



Breakout Session Descriptions

Part I: 11:30 am – 12:45 pm

Session 1: Good Green Jobs for All

Portland is often identified as leading the way in green jobs and effectively combining environmental protection and economic opportunity. The third "E" of equity is often forgotten and communities of color have not historically benefitted economically or environmentally. Speakers will discuss the importance of incorporating equity in green job creation and highlight concrete opportunities for decision-makers and citizens to ensure that communities of color in Portland benefit from existing and newly created green jobs opportunities.

Session Leaders:

Connie Ashbrook, Oregon Tradeswomen

Tony DeFalco, Verde Energy

Yalonda Sinde, Yalonda Sinde Consulting

Desiree Williams-Rajee, Center for Diversity and the Environment

Session 2: Organizing for Equity and Sustainability in the African American Church: a caucus of clergy from Portland and Vancouver

Co-facilitated by Bishop H.L. Hodge, Ph.D., Pastor, Northwest for Christ Ministries, Executive Secretary Pacific Northwest Region COGIC United, President NAACP Portland Branch 1120 and Earl W. Ford, Immediate Past President, Vancouver NAACP, this session will engage church leaders in a discussion of the role of the African American church in organizing for equity in areas such as education, healthcare, parenting/supporting families, employment readiness/economic development, and the criminal justice system.

Session Leaders:

Bishop Robert Andrew, St. Jude Apostolic Church (Portland)

Rev. Cliff Chappel, District Superintendent, Church of God in Christ (Portland)

Rev. H.B. Daniels, Pastor Daniels Memorial COGIC

Rev. Marva Edwards, New Life AME Zion (Vancouver)

Rev. Levi Harris, Community AME Zion (Vancouver)

Rev. Leroy Haynes, Allen Temple CME (Portland)

Rev. Antoinette Rochelle, Community AME Zion (Vancouver)

Session 3: Crossing the River, Bridging Divides?

Come learn why the mega-bridge plan for the Columbia River Crossing just doesn't measure up to our aspirations for a livable future. Our speakers present a variety of health and equity considerations related to the project and invite you to get involved in shaping the debate around our region's biggest public works project.

Session leaders:

Leslie Carlson, Portland/Multnomah Sustainable Development Commission

Sylvia Evans, REPOWER

Mel Rader, Upstream Public Health

Vivek Shandas, Assistant Professor of Urban Studies and Planning, Portland State University

Session 4: “Unbreakable Bridges: White allies building inclusive communities by eliminating racism”: Part 1 (This is a two-part training that runs through both breakout sessions)

This workshop is for white people who are interested in learning to be strong allies to people of color and taking leadership on healing racism. Working from the lens of environmental justice, this workshop will give participants the principles and best practices for being a strong ally for inclusion and eliminating racism.

Session leaders:

Robert Marino, Bainbridge Graduate Institute

Judith Mowry, City of Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement

Jeri Williams, City of Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement

Session 5: Voices of Homelessness: A Qualitative Research Project from Sisters Of The Road

After completing hundreds of interviews with people experiencing homelessness, Sisters Of The Road has identified seven key barriers to eradicating homelessness. Speakers will share key findings of the research and train session participants on how to use their online database containing the wealth of information compiled during the research to help inform community work from the grassroots to the grassstops.

Session leaders:

Heather Fercho, Sisters Of The Road

Katherine Moore, Sisters Of The Road

Session 6: Bridging the Green Divide: Supporting Green Jobs with Your Group's Environmental Spending

When environmental groups spend money, they produce more than environmental benefits - they produce economic benefits. In this session, Friends of Trees' leaders will describe the group's work with Verde to use their tree planting dollars to support green jobs and job training in low-income communities. Their experiences can serve as a model for how other environmental groups can use their spending to support green jobs and job training.

Session leaders:

James Allison, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

Michelle Bussard, Forest Park Conservancy

Scott Fogarty, Friends of Trees

Alan Hipolito, Verde

Session 7: Building the Global City: Toward an Inclusive, Multicultural Community (a roundtable discussion)

From the role of the Oregon DMV in policing immigration, to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids and hate crimes and incidents, to the controversy surrounding César Chávez Boulevard, the greater metropolitan area faces significant challenges in integrating newcomers into the life of the city. This workshop will focus on programs, policy initiatives and organizing strategies for building an inclusive, multicultural community.

Session leaders:

Andrea Cano, Latino Network

Ronault LS Catalani, Refugee and Immigrant Affairs, Office of Human Relations, City of Portland

Kayse Jama, Center for Intercultural Organizing

Ramón Ramírez, President, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos Noroeste

Aimee Santos-Lyons, Race and Gender Justice Field Organizer and Trainer, Western States Center

Session 8: Organizing for Equity in Education

Join a discussion to identify resources and strategies for empowering communities to organize for educational equity.

