

# CITIZENS' ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION



## How Environmental Non-Profits Support Resilience Connecting Houston's Environmental Community





# CITIZENS' ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION

# WHY ARE WE ALL HERE?





# WHO ARE WE?

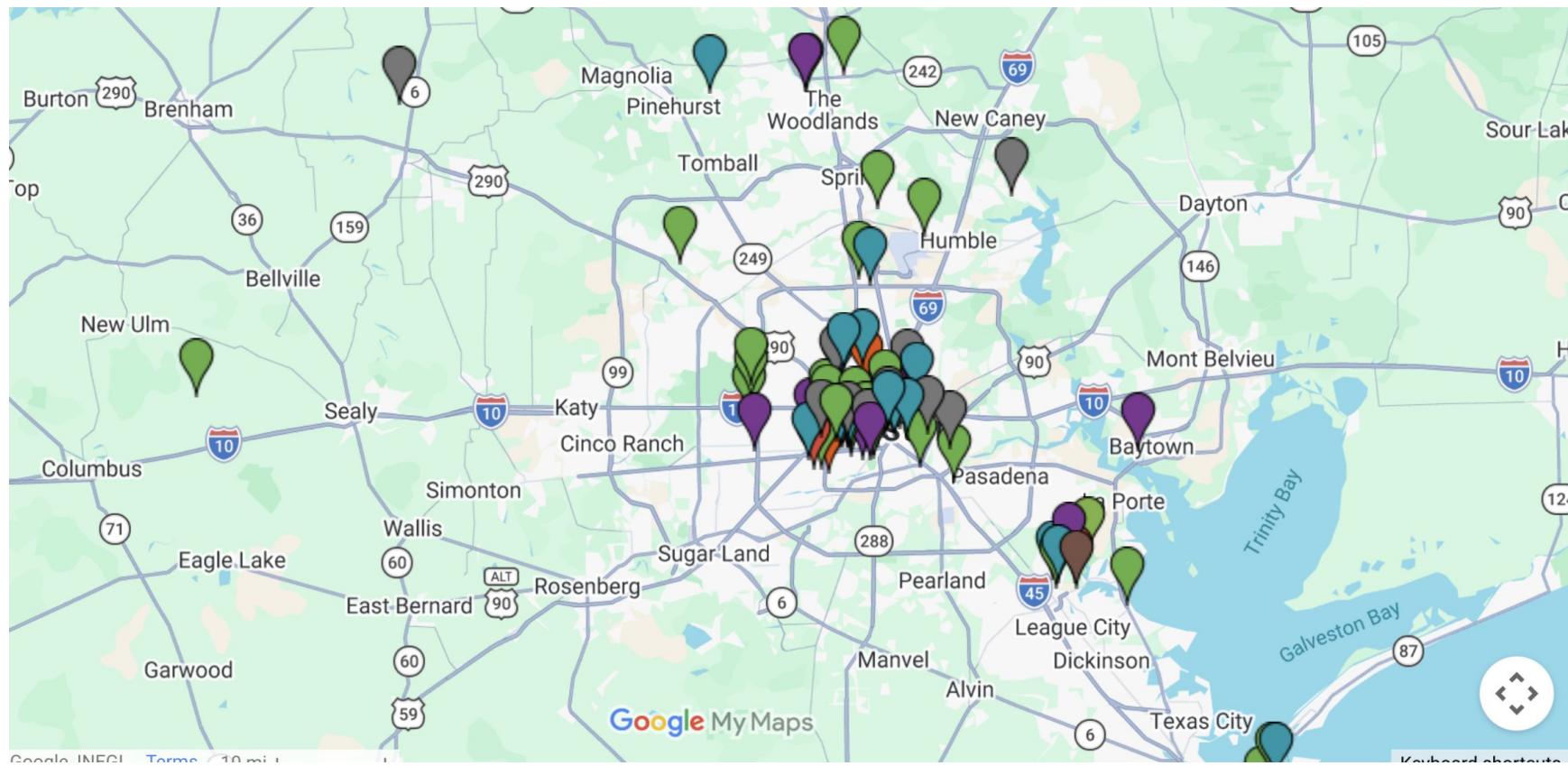
Citizens' Environmental Coalition (CEC) connects Houston's environmental community through a diverse range of programs, resources, and events. We create access to advocacy and educational opportunities, foster appreciation for nature, and connect stakeholders to work collaboratively on local solutions.





# WHO ARE WE?

CEC is proud to represent over 100 nonprofit organizations, governmental bodies, concerned community members, and activists. We're a 501c3 founded in 1971 by Terry Hershey, et al.





# WHO ARE WE?

**Mission:** To foster dialogue, education, and collaboration on environmental issues in the Houston/Gulf Coast region.

**Vision:** An environmental community recognized as a vital part of the fabric of our society

1. Subscribe to the free weekly CEC Environmental Newsletter
2. Check out the Green Jobs Directory
3. Find local events in our Environmental Calendar
4. Join the Environmental Book Club
5. Become a CEC Member
6. Volunteer with us

# ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT

2024 brought together local leaders, advocates, and community members under the theme, *Uniting for Health, Equity, and Resilience*, to collaborate on regional solutions. In line with our values, the Summit was certified as a zero waste event.



