendix (J) of this report. This draft can serve as a foundation for SWEA's continued planning efforts, and should be further refined based on input from the advisory group, local experts, and community feedback to ensure feasibility and alignment with neighborhood priorities.
- **Engage Funding Agencies Early:** Involving funders at the outset can help align proposed projects with available funding opportunities and inform project phasing. Early engagement with grantmakers, public agencies, and private foundations can also strengthen funding applications and improve long-term financial sustainability for climate action initiatives.

These steps will help ensure the South Ward's climate action planning process remains collaborative, technically sound, and community-driven.

Image of SU-EFC Technical Specialist, Francisco Guzmán-Alvarado, presenting to South Ward residents.

X. APPENDIX

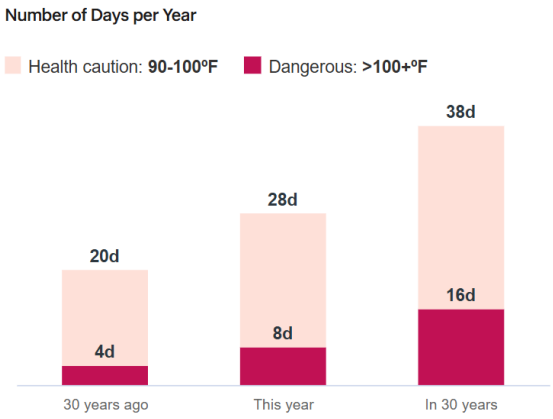
Appendix A

Part 1 (Background)
Understanding Climate Change's Impact on Newark

The **South Ward of Newark**, like many urban areas, is increasingly vulnerable to climate change, particularly extreme heat. As we look at how climate change affects communities, it's important to understand several key factors shaping Newark's future:

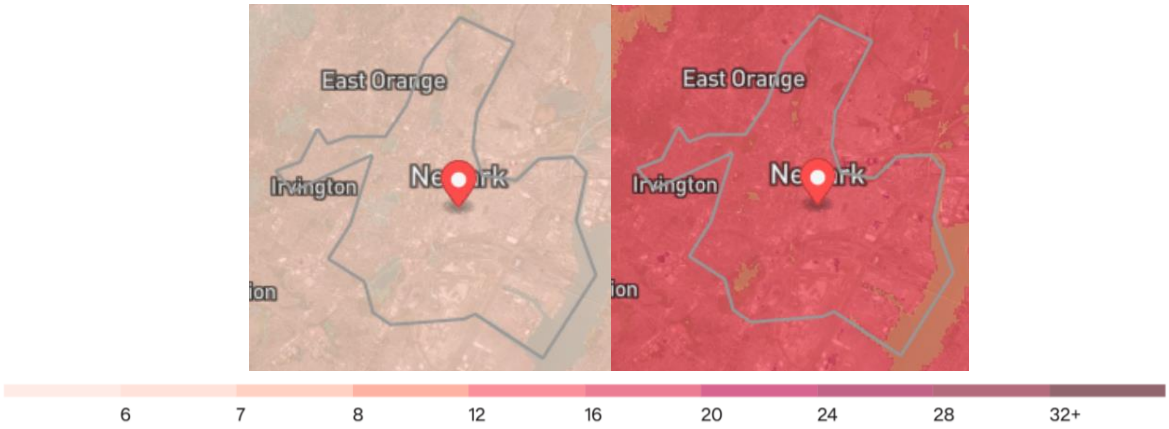
Heatwaves in New Jersey: Heatwaves are projected to quadruple by 2050. Newark's urban heat island effect exacerbates heat issues, particularly in areas with less green space and more paved surfaces.

BELOW: Understanding the Changing Heat Patterns in Newark, NJ



BELOW: Days Above 100°F Heat Index

This Year (left) vs. In 30 Years (right)



Source (top and bottom figures): First Street Technology, Inc, "Newark Heat Risk."

Temperature Rise: New Jersey's average temperature has increased by **3.5°F**. This trend is expected to continue, with projections indicating a rise of **4.1°F to 5.7°F by 2050**. This increase makes heatwaves more intense and frequent, posing significant health and infrastructure challenges. By 2050, New Jersey is expected to experience a **fourfold increase in heatwaves**. These prolonged periods of extreme heat can be particularly dangerous for vulnerable populations in areas like the South Ward.

BELOW: New Jersey 12-Month Average Air Temperature from 1895 to 2019

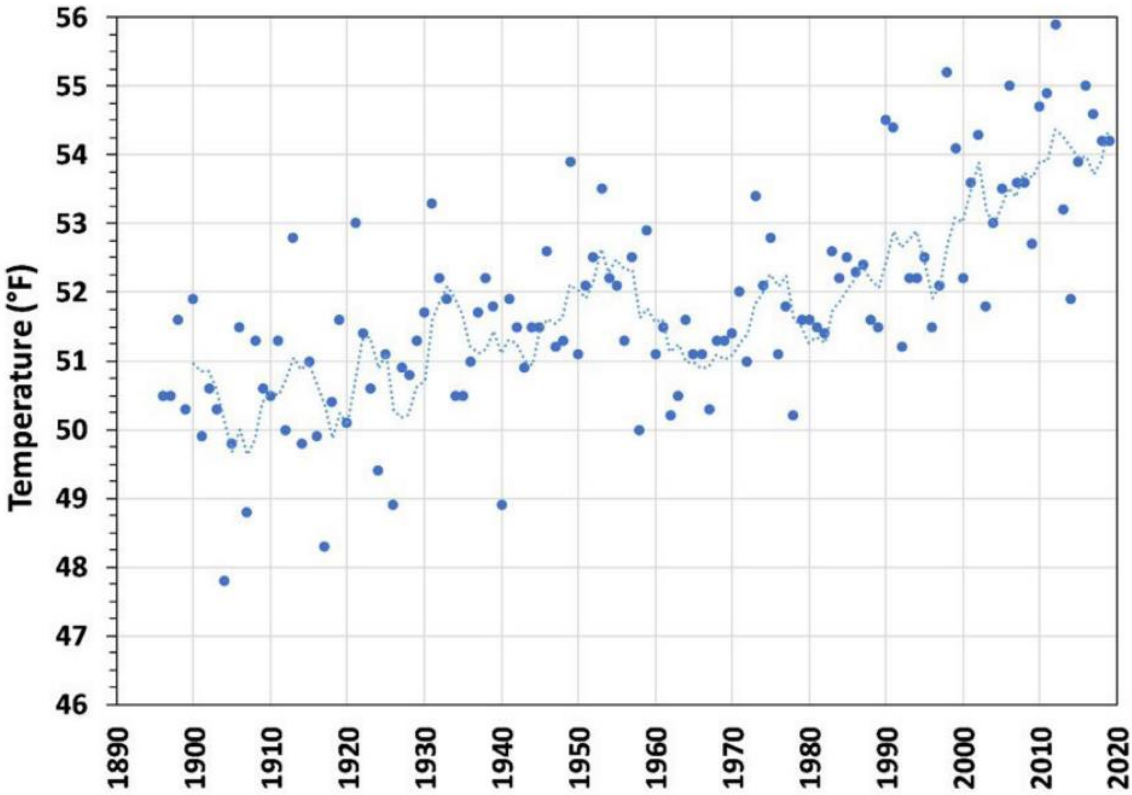
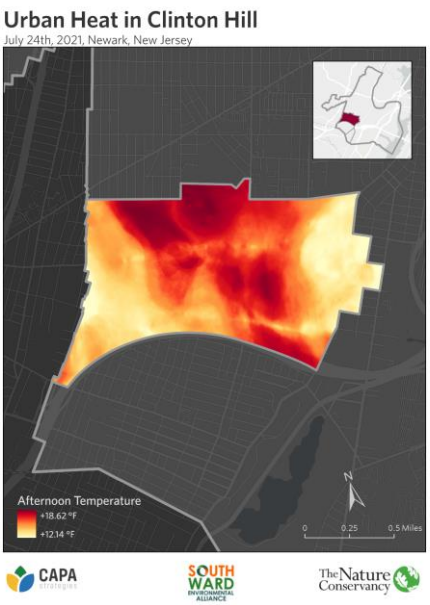


