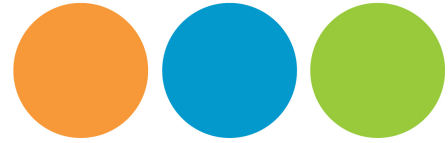


# SUSTAINABLE SEATTLE



## 2018 CLIMATE RESILIENCE SUMMIT REPORT + TAKEAWAYS

January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 | Seattle, WA

# 2018 Climate Resilience Summit

The movement to build our climate resilience has powerful implications for the future of our region - from how we deal with the increasing threats of climate disruption to how we, as a community, not only recover but prepare to thrive in the face of climate change.

Sustainable Seattle convened the third in a series of conferences under the banner of our Pacific Northwest Resilience Challenge in January - the 2018 Climate Resilience Summit.

The Summit focused on issues of equity and how we can best support communities on the front lines of climate disruption.

## Climate Resilience

The term "resilience" refers to the ability of communities to survive, adapt, and thrive, regardless of the stressors that impact them.

*Climate resilience* is often defined as the ability for communities, businesses, institutions, and ecosystems to bounce back from extreme events and withstand the long-term impacts of climate change. In contrast, we think of climate resilience as *bouncing forward* to tackle the root causes of the climate crisis while creating more equitable, just, and thriving communities. Instead of restoring impacted communities to the status quo, building climate resilience requires building new systems that will not result in degradation of the environment and will strengthen previously vulnerable communities.



## Summit Highlights + Key Takeaways

### Connect

Through **lunch conversations** and **breakout sessions**, participants at the 2018 Summit had opportunities to connect in meaningful ways while engaging in deep conversations about creating a sustainable future. "**Speed dating**" exercises in the afternoon helped participants multiply their personal and professional networks.



