



Coalition for a Livable Future

2011



REGIONAL LIVABILITY SUMMIT

CLIMATE EQUITY *Healthy People, Healthy Places, Healthy Process*



SUMMIT PROCEEDINGS

CLFuture.org

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3. Summit Proceedings

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Summit registration table; Marcelo Bonta, Center for Diversity in the Environment; Desiree Williams-Rajee, City of Portland and Summit participant.



About the Coalition for a Livable Future

The Coalition for a Livable Future unites over 100 diverse organizations and hundreds of individuals to promote healthy and sustainable communities in the Portland-Vancouver region. By connecting issues, people and organizations, CLF empowers communities to take action together to shape the big decisions affecting the region's future. Through research, policy advocacy, and public education, CLF works to create and preserve affordable housing; ensure clean water; protect open space, wildlife habitat and farmland; create living wage jobs; provide real transportation choices; and end hunger in our community.

4. About the 9th Annual Regional Livability Summit



Portland State University Ballroom

2011 Summit Agenda:

8:30AM-9:30AM, Registration & Continental

Breakfast

9:15AM, Welcome

9:30AM-10:30AM, Opening Plenary Session:

Keynote Address: Angela Park, Diversity Matters

10:45AM-12:00PM, Breakout Session A

12:00PM-1:30PM, Lunch Plenary Session: Achieving

Climate Environmental Justice: Perspectives on Strengthening Climate Resiliency with Vulnerable Populations

1:45PM-3:00PM, Breakout Session B

3:00PM-3:30PM, Coffee Break/Networking

3:30PM-4:45PM, Breakout Session C

4:45PM-6:00PM, Closing Networking Reception

The Regional Livability Summit is an annual gathering of regional leaders and community members, ranging from policy advocates and student activists to government staff and elected officials. This diverse group comes together to discuss strategic linkages between the wide range of issues involved in creating a sustainable and just future for the Portland-Vancouver region. The 2011 Summit was held **Wednesday, September 14, 2011** at Portland State University and featured Angela Park of Diversity Matters as the keynote speaker.

CLF recognizes that livable communities in the Portland metropolitan region cannot be achieved unless we respond forcefully to the changing climate and address poverty and environmental health as part of climate action strategies. In this spirit, the 2011 Summit was themed **“Climate Equity: Healthy People, Healthy Places, Healthy Process.”** Our goal was to provide a forum that allowed participants to analyze the state of climate equity in the region, share solutions for addressing systemic disparities, and facilitate discussions on strategies that can meet and exceed the basic needs of people, while managing the equitable distribution of limited natural and community resources.

5. About the 9th Annual Regional Livability Summit (cont.)



With the help of our supporters and speakers, these goals were superseded!

- ❑ **Our focus on Climate Equity** fostered many discussions and reflections on the climate planning happening throughout the Portland region and **keynote speaker Angela Park** charged us with taking responsibility for more inclusive climate planning in our region.
- ❑ **The Climate Justice Lunch Panel** reiterated the need for us to move beyond our own comfort to address and include equity policies, practices and thinking at all levels of our work.
- ❑ **Increased breakout sessions and networking time** allowed the many leaders and community members present to strengthen partnerships and celebrate the empowerment of equity work.

Who attended the Summit?

This year's Summit brought together over 250 participants from non-profit, private, and public sectors and across a wide spectrum of diverse interests and backgrounds – including conservationists, advocates for affordable housing, economic development, urban design, transportation alternatives, education, public health, and social justice.

Participants also included leaders from the faith community, college students, teachers, and community leaders, elected officials and concerned residents from across our region.



6. Summit Planners & Volunteers

Who made this year's Summit happen?

Summit Planning Committee

The Summit program was designed by a talented and committed group of volunteers and Coalition for a Livable Future staff. They include:

- Desiree Hellegers, Washington State University – Vancouver Center for Social and Environmental Justice
- Irene B. Schwoeffermann, Coalition for a Livable Future
- Jacklyn Kohon, Intern/PSU Graduate Student
- Jenna Pope, CLF Summit Organizer
- Kari Lyons-Eubanks, Multnomah County Environmental Health Services
- Kathy Hammock, Coalition for a Livable Future
- Mara Gross, Coalition for a Livable Future
- Nuin-Tara Key, Metro & Together Green Fellow
- Ron Carley, Coalition for a Livable Future
- Vinay Prasad, Intern, Regency/PSU Graduate Student

Summit Volunteers

A special thank you to the 2011 Summit volunteers for your support before, during and the after the event!