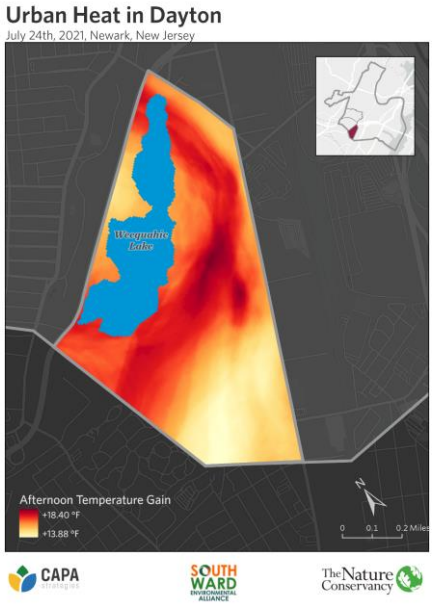
Figure 4.2. New Jersey 12-Month Average Air Temperature from 1895 to 2019. Points represent the average annual temperature and the dashed line represents a five-year average of those points. Data from the (Office of the New Jersey State Climatologist 2020).

Source: 2020 New Jersey Scientific Report on Climate Change

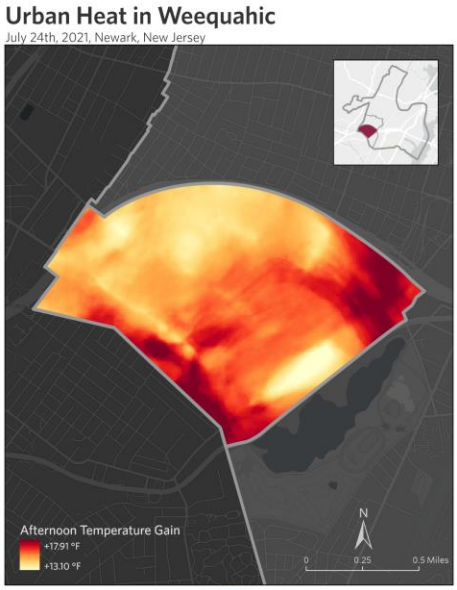
Urban Heat Island Effect: Newark is significantly impacted by the urban heat island (UHI) effect, where the city experiences higher temperatures than surrounding areas. This is due to dark surfaces like asphalt and buildings, which absorb and retain heat. In addition to natural climate warming, areas within Newark, especially historically redlined neighborhoods, are consistently hotter. Redlined areas can be up to 17°F warmer than other parts of the city due to a lack of tree cover and green spaces. South Ward neighborhoods like **Dayton Street** and **Weequahic** experience the most severe impacts. These areas absorb more heat during the day and retain it at night, making them especially dangerous during prolonged heat events.

BELOW: South Ward Temperature Change: Morning to Afternoon



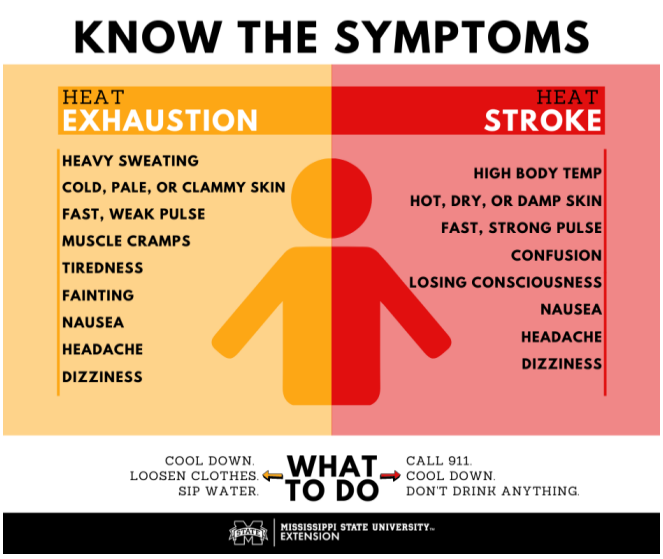


CAPA SOUTH WARD ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE The Nature Conservancy



CAPA SOUTH WARD ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE The Nature Conservancy

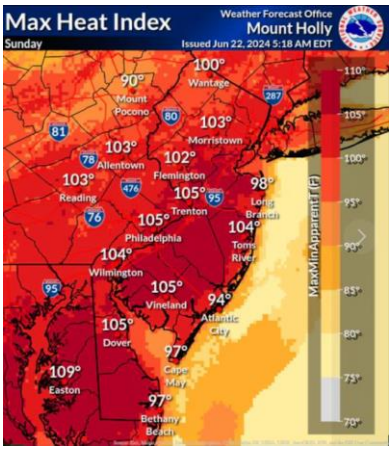
Health Impacts: Extreme heat is not just uncomfortable; it's deadly. Heat-related illnesses such as heat cramps, heat exhaustion, heatstroke, and worsening of chronic conditions like heart and lung diseases are more common during heatwaves. Vulnerable populations —especially the elderly, children, and those with pre-existing conditions like cardiovascular and respiratory diseases—are at higher risk of severe health outcomes during these events. Studies show that by 2050, summer heat-related mortality could more than double in New Jersey.



