



Climate Action Toolkit

Understanding and Responding
to Asheville's Changing Climate



"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it." — Robert Swan, author



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We acknowledge our community first responders and front line workers, both those in uniform and those building and tending mutual aid networks. These brave individuals and communities are the backbone of Asheville's growing resilience. Special gratitude is extended to the Elevate AVL Engagement Agents and Advisory Committee members who dedicated countless hours in their communities supporting resilience building, understanding climate needs and concerns, and helping develop and review the toolkit and project direction. This resource and ongoing work is richer and more relevant because of their dedication to climate justice and community-led resilience.



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As western NC has experienced firsthand in the wake of 2024's Tropical Storm Helene, climate change is here and impacting our people, homes and businesses. Although we can't predict the future, we know that Asheville is experiencing more frequent and more intense weather events.

Climate change refers to long-term changes in temperature and weather patterns.

Climate change is driven by human activities such as burning fossil fuels and land use changes. Our actions have caused a dramatic increase in greenhouse gases (GHGs), leading to an overheating planet and increased climate risk.

There are ways to prepare now to reduce our risks in an uncertain future.

Greenhouse gases trap heat in the earth's atmosphere, warming the planet.

This guide contains resources, information and local stories to inspire and activate our community. In addition to ways we can prepare for the impacts of climate change, it also includes ideas for how to take action in our daily lives to combat climate change.

Check out the guide with your friends, loved ones, and neighbors and make a plan for concrete step to reduce your risk and support our community's resilience.

Your future self will be grateful you took the time.



Community resilience is a community's ability to withstand and recover from hard times.

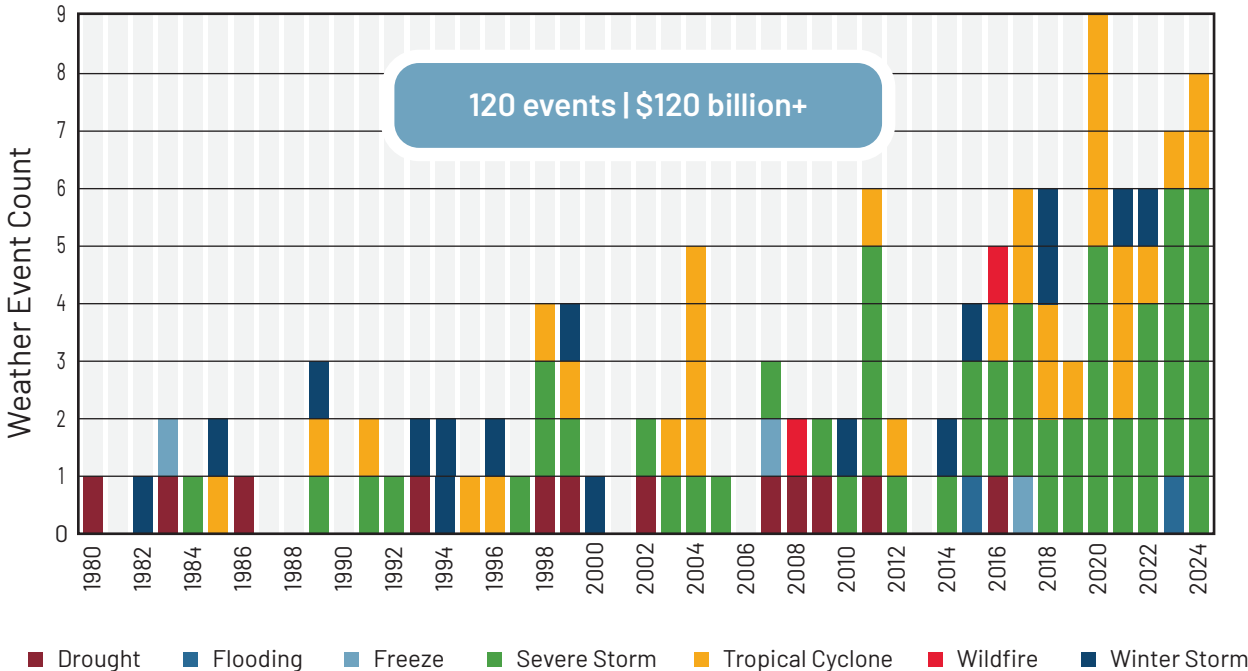


ASHEVILLE'S NATURAL DISASTER TIMELINE

While Western North Carolina is no stranger to extreme weather events, the growing intensity and frequency of these events has led to increased property damage and costs as well as a greater urgency to build personal and community resilience.