Adrien Young
Ahna Yon-Stark
Alyssa Cudmore
Andrew Butz
Andrew Nilsen
Anna Brown
Carine Arendes
Chloe Holland
Dana Brown
David Burdick
Deron Tse

Diane Besser
Douglas Kelso
Ed Rauw
Emily Ryan
Erin Rowland
Hope Yamasaki
James Hillegas
Jennifer Mangnall
Katie Boehnlein
Kris Smock
Kyoung Ban

Mariah Acton
Marian Rhys
Meg O'Brien
Meredith Hudak
Michael Armstrong
Nuin-Tara Key
Ptery Lieght
Roger Noehren
Sravya Garladenne
Vinay Prasad



Kari Lyons, Summit Planning Committee Member; Volunteers, Mariah Acton and Ptery Leigh



7. Opening Plenary Session

During the Opening Plenary Session, Keynote Speaker Angela Park of Diversity Matters discussed the need to build a diverse and inclusive climate equity movement. Angela Park is a writer, independent consultant, and founder/executive director of *Diversity Matters*. She is a leading expert on diversity in the environmental field in the United States. Angela authored the 2009 report, *Everybody's Movement: Environmental Justice and Climate Change*, and is researching a forthcoming report analyzing 20 years of progress and setbacks in making the environmental field more diverse and inclusive. Below are key quotes from her presentation:

“No environmental organization has a mission statement that says “we are here to create a green world to have clean air, clean water, safe food for white upper class folks who live in suburbia. But, when you look at who’s on the donor lists, who are the members, and who volunteers at environmental organizations, that is the constituency that many environmental organization have figured out how to connect to.”

“Climate change is indeed universal, but it is not universal to say that everyone will be impacted the same way. Urgency exacerbates privilege. The inequities we already have are going to be exacerbated depending on the climate solutions we choose. “

“How do we create a narrative about how safe, affordable housing and open space and co-benefits of public health and energy efficiency tie together? Because that is the key to making this work around climate resonate to people and key to making equity more fundamental. “

“If you find a way to build a process and engagement and tell these stories about places and people’s work on climate change in a way that integrates equity, you will be the region that leads this country. “

“We talk a lot about communities of color and low income communities being on the frontlines of this work, but we don’t talk about race and racism or class and classism.“

“Before we can be allies in the work to make equity a core component of climate policy and climate solutions, we have to address the issues that we face within our coalitions and movements. It’s not just about intentions. Just because we don’t have the intent of creating a racist, classist movement doesn’t mean we haven’t done so. We have to figure out how to uncover and overcome the barriers we have created for active engagement in the work we do.”

“All of us who have the privilege of race and class and have our basic needs met must be much more proactive so that the system we create and reinforce reflects what we intend it to be. “

“My hope [for Portland] is that you lead this nation on thinking about how equity becomes paramount in climate change solutions. “



8. Lunch Plenary Discussion

Led by moderator **Kari Lyons-Eubanks**, Policy Analyst with the Multnomah County Environmental Health Services, the 2011 Lunch Plenary discussion focused on the topic **“Achieving Climate Justice: Perspectives on Strengthening Climate Resiliency with Vulnerable Populations.”** Below are key highlights from each presenter:

Marcelo Bonta, Executive Director, Center for Diversity and the Environment. *“People from different backgrounds working together to address climate change brings more support, votes, money, relevancy, networks for success on the work that we need to do. The climate change movement won’t win without a multi-racial, multi-class platform – and we have a lot of work to do to get there. It’s not as easy as putting everyone in the same room together – There are a lot of issues around power and privilege to work out.”*