Session leaders:

Martin Gonzalez, Portland School Board/Latino Network/Trimet

Armando Laguardia, Washington State University Vancouver

Maria Rodriguez Salazar, League of United Latin American Citizens

Ty Schwoefferman, Black Parent Initiative

Breakout Session Descriptions

Part II: 2:15 pm – 3:30 pm

Session 1: Regional Equity Atlas II: Mapping regional equity and health in the future

Roll up your sleeves in this work session to join partners in beginning to craft a plan for updating and expanding the *Regional Equity Atlas* when data from the 2010 census becomes available. The form and scope of the updated Atlas is likely to be quite different from the first publication. For example, you'll hear about our pilot effort to integrate health into the atlas. Building on lessons learned, successes and challenges, community needs and new ideas, we intend to develop the next generation of our region's equity atlas. Help craft the plan. Become a partner.

Session leaders:

Suzanne Briggs, Kaiser Permanente

Jill Fuglister, Coalition for a Livable Future

Meg Merrick, Portland State University

Nancy Stevens, Kaiser Permanente

Tricia Tillman, Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Multicultural Health

Session 2: Urban Revitalization vs. Urban Renewal: What's Portland Approach?

Come hear about the impacts of gentrification on low income communities and communities of color in Portland, and join a discussion on policies and strategies that address issues of equity and environmental justice.

Session leaders:

Rachael Banks, Multnomah County Health Department Chronic Disease Prevention Program

Willie Brown, Black Citizens Coalition of Portland Neighborhoods

Clark Henry, City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services Brownfield Program

Nick Kahl, Oregon State Representative (D), District 49

Nick Sauvie, ROSE Community Development Corporation

Yalonda Sinde, Organizing People Activating Leaders

Session 3: Making Sense and Change out of Transportation Dollars

While some crumbling roads and bridges may be rescued by federal stimulus funds, we are struggling to find dollars to keep transit running, even as demand intensifies at the bus stop and on light rail. Meanwhile, navigating our streets on foot or bike often feels as if we're taking our lives in our hands. Our speakers will illuminate the money flows and disbursements from national to individual pocket books and engage participants in discussing how to make transportation investments more equitable.

Session Leaders:

Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons, Coalition for a Livable Future

Al Bradbury, Portland Transit Riders Union

Mara Gross, Coalition for a Livable Future

Roberta Hunte, Oregon Tradeswomen Inc,

Dave Mayfield, Cogan Owens Cogan

Session 4: Unbreakable Bridges: White allies building inclusive communities by eliminating racism Part 2, Continuation from Session 1

See above description (Session I)

Session 5: Counting the Dead: Developing Protocols for Tracking the Deaths of Homeless

While King County, WA, Santa Cruz, and San Francisco track the deaths of homeless people, Portland, Vancouver, and other metro area governments have yet to develop formal tracking protocols. This round table discussion will foreground the importance of this data in demonstrating the lethal effects of homelessness in our communities and in advocating for the basic human right to housing, and address barriers to tracking this data as well as strategies for overcoming those barriers.

Session leaders:

Israel Bayer, *Street Roots*

Ryan Diebert, Portland Housing & Community Development Ending Homelessness Initiative

Paul Lewis, M.D., Deputy Health Officer, Multnomah County Public Health Department

Craig Lyons, Vancouver Council for the Homeless

Representatives of the Women's Housing Equality and Enhancement League (WHEEL)

Session 6: Voices of Youth: Hear what youth in our communities have to say about sustainability and equity

Hear students share their experiences working on environmental sustainability programs at school, cleaning up brownfields, or finding creative ways to express their concerns and visions about the future health and vitality of our region. Help strengthen their work by finding out what tools and support they need in their efforts to create a more equitable and sustainable region.

Session leaders:

Susan Beaird, Multnomah Learning Center

Julie Hoffman, Multnomah Learning Center

4th-6th grade students from the Multnomah Learning Center

Eloe Gil-Williams, Caldera Student/Film Apprentice

Paris Hart Caldera Student/Photography Apprentice

Julie Keefe, Caldera Student Mentor

Billy Miller, Caldera Student Mentor

Deborah Hodges, Caldera Student Mentor

Andrea Hamberg, Groundwork Portland

Session 7: Home Is Where Your Health Is: Moving Forward with Health Equity and Housing

Ensuring access to affordable, healthy housing is an essential step toward more equitable and healthy communities. Yet, we face an unprecedented economic recession and foreclosure crisis that are creating enormous new challenges in our region's housing market. Come to this session and learn how to frame the connection between health equity and housing and hear what the Portland Community Land Trust is doing to address this critical and growing need in our region, focusing on racial and ethnic populations. Explore assumptions and new ideas about how we can seize this moment of crisis and use it as a catalyst for advancing housing and health equity in our region.

Session leaders:

Lilia Alvarez, Portland Community Land Trust

Sonali Balajee, Multnomah County Health Equity Initiative

Session 8: Working on “Just Sustainability” from Inside Government: What Sustainability Coordinators Are Getting Done.

Local sustainability officials will address equity issues - food access, preparing at-risk populations for climate change, and social services - related to the sustainability work they are leading.

Session leaders:

Molly Chidsey, Metro, Sustainability Center

Peter DuBois, Clark County

Michael Piper, City of Vancouver Water Resource Center