

- Support residents to build networks, access resources and support their efforts to identify community engagement entry points to local climate action.
- Advance initiatives in the Parkdale community, and support deep, meaningful resident engagement in local priorities related to climate change and sustainability.
- Explore low-carbon learning opportunities and potential physical upgrades to the Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre and other local projects sites.

THE BLUEPRINT:

Relationship building

PARC encouraged TEA to participate in the Parkdale Neighbourhood Planning Table's community meetings as a starting point for connecting with residents. Attending meetings with additional community groups and the Parkdale People's Economy over the next two months aided in gauging interest in climate learning and training, hearing opinions on local climate action opportunities, challenges, and priorities, and networking for relevant local group contacts. This was important as it fed into the creation of an advisory group of residents who co-designed the climate justice learning sessions.

OUTCOMES:

Centring climate justice perspectives

When facilitating climate justice learning, organizers should create space for this learning to be led by Indigenous and equity-seeking people with authentic knowledge, experience and perspectives. The co-design process identified the priority of working in solidarity with Indigenous peoples on climate action early on. PARC engaged a local Indigenous educator to aid in building participants' understanding of why the acknowledgment and incorporation of traditional and Indigenous knowledge is important to climate justice work.

Re-prioritization and flexible partnerships

After launching with a successful in-person community learning session, resident engagement and development of training sessions had to be put on hold for a significant period due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as the neighbourhood turned its focus to survival and mutual aid. During this time, PARC and PPE led a co-design

of a resident consultation, engagement and capacity building process to support a community submission to the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild's public consultation process, with support from TEA to integrate climate considerations. While plans had to shift, the climate justice circles resumed in an online format and kept up the momentum for climate action in the Parkdale community. Flexible partnership can also mean prioritizing what neighbourhood partners need at that time over original plans.

Enabling resident participation

PARC's and PPE's approach to enable resident participation in the Climate Justice Circle sessions - both in-person and virtual - provided valuable learning. Organizers of these sessions actively worked to offer residents different supports that would remove potential barriers and make it possible for them to participate. For example, the project engaged newcomer members of the Tibetan community and a community translator was brought in to provide translation services for in-person and online sessions. Other forms of support offered to participants included transit tokens and honorariums. It is important to value and recognize the contributions that community members make to planning and engagement processes, and compensate them for their time.

Community Mapping Exercise to Determine Local Concerns and Initiatives

PARC, PPE, and TEA co-designed an initial climate justice circle so participants could identify key climate-related priorities and gaps in a mapping exercise. This was critical to ensure that this work connected the dots between community priorities and climate action - like housing, good jobs, public transit and accessibility.

1. MAPPING LOCAL CLIMATE CONCERNS:

- Participants write down key climate concerns (on sticky notes) and discuss them in small groups.
- Participants add their sticky notes to a wall and organize them by theme. The group discusses observations.
- At the Parkdale Climate Justice Circle in February 2020, themes included: transit, air quality, flooding and extreme weather, food, waste, green energy, housing, infrastructure, Indigenous justice, consumer lifestyle and gentrification, green space, green jobs, community health and overarching climate justice.

2. MAPPING LOCAL CLIMATE INITIATIVES:

- On different coloured sticky notes, participants write down local actions and responses to climate change, as well as gaps (missing actions and responses) and post them alongside their related climate concerns
- Facilitators lead discussions on further considerations and potential solutions.