Vivek Shandas, Associate Professor, Nohad A. Toulon School of Urban Studies & Planning, Portland State University. *“The hottest spots in Portland were mapped. They track the major roads, such as Sandy, Powell, Foster and the freeways. Impervious surfaces are predictors of urban heat. To address ‘heat islands’ we must: (1) Build connections and decrease social isolation which puts people at greater risk; (2) Continue to observe and collect data; (3) Communicate with public officials; (4) Institute “Canopy Campaigns” to reduce temperature; (5) Train and build capacity in the areas of public health, urban planning and community organizing and (6) Conduct further research to understand the social and environmental determinants of health.”*

Paul Lumley, Executive Director, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. *“Climate change has started affecting our culture. The women noticed that the berries aren’t coming back at the right time and the roots aren’t where they are supposed to be. The salmon are coming back much smaller and at the wrong time of the year. We see the impact of climate change here and now. Whoever defines the problem, defines the balance of the solution. Communities of color need to define the problems for themselves in order to define the solutions.”*

Rey Espana, Director, Community Development Department, Native American Youth & Family Center. *“We as individuals must operationalize equity – make it a practice, set a standard, set an agreement – and use tools to advance an equity agenda. Operationalize - Be better and more engaged planners – reach consensus, build allies, set standards, figure out how to measure our progress. Envision - Be intentional about what we want equity to do. The case has been made for the existence of disparities in our communities. They must be addressed.”*

Veronica Dujon, Chair, Department of Sociology, Portland State University. *“Urban areas are a fundamental part of the environment. We need a frame that demonstrates how to plan for the natural and built environments so that the growing populations can survive. Cities are dynamic spaces. Key policies at the local level play an important role to contribute to social sustainability even with national and international forces and demands. We must foster health and social interaction through the built environment.”*

Central Themes: (1.) Use real data and facts based in science as the basis for identifying problems, goals and solutions; (2.) Everyone needs to be involved to build lasting solutions. Those with privilege and those without and they need to be involved as early on as possible, with a process that builds shared values and promotes real communication; and (3.) The solutions to our environmental/natural resources crisis are tied to the solutions to our economic/disparities crisis. We cannot solve one without solving the other.



9. 2011 Breakout Sessions

Focused on the 2011 Summit theme - "Climate Equity: Healthy People, Healthy Places, Healthy Process" - the fifteen breakout discussions covered innovative ideas and forward-thinking work happening throughout the region for healthy, sustainable and inclusive communities. **The overall goal of the break-out sessions were to:** (1.) Identify what is happening in our region to address issues of 'just sustainability' and equity; (2.) Provide participants the information or tools needed to engage in these campaigns and projects; and (3.) Identify the key next steps and players we need to collaborate with in order to support this work and the efforts to promote just sustainability throughout our region. Below is a listing of the sessions titles and speakers. Notes from each session are available upon request.

Breakout Session Listing At-A-Glance:

Breakout Session A 10:45AM-12:00PM

A1. Climate, Transportation, and Equity

Speakers: Chris Hagerbaumer, Oregon Environmental Council , Mary Kyle McCurdy, 1000 Friends of Oregon

A2. engAGING Communities: Turning Gray to Silver

Speakers: Bandana Shrestha, AARP Oregon , Brenda Durbin, Clackamas County Social Services, Deborah John, OSU Extension

A3. Regional Equity Atlas 2.0: Metropolitan Portland's Geography of Opportunity

Speakers: Kris Smock, Kristina Smock Consulting/CLF Regional Equity Atlas Consultant , Ted Reid, Metro, Clint Chiavarini, Metro, Jim Labbe, Audubon Society of Portland

A4. Climate Action Plan and Equity

Speakers: Desiree Williams-Rajee, City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, Kyle Diesner, City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

A5. Water Saving Solutions From Around the World: Utilizing the Collective Knowledge

Speakers: Alexander Lungershausen, THA Architecture, Hanna Baker, THA Architecture

A6. Advancing Equity: Beyond Basics for Moving Racial and Gender Justice

Speaker: Nancy Haque, Western States Center



10. 2011 Breakout Sessions (Cont.)