- 1916** Over 26 inches of rain fell in our region, causing historic floods.
- 2004** Tropical Storms Ivan and Frances caused the French Broad River to rise more than 14 feet.
- 2016** Fires near Gatlinburg burned more than 17,000 acres in nearby eastern Tennessee.
- 2021** Tropical Storm Fred killed seven and caused \$1.3 billion in U.S. losses.
- 2023** Canadian wildfires impacted local air quality.
- 2024** Tropical Storm Helene brought 12 to 30 inches of rain, causing devastation across WNC.

NORTH CAROLINA BILLION-DOLLAR DISASTER EVENTS 1980-2024



Data Source: NOAA

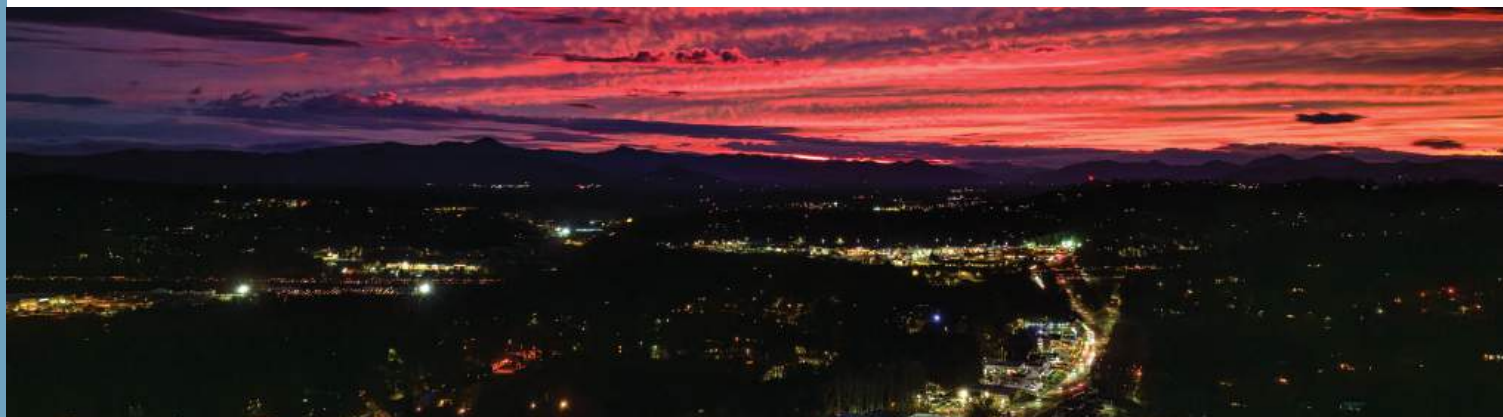




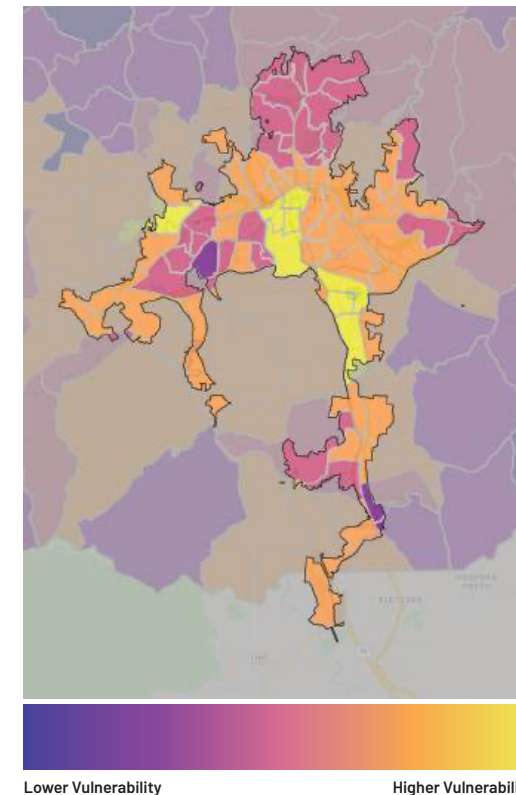
CLIMATE JUSTICE

It is well documented that climate disruption affects already marginalized communities first and most profoundly.

More frequent extreme weather events alongside health, demographic, infrastructure and historical factors influence our personal, local and regional climate risk. Age, income, race, and systemic disenfranchisement amplify disaster impacts, making recovery more difficult and resource-intensive. Climate justice demands that we acknowledge these vulnerabilities and ensure that resources and support reach those most affected.



CLIMATE JUSTICE DATA MAP



This interactive tool available on the City of Asheville's website considers climate risks and other data points to display an overall climate justice score by area. You can use it to learn about the main climate risks and other vulnerabilities impacting your neighborhood.

To access this tool, scan the QR code. To learn the climate risks of a specific location and see its climate justice score, either type the address in the search bar above the map or select "Use current location."

