

Climate Resilient Austin

Path Forward

Joint Sustainability Committee

July 24th, 2019

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Resolution No. 20190509-019

Resilience Planning

- *“perform a literature review of climate resilience plans of peer cities...”*
- *“explore available, potential partnerships (such as the 100 Resilient Cities model)...”*
- *“recommendations for creating a comprehensive, community-wide climate resilience plan that is fair, just, and equitable...”*

Chief Resilience Officer

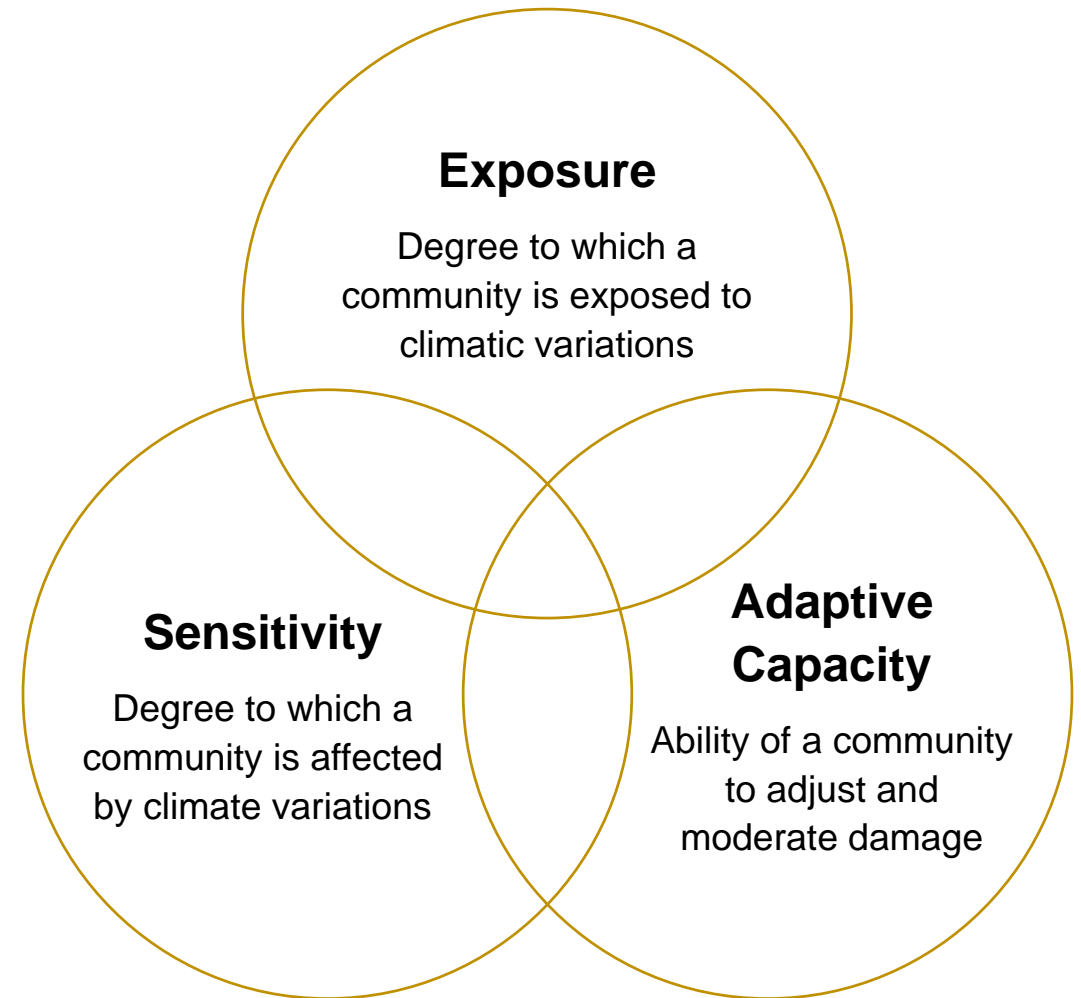
- *Recommendations should include funding options, such as grants or other revenue sources, to ...*
 - 1) *fund a position for a Chief Resilience Officer and staff necessary to produce a resilience plan; or*
 - 2) *hire a consultant to draft or assist city staff with drafting a comprehensive resilience plan; or*
 - 3) *other recommendations for achieving this objective.*

[Climate] *Resilience is the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems to survive, adapt, and grow in a changing climate. (SD23)*



Climate Resilience Framework

- Focus on local climate shocks and stressors: increased hot days, drought, flooding and wildfires.
- Climate Vulnerability = Exposure, Sensitivity, Adaptive Capacity
- Address inequities:
 - Decrease exposure
 - Decrease sensitivity
 - **Increase adaptive capacity**



Equity

A photograph of a woman standing in a room that appears to be in a state of significant disrepair or damage. She is wearing a dark t-shirt with a graphic, light-colored pants, and dark boots. She has her hand to her face, possibly crying or in distress. The room has wooden walls and furniture, some of which is broken or overturned. A large wooden door is visible on the left. The overall atmosphere is one of hardship and loss.

