# Look at the climate collages on your table and think about the following questions

### Gardens

Do these images remind you of anything that you do or have seen others do?





Gardening and learning together









Using rain barrels



Sharing the harvest



Maintaining butterfly habitat



Partying & performing in the garden



Volunteering in a community garden

- What things represented in the images do you do or have you seen others do?
- How about people in the communities your Garden serves?
- What images would you add to use this with those communities?
- What community assets or challenges do they represent?

# CONNECT COMMUNITY+CLIMATE+ACTION

Botanic Garden Conservation International St. Louis, MO April 27-May 1, 2015

# Connect Presenters



Susan Ask Ecologist & Founder Animalia Project



Jennifer Schwarz Ballard, PhD Associate Vice President, Education Chicago Botanic Garden



Jennifer Hirsch, PhD Cultural Anthropologist Community Sustainability Specialist



Katie Larson
Education Manager
Alliance for the Great Lakes

# Program

- Overview of the challenge and our approach
- Community asset mapping activity
- Project Planning
  - Approach overview
  - Case study example: Alliance for the Great Lakes and Michigan City (Indiana) Area Schools
  - Project planning activity
- Overview of current and future tools for asset based project development and implementation
- Wrap-up

# State of climate change education & action

### The Issue

- Scientific
- Long-term
- Abstract
- Variable
- Contentious
- Requires behavior change and widespread engagement
- Intimidating

### The (common) Approach

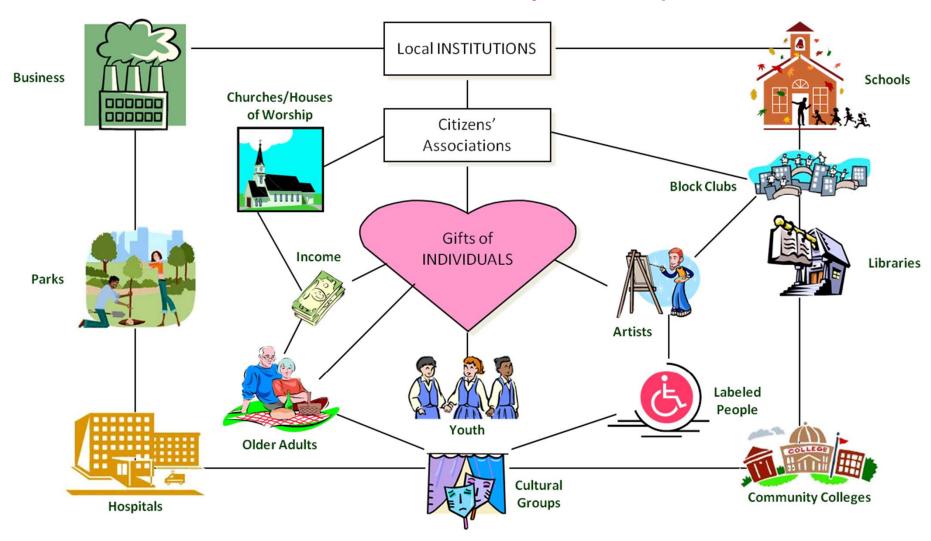
- Scientific
- Unconnected to everyday concerns

Assail more rectal mails

- Deficit-based
- Guilt-inducing

Image: S. Genovese learningfundamentals.com.au

### A New Approach: Asset-based Community Development



Asset-Based Community Development (presentation), Kretzmann, John P. and McKnight, John L.

# Connect...Community+Climate+Action

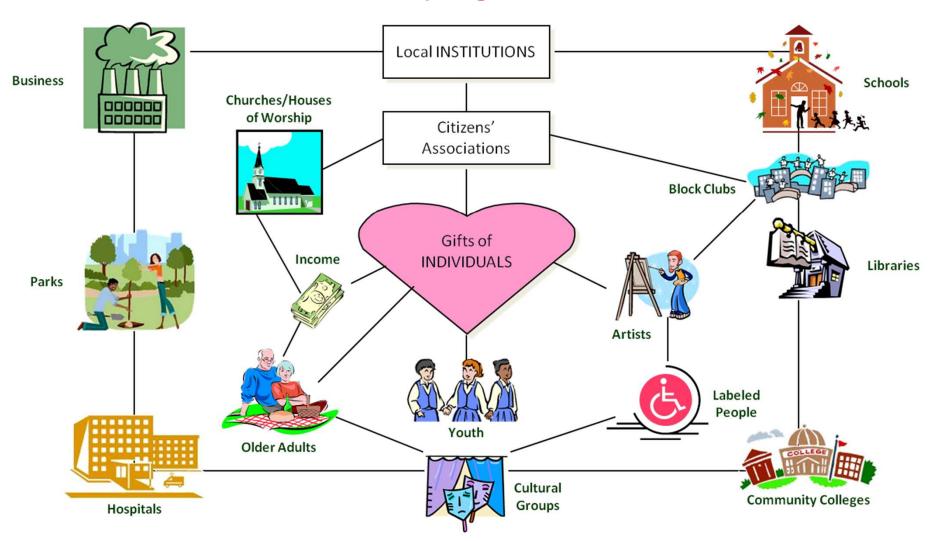
### Goal

Increase knowledge, leadership, and engagement in climate action among diverse communities by building on local assets to connect community life to climate change and climate action.

