



Act on Climate:

California communities addressing climate change and health



Center for
Climate Change & Health

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Central Coast Youth Highlight Connections Among Climate Change, Food Systems and Health

In Youth Action Labs organized around the US by the Alliance for Climate Education (ACE), high school students develop the leadership skills they need to take action to address climate change and its impacts in their communities. California's Central Coast is dotted with small farmworker communities whose residents labor in the fields that produce much of the nation's berries and lettuce. Action Labs helped Central Coast students understand and educate their communities about the relationships among climate change, food systems, and health.

Work in the fields is already hot and dusty, and climate change brings higher temperatures and drought, increasing the risk of heat illness and Valley Fever. Drought also means unemployment for many farmworkers, who have few job protections; and the combination of low wages, job loss, and rising food prices due to the drought means that farmworker families face increased levels of food insecurity. Students quickly recognized that farmworkers — their own families and friends, and among the hardest workers in the US — are likely to be especially hard-hit by climate change.

Youth-led ACE works nationally to educate and inspire young people to tackle climate change. ACE's goal by 2020 is to educate, inspire, and activate 12 million teens and young adults as part of a multigenerational force for carbon reduction and healthy communities. The Central Coast Action Labs have been a place for students to talk about climate change issues that their community and families already face on a daily basis, and about how climate change impacts the food system and public health.

With guidance from ACE's AshEL Eldridge, students from Watsonville, Salinas, Santa Cruz, and Gonzales launched a regional Follow the Food campaign. Recognizing that healthy and strong communities begin with appreciation for one's community, the students organized the first ever Central Coast Farmworker Appreciation Day, held in June 2014. Organizations from around the state such as Building Healthy Communities, the Food Empowerment Project, Baktun 12, Alba Farms and Community Food and Justice Coalition collaborated with local community leaders to support the event. Youth, farmworkers, community leaders, local organizations, and businesses joined together to celebrate farmworkers, and provided a platform for the Central Coast community to raise their voices about the environmental and economic issues that



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Youth, farmworkers, community leaders, local organizations, and businesses joined together to celebrate farmworkers, and provided a platform for the Central Coast community to raise their voices about the environmental and economic issues affecting health in the region.

affect the physical health of communities in the region. The day not only provided the opportunity to honor those who help put food on our plates, but also provided the opportunity to raise awareness and understanding about the impacts of climate change on our health and well-being.

While Farmworker Appreciation Day brought people together to honor the farmworkers of California's Central Coast, the students know that organizing and community building can't stop with this one event. These youth plan to continue working together toward a healthier, more resilient community.

For more information:

Alliance for Climate Education: acespace.org

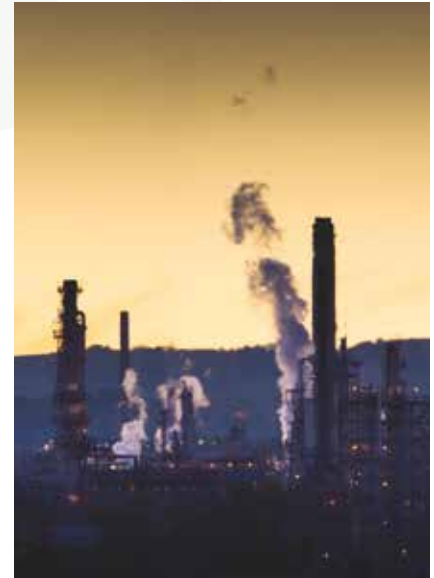


Health Department Brings Health and Equity Lens to Contra Costa County Climate Action Plan

In April of 2012, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors initiated a process to develop a Climate Action Plan that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the unincorporated areas of the county. Contra Costa sits toward the north end of the San Francisco Bay Area and is home to four oil refineries and 39 other industrial facilities that handle large amounts of hazardous materials. For over a decade, Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) has been tackling the environmental issues and health inequities faced by the communities that live in the shadow of these facilities, with dedicated staff to focus on environmental justice and community engagement. Recognizing that climate change would affect these same communities the most, a small group of people had been discussing what they could do to address the issue. The proposed Climate Action Plan offered the opportunity they'd been looking for.

"We recognized that climate change is going to hit hardest the communities in Contra Costa County already dealing with health disparities," said Michael Kent, the Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Ombudsman. At the same time, Kent and the rest of the group believed that county strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions had the potential to *improve* conditions for county residents. The group, made up of public health staff who work on issues ranging from environmental justice, indoor air quality, and epidemiology to the built environment, decided to analyze the health co-benefits of activities that might be pursued under the Climate Action Plan.

