1. SPARCC Overview
2. RCVA for Communities
3. How to do an RCVA
4. Example and value
Takeaways

• Learn a simple way to assess vulnerability in communities
• Identify at least one new interaction between climate, health, and racial equity
• Why addressing vulnerability from the community perspective is critical to addressing equity in developing climate adaptation solutions
What Does SPARCC Hope to Achieve?

- Build regional capacity to impact systems
- Influence local, state and federal policy
- Change national narrative
- Advance data-informed, locally driven, replicable methods
- Use capital to catalyze project innovation
SPARCC in Practice

**SPARCC RESOURCES**
- Grant support
- Technical assistance
- Learning community
- Data access & tools
- Up to $70M in capital

**REGIONAL TABLES**

**OUTCOMES**
- Racial Equity
- Health
- Climate
What is an RCVA and Why are we doing one?

What is it?

A way to identify people and places most vulnerable to climate change

Why do it?

To best target resources and interventions
What is Vulnerability?

• The likelihood of a human or ecological system to be harmed due to exposure to a hazard

• Exists at the intersection of its three components

• Varies according to geography or socio-economic status
Define your goal

Identify solutions to address stressors

Evaluate Climate, Health, Equity stressors to the goal

3-Steps

- Open space & better connected low-income resident needs

- Increasing temperature, altered precipitation, wildfires
- Air pollution, lack of green space
- Gentrification, homelessness
• Build climate-smart parks and partner between parks and developers to include cooling features
• Design for reduced water waste
• Create a sense of ownership of parks through design that reflects community culture

Identify solutions to address stressors
What do you want to do?

Identify impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Built environment projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Component 1:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Component 2:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Component 3:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component 1</th>
<th>Component 2</th>
<th>Component 3</th>
<th>Existing/Current Non-Climate Health Stressors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Air pollution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Water pollution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Food access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Connectivity/Mobility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Limited mental/healthcare access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of greenspace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Merging disease/pervasive disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Community safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Other:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Characterize challenges

### Project Strategy and Approaches

**Affordable Housing**
- **Equity and Social Factors**
  - Gentrification
  - Homelessness
  - Unmaintained/Missing Infrastructure

- **Health Factors**
  - Air pollution
  - Water Pollution
  - Lack of Greenspace

- **Climate Change Stressors**
  - ↑ Temperature
  - Changing Precipitation
  - Drought
  - Flooding

### Factors affected by or affecting your project focus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equity and Social Factors</th>
<th>Physical Manifestation of Climate Change</th>
<th>Effect (Climate + Equity + Health)</th>
<th>Possible Solutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wildfire (drought + heat)</td>
<td>Respiratory illness due to air pollution + heat, Fire</td>
<td>Increased urban heat due to increasing temperatures and loss of tree canopy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changing vegetation (current trees and landscaping may die off due to drought or pests)</td>
<td>Lack of access to cooling</td>
<td>↑ utility costs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme heat</td>
<td></td>
<td>Insufficient/inefficient HVAC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>↓ air quality (pollution + heat)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Loss of housing and other infrastructure to fire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>↓ water quality (increasing water temperature and/or decreasing water quantity)</td>
<td>New housing stock more expensive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Underline the more certain manifestation
- Underline the effects of greatest consequence
- Prioritize solutions (best fit to most critical to solve problem)

**Building New Affordable Housing**

- Improve air quality standards to allowable pollution levels in light of increasing temperatures
- Improve water quality standards to decrease allowable pollution levels in light of increasing temperatures and hydrology
- Improve energy efficiency standards in housing (including affordable housing) including insulation, envelope, etc.
- Renewable energy micro-grids and development to reduce energy cost in low income housing energy needed to generate revenue for residents
- Protect and transition urban vegetation in a changing climate
- Require greenspace in development plans
- Credit for non-motorized or mass transit connectivity for new housing
- % of all new home sales contribute to green finance mechanisms for green, savvy affordable housing
### Devise solutions and action plan

**Step 3. Evaluate Strategies to reduce vulnerability.**
List each priority solution from STEP 2 develop strategies to reduce vulnerability so you can achieve your goal or strategy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solution</th>
<th>Solution Description</th>
<th>How to implement (including policy needed)</th>
<th>Partners and Resources Required</th>
<th>Potential for Success (L,M,H)</th>
<th>How do you measure success? (data needed &amp; source)</th>
<th>Timeframe (immediate, SPARCC 3 yrs, long-term)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Track Actions in column one as new (red), modified (blue) and existing (green).
Chicago Vulnerability Assessment

Displacement Vulnerability, via DePaul’s Institute for Housing Studies
Community RCVA Goals

• Develop common language on climate
• Support community goals on climate decision-making
• Engage community in climate discussions
• Identify climate impacts for your region
• Explore existing community stressors and how climate impacts these related to plans & projects
• Consider adaptation strategies that best support goals
• A way to influence other plans, decision-makers, policies, to ensure resilience to include climate-savvy outcomes
“[Leaders are]…tackling a long overdue conversation about how to improve neglected neighborhoods, without pushing away the very people they intend to serve.”

The High Line's Next Balancing Act

LAURA FLISS FEB 7, 2017
People and families of all incomes should be able to stay in their communities and enjoy the benefits of new transit, climate-friendly development, and new opportunities.
Marissa Ramirez
mramirez@nrdc.org

SPARCC
http://www.sparcchub.org/