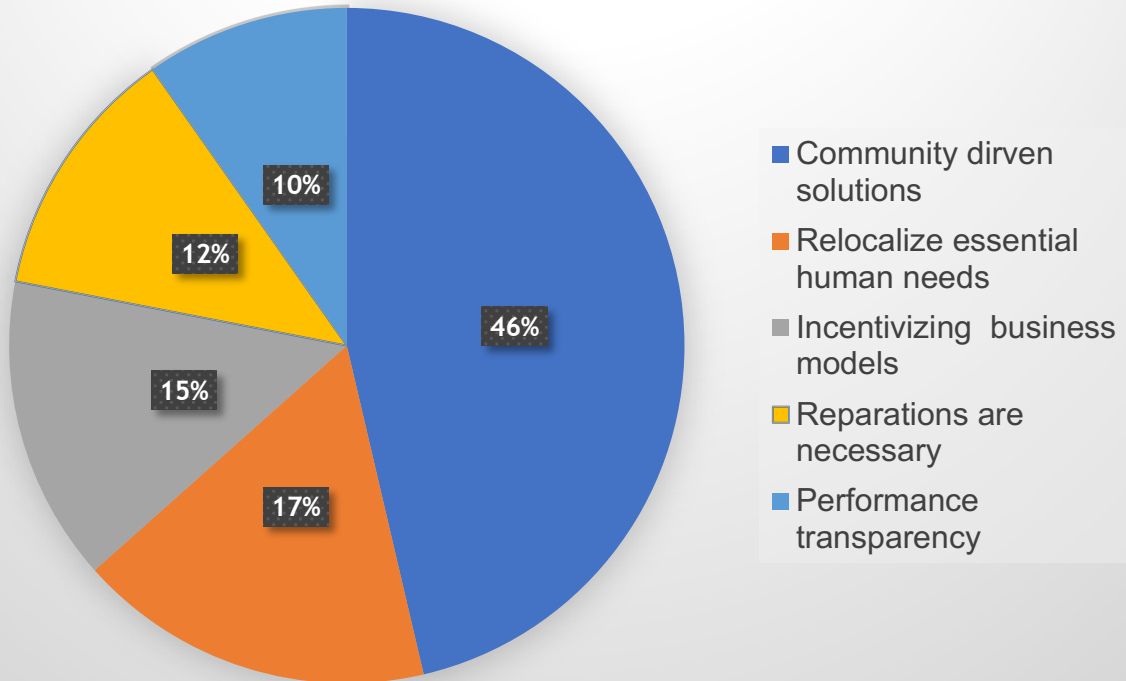
### Collaborate



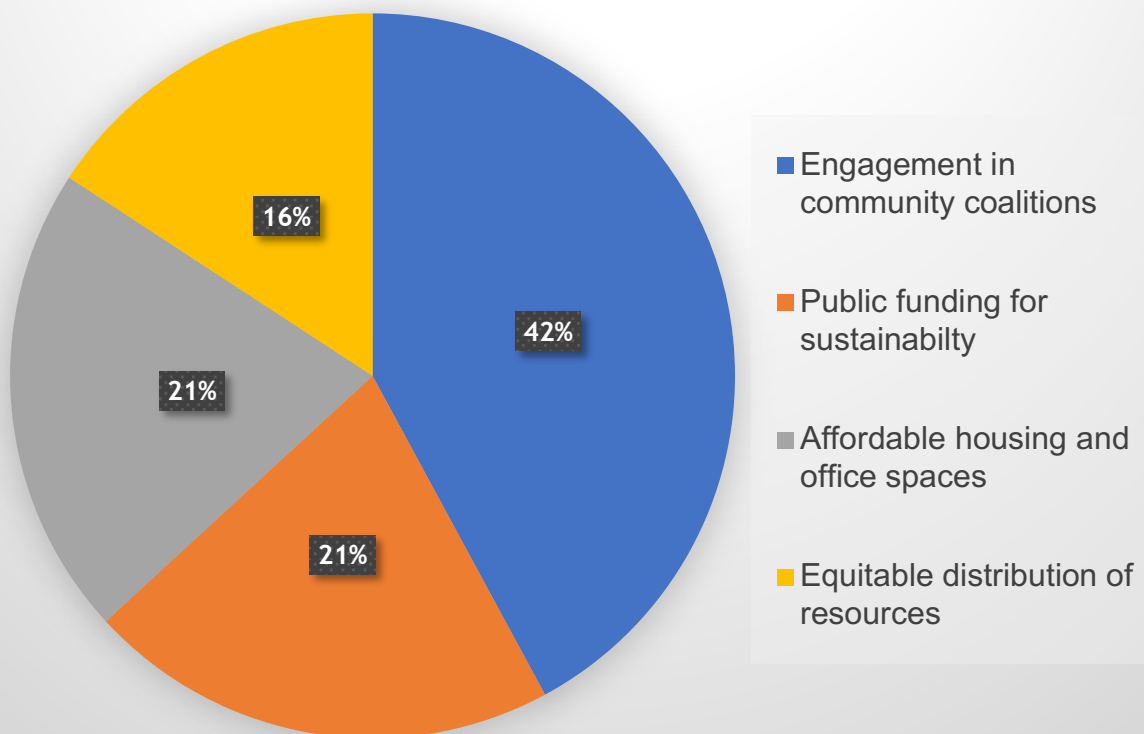
The 2018 Climate Resilience Summit brought people together from different sectors: government, business, and civic (community + nonprofit organizations). There were six different tracks for attendees to choose from that were focused on different components of climate resilience, allowing people to exchange perspectives on sustainability and priority of approaches.

In the afternoon breakout sessions, participants discussed what they needed from each sector in order to be more successful in their resilience planning and execution. The results are shown on page 3.