CJ Data Map





"The Earth is a fine place and worth fighting for." — Ernest Hemingway, author

GET STARTED

KNOW YOUR RISKS

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BUILD A KIT

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MAKE A PLAN

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BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

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KNOW YOUR CLIMATE RISKS

Asheville's primary climate risks are:



Flooding



Landslides



Extreme
Temperature



Wildfire

As Tropical Storm Helene demonstrated, extreme weather events can lead to extended outages of power, communications, infrastructure, and water. Take the time to understand which risks are most present where you live, work, and play. You can explore the **Asheville Climate Justice Data Map** (pg 10) to learn about your climate and non-climate vulnerabilities.



BUILD A KIT

Gather the following supplies so you can shelter in place without utilities for at least 72 hours:

- Water (1 gallon/person/day)
- Water filtration system
- Nonperishable food and pet food
- Charged power bank or energy station
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- First aid kit
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Candles and matches
- Whistle to signal for help
- KN95 dust mask
- Moist towelettes
- Garbage bags and plastic ties
- Can opener
- Local maps
- Cash
- Medicine
- Hand sanitizer



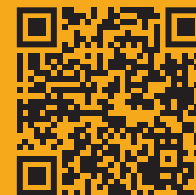
Keep key emergency items like water, first aid, and food in your car.

MAKE A PLAN

A family emergency plan is a great way to start the conversation and stay connected if disaster strikes when you're not with your loved ones. You can access detailed Family Plan resources by scanning the QR code at the bottom of the page. The following are some basic steps to help you get started.

- Scan the AVL Alert QR code below to sign up for notifications about what's happening in our community.
- Create, share and post a Family Emergency Communication Plan that puts all key info in one place. (See the Family Plan QR code below.)
 - Include shelter, evacuation and communication plans—where will you go, with whom, and how will you stay connected?
 - Consider specific needs in your household, such as medications, dietary restrictions, age-related concerns, and pets' needs.

AVL Alert



Family Plan





BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Your neighbors are likely to be the first people to respond in a disaster, especially if emergency responders are unable to get to you. Building relationships with neighbors can be helpful for many reasons. In the event of an emergency, check in on family members and vulnerable neighbors twice a day.

- Find ways to get to know your neighbors, like hosting a social, or even simply saying hello regularly!
- Organize yourselves to identify folks who may need an extra hand.
- Check out pages 35 through 50 for more ideas to build your community network.

Community Member Spotlight



DeWayne Barton | Bluenote Junction Hub (future)

"The environment has a universal way of bringing people together, like music. When the water flows and the neighborhood floods everybody out, everybody comes together, as they have all been impacted."

"As a neighborhood, we're doing time, talent, and treasure mapping, where we're asking everybody what's their time, treasure and talent that they can give back to the neighborhood. And from that, we'll create an emergency response team—even a neighborhood tool share."



"Value me, value you, and together value earth." — DeWayne Barton

AVL CLIMATE RISKS AND ACTIONS

The City of Asheville's Climate Resilience Assessment identified three primary climate stressors impacting our region: heavy precipitation, which causes flooding and landslides; drought, which leads to wildfires and water shortages; and extreme temperature variability. The devastation in our community from Tropical Storm Helene is an example of the increasing frequency and intensity of these events and demonstrates the urgent need to take action at home, in our city,

regionally, and worldwide. Our individual household and neighborhood actions complement policies and prepare our communities to respond in the event of a disaster.

This section of the toolkit highlights specific actions you can take to reduce disruption, damage and injury when facing Asheville's climate risks. After exploring your neighborhood on the climate justice data map, focus on the risks that are most pressing for you. These steps, alongside reducing our respective carbon footprints (pages 33 to 34) and building community connection (page 39), are key to our resilience. Together, we thrive!



$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Individual Action} \\
 + \\
 \text{Neighborhood Cohesion and Coordination} \\
 = \\
 \text{Community Resilience}
 \end{array}$$

FLOODING

The rivers and creeks that surround our mountain communities bring great joy and beauty, along with increased risks when we experience heavy rainfall. Many households, especially those in floodplains, are subject to flooding and can benefit from proactive planning. This is particularly true as we face increasingly unpredictable weather.

The actions you take should be based on your property's circumstances and may be different if you are facing a major flood risk due to being in a floodway or floodplain, or a minor flood risk such as slope runoff or basement seepage. Helene showed us that many unexpected locations can be highly vulnerable under extreme conditions. Those living in high-risk areas should purchase flood insurance and be ready to evacuate in the event of an emergency.

Those living outside of floodplains and floodways may have more power to reduce flood damage than they realize. (See page 23.)