Part 2 (Scenario)
July 2025: Heatwave Crisis in Newark's South Ward

The **South Ward of Newark** is facing its hottest week on record, with temperatures soaring past 100°F for five consecutive days. A citywide "Code Red" heat advisory has been issued, but the residents of South Ward, particularly in historically underserved neighborhoods, are bearing the brunt of this extreme heat.

Day 1: The Onset of the Heatwave



On the first day of the heatwave, temperatures spike to 103°F, with a heat index soaring to 110°F. The South Ward's heat vulnerability becomes starkly apparent, with neighborhoods like **Dayton Street** and **Weequahic** enduring temperatures significantly higher than the city average due to the urban heat island effect. The built environment, with dark surfaces like asphalt and a lack of tree canopy, causes these areas to retain heat well into the night. Proximity to the airport, highways, and industrial corridors exacerbates the situation, with these areas being up to **17°F hotter** than other parts of the city. The limited green spaces fail to provide much relief.

Day 3: Health System Overload

As the heatwave intensifies, so does the pressure on the local health system. By the third day, the **Newark Health Center** and **Beth Israel Hospital** are reporting a surge in patients suffering from heat-related illnesses, including heat exhaustion, heat cramps, and heatstroke. The most vulnerable—elderly residents, children, and people with pre-existing conditions such as **cardiovascular disease** and **diabetes**—are at heightened risk. Health professionals are stretched thin as emergency rooms at Beth Israel Hospital hit capacity, and cooling centers, set up in community spaces, struggle to accommodate the growing crowds.

Despite these efforts, not everyone can access cooling centers. Residents in the **Dayton Street** and **Clinton Hill** neighborhoods, where cooling centers are fewer, report extreme discomfort. Power usage skyrockets as residents use air conditioning to cope, causing strain on the electrical grid.

Day 5: Blackouts and Community Strain

On the fifth day, the situation worsens. The electrical grid, pushed to its limits by the constant use of air conditioning, succumbs to rolling blackouts. Neighborhoods in **Dayton Street**, **Weequahic** and **Clinton Hill** lose power for extended periods, leaving residents without air conditioning or fans in sweltering temperatures. Temperatures inside homes climb to over 95°F, creating life-threatening conditions, particularly for those without access to cooling options.

Public buildings that usually serve as cooling centers, such as the **local library**, have also lost power, further reducing access to relief. The **Weequahic Branch Library**, a key gathering spot for residents seeking shelter from the heat, is closed due to power outages. The surrounding community is left scrambling for alternatives, with some residents heading to **Bo Porter Park**, **Mildred Helms** and **Weequahic Park** for shade and cooler air from **Weequahic Lake**, one of the few cooler spots in the area.

Appendix B

Part 1 (Background)
Understanding Climate Change's Impact on the South Ward

The **South Ward of Newark**, like many urban areas, is increasingly vulnerable to climate change. Flooding poses a significant and growing threat due to changes in precipitation patterns, intensifying storms, and rising sea levels. Several key climate factors are shaping Newark's future with respect to flooding:

Precipitation Increases: By 2050, **annual precipitation in New Jersey is expected to increase by 4-11%.** This increase in rainfall will contribute to a rise in both the frequency and intensity of **flood events**. As urban areas like Newark receive more rain, the risk of flooding becomes a constant challenge for infrastructure and communities.

BELOW: NJ Statewide Annual Precipitation in Inches (1895 – 2019)