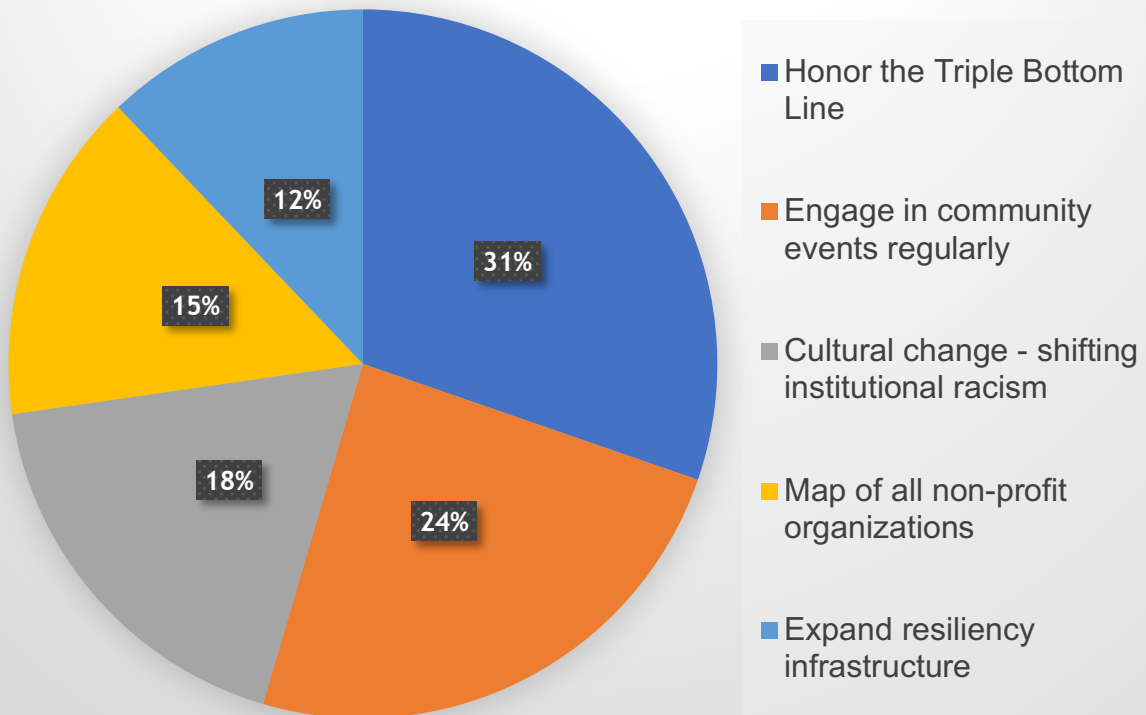
## How can we best IMPROVE our CLIMATE RESILIENCE?



