

BUILDING RESILIENT NEIGHBORHOODS in the face of climate change– A Working Group of Physicians for Social Responsibility – Arizona

WHO WE ARE

This voluntary citizen group evolved from the Neighborhoods and Vulnerable Communities Working Group of the Climate Smart Southwest: Ready or HOT! Conference, a project of Physicians for Social Responsibility, Arizona. The conference was held in Tucson on September 21, 2013. This (one of 6 different topical groups) Working Group is composed of officers of Tucson Neighborhood Associations and community leaders of civic and faith-based organizations. We currently number between 15 and 20 active participants, meeting monthly to plan our work together.

OUR MISSION

To raise awareness at the neighborhood level of a hotter and drier Southwestern US and to support neighbors in working together to mitigate and adapt to climate change and become more resilient in the face of extreme weather events.

HOW WE WORK

Working group participants reach consensus on goals, develop action plans and share information and encouragement to fulfill those plans. Because of the broad civic reach of the membership, we can access many affiliated organizations and decision-makers. After careful review of public sector resources directed toward weather disasters, we've concluded that climate change emergency preparedness information is critical to individual households and neighborhoods and that is an unmet need in municipal preparedness planning

INITIAL GOAL

Our 2014 goal is to reach a climate-vulnerable neighborhood in each City Ward with a neighborhood meeting where we share ideas about how to manage an extreme heat event with minimal resources, assuming little or no support from traditional first responders. Participants will receive a brochure helping them evaluate the readiness of their neighborhood to withstand an extreme weather event and ideas about what to do to become better prepared in the short and longer terms.

Building Resilient Neighborhoods Working Group Participants include:

Donna Branch-Gilby, Facilitator of Working Group, Milagro Cohousing

Michael Ray, President, Limberlost Neighborhood Assoc.

Carol West, League of Women Voters Officer, Greater Tucson

Dr. Yvonne Merrill, President, Brichta Neighborhood Assoc.

Grace Rich, President, North University N. A.

Emily Ricketts, Faith-based organizations leader

Dorothea Bradley, Lend-a-Hand officer, Winterhaven HOA

Martha Dominguez and Julian Keene, N.A. and Indigenous Peoples representative

Jim Hannan, Bus Riders Alliance and El Rio N.A.

Dr. Barbara Warren, President of Physicians for Social Responsibility of Arizona

And others

dbg 1/17/14

bhw 1/18/14