



**MAYOR'S OFFICE
OF RESILIENCE AND
SUSTAINABILITY**

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YOUTH CLIMATE AMBASSADORS FINAL REPORT

HOUSTON'S CLIMATE

Houston's climate and resilience crisis demands the urgent attention of the community. The city's susceptibility to extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and flooding, poses significant risks to its residents and infrastructure. Addressing these challenges requires collective efforts in building resilience, enhancing infrastructure, and promoting sustainable practices. By rallying together, Houstonians can not only mitigate the effects of climate change but also create a safer and more sustainable city for future generations.

Climate Action Plan

The Houston Climate Action Plan is a crucial initiative aimed at addressing the city's climate resilience and sustainability challenges. It sets forth ambitious goals and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance infrastructure resilience, and increase community engagement. This plan is vital because it provides a roadmap for Houston's efforts to combat climate change, protect residents from extreme weather events, and create a more sustainable and equitable city for future generations.

Resilient Houston

The Resilient Houston plan is a critical component in addressing the city's climate challenges. It focuses on enhancing infrastructure, promoting sustainability, and building resilience in the face of extreme weather events. This plan is vital for Houston's future, as it ensures the protection of its residents and the continued development of a sustainable and equitable city for generations to come.



TRANSPORTATION

Youth Climate Ambassadors prioritized alternative methods of transportation. Throughout events they encouraged the use of the Metro. YCAs used the Metro to commute to events and to work. YCAs also emphasized walking, biking, carpooling, and using electric vehicles, if possible. With the understanding that the transportation industry is one of the largest contributors of greenhouse gasses, reducing the usage of passenger gas-powered vehicles is crucial.



500 lbs of Carbon saved
by YCAs through car pooling and using
alternative modes of transportation.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Youth Climate Ambassadors documented their events and accomplishments on the GreenHoustonTx Twitter. They also posted Instagram Reels to the City Of Houston Instagram, encouraging the use of alternate modes of transportation.



OVERVIEW



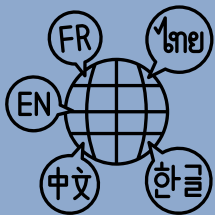
EVENTS LISTED

- Urban Harvest Farmers Market (07/1)
- Liberty Fest (07/2)
- Children's Museum (07/6)
- Burnett Bayland Park (07/8)
- Kashmere Gardens Neighborhood Meeting (07/11)
- Braeburn NRP (07/13)
- Flea Night at Discovery Green (07/16)
- Sunnyside Farmers Market (07/18)
- Greater 5th Ward NRP (07/20)
- Alief Super Neighborhood (07/25)
- High Meadow Library (07/26)
- Greater Inwood NRP (07/27)



EVENT EXPERIENCES

We ran into language barriers at most of our events in complete communities. The presence of two ambassadors proficient in Spanish enabled dialogue between the city and bilingual community members.



189 Houstonians spoken to in Spanish



ISSUES



bayous
electricity
floods
recycling
roads
community
sidewalks
composting
city heat
weatherization
houston waste
hurricanes
sustainability



AREA OF FOCUS

The City of Houston targets complete and underserved communities to inform them about sustainability initiatives to promote equity and inclusivity in climate action. By focusing on these communities, Houston aims to ensure that all residents have access to information and resources that can help them adapt to the challenges posed by extreme weather events. This proactive approach acknowledges that vulnerable communities often bear the brunt of climate impacts and need targeted support to build resilience.



YCA'S IN THE COMMUNITY

FARMERS MARKET

YCA's visited the Urban Harvest Farmers Market (right picture) and Sunnyside Farmers Market, speaking to residents, emphasizing the importance of shopping for produce locally.



HOUSTON ZOO

YCA's convened with the zoo's Sustainability Manager to explore the multifaceted achievements of Houston's Zoo, encompassing its impressive transition to 100% renewable energy and pioneering stance in eliminating single-use plastic from its retail outlets.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

YCA's travelled to the children's museum and played interactive games with the kids to learn what they are able to recycle and what is not recyclable.



LIBERTY FESTIVAL

YCA's attended the Liberty Festival in the Sharpstown area and provided informative session on the Climate Action Plan and Resilient Houston Plan.

INTERNAL COLLABORATION

COMPLETE COMMUNITIES INTERNS



YCAs cooperated with the Complete Community interns to learn more about what each department does and how our resources and events could benefit one another. Additionally, both groups visited an urban prairie located at a New Hope housing unit to learn about the benefits and history of prairies in Houston.