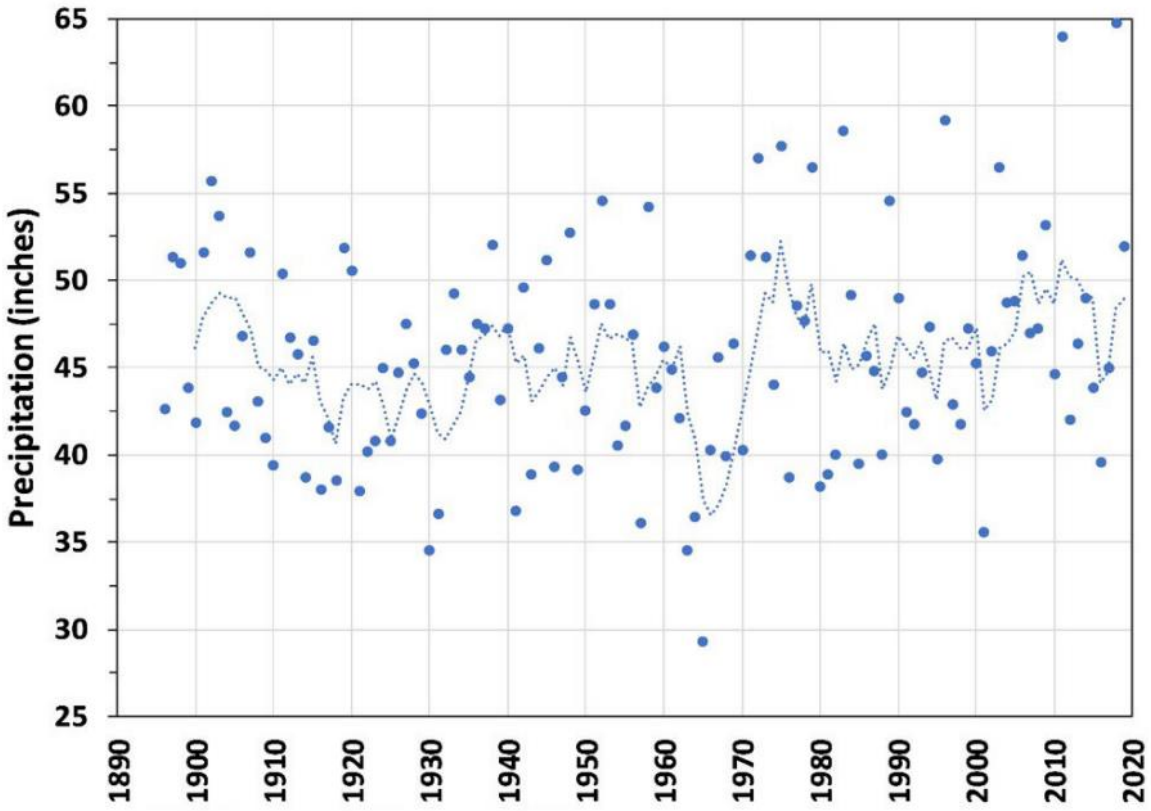
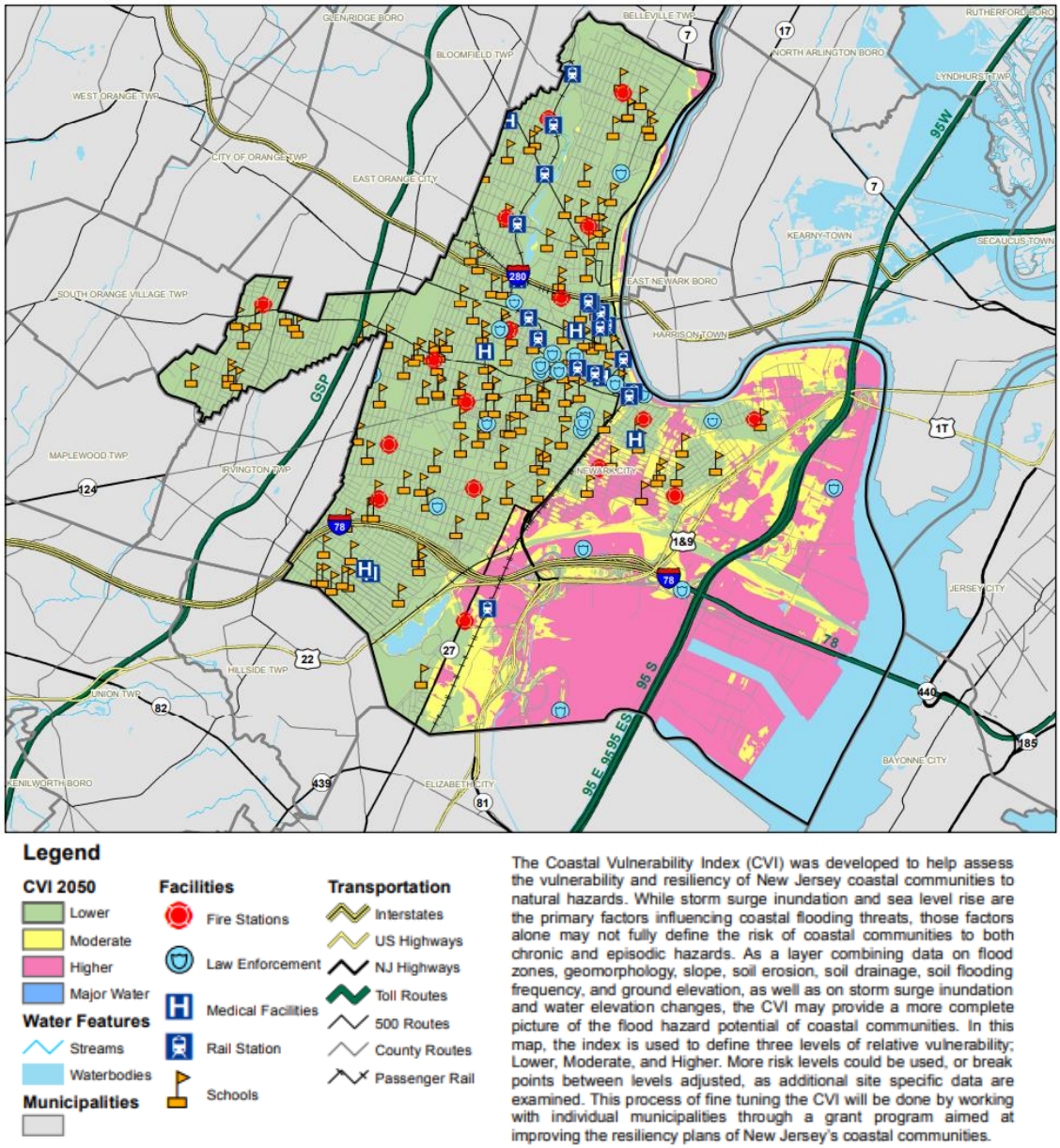


Figure 4.5. Statewide Annual Precipitation in Inches (1895 – 2019). Points represent the statewide annual precipitation and the dashed line represents a five-year average of the data based on year of interest and the previous four years. Data acquired from the (Office of the New Jersey State Climatologist 2020).

Source: 2020 New Jersey Scientific Report on Climate Change

Flood Risk: Over the next 30 years, nearly **14,000 properties in Newark are at risk of flooding**, which represents **nearly a third of all properties** in the city. As the climate continues to change, neighborhoods in the South Ward, particularly those already vulnerable to stormwater management issues, will be significantly impacted.

BELOW: Coastal Vulnerability Index | Newark, NJ



Legend

CVI 2050
- Lower
- Moderate
- Higher
- Major Water

Water Features
- Streams
- Waterbodies

Municipalities

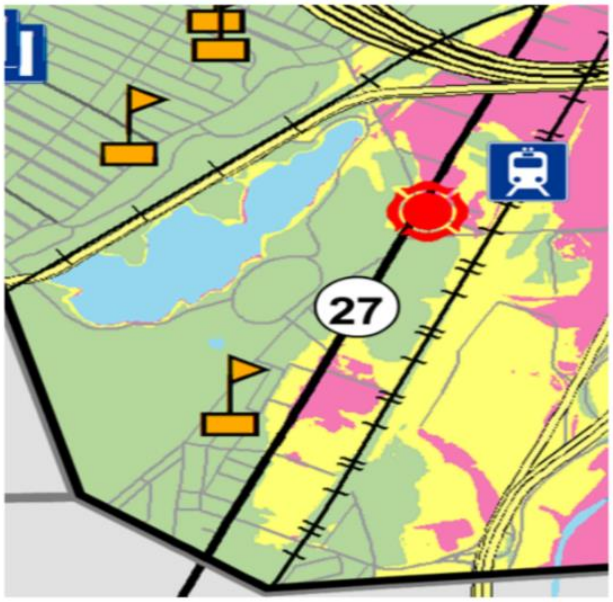
Facilities
- Fire Stations
- Law Enforcement
- Medical Facilities
- Rail Station
- Schools