Tropical Storms Fred (2021) and Helene (2024) are evidence of the increasing frequency of extreme flooding events. These storms claimed neighbors' lives, destroyed businesses and caused billions of dollars in property and infrastructure damage.

Is my property
in a floodway
or floodplain?



Community Member Spotlight



Catherine Mitchell | East End Valley Street

"Climate change is a topic that I raise often with my friends because their homes—their neighborhoods—are at risk. Whether they recognize it or see it coming, it's there.

You can't build resilience unless you have information. Once you receive that information, you can do protective measures."

TAKE ACTION!

Smaller-scale stormwater management strategies will help property owners and managers reduce their flood vulnerability at both the household and neighborhood levels. Take preventative actions and pay attention to alerts to react quickly during a flood. Being prepared can help save lives and prevent property damage.

Reduce risks

- Flood proof your exterior walls using moisture barrier material.
- Elevate critical equipment and toxic materials.
- Install drainage solutions such as:
 - French drains or other water diversion systems.
 - Rain Barrels.
 - Landscape features like rain gardens or bioswales.
- Install a sump pump.
- Purchase flood insurance.

Have a plan, stay informed and stay safe

- Ensure that your emergency plan includes flood scenarios.
- Sign up for alerts and follow evacuation instructions.
- Have a waterproof portion of your emergency kit for critical documents and materials.
- "Turn Around, Don't Drown"—never drive or walk through flooded streets.



"Water is life's matter and matrix, mother and medium. There is no life without water."
— Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, M.D.

LANDSLIDE

Landslides occur quickly, often with little notice. If your home, workplace, or a road you rely on may be vulnerable to landslides, learn to recognize the signs of slope instability and take steps to reduce your landslide risk.



These Asheville neighborhoods have elevated landslide risk for homes and roads: Ballentree, Beaucatcher, Beaverdam, Biltmore Village, Chunns Cove, Haw Creek, East West Asheville, Kenilworth, RAD, Reynolds Mountain, Town Mountain, Treetops, WECAN



TAKE ACTION!

Recognize signs of slope instability

- New cracks or bulges in the ground or on structures.
- Leaning trees, poles, walls or fences.
- Changes in runoff patterns.
- Visible erosion at the bottom of a slope.

Reduce risks

- Plant and maintain natural vegetation and mature trees on slopes to prevent erosion.
- Contract with a qualified, licensed geologist or engineer to determine slope stability before beginning construction.
- Be sure downspouts flow into intended drainage pathways.

Have a plan, stay informed and stay safe

- Monitor weather and alerts for updates about heavy rains or road closures.
- Act quickly in emergency situations—evacuate and be aware of alternate routes in case of road closures.

Learn more about landslide risk and history in our region using this tool:



WILDFIRE

Asheville's proximity to large swaths of lush forest is a defining feature of our beautiful landscapes and outdoor recreation. However, in times of heightened risk due to post storm debris, or during extended drought, our forested lands are at risk for wildfires. Neighborhoods next to or surrounded by dense vegetation are more vulnerable to wildfire, especially in areas with steep slopes or where fire emergency response may be otherwise challenging. Managing your property's vegetation and understanding your home's wildfire risk can help you stay prepared and reduce potential damage.



Firewise USA



TAKE ACTION!

Reduce risks

- Manage vegetation to create a buffer or defensible space of 30 feet around your home.
- Clear flammable items from under decks, balconies and stairs.
- Trim branches and rake plant materials 5 feet away from your house.

Have a plan, stay informed and stay safe

- Create and practice a fire escape plan. Don't forget about your pets or livestock.
- Always follow burn bans and risk alerts during times of elevated wildfire risk, such as windy days and periods of drought.

If a wildfire threatens your house

- Shut off the gas at the meter.
- Wet the vegetation surrounding your home.
- Close the windows and doors.
- Evacuate.

Community Member Spotlight



Matt Ballance | Asheville Fire Station 1

"We have several areas here in the city that we consider wildland-urban interface. We have to educate individuals on creating defensible space around their homes. We have to make sure that people are landscaping and protecting homes so that, if we get a wildland fire, you've already done your part to help firefighters protect your home and to keep you safe."

EXTREME TEMPERATURE (HOT OR COLD)

Cold snaps and heat waves can be as disruptive or deadly as any other climate event. In Asheville, we're seeing increasing high temperatures in the summer and unpredictable fluctuations year round. Older residents, pregnant people, young children, people with unreliable heating or cooling systems, and neighbors with health challenges can be particularly vulnerable to extreme temperatures. Taking steps to weatherproof your home, identifying community resources, and knowing what action to take during extreme weather conditions can make a big difference.

