



ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY NEW ENGLAND

**Center for Climate Preparedness  
and Community Resilience**

**Equitable Adaptation: Collaborating for Resilience**  
**Monday, April 4, 2016**  
**10:00-11:30am**

**These are the notes from the Session's Participant Break-Out Groups.**

- 1. What approaches to engagement are effective? In achieving equitable adaptation?**
  - a. Engaging with people on the ground, inviting them in (not top-down)
    - i. Need to be there and know people before the issues occur
  - b. Going to established community events to connect with people → most effective
  - c. Being a volunteer at events/just supporting/ building trust
  - d. Get introduced by someone who trusts you
  - e. Find neutral convening ground, like a science museum → targets unusual suspects and pay stipend → craigslist outreach
  - f. Identify local stakeholders → be persistent
  - g. Create a budget for compensation → respects people's time
  - h. Boundary organizations
  - i. Localizing data for communities/ capacity building
  - j. Use infographics to translate concepts so all can understand
  - k. "Experts" also have something to learn from the community
  - l. Go to the communities, hold meetings there
    - i. Language access
    - ii. Food/refreshments
    - iii. Childcare
    - iv. Ensure meetings are at times and locations good for community
  - m. Take time to build trust
    - i. Personal relationships (face to face)
    - ii. Be explicit about tensions between interests
    - iii. Be vocally optimistic
    - iv. Reflect on values/goals
  - n. Diverse ways of communicating to the community (ways in addition to language)
  - o. Long-term engagement
  - p. Consider disabilities (mobility, etc.)
  - q. Take time/effort to engage local organizations
    - i. Involve them in process/efforts
  - r. Understand other/underlying needs of community (structural inequities)

**Local Solutions: Eastern Regional Climate Preparedness Conference, April 2016  
Baltimore, MD**

**2. How can adaptation community planners effectively work with the community-based organizations?**

- a. Non-profits should look to education institutions to galvanize the 18-22 age group
- b. Get 18-22 involved with research at academic institutions
- c. Create new forums to engage community organizations
- d. Don't ask community organizations to do any more work → just shift perspective/  
use capacity better
- e. Funding
- f. Cultural competency
- g. Financial resources
  - i. Funds for implementation
  - ii. Celebrate successes
  - iii. Truly work collaboratively
    1. Include in brainstorming
    2. Help build capacity of local communities
  - iv. Recognize that community-based organizations (CBOs) can be very  
different/unofficial
  - v. Understand current constraints of government (managing expectations)

**What works in facilitating communications and equitable adaptation?**

- a. Who is your audience?
- b. How do they access info?
  - a. Listen: talk with community leaders
  - b. Fund community leaders to convene
  - c. Cash stipends and gift cards
  - d. Starting from a positive lens: What makes your community strong?  
Asset-based
  - e. Promote whole community response to disasters (rather than just  
government)
  - f. Create visual aids and mapping (ID vulnerabilities and assets)
  - g. Involve interpreters as team members
  - h. No PowerPoints! Interactive!