**Expert Panel Discussions**



**Breakout Charrettes**



**Expo Hall**



**Zero Waste Event**

# Built for Resilience - Working Group 3 (2025)



Steering Committee

## Vision

Greater Houston as a global model of urban resilience, where every community is protected by a network of thriving green spaces and supported by smart, sustainable energy and water systems.

## Goals - 2025

1. Strengthen Community-Based Resilience Partnerships
2. Advance Environmental Literacy & Shared Language
3. Leverage Data & Case Studies for Targeted Action

Where collaboration, data, and storytelling drive meaningful climate action to build a more resilient Houston



# Resilience in the Region

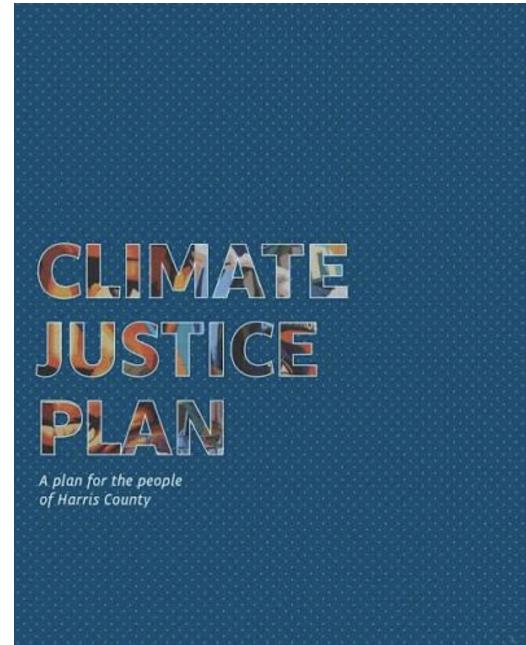
## Working Group Starting Point: Resilience Efforts



### RESILIENT HOUSTON



2020, 188 pages,  
18 Targets



### CLIMATE JUSTICE PLAN

*A plan for the people  
of Harris County*

2025, 59 pages,  
18 Goals

### CITY COUNCIL

#### Resilience Committee Public Speakers Sign-Up

- Current and Past Agendas and Backup Documents

Resilience Committee Public Speakers  
Sign-Up Form 2026

2024, 17 Agendas

# FAST FORWARD



## **CEC Greater Houston Environmental Summit** **October 17, 2025**

### **Built for Resilience Working Group**

The charette at the Summit was attended by 18 people where the top 10 priorities identified by the steering committee were presented to the group. They were asked which 3 or 4 items could be most impacted by the CEC and their members. Out of the top 10 priorities, the group decided to focus on three main priorities. These priorities combine three items into one, and then focused on two others.



# TOP PRIORITIES

## PRIORITY 1 [Combine 2,4,& 8]

- Conservation and protection of natural resources restores habitat, reduces flooding and water use, and supports a healthy ecosystem. Clean air, water, and soil supports the health and well-being of all living things. (2)
- All communities have accessible and high-quality parks and open spaces that reduce heat islands, absorb floodwater, and mitigate the impacts of climate change. (4)
- Promote Green Infrastructure projects, including Nature-based solutions, to support the initiative of 'Complete 100 new green stormwater infrastructure projects by [2025]' (8)



# TOP PRIORITIES

## PRIORITY 2 [Item 7]

Recycling and re-use provide benefits to the environment, economy, and communities while minimizing waste and maximizing resources.



# TOP PRIORITIES

## PRIORITY 3 [Item 6]

Modernize our energy and water infrastructure to support the demands of electrification and the digital economy, ensuring grid resilience and long-term resource sustainability.

**Nothing new here.**

**Not reinventing the wheel, merely focusing**



# KEY TAKEAWAYS

## 1. Collaboration and Efficiency

- Reduce duplication across organizations and increase interdepartmental cooperation.
- Leverage existing expertise across nonprofits, academia, and government.
- Engage major players (like AI data center developers) in progressive infrastructure innovations—requiring water reuse and localized resource systems.



# KEY TAKEAWAYS

## 2. Community Advocacy & Education

- Focus on public awareness of available resources, especially in disaster preparedness and green infrastructure.
- Encourage behavioral change through recycling, composting, and tangible environmental practices.
- Recognize cultural and socioeconomic barriers—build outreach strategies for Black and Brown communities highlighting how cultural reuse practices align with sustainability.



# 2026 STEPS

- Narrow focus to a smaller set of high-impact, achievable goals.
- Serve as a connector and amplifier between city, county, and grassroots initiatives.
- Build visibility for resilience education through public events, storytelling, and arts collaborations.
- Explore funding and partnerships to support Green Infrastructure (#8), Disaster Preparedness (#3), and Resource Conservation (#2).