Urban Heat Island Effect

City centers with more concrete and less trees attract and trap heat. On extremely hot days, Asheville's downtown area and neighborhoods with less tree canopy can be especially dangerous. Check out the Climate Justice Data Map to learn more about your neighborhood's heat vulnerability index.

In December 2022, during an extreme cold weather event, a water production facility in the City of Asheville was unable to produce water, and residents in parts of the city were without water service for many days. Public water mains and lines burst, while pipes within many homes also froze, impacting households across the region.



TAKE ACTION!

Reduce risks

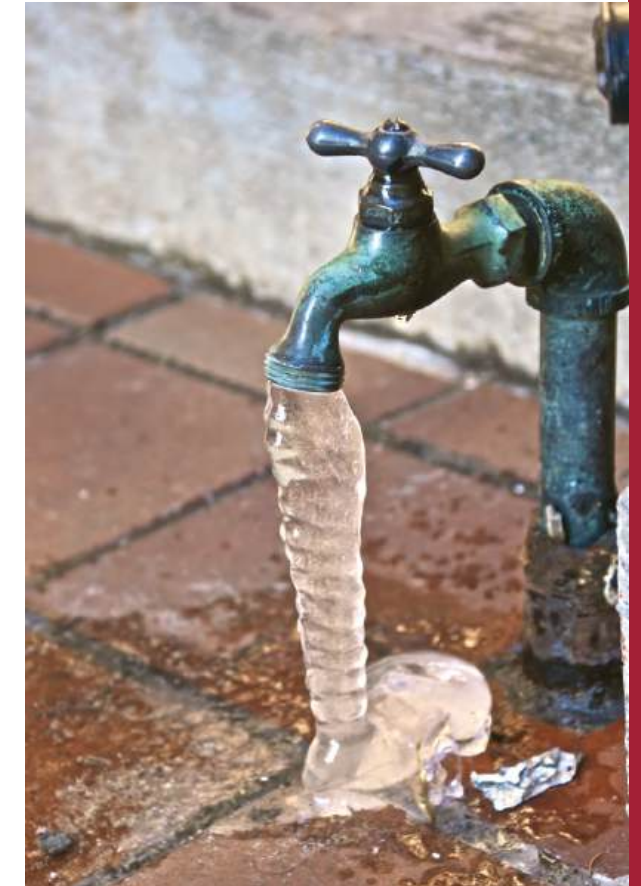
- Install weatherstripping and insulation to block outdoor heat and cold.
- Use curtains to insulate your home and control sunlight, helping to regulate indoor temperatures.
- Install fans or AC, and designate a "cool room" to keep your family and pets safe.

Have a plan, stay informed and stay safe

- Watch for Code Purple Alerts, signaling extreme cold.
- Libraries, community centers, and other public spaces may offer daytime respite during extreme temperatures.

Car safety

- Heat: Check the back seat! Never leave kids or pets in a parked car—even with the windows down.
- Cold or blizzard: Pack an emergency kit in your car containing a blanket, window scraper, flashlight, water, and flares.





\$ Low Expense \$\$ Moderate Expense \$\$\$ High Expense



Low Time Commitment



Moderate Time Commitment



High Time Commitment

ALL RISKS

Know your risks and take action ✓

Build a kit ✓

Make a plan ✓

Be a good neighbor ✓

EXTREME TEMPERATURES

	COST	TIME RANGE
Create shade	\$-\$\$	
Cool or heat the air	\$-\$\$\$	
Car safety	\$	
Recognize the signs of heat- and cold-related illness	\$	
Know where you can go to get cool or warm	\$	

MAJOR FLOODING

Purchase flood insurance	\$\$-\$\$\$	
Floodproofing (emergency)	\$-\$\$	
Floodproofing (permanent)	\$\$-\$\$\$	
Remove or secure toxic materials	\$	
Elevate important personal property	\$\$	
Elevate your home or building	\$\$\$	

MINOR FLOODING

Redirect stormwater with green infrastructure	\$-\$\$\$	
▪ Utilize rain barrels	\$\$	
▪ Direct downspouts to vegetated areas	\$	
▪ Install French drains or bioswales	\$\$-\$\$\$	
Clear stormwater drains	\$	
Maintain natural vegetation	\$-\$\$	
Protect stream buffers and riparian zones	\$-\$\$	

LANDSLIDES

Be aware of surface water runoff and keep ditches and culverts clear	\$	
Recognize the signs of slope instability	\$	
Maintain natural vegetation to prevent erosion	\$-\$\$	
Stabilize slopes as needed	\$\$-\$\$\$	

WILDFIRE

Purchase or review existing insurance coverage	\$\$-\$\$\$	
Use fire-resistant building materials	\$-\$\$\$	
Consider neighborhood strategies	\$	
Manage vegetation and debris	\$-\$\$	





PERSONAL ACTIONS

Much of this toolkit is focused on how to prepare for and reduce the impact of Asheville's climate risks. In our individual, family, professional and community lives, each of us can take personal action to slow climate change. Alongside our preparation for this changing climate, we can also make changes in our habits and systems to conserve resources and reverse climate trends.