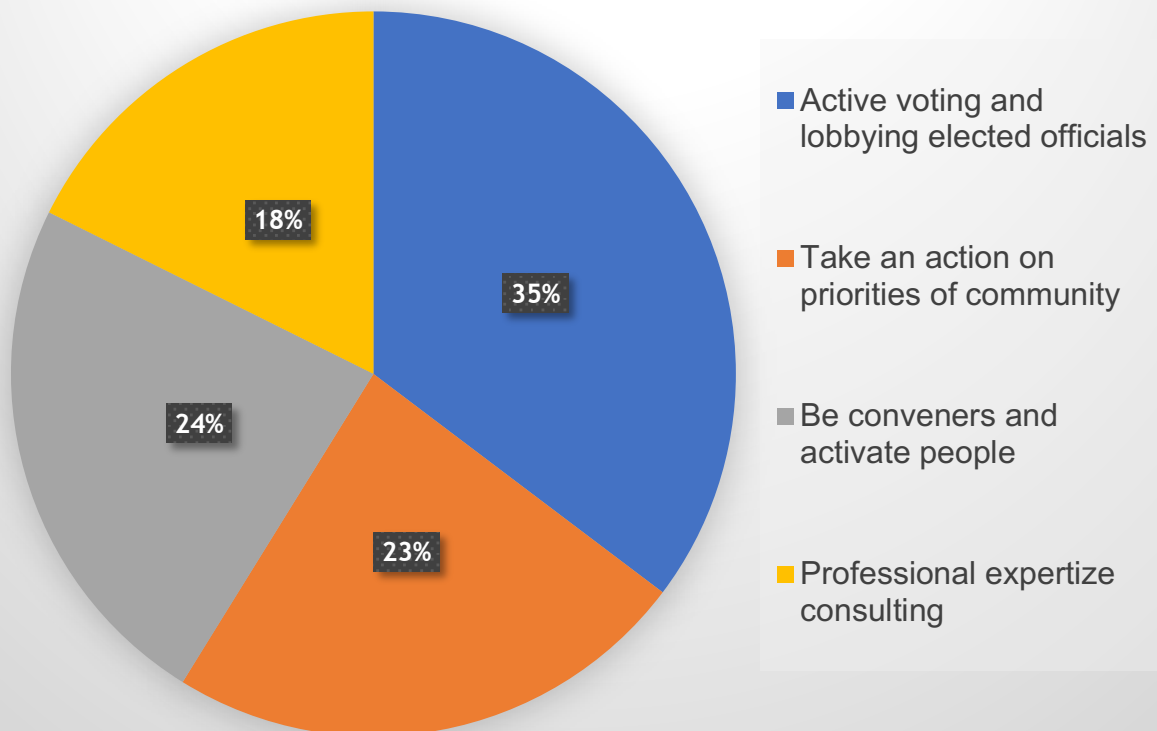
## Needs from the PUBLIC SECTOR



## Needs from the PRIVATE SECTOR



## Needs from the CIVIC SECTOR



## By the numbers

- **Over 270 participants** attended the 2018 Climate Resilience Summit.
- All **three sectors** (civic 31%, private 57% and public sector 12%) of society were represented.
- Sessions were facilitated by **over 20 organizations** representing all three sectors, including Sustainable Business Consulting, the Port of Seattle, Seattle City Light, Woodland Park Zoo, University of Washington, Got Green, and many more.
- **More than 88%** of survey respondents reported that they were ‘very satisfied’ or ‘somewhat satisfied’ with the Summit.

# Sustainable Seattle Commitments

Based on feedback from the survey and consultation with planning committee members, Sustainable Seattle will pursue the following follow up actions:

- 1) CONTINUE TO BE A CONVENER FOR SECTORS
- 2) CONTINUE DRIVING THE CONVERSATION WITH AN EQUITY LENS
- 3) USE AN EQUITY TOOLKIT FOR NEXT SUMMIT + WORKSHOPS
- 4) INVITE LARGER BUSINESSES INTO RESILIENCE PLANNING
- 5) RAISE FUNDS FOR ANOTHER SUMMIT IN 2020
- 6) HOST RESILIENCE WORKSHOPS BETWEEN NOW AND NEXT SUMMIT

# SUSTAINABLE SEATTLE

## About us

Sustainable Seattle is a non-profit organization that promotes sustainability in the greater Seattle region. We work to build a thriving future through initiatives that deliver environmental, economic and community benefits, promote equity, and build resilience.

## Thank You!

Sustainable Seattle acknowledges the generous support of our sponsors in making the 2018 Climate Resilience Summit possible.  
We couldn't have done it without you!





## TRACKS / BREAK OUT SESSIONS

### Business/Financial Systems

#### **Climate Resiliency: Finance, How it Got us into this Mess and How it is Going to Get us Out**

Kevin Wilhelm, CEO, Sustainable Business Consulting

By the end of this cross-collaborative and engaging Workshop, you will see where resiliency questions are showing up around climate change, and how to address resiliency around infrastructure, business/financial, and social justice issues. Attendees will get their hands dirty, working together to evaluate risk and come up with solutions to mitigate.

#### **Using Your Port's Influence to shift the Market Towards Climate Resilience**

Elizabeth Leavitt, Senior Director, Port of Seattle

The Port of Seattle aspires to be the greenest and most energy efficient port in North America. As an industry leader in aviation, international trade, shipping, tourism, and more, the Port plays a significant role in supporting sustainability and reducing carbon footprints across multiple sectors. In this session, participants will learn about the multiple ways that the Port of Seattle is encouraging businesses of all sizes to adopt stronger sustainability practices to support our region's economic resilience in the face of climate change.

#### **Aligning values with practice: Centering equity in your business, inside and out**

Ruth Bell, co-President and Director of Climate & Natural Resource Management, Cascadia Consulting

Tali Hairston, Director, John Perkins Center for Reconciliation, Leadership Training, and Community Development

How can your company or organization center issues of equity in your climate change work? What can you do in your role to initiate the process or help move it along? In this presentation, we will use the case study of Cascadia Consulting Group to share lessons learned and best practices for discovering an organization's story around equity and implementing organizational change and development.