They felt their analysis would do two things: 1) support passage of the Climate Action Plan, by helping county supervisors and the public understand the connection between climate change and health; and 2) make sure that the plan prioritized people's health and reducing health inequities. They did an analysis of health co-benefits in 10 areas, looking at health benefit, the potential to reduce health disparities, and at whether the strategy also offered some adaptation benefit. "The biggest challenge in doing the analysis was the methodology," remarks Kent, "ideally, you'd want to quantify this stuff." The group ended up doing qualitative analyses instead. They felt that there was not sufficient quantitative information across their 10 areas. They were also concerned that the models used in the available quantitative analyses were not a good fit for the circumstances in Contra Costa.



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CCHS has long been a thought leader, substantially contributing to increased focus on addressing the social determinants of health by local health departments. When they undertook their analysis of the Climate Action Plan, says Kent, “I couldn’t find anybody who’d done anything this comprehensive. As far as I know, it’s the only one that’s been done that has looked at all these areas for all different types of greenhouse gas reduction measures.” He strongly believes, however, that this type of analysis is something other departments could do.

The group approached the Department of Conservation and Development, charged with developing the Climate Action Plan, before ever starting their analysis, establishing a relationship that ensured that their report was well received, and the recommendations embraced. The effort had clear benefits in the development of the Climate Action Plan. “Our analysis helped the department see that, with not much tweaking, you could turn it from a general measure into one that could make a real difference to address health disparities.” For example when choosing between solar panels and weatherization to reduce energy use, weatherization was the clear winner from a health benefits perspective. And making sure weatherization support was directed first to low income communities could make a further difference for disadvantaged families by giving them cleaner indoor air, warmer winters and lower energy bills.

While the Climate Action Plan awaits approval at the county, the group from CCHS has been active presenting at workshops and meetings within the county, in the Bay Area region, and at the State, continuing to draw attention to the health impacts and opportunities of climate change. They’re also building connections within Contra Costa, and looking at what they, from within the health department, can do next to help move the needle on climate change. After all, insists Kent, “If you do all of the things that make sense to mitigate climate change, and it turns out current dire climate change predictions *don’t* occur, where do you end up? With communities that are more walkable, greener, cleaner, and more equitable.”

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Solar School Buses a “Disruptive Innovation” to Reduce Emissions, Protect Lungs

California’s Santa Clara County, home to Silicon Valley, Santa Cruz beaches and a diverse population across the economic spectrum, received a “D” in two out of three air quality indicators in the American Lung Association’s 2014 State of the Air report. Transportation is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions in California and a leading contributor to air pollution. So **Breathe California of the Bay Area (Breathe CA)**, together with a select, cross-sector team of partners, embarked on an innovative strategy to eliminate some of that diesel pollution. They’re piloting an electric school bus, with a plan to create a solar-powered bus fleet for the Gilroy Unified School District that could spark change around the country.

Breathe California was founded in 1911 to address tuberculosis, moved on to asthma and other respiratory diseases, and has been combatting cigarette smoking for decades. Wildfires brought home the connection between climate change and respiratory disease. “I ended up in the Kaiser ER for the first time in my life because of the Santa Clara fires,” said Breathe CA’s CEO, Margo Sidener. The organization quickly began to recognize the broader lung threats of climate change, such as increased ozone levels and more ragweed pollens. It was time to engage. “We look for what’s coming down the road, and we help communities to mobilize,” says Sidener.

Through its Seniors Breathe Easy program and its Youth for a Cool Earth, Breathe CA is engaging seniors and youth to become environmental ambassadors and advocates. “Seniors and youth seem way more interested in the environment than the rest of us,” observes Sidener. Breathe CA and its cadre of volunteers has played an important role in passing local transportation policies to improve air quality.

In May, 2014 Breathe CA, the Gilroy Unified School District, and their partners unveiled the first bus in California to be converted from a regular yellow diesel school bus into an electric bus. Soon up to 25% of the bus’s power



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needs will come from a solar grid on site at school. The plan is to convert the school district's entire fleet. The prototype bus began transporting Gilroy students to school that fall.