Transportation
- Interstates
- US Highways
- NJ Highways
- Toll Routes
- 500 Routes
- County Routes
- Passenger Rail

The Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI) was developed to help assess the vulnerability and resiliency of New Jersey coastal communities to natural hazards. While storm surge inundation and sea level rise are the primary factors influencing coastal flooding threats, those factors alone may not fully define the risk of coastal communities to both chronic and episodic hazards. As a layer combining data on flood zones, geomorphology, slope, soil erosion, soil drainage, soil flooding frequency, and ground elevation, as well as on storm surge inundation and water elevation changes, the CVI may provide a more complete picture of the flood hazard potential of coastal communities. In this map, the index is used to define three levels of relative vulnerability; Lower, Moderate, and Higher. More risk levels could be used, or break points between levels adjusted, as additional site specific data are examined. This process of fine tuning the CVI will be done by working with individual municipalities through a grant program aimed at improving the resiliency plans of New Jersey's coastal communities.

Source: NJDEP Coastal Management Program

Are we going to wash out the Dayton Street neighborhood?
Projected flood vulnerability: 2050



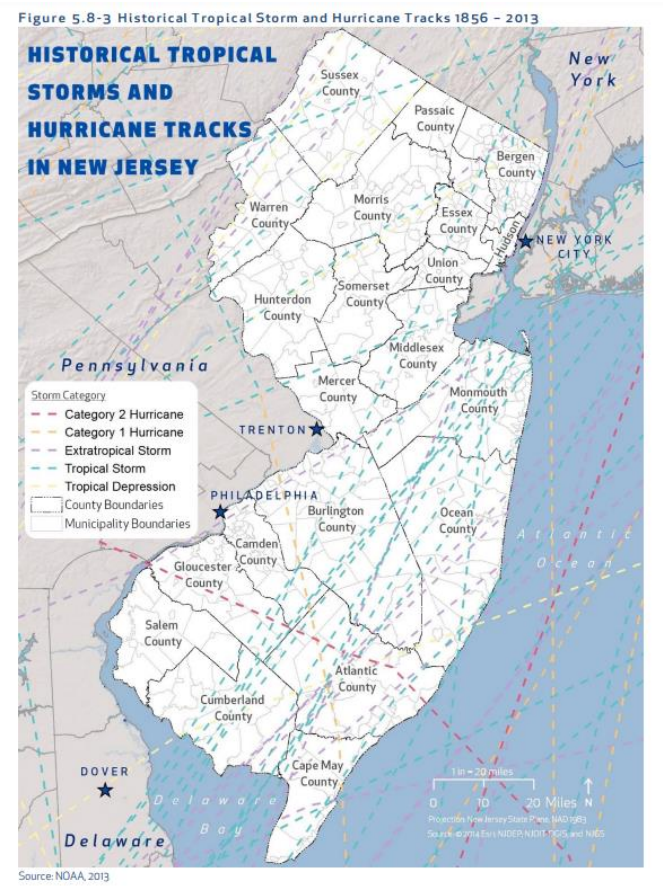
Pink Areas: high vulnerability for flooding by 2050
Yellow Areas: moderate vulnerability for flooding by 2050

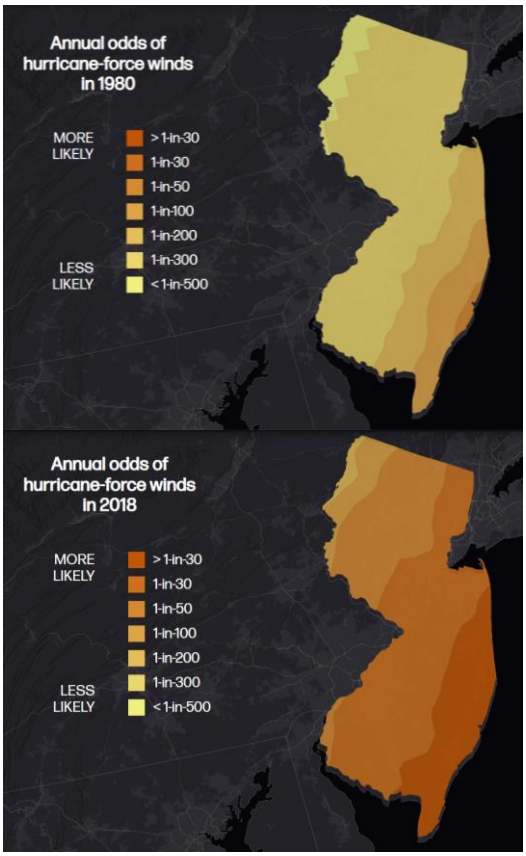
BELOW: Depth of Flooding (ft.) Newark, NJ

This Year (left) vs. In 30 Years (right)

Source: First Street Technology, Inc, "Newark Flooding Risk."

Hurricane Intensification: The frequency of hurricanes and tropical storms is expected to increase, resulting in stronger storm surges, intense rainfall, and greater inland flooding. This was evident during **Hurricane Sandy**, when storm surges caused massive flooding at port Newark, Meeker and Frelinghuysen Avenue and leading to widespread property damage and long-term health risks from mold and bacteria due to water infiltration in buildings.

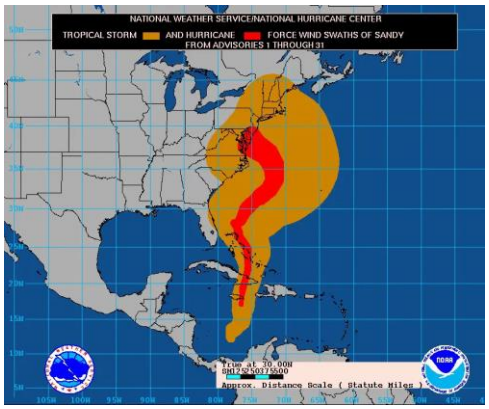




Source (left): *2019 NJ State Hazard Mitigation Plan* *Source (right):* *Rhodium Group, "NJ's Rising Coastal Risk"*

Part 2 (Scenario)

August 2025: Tropical Storm and Flood Crisis in Newark's South Ward



The **South Ward** is under threat from an approaching tropical storm, predicted to make landfall within 48 hours. The storm is forecasted to bring a powerful storm surge and up to 10 inches of rain. The storm is predicted to bring torrential rain and storm surges, leading to widespread flooding across the region. Floodwaters are expected to inundate much of the South Ward, and the aging infrastructure is unlikely to cope with the deluge.