Open windows on cool nights. \$ ⚡ CO ₂	Unplug devices. \$ ⚡ CO ₂	Air dry clothing and dishes. \$ ⚡ CO ₂	Wash clothes in cold water. \$ ⚡ CO ₂	Reduce food waste. \$ 🗑️
Compost your food scraps. CO ₂ 🗑️	Use less plastic. ⚡ CO ₂ 🗑️	Recycle Right! Check the Waste Wizard. CO ₂ 🗑️	Shop or trade for used goods. \$ ⚡ CO ₂ 🗑️	Donate your gently used items. ⚡ CO ₂ 🗑️

\$ Save Money

⚡ Save Energy

💧 Save Water

CO₂ Reduce Carbon

🗑️ Reduce Waste

Check the
Waste Wizard:



PROPERTY UPGRADES

Install LED lightbulbs. \$ ⚡	Maintain mechanicals—change HVAC filters, flush water heater, etc. \$ ⚡ CO ₂	Use electrical appliances and lawn tools. \$ ⚡ CO ₂	Increase home insulation. \$ ⚡ CO ₂	Install solar panels and backup battery. \$ ⚡ 💧 CO ₂ 🗑️
Set thermostat to 68 in winter and 78 in summer. \$ ⚡ CO ₂	Weatherize. \$ ⚡ CO ₂	Find and fix water leaks. \$ 💧	Install low flow faucets and showerheads. \$ 💧	Switch to low flush toilets. \$ 💧





NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP REFLECTIONS

Asheville residents’ resilience and creative talents shone brightly in the dark days and weeks following Tropical Storm Helene. Neighbors united to share information and life-saving resources across neighborhoods. Existing relationships grew into networks of community care resulting in unprecedented action and incredible innovation.

In the weeks following the storm, Asheville received support from around the country. Community leaders rose to the occasion to manage this wellspring of generosity by activating volunteers and distributing resources to people who needed them the most.

At the forefront of this effort were neighborhood and community organizations, faith leaders, and everyday humans turned heroes. People dedicated their time, energy and expertise to share food and water, stack diapers, drive forklifts, check on neighbors and chart a path out of the darkness together. Here are reflections from a few of the countless leaders who stepped up to support action and connection in the wake of Helene.



Reverend Douglas Bynum and Renee White

East End / Valley Street Community and St. James AME Church

“We set up block captains; this was part of our plan. They went door to door to find out what the needs were. For elderly and disabled people in the neighborhood, they couldn't get to us, but we could get to them. We now know who our neighbors are.” — Renee White

“It was an eye opening experience both in terms of witnessing what we've always believed to be there in the goodness of people. The resilience, the cooperation, the love.” — Reverend Douglas Bynum



Shaniqua Simuel, Sophie Dixon, Lauralee Petritz, Norma Baynes and Kimmy Hunter

Shiloh Neighborhood Association and Friendship Center

“People trusted us. Shiloh neighborhood association has been around for 25 years. We have a rapport in the community. People were able to get what they needed and go. Even gas, insulin, toiletries, anything... I mean, down to fruit rollups. But we built trust in the community so they knew where they could come. They knew they could be vulnerable with us.”
Shaniqua Simuel

“That's how this community is. And I was so grateful that they just took care of me like I was their mom or their grandma. So it was a nice feeling.” Norma Baynes





Alan Luis Ramirez and Jonathan Palma

Emma Community, Poder Emma and Colaborativa La Milpa

"You share the food, be clear with the community, and be honest. That's one of those things we really did, be honest with everybody and share whatever we have."
— Jonathan Palma

"We already had really strong relationships. In the time of the hurricane we came together to respond. It was really helpful to have one place where we brought all the donations, and from that place, we were able to distribute them to all. It was our basin." — Alan Luis Ramirez



Philip Cooper and Shaunda Jackson

Southside Community and Arthur Edington Educations & Career Center

"People were at it from sun up to sundown, making sure that people had what they need. So we needed to be able to lean on each other. And the only way to truly make that happen is to already have that relationship. We told them, meet at the center. And this was the hub. So everybody knew to be here." — Shaunda Jackson

"It definitely took a village and we made it happen." — Philip Cooper



Pastors Matthew and Michelle Coleman and Diana Kuzmich

Asheville Dream Center and Revol Church

"I've been in ministry for over 20 years. I've never seen anything like this in my life. We met people that we wouldn't have met any other way. And those relationships that have come through are just gold. We have such an incredible ability to move forward now because we've got greater connectivity to each other. It's going to take the community." — Pastor Matthew Coleman