Initial funding for the project came from a "disruptive innovation" grant from the Santa Clara Health Trust. Technical expertise was donated in kind, as was the financial expertise to calculate return on investment, bringing investors on board as well as helping to make the case to the school district. Despite up-front conversion costs, the buses will save the school district money. The district currently spends roughly \$17,000 per bus per year on fuel. Converting to electric reduces that cost, and installing on-site solar grids to provide a portion of the power saves even more. Social impact investment will pay for the initial bus conversions, to be repaid out of the cost savings; schools will be able to direct the remainder of the savings to other needs. To ensure that the newly converted buses will be well maintained and that the project doesn't threaten jobs, current bus maintenance staff will be trained to care for the new engines — making these workers part of the new, green economy. This broad, multifaceted approach is the "disruptive innovation" that could make this project an important model nationwide.

For the children of Gilroy who ride the newly converted electric buses, the health benefits will be immediate: they'll no longer have to breathe the diesel fumes that seep inside on a regular bus. The electric school bus is a testament to the power of cross-sector partnerships, innovative thinking, and the importance of multiple 'wins' as we transition transportation and other systems to protect our climate and our health.

For more information:

Breathe California of the Bay Area: www.lungsrus.org/BreatheCA

Climate Change is a Social Justice Issue in Inglewood, California

Inglewood in Southern California sits at the intersection of two freeways and right under the flight path of the Los Angeles International Airport, one of the busiest airports in the world. This community, which is over 80% people of color, is burdened by both the causes and consequences of climate change, including significant air pollution. In 2012, the Social Justice Learning Institute (SJLI) launched the Healthy and Sustainable Inglewood Collaborative (HSIC) to help the community get involved in community planning processes that could make a difference, such as the long-overdue update to the city's General Plan. As SJLI executive director Dr. D'Artagnan Scorza puts it, "In Inglewood, climate change is a significant social justice issue."

A Public Health Institute *Creating a Climate for Health* pilot project grant provided the opportunity the collaborative needed to bring several existing strands of work together to focus on climate change. Facilitated by SJLI, the Inglewood collaborative developed a Health and Climate Action Plan, to ensure that climate and health are key principles woven into the new General Plan.

"There's quite a bit of development happening in Inglewood right now," said Dr. Scorza, noting that the St. Louis Rams football team owner has purchased land in Inglewood and there are plans for a new NFL stadium. "We're working to make sure that climate change adaptation is incorporated and central in community development, and that the health needs of the community are considered."

SJLI led the process in ways that blended trust-building and inclusiveness with focused, decision-oriented meetings that enabled the community to draft a comprehensive climate and health plan in 14 months. HSIC monthly meetings became community needs assessment workshops and a forum for developing a vision and strategy, while SJLI oversaw a review of community plans from around the country to learn from what had been done before. Public informational meetings followed, garnering additional input from across the community. The Health and Climate Action Plan was completed in October 2014 and educational/promotional campaigns roll out in summer of 2015.



"We're working to make sure that climate change adaptation and the health needs of the community are central in community development."

“We defined climate change in a relatable way.”



The Plan centers on a set of strategies to improve health equity outcomes while mitigating climate change across nine “settings”: transportation; urban greening; energy, waste and water; air quality; land use and zoning; food and agriculture; economic development; community engagement; and climate adaptation. HSIC members, including community residents, community-based organizations, agencies, and other partners, reviewed local data and maps and drew upon case studies from similar efforts. For each setting, SJLI talked about the local situation, provided data, and described the larger context. For example, SJLI discussed the local water supply, how it relates to the watershed, and why that watershed is depleted, before leading a group discussion about solutions.

“We defined climate change in a relatable way, helping our residents understand, for example, how climate change may be linked to your grandmother getting a heat stroke,” explains Scorza. “The process let folks define what adaptation means to them, whether that’s planting trees or reducing car travel or growing food.” Collaborative members selected their highest priority strategies for each setting.

Key partnerships strengthened the process. TreePeople co-led the planning process. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) helped ensure that health was woven into all of the strategies, and alerted the group to grant opportunities. LACDPH also conducted a more in-depth community assessment, with SJLI youth, through the Communities of Excellence in Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention (CX3) program. The collaborative involved the city planning department as a participating member of the collaborative early on, so that the plan that emerged would be welcomed by the department.