Day 1: Pre-Storm Warnings

As the tropical storm approaches, meteorologists predict heavy rainfall—up to 10 inches within 24 hours. The governor issues a mandatory evacuation order for flood-prone areas. However, many residents are reluctant to leave. Additionally, many families lack the means or transportation to evacuate. With time running out, local officials urge residents to move to higher ground and prepare for the inevitable loss of power, food shortages, water contamination, and structural damage to their homes.

Day 2: The Storm Hits

On the day of the storm, the tropical storm makes landfall with wind speeds exceeding 100 mph and torrential rain. Low-lying neighborhoods experience flash floods within hours. The storm surge causes the nearby Elizabeth River and the Weequahic Park Lake to overflow, inundating streets and homes in the Dayton Street neighborhood. Floodwaters rise rapidly, leaving many homes partially submerged.

Public transportation systems grind to a halt, and major highways, including routes to evacuation centers, are submerged. Emergency services are overwhelmed, prioritizing the rescue of the most vulnerable, including the elderly and disabled who were unable to leave their homes. Local schools, designated as emergency shelters, fill quickly, but many remain inaccessible due to impassable roads.

Day 3: Widespread Flooding and Infrastructure Collapse

By the third day, the full scale of the damage becomes clear. Large portions of the South Ward are underwater, with several feet of standing water in the streets. Power outages are widespread as flooding damages electrical substations, leaving thousands without electricity, and with it, critical services such as refrigeration for medicine and phone communication.

The Weequahic Park area, normally a community gathering spot, has become a temporary lake, with water levels encroaching on nearby homes. Some residents are cut off from aid, as the only road leading to the park has collapsed under the weight of floodwaters. In areas like Dayton Street and Weequahic, families grapple with the destruction of their homes, facing the immediate threat of health risks from contaminated water. Emergency shelters reach capacity, and some residents are forced to find refuge in makeshift camps.

Day 5: Recovery and Health Crisis

As the floodwaters begin to recede, Newark is left with extensive damage. Homes in the South Ward are soaked through with floodwater, causing structural damage and rendering many uninhabitable. Streets are lined with debris, and the local water supply becomes compromised by flood contamination.

Public health concerns quickly escalate, with cases of waterborne diseases rising due to contact with contaminated floodwaters. Hospitals, already overburdened, struggle to keep up with the influx of patients. The local health department works with community organizations to distribute bottled water and set up mobile health clinics to treat minor injuries and illnesses, but the scale of the crisis strains resources.

Long-term recovery efforts will be needed, but many worry about the financial impact, particularly in low-income communities where residents lack flood insurance or savings to rebuild.

Appendix C

Climate Action Planning 101 Community Workshop | Agenda

Timed Agenda	
10:00 - 10:15 AM	**Welcome & Introduction** *Overview of today's goals, purpose, and ground rules.*
10:15 - 10:40 AM	**Scenario Planning Overview** *Introduction to scenario planning, visioning, and what to expect.*
10:40 - 11:40 AM	**Group Breakout #1: Visioning Activity** ● *Introductions and an overview of the scenarios* ● *Discussion on neighborhood vulnerabilities, goal-setting, and envisioning community resilience.* ● ***Assignment**: Craft 2 SMART goals with your group that reflect what you value about your neighborhood and what you'd like to see for the future.*
11:40 AM - 12:30 PM	***Lunch Break***
12:30 - 1:30 PM	**Group Breakout #2: Scenario Planning** *Dive deep into scenarios with discussions on preparedness, vulnerabilities, relevant SMART goals, and actionable next steps.*
1:30 - 2:00 PM	**Full Group Discussion & Wrap-Up** *Groups share insights, discuss key takeaways, and provide feedback.*

Appendix D

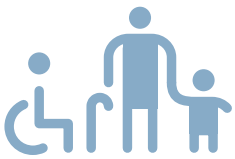
BE PREPARED FOR EXTREME HEAT

FEMA

FEMA V-1004/June 2018

Extreme heat often results in the highest annual number of deaths among all weather-related disasters.

In most of the U.S., extreme heat is a long period (2 to 3 days) of high heat and humidity with temperatures above 90 degrees.



Greater risk

Can happen anywhere

Humidity increases the feeling of heat as measured by a heat index

IF YOU ARE UNDER AN EXTREME HEAT WARNING

- Find air conditioning, if possible.
- Avoid strenuous activities.
- Watch for heat illness.
- Wear light clothing.
- Check on family members and neighbors.
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Watch for heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.
- Never leave people or pets in a closed car.

HOW TO STAY SAFE

WHEN EXTREME HEAT THREATENS

Find places in your community where you can go to get cool.

Try to keep your home cool:

- Cover windows with drapes or shades.
- Weather-strip doors and windows.
- Use window reflectors such as aluminum foil-covered cardboard to reflect heat back outside.
- Add insulation to keep the heat out.
- Use a powered attic ventilator, or attic fan, to regulate the heat level of a building's attic by clearing hot air.
- Install window air conditioners and insulate around them.

Learn to recognize the signs of heat illness. For more information visit: www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/warning.html.

Never leave a child, adult, or animal alone inside a vehicle on a warm day.

Find places with air conditioning. Libraries, shopping malls, and community centers can provide a cool place to take a break from the heat.

If you're outside, find shade. Wear a hat wide enough to protect your face.

Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.

Drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated. If you or someone you care for is on a special diet, ask a doctor what would be best.

Do not use electric fans when the temperature outside is more than 95 degrees. You could increase the risk of heat-related illness. Fans create air flow and a false sense of comfort, but do not reduce body temperature.

Avoid high-energy activities.

Check yourself, family members, and neighbors for signs of heat-related illness.

Know the signs and ways to treat heat-related illness.