# NEXT EVENT



Saturday, April 25, 2026

- CEC works with Discovery Green to put on Earth Day, the largest celebration in the region.
- This is where people gather who care about the environment and want to learn what they can do to help.
- Historically the City has been a partner.

MODEL BEHAVIOR  
**PRACTICE WHAT WE PREACH!!**



**EQUITY**

IS NOT AN ADD-ON  
IT IS AN OUTCOME!

**GET INVOLVED**  
EARLY & OFTEN!



BE BOTH IN & OF THE  
**COMMUNITY**

MEET  
MAKE  
ACCOMMODATE  
NEEDS  
TIME OF  
DAY/NIGHT  
Food  
CHILD CARE  
DIVERSE  
VOICES

THRU ALL MEANS...  
**COMMUNICATE**  
WITH CITIZENS!

**MODERATOR** KEITH DOWNEY   **PANELISTS** OBIAGELI ONUBA, MANDY SIEBELS, AMANDA TULLOS, MARK WILFALKS

**DESIGNING**  
for  
**RESILIENCE**  
AND  
**CONSERVATION**  
**URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

**PLAN** FOR THE **NEXT 100** YEARS

**Water** **WASTE** **IN AN**

FROM **SUBSISTENCE** **RESILIENCE & EFFICIENCY**

**GROWTH** OF THE CITY  
REQUIRES  
INCREASE in SERVICES  
& INFRASTRUCTURE

**MAINTAIN**  
**AFFORDABILITY**

GRAPHIC RECORDING:  
PETER DURAND  
ALPHACHIMP.com



# SOCIAL CAPITAL IMPROVING HEALTH IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES USING DATA ANALYTICS

**2024**

**HEAT MAPPING**

- LARGEST IN US
- 150+ COMMUNITY SCIENTISTS VOLUNTEERS
- 70 ROUTES
- 700 MILES
- 431,348 DATA POINTS
- OBSERVED MAX 103°F
- OBSERVED MIN 14°F
- DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NEIGHBORHOODS

**WHAT IS THE CUMULATIVE IMPACT?**

FOOD EDUCATION CHEMICAL EXPOSURE  
BUILT ENVIRONMENT HEALTHCARE ACCESS  
VIOLENCE ECONOMIC  
MENTAL HEALTH

PRE-MATURE DEATH & OR DISABILITY

**THE Grid & Emissions**

**WHY USE DATA?**

- SUPPORT INDIVIDUAL TESTIMONY/STORY
- BUILD TRUST
- IDENTIFY PATTERNS
- ESTABLISH PRIORITIES
- ALLOCATE RESOURCES
- DETERMINE BENCHMARKS
- MEASURE EFFICACY
- CREATE COMMUNICATION TOOLS & ASSETS

**HARRIS CO.**

FOCUS AREAS

ECOLOGY CULTURE  
ECONOMY COMMUNITY  
INFRASTRUCTURE

**ASK:**

WHAT DO YOU...

- SEE?
- THINK?
- FEEL?
- REMEMBER?
- IMAGINE?
- NEED?

**WE MUST UNDERSTAND HISTORY TO UNDERSTAND THE PRESENT IN ORDER TO IMAGINE THE FUTURE!**

**NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US**

**COMMUNITY**

**Graphic Recording: PETER DURAND ALPHACHIMP.COM**



RAISE  
YOUR  
AWARENESS  
RESEARCH & DATA

PICKING  
YOUR  
ISSUE  
START HERE

DEFINE THE  
PROBLEM

BUILD/CO-DESIGN  
SOLUTION

FIND  
ALLIES

IDENTIFY  
POLICY  
CHANGES

WHO ARE  
THEY?

WHERE/HOW  
TO REACH?

DECISION  
MAKER

WHAT IS YOUR  
"ASK"?

WITH  
WINNING STRATEGIES

STRATEGY  
FOR  
SUCCESS

SPECIFIC  
TACTICS

ARTICULATE YOUR  
THEORY OF  
CHANGE  
 $X+Y=!!!$



GRAPHIC RECORDING:  
PETER DURAND  
ALPHACHIMP.COM



ABOUT  
CEC ▾

SUPPORTERS  
▼

MEMBER  
LOGIN

ENVIRONMENTAL  
CALENDAR

RESOURCES  
▼

NEWS  
▼

PROGRAMS &  
INITIATIVES ▾



DONATE

Thank you to our sponsors who made Wild About Houston and Wild & Scenic Film Festival on Tour possible. >>

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR SPONSORS, CLICK HERE.

# Citizens' Environmental Coalition

Fostering dialogue, education, and collaboration on environmental issues in the Houston / Gulf Coast region

BECOME A MEMBER

Want to stay informed on environmental issues in the Houston / Gulf Coast region? Subscribe to our newsletter!

SUBSCRIBE NOW