The Health and Climate Action Plan is under review, but has already served as the basis for an active transportation grant that will begin to make the community’s vision for Inglewood a reality. Start to finish, SJLI worked to create a plan that would have traction, from building partnerships, to providing well-researched background information, to ongoing community outreach. “A collaborative planning process takes a little bit longer,” Dr. Scorza concludes, “but lets you make sure the strategies in the plan are ones you can run with immediately, because the community has ownership over them.”

For more information:

Social Justice Learning Institute: www.sjli.org

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Valley Improvement Projects: “Working with the community to improve the community”

In 1975, the United Farm Workers march to a large winery in Modesto energized the successful push for laws to protect farmworkers’ rights. More than 30 years later, Modesto-based Valley Improvement Projects (VIP) is carrying on the area’s history of fighting for social and environmental justice. VIP has a vision of sustainable communities with clean air, water, and soil, powered by renewable energy.

Located in California’s San Joaquin Valley, Modesto has long grappled with some of the worst air quality in the nation, and faces ongoing struggles over water access and rights. Climate change makes a bad situation worse when warming temperatures, acting on air pollutants, create yet more smog. And California’s now several year drought has made less water available for any use, leaving fields fallow and many of the poorest communities without drinking water. In addition, current business and development trends in the Modesto region emphasize sprawl, commuter economies and truck transport, further increasing greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollution.

Recognizing the impact of these environmental harms on poor communities and communities of color, in 2012 Emiliano Mataka, Bianca Lopez, Thomas Helme and Adam Brazil formed Valley Improvement Projects to improve quality of life for marginalized residents of the Valley. VIP advocates for smart growth, alternative transportation, clean water, and better air quality — all issues that are linked to climate change, and that are essential to a better quality of life for Valley residents. In 2013 VIP went on to establish its Community Center for Social and Environmental Justice, offering services including computer and phone access; meeting space; a bicycle workshop; a library; clothes and food collection and distribution; and youth tutoring and art activities. The founders envision the center as a place for underrepresented people to learn, assemble and organize.

VIP works to address the root causes of pollution and climate change. Their *5 Point Platform* includes pushing for environmental justice and public health by emphasizing natural, sustainable agricultural and environmental practices. It emphasizes empowering and serving “the underrepresented and marginalized,” including youth and diverse community members, those without stable living conditions, and tenants and workers. Ensuring accountability from law enforcement, prison and immigration systems is also a key pillar of their work.



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True to its organizing focus, VIP collaborates with a wide range of environmental justice organizations and movements locally, statewide and at the national level addressing clean air, water, and soil as well as efficient, “green” community development and transportation. Key partners include the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition, California Cleaner Freight Coalition, Central California Environmental Justice Network, Greenaction for Health & Environmental Justice, Catholic Charities, California Environmental Justice Coalition, and the Peace and Life Center.

VIP’s motto is “Working with the community to *improve* the community,” and they know that their vision can only be achieved by building a critical mass of empowered people from the community, united in the fight for environmental and social justice and equality. This means nurturing a culture of involvement and awareness. VIP members attend public/governmental meetings, assist community members with resources and information, and hold educational workshops. VIP is actively involved in the anti-Keystone XL Pipeline movement, the anti-Monsanto movement, and the anti-fracking movement. In February of 2015 the power of organizing brought VIP members together with 8000 people from across the state, at an Oakland March for Climate Leadership demanding that the governor address fracking. Building on a decades-long history in Modesto of organizing and activism, VIP is working for people-powered change to improve the environment for health in the Valley.

For more information:

Valley Improvement Projects: valleyimprovementprojects.org,
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Working with Community Clinics to Link Climate and Health in San Diego

City Heights and National City are diverse, low income communities in the San Diego/Tijuana region of Southern California, with residents that include refugees and immigrants from over 60 countries. It is a region that is facing the impacts of climate change, including wildfires, heat waves, and water issues, and in some communities, air pollution and higher asthma rates.

The Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) works in the region to address environmental justice issues, and partnered with La Maestra Community Health Centers on a *Creating a Climate for Health* pilot project funded by the Public Health Institute. EHC built upon its “deep energy education” model to train La Maestra clinic staff and Promotores about the connections between climate change and health. EHC provided materials to help Promotores and staff communicate with patients about the connections, and it laid the groundwork to link both clinic personnel and patients/community members to opportunities to influence and advocate for San Diego’s Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan (CMAP).