Heat Cramps

- **Signs:** Muscle pains or spasms in the stomach, arms, or legs.
- **Actions:** Go to a cooler location. Remove excess clothing. Take sips of cool sports drinks with salt and sugar. Get medical help if cramps last more than an hour.

Heat Exhaustion

- **Signs:** Heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, fainting.
- **Actions:** Go to an air-conditioned place and lie down. Loosen or remove clothing. Take a cool bath. Take sips of cool sports drinks with salt and sugar. Get medical help if symptoms get worse or last more than an hour.

Heat Stroke

- **Signs:** Extremely high body temperature (above 103 degrees) indicated by an oral thermometer; red, hot, and dry skin with no sweat; rapid, strong pulse; dizziness; confusion; and unconsciousness.
- **Actions:** Call 9-1-1 or get the person to a hospital immediately. Cool down with whatever methods are available until medical help arrives.

Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to **Ready.gov/heat.** Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for **extreme heat.**

FEMA

FEMA V-1004

Appendix E

BE PREPARED FOR A FLOOD

FEMA

FEMA V-1005/March 2018

Failing to evacuate flooded areas, entering flood waters, or remaining after a flood has passed can result in injury or death.

Flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. It is the most common natural disaster in the U.S.

Results from rain, snow, coastal storms, storm surge, and overflows of dams and other water systems

Develops slowly or quickly. Flash floods can come with no warning

Causes outages, disrupts transportation, damages buildings, creates landslides

IF YOU ARE UNDER A FLOOD WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.

Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.

Determine your best protection based on the type of flooding.

Evacuate if told to do so.

Move to higher ground or a higher floor.

Stay where you are.

HOW TO STAY SAFE

WHEN A FLOOD THREATENS

Know your area's type of flood risk. Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center at https://msc.fema.gov/portal for information.

Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

If flash flooding is a risk in your location, monitor potential signs such as heavy rain.

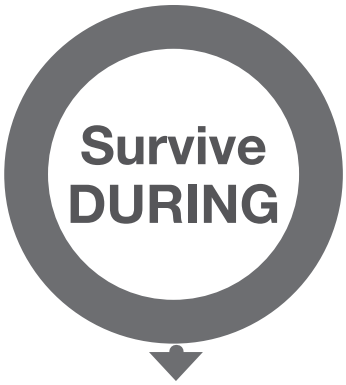
Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash flood response.

Gather supplies in case you have to leave immediately or if services are cut off. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets. Obtain extra batteries and charging devices for phones and other critical equipment.

Obtain flood insurance. Homeowner's policies do not cover flooding. Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies.

Protect your property. Move valued items to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.



Depending on where you are, and the impact and the warning time of flooding, go to the safe location that you have identified.

If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Never drive around barricades. Local responders use them to safely direct traffic out of flooded areas.

Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions.

Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Turn Around. Don't Drown.® Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

Stay off of bridges over fast-moving water. Fast-moving water can wash bridges away without warning.

If your vehicle is trapped in rapidly moving water, stay inside. If water is rising inside the vehicle, seek refuge on the roof.

If trapped in a building, go to its highest level. Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising floodwater. Go on the roof only if necessary. Signal for help.

FEMA

FEMA V-1005

Pay attention to authorities for information and instructions.

Avoid driving, except in emergencies.

Be aware that snakes and other animals may be in your house. Wear heavy gloves and boots during clean up.

Avoid wading in floodwater, which can contain dangerous debris and be contaminated. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.

Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machinery ONLY outdoors and away from windows.

Be aware of the risk of electrocution. Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water. If it is safe to do so, turn off the electricity to prevent electric shock.

Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to **Ready.gov/floods.** Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a **flood.**

FAST FACTS

What Is Climate Change?

1. **Climate change** can be a natural process where temperature, rainfall, wind and other elements vary over decades or more. In millions of years, our world has been warmer and colder than it is now. But today we are experiencing rapid warming from human activities, primarily due to burning fossil fuels that generate greenhouse gas emissions.

2. **Increasing greenhouse gas emissions** from human activity act like a blanket wrapped around the earth, trapping the sun's heat and raising temperatures.

3. Examples of greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change include **carbon dioxide and methane.** These come from burning fossil fuels such as gasoline for driving a car or coal for heating a building. Clearing land and forests can also release carbon dioxide. Landfills for garbage are another source. Energy, industry, agriculture and waste disposal are among the major emitters.

4. Greenhouse gas concentrations are at their **highest levels in 2 million years** and continue to rise. As a result, the earth is about 1.1°C warmer than it was in the 1800s. The last decade was the warmest on record.

5. Many people think climate change mainly means warmer temperatures. But temperature rise is only the beginning of the story. Because the Earth is a system, where everything is connected, changes in one area can influence changes in all others. The **consequences of climate change** now include, among others, intense droughts, water scarcity, severe fires, rising sea levels, flooding, melting polar ice, catastrophic storms and declining biodiversity.

6. **People are experiencing climate change** in diverse ways. It affects our health, ability to grow food, housing, safety and work. Some of us are already more vulnerable to climate impacts, such as people living in small island developing States. Conditions like sea-level rise and saltwater intrusion have advanced to the point where whole communities have had to relocate. In the future, the number of "climate refugees" is expected to rise.

7. **Every increase in global warming matters.** In a 2018 report, thousands of scientists and government reviewers agreed that limiting global temperature rise to no more than 1.5°C would help us avoid the worst climate impacts and maintain a livable climate. Yet the current path of carbon dioxide emissions could increase global temperature by as much as 4.4°C by the end of the century.

8. The emissions that cause climate change come from every part of the world and affect everyone, but **some countries produce much more** than others. The 100 least-emitting countries generate 3 per cent of total emissions. The 10 largest emitters contribute 68 per cent. Everyone must take climate action, but people and countries creating more of the problem have a greater responsibility to act first.

9. Climate change is a huge challenge, but **we already know many solutions.** These can deliver economic benefits while improving our lives and protecting the environment. We also have global agreements to guide progress, such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. Three broad categories of action are: cut emissions, adapt to climate impacts and finance required adjustments.

10. Switching energy systems from fossil fuels to renewables like solar will **reduce the emissions driving climate change.** But we have to start right now. While a growing coalition of countries is committing to net zero emissions by 2050, about half of emissions cuts must be in place by 2030 to keep warming below 1.5°C. Fossil fuel production must decline by roughly 6 per cent per year between 2020 and 2030.