### **Approach**

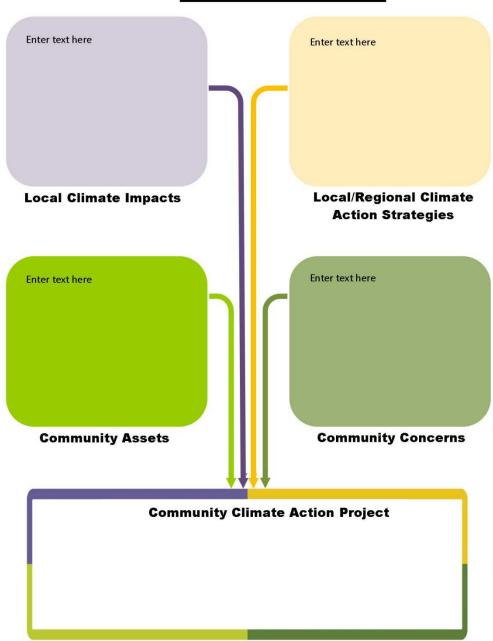
- Create community-conservation partnerships
- Provide training in climate science & local impacts, communicating about climate change, and asset-based community engagement
- Support project implementation and documentation
- Create tools and case studies for use by others

### **Identifying Assets**



#### PROJECT APPROACH DIAGRAM

Team: \_\_\_\_\_



#### PROJECT APPROACH DIAGRAM

**Team:** Michigan City Area Schools & Alliance for the Great Lakes

- Storms
- Flooding
- Water quality issues in Trail Creek and Lake Michigan
- Erosion
- Invasive species

#### **Local Climate Impacts**

- Trail Creek
- Lake Michigan
- Beaches/lakeshore
- Wetland restoration and other native habitats
- Trails
- Tourism
- Local partnerships
- Local government

#### **Community Assets**

- Green infrastructure planning
- Planting native plants
- Installing rain gardens and/or rain barrels (both schools have rain gardens already
- Education at all grade levels

### Local/Regional Climate Action Strategies

- Flooding
- Transportation, water quality, & erosion
- Water quality (pollution) in Trail Creek & Lake Michigan
- Impacts on tourism from climate change
- Environmental impacts of planned development

#### **Community Concerns**

#### **Community Climate Action Project**

Engage the broader Michigan City community with a focus on K-12 students and teachers in Michigan City Area Schools in climate stewardship and education through field trips, curriculum integration, demonstration projects, water quality monitoring, green infrastructure planning, local advocacy (letter writing, attending public meetings) and developing other community partnerships.

#### PROJECT APPROACH DIAGRAM

Team: Michigan City Area Schools & Alliance for the Great Lakes

- Storms
- Flooding
- Water quality issues in Trail Creek and Lake Michigan
- Erosion
- Invasive species

#### **Local Climate Impacts**

- Trail Creek
- Lake Michigan
- Beaches/lakeshore
- Wetland restoration and other native habitats
- Trails
- Tourism
- Local partnerships
- Local government

#### **Community Assets**

- Green infrastructure planning
- Planting native plants
- Installing rain gardens and/or rain barrels (both schools have rain gardens already
- Education at all grade levels

### Local/Regional Climate Action Strategies

- Flooding
- Transportation, water quality, & erosion
- Water quality (pollution) in Trail Creek & Lake Michigan
- Impacts on tourism from climate change
- Environmental impacts of planned development

#### **Community Concerns**

#### **Community Climate Action Project**

Engage the broader Michigan City community with a focus on K-12 students and teachers in Michigan City Area Schools in climate stewardship and education through field trips, curriculum integration, demonstration projects, water quality monitoring, green infrastructure planning, local advocacy (letter writing, attending public meetings) and developing other community partnerships.