The EHC “deep education” approach starts by working from the concerns immediately relevant to community members, and showing how their actions make a difference for their families while also making a difference for the planet. In the case of energy, for example, Promotores showed families how they could save money by reducing their energy usage, teaching them to track kilowatts, turn lights off and change out light bulbs. Families saw immediate savings, while also knowing they were reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that cause “calentamiento global” [global warming].

“We put it like this to the communities we work with,” said EHC Campaign Director Leticia Ayala, “Do we want to do something? Or do we want to do nothing?”

In communities already grappling with high rates of asthma and periods of extreme heat, the connection between climate change and health has been easy to draw. At this southernmost border of California, climate change is already regularly producing record-breaking heat waves, bigger and more frequent wildfires, worsening air quality, and threatens water supplies and food prices. “We start with questions like, “How many of you kept your kids out of school due to wildfires this week?” explains Ayala.



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EHC trained 40 La Maestra Promotores and over 30 physicians and developed accessible, bilingual, engagingly-illustrated educational materials for patients, focusing on sources of air pollution, the impacts on health, and the “invisible threat” of climate change. Materials highlighted actions individuals and families could take in the home to address climate change, and in their community such as engaging with the CMAP process. The clinic has also committed to adding two questions about climate change to their intake forms: 1) Do you have air conditioning? 2) Do you live near a “Cool Island”?

When the climate plan faced delays, EHC and La Maestra took the opportunity to conduct deeper and more specialized training with medical directors, nurses and medical staff, preparing lead medical staff to deliver key messages about the importance of the CMAP to government officials. Says Ayala, “Community testimony is more powerful if we’re also there with doctors.” Forty Promotores and six physicians signed EHC’s CMAP petition.

Through a combination of direct outreach, in-clinic patient education and materials, and online outreach, over 11,000 La Maestra patients and EHC community residents will have learned about how they can take action to protect their health from climate change; and engagement with the CMAP process continues. EHC and La Maestra have developed a powerful community and health center partnership to weigh in on the climate change that is already directly touching families’ lives in these communities.

For more information:

Environmental Health Coalition: www.environmentalhealth.org

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Building a Community-Engaged Approach to Adaptation and Resilience in Oakland, CA

The West Oakland community of Oakland, California has many reasons to be concerned about climate change. The neighborhood is close to sea level, and its aging infrastructure is easily flooded. Increased smog produced by warmer days compounds the neighborhood's already poor air quality. Few parks and little green cover leave residents exposed during heat waves. Many residents here already grapple with poverty, unemployment and limited access to healthy foods. At the same time, West Oakland has a long history of social justice activism, and is home to numerous community-based organizations that support anti-displacement, urban agriculture, and other environmental, community justice and resilience efforts. In this milieu, the Resilience and Adaptation Committee of the Oakland Climate Action Coalition (OCAC) is working to address the threats of climate change with solutions that build on community strengths and focus on locally scaled, community driven, sustainable steps that improve residents' quality of life.

"The people who are most vulnerable [to climate change] live here in the flatlands," says Margaret Gordon, co-lead of the committee, and co-director of the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP). "We're working to put the infrastructure piece, the health piece and the economic piece together with climate adaptation and with justice."

"We want to connect residents to the information they need so they can take personal and community action to address climate change impacts and reduce emissions," adds committee co-lead Catalina Garzon. With a strong emphasis on policy, the committee is also working to build resilience into land use and transportation plans and into the city's Energy and Climate Action Plan, bringing a strong community lens to bear on these defining planning processes. Pilot project funding from Public Health Institute enabled the committee to prepare city agencies and West Oakland residents to collaborate more effectively on climate resilience and adaptation.



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To do so, the Resilience and Adaptation Committee mounted an interactive workshop and a health fair to increase residents' understanding of the climate change impacts most relevant to West Oakland – wildfires, flooding, extreme heat, and poor air quality – and guided participants to identify the assets and strengths they bring. The Climate Change Survivor game taught residents about climate change impacts and how people can help protect themselves and their families. And using sticky dots and a map of the community, participants drew their social networks within the neighborhood, launching a discussion of the importance of those social connections as mutual resources

during an emergency. “The doomsday framing doesn’t really work,” says Garzon. “People are overloaded.” Events are structured to be fun, focus on strengths, and let community priorities drive the conversation. “People were interested in energy and water efficiency because we could talk about impact on their pocket book.”