Breakout Session B 1:45PM-3:00PM

B1. Bus Riders Unite: Transit, Health and Climate Justice

Speakers: Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons, OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon, Crystal Wabnum, OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon, Marisa Espinoza, OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon

B2. Tools for Empowerment: Policymaking Through an Equity Lens

Speakers: Ben Duncan, Multnomah County Health Department, Midge Purcell, Urban League of Portland, Sonali S. Balajee, Multnomah County Health Department

B3. Columbia River Crossing Highway Mega-Project: Climate for a New Direction

Speakers: Representative Lew Frederick, Oregon State Legislature - District 43, Paul Koberstein, Cascadia Times, George Crandall, Crandall Arambula Architectural Firm, Floyd Smith, Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates

B4. Environmental Justice and Equity in Social Work

Speakers: Jesse O'Brien, National Association of Social Workers (NASAW) Oregon Chapter, Sustainability Network, Kevin Jones, National Association of Social Workers (NASAW) Oregon Chapter, Sustainability Network, Elaine Charpentier-Philippi, National Association of Social Workers (NASAW) Oregon Chapter, Sustainability Network

B5. Affordable Housing Resources: The Next Campaigns

Speakers: Martha McLennan, NW Housing Alternatives, Alison McIntosh, Neighborhood Partnerships-Housing Alliance, Michael Anderson, Center for Community Change; Daniel Ledezma, Portland Housing Bureau; Justin Burri, Coalition for Affordable & Safe Housing

B6. Community Food Justice: Growing Leadership, Health and Hope through Community-led Food Initiatives

Speakers: Amber Baker, Village Gardens, Janus Youth Programs, Eca-Etabo Wasongolo, Village Gardens, Janus Youth Programs, Angela Martin, Asha Gebibo



11. 2011 Breakout Sessions (Cont.)

Breakout Session C 3:30PM-4:45PM

C1. Healthy Active Living in Portland's Affordable Multi-Family Housing Settings

Speakers: **Steve White**, Oregon Public Health Institute, **Noelle Dobson**, Oregon Public Health Institute, **Julia Gisler**, City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, **Nick Sauvie**, ROSE Community Development Corporation, **Laura Koch**, Community Cycling Center, **Tanya Wolfersperger**, Hacienda CDC

C2. June Key Delta Community Center Case Study: How an African American Sorority Turned an Abandoned Gas Station into Oregon's First Grassroots Living Building Project

Speakers: **Chris Poole-Jones**, June Key Delta Community Center Project Coordinator, **Vera Pool**, Portland Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., **Lela Triplett Roberts**, Piedmont Rose Connection, Inc.

C3. A Climate Justice Framework: Designing a Social Justice and Health Equity Lens for Local Climate Policy

Speakers: **Kari Lyons-Eubanks**, Multnomah County Healthy Department, **Nuin-Tara Key**, Metro/Together Green

C4. From Cochabamba to Portland: Climate Justice Perspectives from Latin America

Speakers: **Kari Koch**, Portland Central America Solidarity Committee, **Megan Hise**, Portland Central America Solidarity Committee, **Robby Kinkle**, Hands Off Latin America

C5. Adding Equity to Public Education about Sustainability

Speakers: **Kyrie Kellett**, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, **Kari Jensen**, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, **Veronika Nunez**, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry

For more detailed notes on any of the 2011 Breakout Sessions, please [email us](#).

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What's on the horizon for CLF in 2012?

ATLAS 2.0: In 2012, Coalition for a Livable Future will be focused on progressing the work of the Regional Opportunity Mapping/Equity Atlas Project. Referred to as Atlas 2.0, the project will a web-based database and mapping tool that stakeholders will be able to use to analyze how well different populations across the region can access key resources necessary for meeting their basic needs and advancing their health and well-being. By illuminating the region's "geography of opportunity", the project will provide a powerful tool for promoting greater regional equity. The Coalition for a Livable Future is partnering with Metro and PSU's Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies to create a coordinated regional repository of regularly updated data that can help to inform planning, strategic investments, and policy decisions across the region.

SAVE THE DATE: The 2012 Regional Equity Summit has attentively been scheduled for **Friday, October 12, 2012** at Portland State University.

To received updates on Atlas 2.0 and other CLF projects and initiatives, email newsletter@clfuture.org.