

Local Action, Global Change: Youth Driven Insights to Improve Climate + Health

Richmond, California

Richmond High School Health Academy



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The City of Richmond recognizes environmental health is critical to building a strong, resilient community in the face of a changing climate – it is the Mayor’s top priority for 2015. Hundreds of thousands of California residents, many of whom are physically, socially, or economically disadvantaged, live in areas that are especially vulnerable to climate change. With 32 miles of shoreline, and the home to the Chevron refinery, Richmond is one of these places with the opportunity and responsibility to take proactive steps to build resilience to climate change. The City of Richmond is dedicated to work with community members to understand what is at risk, and how they can be part of the adaptation solution. Key to this strategy is incorporating the insight of young people, who will be the recipients of future policies, decisions, and plans.



In April 2012, the City of Richmond adopted General Plan 2030, a 20 year roadmap for growth and development. Richmond is one of the first cities in the nation to include a section specifically dedicated to Energy and Climate Change and Community Health and Wellness. This is what is called a “co-benefits” framework – policies that help the environment will also help health, and visa versa. The City is seeking youth insight from 250 students in the Richmond High School Health Academy to create the Climate Action Plan. February-May 2015, each grade level will conduct community research and generate specific proposals for mitigation and adaptation strategies that will be incorporated into a youth-element of the Richmond CAP.

QUESTION

How can youth driven data and insight inform the development of the Richmond Climate Action Plan?

ACADEMIC FIT

Richmond High Health Academy

- 9th Grade English
- 10th Grade World History
- 11th Grade Environmental Science
- 12th Grade Government and Economics

“I learned the difference between equality and equity. I’ve also learned adults aren’t the only ones who can make a difference. Us teens, including freshmen, have the power to change and to improve our school and our community.”

– Y-PLAN Student, Richmond High School

DELIVERABLES

Each grade level will conduct community research to generate 10 targeted adaptation and mitigation strategies focused on a specific level of society: Individual and home (9th); School (10th); City (11th); Small Business (12th).

Deliverables will include:

- Policy brief + final presentations
- Youth action component of Climate Action Plan
- Community surveys and mapping
- PSA's/Community education brochures
- Green business certification
- Mural



“Y-PLAN pushes us to open our minds – to get youth who are students of color, who have families that live in the community, who are representing a different generation to the planning table, to hear what reality is for them and to incorporate that in the process.”

– Y-PLAN Client, City of Richmond