#### Connect PROJECT APPROACH DIAGRAM

#### **BGCI workshop brainstorming**

- more severe storms
- heavy downpours become more common
- less snow in winter
- · periods of drought
- high summer heat
- Local Climate Impacts

- · public library in the neighborhood
- · strong sense of local history
- · active community gardens
- vibrant congregations
- Chris is an amazing community organizer

Community Assets

- increase insulation in residences
- improve public transit options & increase ridership
- provide cooling centers for at risk populations in summer
- reduce industrial water use
- reduce residential use of water for irrigation
- increase energy efficiency in residential and industrial sectors

#### Local Climate Strategies

- not enough after-school activities
- · empty store fronts on main street
- lack of access to fresh vegetables and fruit
- · elders isolated from community
- side walks and road crossings aren't safe
- · asthma & access to urgent care

Community Concerns

Connect! Community Climate Action Project

your ideas.....

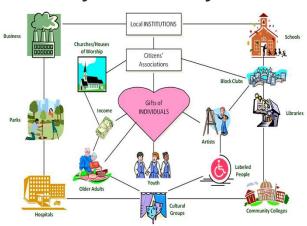
## Connect Tools Available Now: animaliaproject.org/c3i

### Create Your Own Visual Collages

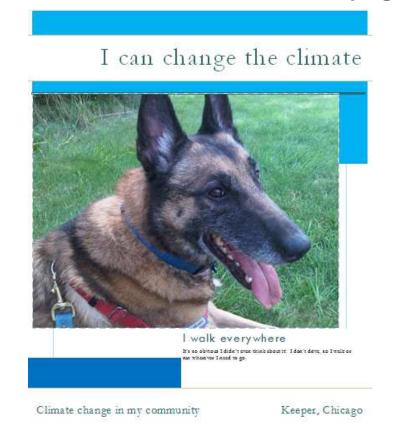


Collage created with a new theme, by the City of Cleveland Office of Sustainability, based on collages from the Chicago Community Climate Action Toolkit (http://www.sustainablecleveland.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/ Collage-Comm-Ingagement-Health-2013.pdf)

### **Identify Community Assets**



# Profiles of Climate Change: Conversation Guide & Poster Campaign



# Connect Tools in Development – Sign Up for Notifications

CATEGORY:	TOOLS
Planning	Guide to creating community-based climate action plans & projects
Phenology	Project Budburst: online guide connecting plant monitoring to community action
Community & Climate 101	Climate Jeopardy; More or Less game; Principles of Community Climate Action
Community-based Climate Impacts	2-pagers: flooding/stormwater, gardens/plants/yards, phenology
Storytelling	Video Stories, Migration Stories
Evaluating for Community & Climate Outcomes	Framework & Primer

## Other Community-based Climate Action Toolkits



# **Chicago Community Climate Action Toolkit**

NEIGHBORHOOD CLIMATE ACTION TOOLKIT

An Assets-Based Approach to Building Thriving and Healthy Neighborhoods in Cleveland

People power is the answer to true and lasting climate action in Cleveland. This means that a citizen-centered approach is needed to align climate action with the assets, capacities and priorities of Cleveland residents.



Cleveland Neighborhood Climate Action Toolkit



#### CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN



### Climate Change Curriculum

Climate Change in My Backyard

With support from NASA, and in collaboration with the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) and schools and teachers throughout Illinois, the Chicago Botanic Garden has developed the Climate Change in My Backyard curriculum series. The project targets grades 5 to 12.



Climate Change in My Backyard

### 3-2-1 Reflect

What are 3 assets in your community that you want to think more about – including some you hadn't thought of before?

Who are 2 people in your community that you want to connect with to continue brainstorming assets?

What is your 1 big takeaway from this session – and how can you act on it in the next month?

# Thank you!

Download this presentation and existing tools at:

animaliaproject.org/c3i



#### **C3I Community Climate Action Project**

Engage the broader Michigan City community with a focus on K-12 students and teachers in Michigan City Area Schools in climate stewardship and education through field trips, curriculum integration, demonstration projects, water quality monitoring, green infrastructure planning, local advocacy (letter writing, attending public meetings) and developing other community partnerships.

#### PROJECT APPROACH DIAGRAM

**Team:** Michigan City Area Schools & Alliance for the Great Lakes

- Storms
- Flooding
- Water quality issues in Trail Creek and Lake Michigan
- Erosion
- Invasive species

#### **Local Climate Impacts**

- Trail Creek
- Lake Michigan
- Beaches/lakeshore
- Wetland restoration and other native habitate
- Trails
- Tourism
- Local partnerships
- Local government

#### **Community Assets**

- Green infrastructure planning
- Planting native plants
- Installing rain gardens and/or rain barrels (both schools have rain gardens already
- Education at all grade levels

### Local/Regional Climate Action Strategies

- Flooding
- Transportation, water quality, & erosion
- Water quality (pollution) in Trail Creek & Lake Michigan
- Impacts on tourism from climate change
- Environmental impacts of planned development

#### **Community Concerns**