Evaluating Equitable Resilience Building Actions

## [Purpose](#_[Name_of_Chapter)

The purpose of this activity is to narrow down the brainstormed list of resilience actions to a short, prioritized list of actions that will have the greatest impact on reducing hazards and improving equity in your community.

## What you’ll Need

**Who:** Workshop Participants, Facilitators

**Where:** In-person or virtual workshop

**How long will it take:** 1.5 Hours

**Materials:** Actions Brainstorming Worksheets, 5 copies of the Actions Evaluation Table (end of this document) for each breakout group

## Instructions

There are a few different options for completing this activity depending on what you need to get out of it. Choose from the following options:

1. Option 1: A complete list of possible actions with an understanding of how they would increase equitable resilience. Complete parts 1 and 2A.
2. Option 2: A list of actions that is prioritized according to what the community participants feel is most important. Complete parts 1,2A and 3.
3. Option 3: A short list of actions with more detail. Complete parts 1, 2B, and 3.

## Part 1: Review Actions Brainstorming (15-20 minutes)

1. Everyone should take 15-20 minutes to walk around the room and see the actions from the break-out group brainstorming. Walk between tables and review the different actions that workshop participants came up with to achieve the vision statements for the different action areas. Actively discuss with your fellow workshop participants your thoughts and feelings about the different actions, their pros and cons, and how effective they may be at helping the community reach its vision.
2. Everyone gets 4 dots to put on specific actions, in any action area. This will give the break-out groups some guidance on what actions they may want to talk about more in depth, as well as demonstrating how much interest there is for each action area.

## Part 2: Analyze and Evaluate (30 minutes + 15 minutes (optional break-out group rotation)

1. Participants should get back into their Action Area break-out groups to further discuss and evaluate the list of actions and consider the impacts different actions will produce in reducing hazards and improving equity in the community. (20-30 minutes)
2. Look at your list of actions from the Actions Brainstorming worksheet and discuss how each action could have the biggest impact on equity. (If you have limited time, pick a smaller number of actions to discuss based on votes received, such as 10.)
   1. Equity- Which actions will benefit the greatest number of people, and/or have the greatest benefit for those most vulnerable, and/or the lowest likelihood of unintended, negative social consequences?
   2. Hazard mitigation- Does this action have the potential to build resilience to more than one hazard- including hazards most likely to affect your community, and/or hazards that might be lower probability but higher consequence?

**Example of voting for list of actions and how to maximize equity impact and hazard mitigation**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Action** | **# Votes**  **Received in Part 1** | **How to maximize equity impact** | **How to maximize hazard mitigation** |
| Repair municipal tidal flood gates | 8 | Prioritize repairing tidal gates around public transportation routes | Flood gate outlets need to be above tide level |
| Install drainage pump in low-lying section of downtown | 7 | Avoid installing a pump system in an area that will cause noise pollution to surrounding homes | Ensure drained floodwaters do not cause or increase flooding in other areas |

1. *Optional:* Now each break-out group will rotate to a different action area to review and add to the work of that group (15 minutes)
   1. Review the table with the list of actions, maximizing equity and hazard mitigation.
   2. Add any additional thoughts you have to the table.
   3. Using markers or post-it notes in one color, add any potential synergies or connections with other action areas.
   4. Using markers or post-it notes of a different color, add any connections to existing efforts that you are aware of.
2. Return to your original Action Area and prepare your report-back to the larger group.
   1. Review the comments from the rotation break-out group.
      1. Option A: Share some main points of discussion from your work, including the top actions that were voted on in the walk around, and any key points from your discussion about equity and hazards.
      2. Option B: Pick 2 actions and complete the pros and cons table below. This will provide greater detail and a more thorough evaluation of selected actions. This may be especially useful if you want to take the next step of strategy planning.
   2. While filling out the table, discuss the following. This involves weighing the pros and cons of different resilience actions and their capability to address your community’s critical hazard and equity concerns and brainstorming changes or ideas to improve actions. Include discussion of potential unintended consequences or mal-adaptations from the actions.
      1. In what ways does each action move the community closer to its vision of improved equity and hazard resilience?
      2. What core equity and hazard concerns are not addressed by each action?
      3. How can these gaps be eliminated?

## Part 3: Prioritize (30-40 minutes)

1. Each group shares their report back. Discuss questions such as:
   1. What are some of the trade-offs we might need to make to implement equitable resilience?
   2. Can we modify or combine actions to help them become more equitable, feasible, etc.
2. Each participant votes for their top three actions (e.g. online polling, sticky dots). Be sure to set expectations about voting: people are stating their preference, but just because an idea got the most votes doesn't automatically mean it will get implemented.

**Example of pros and cons for an action area**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Action Area** | Flooding is severely impacting residents of Parkview neighborhood | |
|  | **Vision** | In 10 years, the impacts of flooding should be reduced in Parkview neighborhood and residents should be better able to prepare for and recover from flooding | |
|  | **Action** | Build a new community center in an elevated area of town above flood levels | |
|  |  | **Mitigating Hazard Impacts** | **Improving Equitable Outcomes** |
|  | **Pros** | * Acts as an emergency shelter for residents during storms * Provides a common safe space for community meetings and other community events | * Provides a gathering space to improve sense of belonging in the community * Provide an emergency shelter to lowest income members of the community whose homes sit in flood zones * Provides a space for youth recreation and development programs |
|  | **Cons** | * Stop flooding in the community * Give advanced warning to community of incoming dangerous weather and flood conditions | * Prevent ongoing damage to or improve safety of homes owned my low-income members of the community living in flood zones |
|  | **Potential Adjustments** | * This action would be complimented by the establishment of a community-wide early warning system for severe storms, so residents have time to evacuate their homes | * Messaging and flyers posted in and about the community center to be published all relevant languages in the community |

**Blank template of pros and cons for an action area**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Action Area** |  | |
|  | **Vision** |  | |
|  | **Action** |  | |
|  |  | **Mitigating Hazard Impacts** | **Improving Equitable Outcomes** |
|  | **Pros** |  |  |
|  | **Cons** |  |  |
|  | **Potential Adjustments** |  |  |

## What to do next

Return to the ERB and move on to the next activity: Strategy Planning.