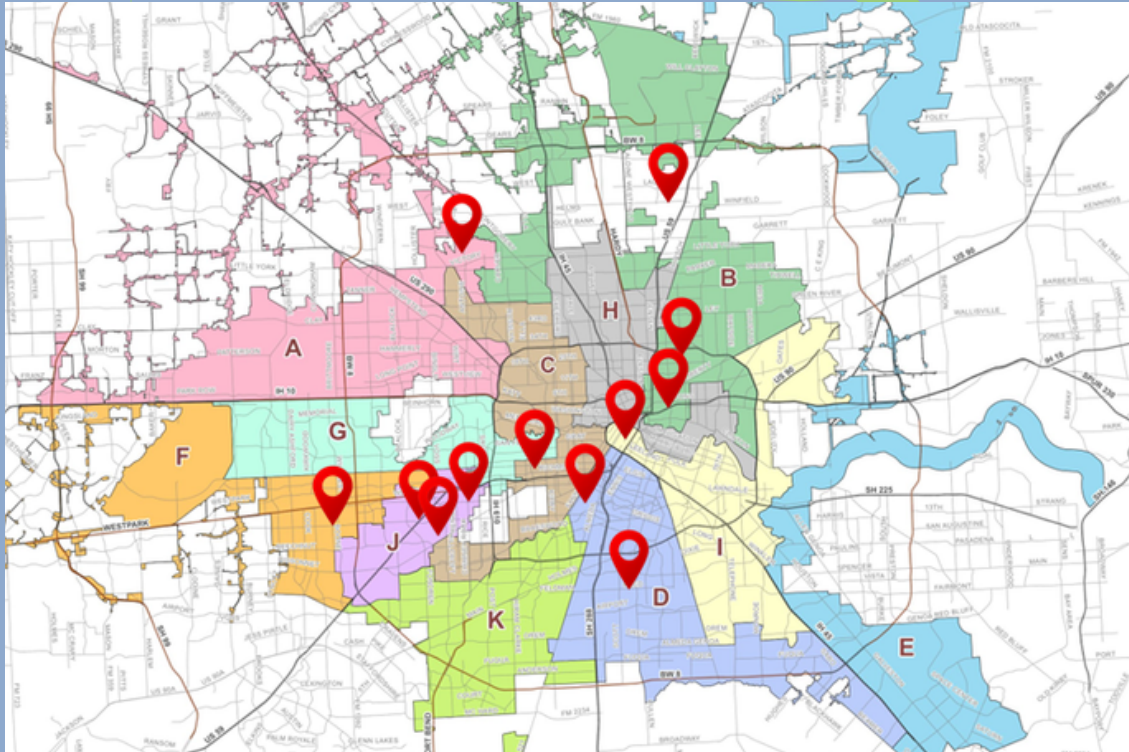
EQUITY INDICATORS LAUNCH

YCAs attended the Equity Indicators Launch and listened to speeches by Mayor Sylvester Turner, Director of Complete Communities Shannon Buggs, and Council Member Tiffany Thomas over raising awareness of disproportionate access to opportunities within Houston.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT METRICS

66% in Complete Communities
843 Houstonians reached
7 districts visited



**PINS REPRESENT
LOCATIONS VISITED**



297 children



546 adults

COMMUNITY REACTIONS

“ I take the Metro Park and Ride everyday to work I'm proud to be doing my part ”



“ Knowing that these plans are in place reassures me in knowing that the city does care for us and is taking steps to improvement ”



“ We try to recycle at home and teach our kids about it, but we didn't know plastic bags couldn't be recycled ”

“ Although I live in an apartment there is recycling in my work place I don't mind taking the few items I accumulate ”

“ I wasn't aware that the city had plans in motion for handle climate change, but I am glad they are doing something ”

“ Emergency Preparedness is very important to my neighborhood and I, there are many people who speak languages other than Spanish and English so I am grateful for the Disaster Preparedness Guide ”



FEEDBACK

- Offer more opportunities to collaborate with other interns at earlier times so more events can be attended, created, and accomplished.
- Having more interns who can speak more diverse languages beyond English and Spanish would be helpful since language barriers made it difficult to interact with some Houstonians.
- As stated in previous cohorts report, we agree that a year round Youth Climate Ambassador program should be in place so that the word can be spread and maintained.