### Education, Youth & Climate

#### **Local Youth are Leaders in Climate Action**

Eli Weiss, Community Engagement Supervisor, Woodland Park Zoo

Aji Piper, Local activist and member: Our Children's Trust, Earth Guardians, Plant for the Planet, and SYCAN

Rayan Krishnan, Vice President and Technology Director of Schools Under 2C

Michaela Leung, SYCAN leadership team and Discovery Corps Intern, Pacific Science Center

Hear from a panel of local youth activists on how they are fighting climate change and learn about the future of the Seattle Youth Climate Action Network, a collaborative local effort to support youth driven climate action and leadership.

#### **Building Resilience with Equitable Climate Change Education**

Alexis Alloway, Associate, Triangle Associates

Patricio Ku, Project Associate, Triangle Associates

What role does education play in climate change resilience? Learn about the need for equitable climate change education and how it can be implemented in marginalized communities. Our grassroots climate change approach will provide the audience with a toolkit of techniques that can be used to teach and empower communities on the front lines of climate change.

## **Health & Food Systems**

### **The Health Co-Benefits of Climate Change Mitigation in Washington State**

Sarah Cornett, Climate Program Organizer, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (WPSR)

Laura Skelton, Executive Director, WPSR

Margaret Kitchell, Climate and Health Task Force, WPSR

In an era of climate science denial, advocating for the health co-benefits of climate action offers a powerful and positive justification for reducing climate-warming emissions. These co-benefits result from actions that reduce the risks of climate change and promote human health simultaneously. Examples include active transportation, supporting renewable energy, greening our public spaces, and reducing the carbon footprint of our diet. Join us as we share our research on this exciting and emerging field, and brainstorm individual actions and policies to support these powerful co-benefits.

### **Are Seattle's Food Systems Sustainable?**

Paris Yates, Seattle Parks & Recreation's Urban Food System

Seattle has a rich history of culturally driven food systems that have supported local ecosystems and reflected native and immigrant agricultural practices. Seattle also has a history of fostering large corporate entities that influence social and economic norms that don't always reconcile with Seattle's liberal identity and reputation. Neighborhood community leaders and local municipal agencies are assessing the current state of Seattle food systems in an effort to answer the question 'Are Seattle's food systems sustainable'.

### **Cross-cultural Organizing for Environment and Health in Beacon Hill**

Maria Batayola, Program Coordinator, El Centro de la Raza

El Centro EPA Beacon Hill Environmental Justice Collaboration is a two year air and noise pollution health impacts education and empowerment community project. We will share what we did and what we learned to engage our diverse neighborhood towards developing a community action plan. Beacon Hill is 80% people of color, 44.4% born outside the United States with 36% not speaking English well.

## **Urban Planning: Infrastructure**

### **City/Nature for Urban Resilience: Greener Belltown = Bluer Sound**

Facilitated by Nancy Rottle, Professor, University of Washington

Three projects developed in a recent UW graduate Landscape Architecture studio address the challenge: “How can the infusion of green infrastructure and urban nature help to create vibrant, climate-resilient districts with healthy downstream environments?” Working in Seattle’s Belltown with the Seattle 2030 District, Growing Vine Street, and Recharge the Battery initiatives, the teams developed innovative and artful design proposals for reducing combined sewer overflows into Elliott Bay, cleaning stormwater, and reducing potable water use through capture and re-use. Their proposals integrate biodiversity resilience, human health, social justice, cultural amenities, integration of water into the cityscape for hydraulic performance, and urban nature.

### **Mapping Climate Risks and Planning for Resiliency– What Do Race and Place Have to Do with It?**

Laura Whitely Binder, King County Climate Team

Jamie Stroble, King County Climate Team

Dane Carson, Seattle/King County Public Health

Place matters with climate change. Spatial data and mapping can help us assess how climate risks, impacts and vulnerability vary within and between communities, and to screen climate action approaches, funding priorities, and capital projects to address equity, community needs, and assets. King County is developing publicly accessible climate data and a GIS-based mapping platform to help inform decision-making. Join us for an interactive discussion that explores: 1) how spatial data can support climate resilience and climate equity efforts, and 2) spatial data needs, questions, and priorities in our region.

