

LISC PHOENIX



# EAP / T-EAP REPORT

*Equity Accountability Partners*

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*Meeting 1*

*October 29, 2024*

# INTRODUCTION

At the core of the **RECI-Community Engagement Plan** is strategic collaboration to ensure access and accountability, with Equity Accountability Partners (EAP) serving as a key component. The EAP consists of 15 individuals whose work and lived experiences reflect those most affected by climate change, including Indigenous, Black, Latinx, women, seniors, disabled, and unsheltered people—communities historically burdened by environmental injustices. The EAP’s primary role is to ensure these voices are central in climate resilience discussions, addressing systemic exclusion and inequities. Additionally, the EAP includes a specialized subgroup known as the Technical-Equity Accountability Partners (T-EAP), consisting of members with expertise in building codes and climate resilience policy in Arizona and/or New Mexico. The T-EAP will translate the broader climate justice insights from the EAP into actionable recommendations for the Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

Desired Outcomes for Meeting 1:

- **EAP members understand the RECI Project overview and goals**
- **EAP group members get to know each other**
- **EAP members understand the role of EAP/TEAP**
- **EAP discuss concerns of the built environment**
- **First report from EAP/TEAP submitted to Steering Committee**

Agenda for Meeting 1:


- **Introductions and Community Building**
- **RECI Project Overview and EAP Roles**
- **Recenter and Check in**
- **Climate Resilience Discussion**
  - **How can we work together as a community to create safer, climate-resilient homes and buildings that prioritize the needs of those most impacted by climate change?**
- **Close, Homework, and Next Meeting**

Equity Accountability Partners present for Meeting 1:

1. Emma Viera (South Phoenix)
2. Eva Olivas (Phoenix)
3. Althea Walker (Chandler)
4. William Bighorse (Scottsdale)
5. Joseph Larios (South Phoenix)
6. Amy Juan (Sells)
7. Allison Lenocker (Prescott)
8. Enjolie Lafaurie (South Phoenix)
9. Flor Sandoval (Tucson)
10. Daniel Folke (Flagstaff)
11. Cliff Bryson (Camp Verde)
12. Raye Winch (Tucson)
13. Vicki Cuscino (Tucson) - TEAP

**RECI - Climate Resilience Meeting #1**  
[Access Here](#)

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# **BUILDING TEAP-FEEDBACK CODES**

**Q: How can we work together as a community to create safer, climate-resilient homes and buildings that prioritize the needs of those most impacted by climate change?**

**1**

### **Explore alternative building methods being deployed in other communities**

Specific building practices mentioned were earth-bag architecture (Cal-Earth Institute) and earthship architecture. These types of building practices are relatively experimental but have been around for at least a decade and there are precedents for these types of projects being permitted. Earthen architecture can be affordable when owner/built and many are designed with climate disaster in mind.

**2**

### **Lean into traditional and natural building practices**

Future community engagement should continue to focus on traditional and vernacular building practices, especially from elders within indigenous communities. Some traditional building practices like adobe or cobb have been codified in other jurisdictions and it would be great to include these as appendices within the resiliency code. If there is time and budget, codifying previously uncoded building practices should also be considered.

**3**

### **Understanding safer water measures, using safe building materials, preserving natural landscape.**

The new code should consider methods for achieving water resiliency/net zero usage. Greywater recycling and rainwater capture, storage and filtration could be potential concepts integrated. Incorporating natural, locally sourced materials should also be a priority within the code as a way to reduce CO2 emissions, reduce deforestation and improve indoor air quality.

**4**

### **Low barrier and community DIY builds to support temporary housing.**

The resiliency code should consider incorporating an appendix for temporary housing as a way to address the need to shelter the increasing population of unsheltered people across AZ/NM but also as a way to provide emergency solutions for communities experiencing climate crisis/disaster. Access for essentials like utilities, sanitation, and addressing should be considered. These shelters should be quickly constructed and easy to deploy for folks with little to no building experience.

## 5

**Manufactured housing is a growing sector of the housing economy, yet there are many challenges unique to this building typology that should be considered in a resiliency code.**

**As construction costs continue to rise, manufactured housing is often the most attainable form of housing in AZ/NM. There are many challenges, including multiple jurisdictional regulations and unregulated metering of utilities. The resiliency code should consider an appendix that could potentially override jurisdictional conflicts and provide solutions to some of these challenges as a way to preserve this housing type as an affordable solution.**

## 6

**The building codes should include solar, green shade, less toxic materials, water rain collection and gray water use.**

**The resiliency code should incorporate principles of passive solar design which often include green infrastructure. There should be incentives included for the use of locally sourced, natural materials. Established principles of water conservation, like rainwater collection and gray water use should also be included. Net Zero energy principles often incorporate all of these strategies and include solar energy after the energy consumption of the building has been greatly reduced by the inclusion of passive measures and an energy efficient building envelope.**

## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ENGAGEMENT

**Q: How can we work together as a community to create safer, climate-resilient homes and buildings that prioritize the needs of those most impacted by climate change?**

# 1

### **Understanding histories and impact of colonialism on Indigenous Communities.**

The group advocated that we needed understanding of the historical legalities that have so often undermined Indigenous sovereignty and land rights. One member suggested the “Doctrine of Discovery” as a reading to help understand the ongoing histories of colonialism.

# 2

### **Support for low-income communities by advocating inclusion into federal, county, state housing and climate resilience improvements and funding.**

Members suggested that RECI should support low-income communities by centering them in grants, benefits, tax deductions at all levels. Quality of building and development should not be based on how much we can afford, but a guarantee of quality.

# 3

### **Incorporate multiple ways of knowing, including Native Science and technologies of built environment.**

Members suggested that elders and community builders should act as consultants and incorporate their knowledge in all aspects of Community Engagement for the RECI project, and should be encouraged to act as leaders on the project in and outside of project so that knowledge is shared and not lost when the project is over.

# 4

### **Build intentional healing relationships to address climate resilience.**

We must see this work as relational work that focuses on building a new way forward together and this will require us to heal past betrayals by institutions, but to also come together to begin positive relationship-building together. We need to heal ourselves, each other, with the land, with plant and animal relatives.

## 5

### Engage at every level with communities who have direct experience.

Ensure that direct and lived experiences drive all of the work. We need to make accessibility/disability an important part of the building code and all community engagement so that the new code and climate resilience conversations have accessibility at the center and not the margin.

## 6

### Make accessible space for the community and residents to share knowledge and learn.

Accessible and familiar meeting spaces so that people most impacted by climate change have the awareness, education, and power to know how to navigate and improve their skills to face climate change. Reports and meetings should be Spanish.

Remove the barrier of "us vs them" attitude between leadership and community to increase shared understanding about climate resilience.

## 7

### Increasing Advocacy for climate resilient buildings.

EAP members suggested expanding advocacy for building code initiative through coalitions across state and region. Coalitions could reach further and have broad impact. This is an area the EAP could support in leadership.

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communication that climate  
work

## 8

### Understanding who has authority and how power operates within the RECI project.

Remaining clear and transparent about who has influence and decision-making power to develop the code, and who decides what is a priority and what is not a priority for the new building code. Creating a plan so that suggestions from the EAP are still used and considered to further support community action.