The committee also convened over 50 city, county and regional agency staff and community organization staff providing training and strategies on how to reach community residents, build trust, and work toward effective collaboration. The meeting showed agencies how their effectiveness depends on having a strong, positive relationship with a connected and prepared community.

The stakes here are high. With new, higher end development coming into West Oakland, community involvement is critical to ensuring that existing residents also benefit, such as from much needed upgrades to the their own sewers and other infrastructure. “We want retrofits, green infrastructure and meaningful input into the process,” insists WOEIP’s Gordon. Without community members at the table and resilience as a goal, adaptation solutions often take the form of infrastructure “hardening” and disaster response planning. The Resilience and Adaptation Committee instead promotes climate adaptation solutions that, simultaneously, improve the neighborhood and quality of life. The “green infrastructure” to which Gordon refers includes things like community gardens that reduce heat islands, provide neighborhood-based sources of food during emergencies, and offer healthier food year round and economic opportunity for growers. “We talk about how [these solutions] could connect with everyday needs,” explains co-lead Garzon.

The work of the committee, in this community that is engaged in many long term environmental justice fights, is ongoing. The promise of the Resilience and Adaptation Committee’s approach is that by focusing on *community*-based resilience, there is the opportunity to improve quality of life in overburdened, disadvantaged communities, even while preparing for and adapting to the threats of climate change.

For more information:

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Fighting for Environmental Justice in the Diesel Death Zone

Wilmington, California is a poster child in the struggle for environmental justice. Over 85% of Wilmington's 70,000 residents are Latino, and 35% live in poverty. Wilmington is home to two of the largest US ports, four major oil refineries, four asphalt refineries, a large oil field, and many other industrial facilities; it is also surrounded by three major freeways and crossed by the Alameda train corridor. Jesse Marquez, a lifelong Wilmington resident who lives four blocks from the Port of Los Angeles, decided something needed to be done to address the alarming public health and safety risks in his community.

"Almost every family I know has someone suffering from asthma, respiratory health problems, lung disease, or cancer," says Marquez. "Our community is located in what is now called the "Diesel Death Zone." But when Marquez traveled to Sacramento to inform state legislators about the magnitude of the public health and safety crisis his community faced, he says the response was chilling — California Assemblymembers, says Marquez, wrote off Wilmington's environmental toxicity as simply the cost of economic growth in Southern California. This response galvanized Marquez and in 2001, he founded the Coalition for a Safe Environment (CFASE), a community-based organization that fights for environmental health and justice in the harbor communities near the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. CFASE works to mitigate and eliminate public exposure and public health impacts caused by air, land and water pollution generated by the ports, international cargo & cruise ships, the petroleum industry, energy sources and the goods movement industry.

Marquez believes that the public has a right to know about the risks. In 2014, CFASE launched the LA Community Environmental Enforcement Network, installing an air-quality monitor on the roof of a family's home at the fenceline of the Phillips 66 refinery. The solar-powered device will gather real-time data on the levels of air pollution that Wilmington residents are breathing in, and the results will be posted online.



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CFASE has received national recognition for its success in negotiating community benefits agreements with innovative mitigation measures to improve air quality, and with public health and alternative technology programs at the ports. But it has not been easy. "Our work gets personal. My life has been threatened numerous times," says Marquez. But he adds, "those of us who choose to be outspoken as community leaders take on personal sacrifices because we understand the importance of our work and the significant future benefits for our families, our neighbors, and our community."

Partnering with universities that can provide research to build the evidence about the area's toxic exposures and their impact on health, and establishing an online community complaint system to track problems, are two CFASE strategies to help push for the policy changes required to protect this community. Others include lawsuits against polluters, and against government regulatory agencies for failing to protect local communities. CFASE has also submitted countless public comments on the numerous laws, rules, regulations, public policies, programs and projects shaping the port, its operations, and transportation and industrial activity in the region. While the work of CFASE may "get personal" and be local, the implications of that work touch us all. As the largest port complex in the US, LA/Longbeach brings in a substantial proportion of the imported goods that people living in the US buy every day; and while those living in the Diesel Death Zone bear the majority of the immediate health burden, the greenhouse gas emissions contribute to the global climate change affecting us all.

For more information:

Coalition for a Safe Environment: 310-704-1265



Center for Climate Change & Health

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The **Center for Climate Change and Health** draws upon the significant technical, advocacy and research capacities of the Public Health Institute to address one of the most vital and pressing issues of the day—the impacts of climate change on human health.

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