



Catalyzing Investment and Building Capacity in Las Cruces

Planning with extreme weather thresholds catalyzes a \$400,000 green infrastructure investment in a historically underserved neighborhood in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Case Studies › Catalyzing Investment and Building Capacity in Las Cruces ›

Lessons Learned

- **Employ proactive planning:** Sometimes, the mere existence of a comprehensive plan is enough to spur financial investment in resilience-building endeavors. Do not underestimate the appeal of proactive planning to potential investors. Having a ready-to-fund plan can significantly increase opportunities to find the funding your project may require.
- **Engage experts:** Integrate scientific insights and diverse viewpoints into resilience planning initiatives. Groups housed at local or regional universities may have valuable expertise and a vested interest in the planning process. Such entities may have firsthand experience in climate resilience planning or access to networks of specialists.
- **Bring everyone to the table:** Inclusive engagement is essential for effective climate resilience building. Seize opportunities to expand conversations to all corners of the community to encourage dialogue, spark interest, foster diverse input, and cultivate comprehensive resilience strategies.
- **Lead the charge:** Initial climate action can inspire and lay the groundwork for subsequent endeavors. Pioneering climate action can create a powerful chain reaction propelling transformative change across many sectors. Recognize the influence and promise inherent in taking the lead, and embrace the opportunity to blaze the trail.
- **Establish an inclusive resilience planning culture:** When pioneering climate action, you shape the course. Embedding equity into the fabric of initial climate action, lays the foundation for and nurtures a culture that champions equitable resilience planning, ensuring equity endures as a fundamental principle in all future endeavors. Seize the opportunity to set a precedent for inclusive engagement.

Equity Insights

High poverty levels paired with susceptibility to flash floods, extreme heat, and dust storms makes much of the population of Las Cruces vulnerable to climate hazards. This initiative aimed to rectify existing climate disparities for Hispanic and Latino residents, championing structural and cultural equity. This project leveraged external expertise, initiated city-wide discussions, and conducted interactive workshops to pinpoint climate priorities and devise targeted resilience strategies.

By involving a culturally diverse range of stakeholders in decision-making processes and equipping them for collaborative resilience planning, the project upheld cultural and procedural equity. By prioritizing resilience projects with evident social and economic co-benefits in marginalized communities, the project ensured the fair distribution of resources and opportunities, enhancing distributional equity. The initiative spurred substantial investments in green infrastructure and laid the groundwork for inclusive, effective, and tailored climate resilience strategies.

► [Click to read the full case study↓](#)

Relevant Options

This selection of resilience actions from our Options Database is specifically tailored to address the hazards and assets identified in this case study. To explore other resilience actions that may be applicable to your community, visit the complete Options Database.



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Story Credit
Sascha Petersen, Adaptation International. Adapted from the report "Critical Thresholds, Extreme Weather, and Building Resilience: How using Critical Thresholds to Customize Climate Projections of Extreme Events to User Needs can Support Decisions and Build Resilience." See link at right, under Additional Resources.

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*Last modified*4 June 2024 - 12:14pm

Steps to Resilience

This content supports the highlighted step.

- Started
- Understand Exposure
- Assess Vulnerability & Risk
- Identify Options

Hazards

[Changing Seasons ›](#)

[Extreme Heat ›](#)

Assets

[Economy ›](#)

[People ›](#)

[Transportation and Mobility ›](#)

Funding Source

[Community Development Block Grant ›](#)

Tools

[U.S. Drought Portal ›](#)

Additional Resources

[Project Report: Critical Thresholds, Extreme Weather, and Building Resilience \(PDF\) ›](#)

[Project Overview \(PDF\) ›](#)

Partners

[City of Las Cruces ›](#)

[Adaptation International ›](#)

[Institute for Social and Environmental Transition-International ›](#)

[ATMOS Research and Consulting ›](#)

[Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program ›](#)

[Climate Assessment for the Southwest ›](#)

[University of Arizona ›](#)

[New Mexico State University ›](#)

[National Weather Service | El Paso ›](#)

[National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | Climate Program Office | Sectoral Applications Research Program ›](#)

Datasets Used

[MODIS Land Surface Temperature and Emissivity \(MOD11\)](#) ›

[NOAA | SCIPP Historical Climate Trends Tool](#) ›

[WestWide Drought Tracker](#) ›

[Western Regional Climate Center | Climate Average Data](#) ›