TYPICAL VIRTUAL SESSION AGENDA (BY MINUTE)

Roles: Welcomers, facilitators, presenter, notetaker, zoom tech support and chat monitor

0-15 min: Facilitators begin session and welcoming participants

15-25 min: Welcome and context:

- Facilitator and partner introductions
- Land acknowledgment
- Agenda, session description, and goals
- Space agreements
- Speaker/participant introductions

25-85 min: Presentation:

- Expert speaker, or
- Climate action ideas
- Participant discussion of locally relevant ideas

85-100 min: Session 1: Guided questions or action planning

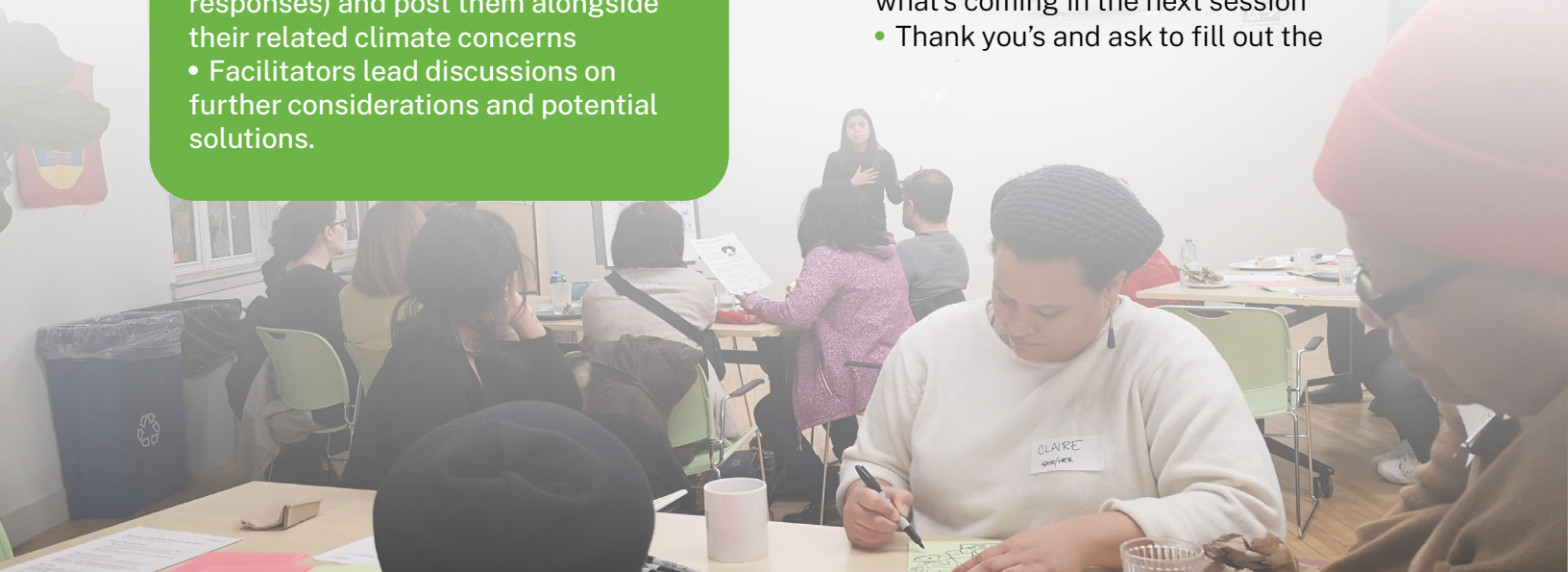
- Group discussion with pre-prepared questions for the speaker, or
- Breakout groups by theme to discuss climate action

100-120 min: Session 2: Open questions or action planning

- Open questions from participants for the speaker, or
- Breakout groups by theme to discuss climate action

120-130 min: Closure:

- Summary of the session and outline what's coming in the next session
- Thank you's and ask to fill out the





SUMMARY OF EVENTS HELD

- i. Climate Justice Circle - community event with mapping exercise
- ii. Parkdale Climate Justice Circle Learning Session with PUSH Buffalo ([Video](#))
- iii. Parkdale Climate Justice Circle Learning Session: Righting Relations with Joce Two Crows ([Video](#))
- iv. Climate Justice Circle - online action planning session
- v. Climate Justice Circle - online session connecting action plan to existing initiatives



WITH
SUPPORT
FROM:



Learn more about the Accelerating Climate
Action Through Community Hubs project

www.torontoenvironment.org/community_hubs