"Resilience is being able to take that long-term. And so right now, we're thinking, 'How can we help next?'" — Diana Kuzmich



Margaret Fuller, Yvette Jives and Pastor Charles Martin

Burton Street Community and St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

"We were able to network outside of our community with different organizations like CoThinkk, Ms. Renee at East End, Andrea at Emma and ABIPA, we got supplies from them to serve our community and were able to go door to door and identify what the people in this community needed." — Yvette Jives

"Let's not wait till the next storm. You see it on people's face when they are hurting. So let's not wait till the next storm. Let's be in tune with our neighbors and say, hey, do you need something?" — Charles Martin





PERSONAL CLIMATE ACTION GUIDE

Two key players in impactful local community climate action are **you** and **your neighbors**. This section provides some practical tools to identify your motivation, take care of yourself, and build neighborhood connections and cohesion.

Personal

- Identify Your Climate Action Superpowers ▶ 40
- Take Care of You: Mental Health Resources ▶ 41–44
- Help Kids Navigate Climate Emotions ▶ 45–46

Community

- Build Your Village ▶ 47–48
- Map Neighborhood Assets ▶ 49–50



Keep an eye out for note-taking opportunities!



IDENTIFY CLIMATE ACTION SUPERPOWERS

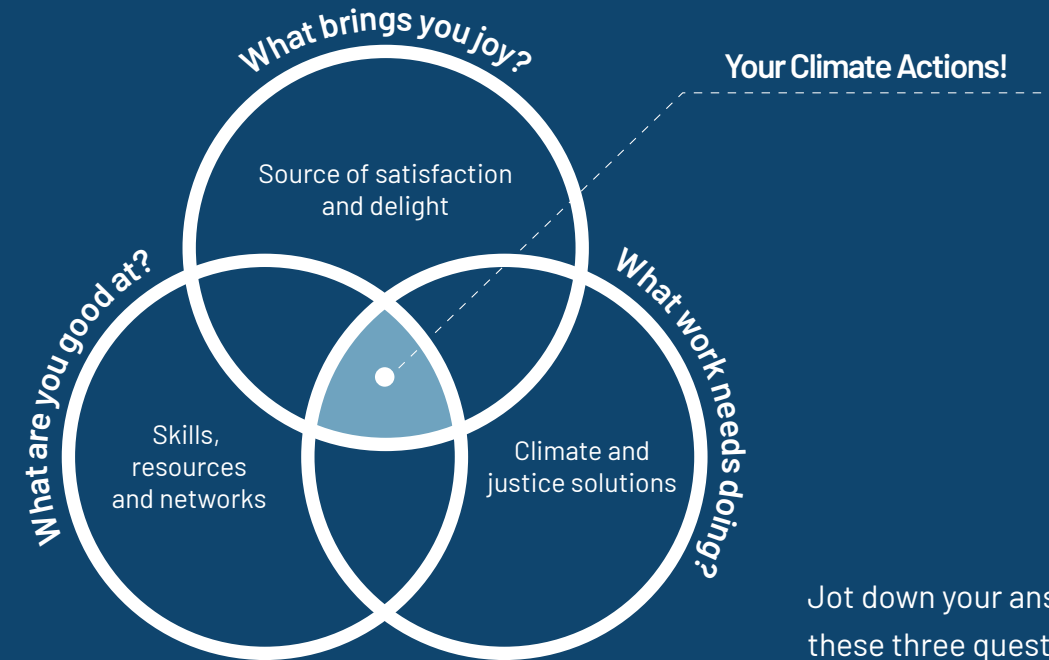


Image credit: Ayana Elizabeth Johnson

Jot down your answers to these three questions to help identify your climate actions.





Community Member Spotlight



Trumie Treece | Middle School Student

"Climate change is impacting our generation more than the last, and it's only going to get worse. If I have kids one day, their world won't be safe—even in North Carolina. The weather, flooding, hurricanes, and even tornadoes will become more intense. I've become more aware of how much one person can make a difference, but no one has to do it all alone. If everyone walked to school or work just once a week, it could really help reduce climate change."

TAKE CARE OF YOU: MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Building emotional resilience is an important aspect of building overall community resilience. There are many simple tools that can help people become more emotionally prepared for the effects of our changing climate. The more we practice using these tools now, the more able we are to care for ourselves and others when disaster strikes. Using these tools can also help you navigate life's daily challenges more smoothly.

YES!

Be in nature.



YES!

Be with others in community (IRL)!



YES!

Take action in alignment with your values.