### **The Contributions of Plants & Design to a Healthy and Climate Resilient Seattle**

Facilitated by Iain M Robertson, Associate Professor, UW

This lively presentation will review the ways in which plants are essential to thriving, resilient cities. These contributions range from ecosystem services, like cleaning air and stormwater, to practical issues, such as providing shade and shelter to make streets comfortable, to building resilient communities by growing food. The presentation will be illustrated with examples of successful Seattle projects at a variety of scales. We will learn why we cannot create healthy, resilient communities and cities without plants.

## **Urban Planning: Policy**

### **Community-based Resilience: The Climate Justice Project**

Jill Mangaliman, Executive Director of Got Green

Sarra Tekola, Teacher Aide, Arizona State University

An overview of what South Seattle residents and leaders from communities of color define as climate resilience, utilizing community-based participatory research. The presentation will include video, power point slides, articles, and zines of the project, which have turned into local campaigns for food security, ending displacement, and improving the health of the community.

### **Tackling Climate Change Justly and Effectively**

Sameer Ranade, Climate & Clean Energy Program Associate Washington Environmental Council

Deric Gruen, Policy & Communications, Front & Centered

Our presentation will be on the comprehensive climate change policy being developed by the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy. We will explain the policy mechanism, describe the process by which it was developed and its impact on making Washington more socially equitable and resilient to climate change. We will encourage active audience participation with questions about the problems and solutions related to the topic.

### **Yes Farm; How agencies can collaborate with community groups to activate urban open spaces.**

Ray Williams, Teacher, Art Institute of Seattle

Jared Johnson, Seattle Housing Authority

Ron Harris-White, Urban Environmental Leadership and Diversity, Antioch University and Black Farmers Collective

In January 2018 a new urban farm and innovation center will begin to take shape on public land in the center of Seattle. Representatives from the Seattle Housing Authority and the Black Farmers Collective will share the vision and process that they and Washington Department of Transportation went through to make this partnership a reality. We will also share the vision and mission of this new community building space.

## **Water & Energy Use**

### **Vision to Implementation: Our Rights to Our Rights-of-Way**

Hannah Kett, Puget Sound Cities Program Manager, The Nature Conservancy

Marisa Hagney, Living Community Challenge Manager, International Living Future Institute

While each neighborhoods' challenges in the face of a changing climate are unique, right outside of many of our front doors is the start of a solution – nature. A future where the Pacific Northwest neighborhoods can withstand and recover quickly from hardship or disaster is one that requires a comprehensive reinvention of the planning and development process. Join The Nature Conservancy and the International Living Future Institute as we highlight the benefits of nearby nature; spotlight proven strategies that center on community and environmental justice; and share on-the-ground projects that reflect these strategies.

### **Building Climate Resilience at Seattle City Light**

Crystal Raymond, Climate Adaption Strategic Advisor, Seattle City Light

Learn about the work Seattle City Light is doing to better understand how the local municipal energy system will be affected by climate change. This will include efforts to evaluate the climate vulnerabilities of infrastructure and operations and learn from past extreme events such as the low-snowpack and warm year of 2015. We will also discuss Seattle City Light's engagement with regional and national partnerships including the Dept. of Energy Partnership for Energy Sector Climate Resilience and the Skagit Climate Science Consortium.

### **Urban Tree Canopy in the PNW - Understanding the Impacts of Stormwater on Front Line Communities and How Healthy Urban Forests Can Make a Difference**

Facilitated by Brandy Reed, Interagency Director, King Conservation District

Urban tree canopy is critically important to increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change. Front line communities, such as much of south King County's urbanized neighborhoods, lack the kind of green infrastructure necessary to combat climate change's extreme weather events and associated quality of life issues. We bring together four of the region's top practitioners to discuss what's needed and what's being done right now.