



Project Information

Help shape a new vision for a fair, resilient, and thriving Berkeley community.

Welcome to Our Pop-Up Exhibit | October 27 – Nov 7, 2025

We are hosting a Pop-Up Exhibit at multiple venues over a period of two weeks to make sure as many Berkeleyans as possible can participate. There is also a virtual version of this Exhibit available online for those who cannot join us in person. **We also have this informational handout available in Spanish, Simplified Chinese, Arabic, and Nepali.**

The purpose of the Pop-Up Exhibit is to share **preliminary policy themes** for the **Disaster Preparedness and Safety element** and **Environmental Justice element** that have been drafted during focused engagement with selected Community Based Organizations. These themes will be developed into **goals, policies and programs**. We want to understand if the policy themes are generally aligned with broad community needs and expectations.

WORKSHOP INSTRUCTIONS

1. Sign in at the Welcome Table
2. Read this handout (Project Information) if desired
3. Circulate between the exhibits (8 total)
4. Give feedback by responding to the prompts on the posters
5. Fill out the Comment Card before you leave to give feedback on this event

Project Overview

The **Disaster Preparedness and Safety element** and **Environmental Justice element** (two chapters of the City's General Plan) will aim to make Berkeley safer and healthier for everyone, with a focus on historically underserved communities.

This project includes three parts:

1. Updating the Disaster Preparedness and Safety element of the General Plan
2. Creating a new Environmental Justice element to add to the General Plan
3. Developing a strategy for tracking the City's progress toward climate goals

The City of Berkeley received a grant from the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) through the Adaptation Planning Grant Program to help fund this project.

Additional project information is available on the City's website at bit.ly/BerkeleyEJS





Community Engagement

The City aims to strengthen our community's ability to adapt to climate change by inviting all community members to participate in the early planning stages. With your help, we can create plans that identify how climate change and environmental justice issues affect our City and develop strategies to support a more inclusive community for us all.

To date, the City of Berkeley (in collaboration with its engagement partners, Ecology Center and CivicMakers) has engaged with the community to inform this project in the following ways:



Formed a Community Advisory Committee (Spring - Summer 2024), which is made up of local organizations that serve the communities that are most sensitive to harmful systems and natural disasters. Participating organizations include *Berkeley Food Network, Center for Food, Faith, and Justice, Center for Independent Living, The Gray Panthers of Berkeley/the East Bay, Healthy Black Families, Latinos Unidos de Berkeley, Multicultural Institute, Pacific ADA, and Waterside Workshops.*

- **Convened the Community Advisory Committee** (December 2024 – present) on the following topics: community mapping, equity, inclusion, and community needs, safety issues, environmental and climate change hazards, community resilience, evacuation time study and disaster preparedness, and environmental justice issues.
- **Held a Community Workshop** (February 1, 2025; South Berkeley Senior Center), which was focused on identifying existing community assets and challenges related to community safety and disaster preparedness, as well as reviewing draft environmental justice maps. The summary report from this workshop is available on the City's website.
- **Conducted a Community Survey** (June 2, 2025 - June 30, 2025), which asked participants to prioritize issues across several categories, including disaster preparedness, pollution reduction, affordable housing, civic engagement, access to public facilities, healthy food, and opportunities for physical activity, and to identify key barriers to progress in those areas.

Additional details about community engagement are available on the City's website at bit.ly/BerkeleyEJS



Policy Details - General Plan

Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element Update

The City is updating its General Disaster Preparedness and Safety Plan. This plan includes rules and actions to help reduce the risk of dangers and disasters, whether they are natural or human-made. It also supports the City's efforts in preventing disasters, responding to emergencies, dealing with disasters, and recovering after any of these events.

The update to the Disaster Preparedness and Safety element will include new information required to comply with recent State laws, and to reflect the updated vision of a safe and resilient Berkeley.

The updated element will:

- Identify known hazards and risks, assess vulnerability to them, and discuss ways to reduce those risks, including climate change–related hazards
- Include strategies to improve disaster event notifications, communications, and evacuation
- Establish policies for improving community safety and responding to climate change.

Topics addressed in the update include:

- Emergency preparedness, response, and recovery
- Equitable community resilience
- Extreme heat and drought
- Seismic and geologic hazards
- Wildfire hazards and air quality
- Flooding and storm drain overflow
- Tsunami and dam failure
- Sea level rise and groundwater rise



New General Plan Environmental Justice Element

Berkeley is updating its General Plan to include a new Environmental Justice chapter (‘or ‘Element’), which will identify communities facing increased pollution and environmental problems, assess how vulnerable Berkeley’s communities are to these issues, and create policies to improve the health, safety, and resilience of these communities, and encourage and strengthen meaningful community engagement in our planning processes.

The Environmental Justice Element will include information required to comply with State laws, and it will also build on Berkeley’s ongoing efforts to create a more equitable, healthy, and sustainable community for all.

Topics addressed in the update include:

- Belonging and inclusion
- Equity in City policies and programs
- Community-centered climate resilience
- Environmental health and pollution exposure
- Access to healthy foods
- Equitable access to public services and facilities
- Expanding parks, green space, and civic infrastructure
- Transportation equity and pollution reduction
- Advancing housing equity and resilience
- Building civic capacity and community engagement

Measurable Climate Resilience Strategies

The City is creating a dashboard to track Berkeley's progress in meeting climate goals. This new dashboard will provide an easy-to-understand summary of important measurements and indicators – information that will help City staff and community members evaluate progress in an intuitive and approachable manner.

We want to work with you to find out what data would show success in Berkeley’s climate action and resilience. Through this Exhibit, you will have the opportunity to weigh-in on what information matters to you and your community, to define what success looks like for Berkeley’s climate action and resilience efforts and to ensure that future tracking reflects community values and lived experiences.