

Cooling Our Community Training: Reducing Heat Through the Built Environment

Wednesday, February 7, 2018 | 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Alameda County Planning Department – Community Development Agency

GOALS

We will explore how the Planning Department’s role can reduce the impact of extreme heat on Unincorporated Alameda County. Together, we will look at how the built environment impacts heat vulnerability in the populations we serve. We will consider strategies that policy and development planners and code enforcement investigators can utilize to help cool down our communities.

These strategies will inform, as appropriate:

- The Community Climate Action Plan,
- Relevant sections of the Ashland/Cherryland Business District and San Lorenzo Village Center Specific Plans,
- Amendments to the General Plan as mandated by SB 1000,
- Residential Design Standards and Guidelines, any related handouts that may be created for permit applicants, and
- Discretionary guidance given during the permitting process.

AGENDA

Registration & Coffee	
9:00 a.m.	Framing Presentations and Discussion <u>Outcome:</u> Participants are familiarized with how projected increases in heat will impact health and infrastructure, and how the built environment contributes to heat risk. They consider the implications of heat to the unincorporated areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Workshop Goals (Liz McElligott, Deputy Planning Director, Community Development Agency)● Climate Change Impacts on Alameda County (Sarah Church, Sustainability Project Manager, General Services Agency)● Heat Impacts on Health (Anna Lee, Local Policy Coordinator, Public Health Department)● Cooling Strategies for the Built Environment (Pallavi Sherikar, Climate Corps Fellow, General Services Agency)● Discussion & Introductions● Case Study (John Lundgren, Senior Planner, Sacramento County Planning Department)
Break	

11:00 a.m.	<p>Break-Out Teams</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Participants suggest and explore initial ideas for how County’s built environment could be used to reduce heat risk, possible barriers to success, support required to overcome barriers, & possible next steps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break-Out Group Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Building Materials (Roofing, etc.) ○ Pavement & Hard Surfaces ○ Vegetation & Landscaping ○ Transformative Built Environments (Thinking big, and about co-benefits) • Activity: Participants self-select into one of four groups to brainstorm potential cooling strategies for Alameda County and pick two as a group to develop. Teams encouraged to develop one more straightforward idea and one more aspirational idea.
Stretch & Snack Break	
12:00 p.m.	<p>Team Report-Outs</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Participants hear ideas proposed by their colleagues, and are invited to “lift up” ideas and questions they find particularly important for action or inquiry. Hear and discuss summary report from each small group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Reports: Each team has four minutes to present their two ideas and brief details about each idea. • “Rose/Bud/Thorn” Analysis Exercise: Participants are each given 3 different colored sticky notes representing roses, buds, and thorns in order to give collective feedback rapidly on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a) which ideas seem most feasible (roses) ○ b) where key obstacles lie (thorns) ○ c) which ideas have potential but need to be further developed (buds). ○ Participants are also asked to write a brief comment on the sticky note to further detail their feedback. • Group Reflection on Emergent Themes: Participants are led through a reflection exercise to process the distribution of roses, buds, and thorns.
12:45 p.m.	<p>Reflections & Next Steps</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Participants are reminded that the time they invested today is appreciated, that their input will be used, and that it is a part of a larger adaptation effort they have now joined.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Discussion & Evaluation: Participants are led through a discussion to evaluate the workshop and provide input to shape next steps and workshop follow-up.

This workshop was developed in partnership with Alameda County’s Office of Sustainability (GSA), with technical assistance provided by the State Coastal Conservancy.