11. **Adapting to climate consequences** protects people, homes, businesses, livelihoods, infrastructure and natural ecosystems. It covers current impacts and those likely in the future. Adaptation will be required everywhere, but must be prioritized now for the most vulnerable people with the fewest resources to cope with climate hazards. The rate of return can be high. Early warning systems for disasters, for instance, save lives and property, and can deliver benefits up to 10 times the initial cost.

12. **We can pay the bill now, or pay dearly in the future.** Climate action requires significant financial investments by governments and businesses. But climate inaction is vastly more expensive. One critical step is for industrialized countries to fulfil their commitment to provide $100 billion a year to developing countries so they can adapt and move towards greener economies.

Sources: IPCC (1), WMO (4, 7, 10), WMO (4), IPCC (4, 7), UN Climate Action (8, 10), World Bank (11).

Appendix G

Climate Action Planning 101 Community Workshop

Terminology Glossary

Climate Adaptation: Actions taken to limit the negative predicted impacts of climate change.

Climate Change: Refers to the ongoing change in global weather patterns, largely the result of human generated greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate Change Vulnerability: Inability to address the adverse effects of climate change.

Climate Mitigation: Decreasing the amount of greenhouse gasses that are emitted into the atmosphere.

"Code Red" Heat Advisory: Alert issued to residents of a city that a heat advisory has been issued.

Extreme Heat: A period of high heat and humidity with temperatures above 90 degrees for at least two to three days. Extreme heat is responsible for the highest number of annual deaths among weather-related hazards.

Flooding: A temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry, resulting from coastal storms, storm surges, overflows of dams, rain, or snow. Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States, and failing to evacuate flooded areas or entering flood waters can lead to injury or death.

Heatwaves: Refers to abnormally hot weather, in comparison to the historical temperature averages in a given location that lasts two or more days.

Hurricanes: A type of tropical cyclone (intense storms that originate over warm tropical waters), with sustained winds of 74 miles per hour or greater.

Tropical Storm: A type of tropical cyclone (intense storms that originate over warm tropical waters), with sustained winds of 39-73 miles per hour.

Resilience: The ability to prevent, withstand, respond to, and recover from a disruption.

Scenario planning: An engagement approach that describes and incorporates uncertainty into the decision-making process.

Storm Surge: Sea level increase due to a storm.

Stormwater: Rainwater or melted snow that runs off streets, lawns, and other sites. This excess water can cause flooding when it runs into storm drains, sewer systems, and drainage ditches.

SMART Goals

With your team, come up with two SMART goals for your neighborhood. These don't need to be perfect, but should consider the following:

S	**Specific** What am I going to do? Why is this important to me?
M	**Measurable** How will I measure my success? How will I know when I have achieved my goal?
A	**Attainable** What will I do to achieve this goal? How will I accomplish this goal?
R	**Relevant** Is this goal worthwhile? How will achieving it help me? Does this goal fit my values?
T	**Time-Bound** When will I accomplish my goal? How long will I give myself?

Which South Ward neighborhood are you from?

Weequahic
Dayton St
Clinton Hill
Other (please specify): _____

My neighborhood's goals are:

1.) _____
_____
_____
_____

Time Estimate: _____
Target Date to Finish:_____

2.) _____
_____
_____
_____

Time Estimate: _____
Target Date to Finish:_____

EXAMPLES:

Not SMART Goal: Alert everyone in the flood-prone areas of a flood threat

SMART Goal: 100% of persons in the County's flood-prone area will be notified within 4 hours of an evacuation order being issued by State or County/Local emergency management personnel

Appendix I

Climate Action Planning 101 Community Workshop
Post-Workshop Questionnaire

Thank you for attending today's workshop! Your feedback is essential to shaping neighborhood climate action plans for the South Ward. Please take a few minutes to answer the questions below.

Which South Ward neighborhood are you from?

- ☐ Weequahic
- ☐ Dayton St
- ☐ Clinton Hill
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

1. Based on today's discussions, what do you believe are the main priorities for a climate-resilient future in your neighborhood?

2. What goals (if any) do you have for your neighborhood that we didn't touch on today?

3. Are there specific community members, organizations, or other stakeholders you believe should be "at the table"?

4. How would you like to stay updated on the ongoing development and implementation of your neighborhood's climate action plan? (Please check all that apply)
   - ☐ Receive email updates
   - ☐ Attend future workshops
   - ☐ Participate in a working group or committee
   - ☐ Volunteer to help with specific tasks or events

5. How would you prefer to access and engage with your neighborhood's climate action plan once it's developed? (Please check all that apply)
    - ☐ Interactive website
    - ☐ Printed materials
    - ☐ Community meetings for updates
    - ☐ Physical location or kiosk
    - ☐ Other (please specify): _____

6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

    a. ***The workshop objectives were clearly communicated and met.***
        - ☐ Strongly agree
        - ☐ Agree
        - ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
        - ☐ Disagree
        - ☐ Strongly disagree

    b. ***The handouts and breakout group activities helped me engage with the subject matter effectively.***
        - ☐ Strongly agree
        - ☐ Agree
        - ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
        - ☐ Disagree
        - ☐ Strongly disagree

    c. ***Overall, I am satisfied with my experience in this workshop.***
        - ☐ Strongly agree
        - ☐ Agree
        - ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
        - ☐ Disagree
        - ☐ Strongly disagree

7. Any additional comments or suggestions to improve future workshops?

8. May we follow up with you based on your responses or to engage you further?
    - ☐ Yes
    - ☐ No

    If Yes, please provide your email address: _____

Appendix J

DRAFT Climate Action Plan Outline

Title Page

- Title, Date, Relevant Image(s)
- Authors and Contributors, including Advisory Group Members (if applicable)

Letter of Commitment

- Statement from SWEA affirming commitment to climate action

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    a. Overview of the plan and its purpose
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    c. Equity considerations
6. **Goals & Strategies**
    a. Goal 1, Goal 2, etc.
7. **Plan Implementation**
    a. Target dates and milestones - phased approach
    b. Policy and funding strategies/considerations
    c. Partnerships and governance - define roles for local institutions/organizations
    d. Tracking and reporting - how the community will stay informed and periodic review cycles
8. **Conclusion**
    a. Summary of key action areas / next steps
    b. Commitment to ongoing evaluation and plan updates
    c. Call to action for community engagement