These help improve mood, reduce anxiety, and serve as buffers against mental health struggles by providing a sense of purpose.

NO!

Limiting screen time and social media use can help us stay more grounded and centered.



Community Member Spotlight



Tom Burnet | Hall Fletcher

"Looking at this as an opportunity—not a crisis—to think more deeply about how we live our lives, be more creative individually, and ask, 'How can we improve our lives, our communities, and our climate at the same time?'"



WINDOW OF TOLERANCE



HYPERAROUSAL

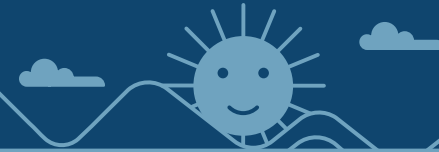
Feeling amped, anxious or out of control; desire to fight or run away.



DISREGULATED

Agitated, feeling uncomfortable.

WINDOW OF TOLERANCE



DISREGULATED

Starting to shut down, sluggish and uncomfortable.



HYPOAROUSAL

Feeling extremely zoned out or numb; can lose track of time.



Major climate events and everyday life impact our mental health. These resources and actions can help us stay centered and present.

RESOURCES AND ACTIONS FOR CENTERING



BELLY BREATHING

One hand on belly, one on chest. Close your eyes and breathe slowly, feeling the rise and fall of your torso for at least 2 minutes.

BUTTERFLY HUG

Cross your arms over each other and tap on each side of your chest or shoulders alternately for at least 2 minutes.

STIMULATE SENSES

With strong stimulating smells, crunchy food, upbeat music.

MOVEMENT

Dancing, yoga or exercise.



Credit: Dr. Dan Siegel



HELP KIDS NAVIGATE CLIMATE EMOTIONS

Children also have climate emotions. It's a balancing act trying to prepare children for the world they're growing up in without scaring them. Here are some strategies for supporting young people.

- Seek out developmentally appropriate resources.
- Help children positively impact their community and environment.
- Teach about nature to foster care for our environment.
- Reassure children; ask how they are and welcome their questions.
- Make space and time for big feelings.



Teens and Young Adults

- While more complex content can be discussed with older youths, pay close attention to their responses.
- Always get help if teens express extreme concerns, anxiety or suicidal thoughts.



POST-DISASTER SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN

- Focus on how you will keep them safe. (It's over. We're okay.)
- Point out all the people who are helping in big and small ways.
- Be mindful about what kids consume on TV, radio, and social media or hear from their friends.
- Listen and answer questions in age appropriate ways.
- Seek out mental-health support.
- Take care of yourself so you can be available for them.





BUILD YOUR VILLAGE

TIPS AND TRICKS TO GROW CONNECTIONS

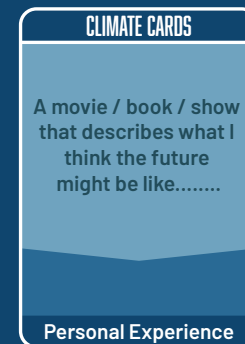
Knowing our neighbors in non-emergency situations helps us better care for each other during disruption. Neighbors are often the first responders in an emergency, and in some cases, they may be the only responders for a while if the disaster is far reaching, impacts access, or overwhelms emergency resources. Here are a few simple ideas to initiate or deepen your relationships with your neighbors. Also, you never know when you might need to borrow a cup of sugar!

- Host a neighborhood potluck.
- Invite neighbors to a community meeting to discuss emergency planning.
- Plan a block party.
- Build a block captain program.
- Identify vulnerable neighbors and set a check-in schedule.
- Start a book club.
- Have a game night.



CLIMATE CARDS

Sparking climate conversation is a powerful tool for connecting with your family or neighbors, but it can also be a challenging topic to discuss. Print, copy, scan or download these climate cards to start conversations at your next gathering!





MAP NEIGHBORHOOD ASSETS

Our communities are rich with diverse lived experiences, skills and expertise. Uncovering and investing in these strengths builds a more resilient social fabric and can activate innovative, sustainable climate action. Documenting existing community strengths can also reveal gaps to inform planning and training. Work with your neighbors to brainstorm some of these key assets in your community. This information will be a strong foundation for more in-depth climate action planning.

What examples of these assets can you think of in your community? What's in abundance? What's lacking?



INDIVIDUALS

Skills, knowledge or gifts your neighbors possess?



ASSOCIATIONS

Clubs, organizations, faith groups.



INSTITUTIONS

Schools, hospitals, government buildings.



PHYSICAL ASSETS

Built infrastructure like roads, buildings, parks.



CONNECTIONS

How are people sharing assets? Connecting assets builds resilience!





**ELEVATE
AVL**

ashevillenc.gov/elevateAVL