- Low-income first hit, worst hit
- Additional climate shocks/stressors on top of existing economic stressors
- Less resources to bounce back from event
- Long term impacts to mental and physical health

Impacts in Austin



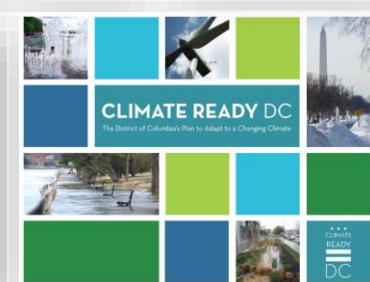
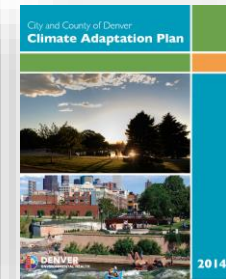
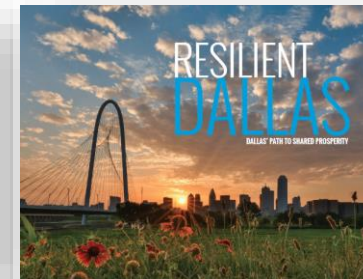
Case Studies

Criteria for selecting cities:

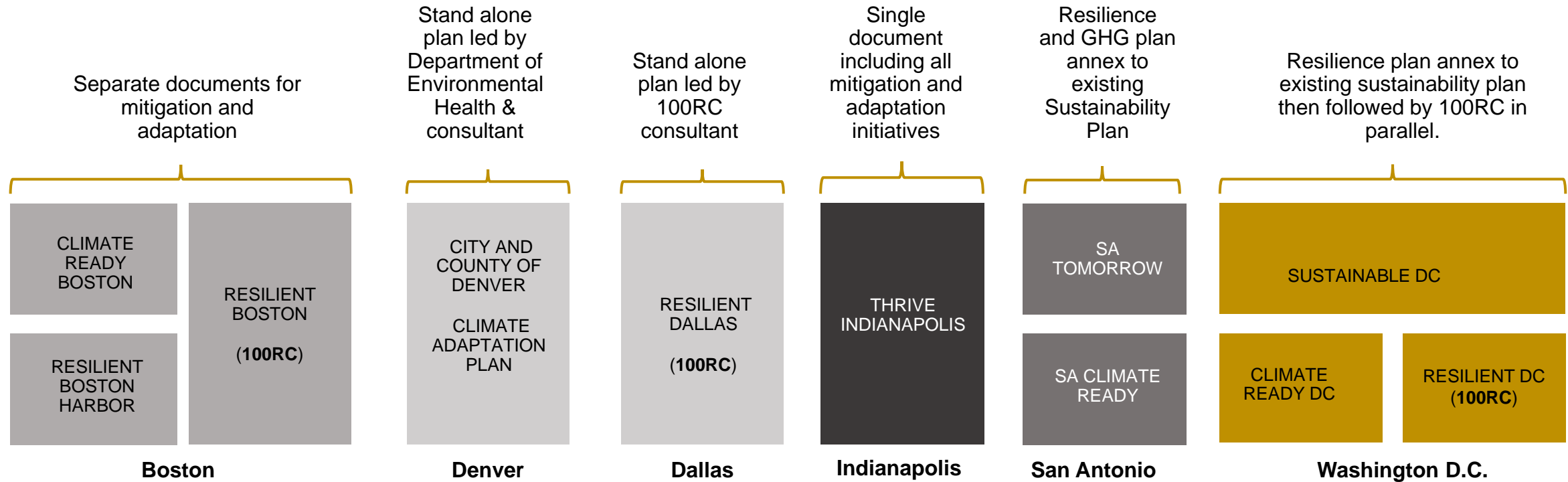
1. Population between **600,000 and 1.5 million**
2. At least **one 100RC** city (Boston, Dallas, DC) and **one non-100RC** city (San Antonio and Indianapolis)
3. At least one city that has attempted a **combo mitigation/adaptation** plan (Indianapolis)
4. At least **two exemplary** plans (Boston, Washington DC. According to USDN CRO)
5. At least **two from Texas** (Dallas and San Antonio)
6. At least **three not directly impacted by sea-level rise** (Dallas, Indianapolis and San Antonio)

Selected Cities:

1. Boston
2. Dallas
3. Denver
4. Indianapolis
5. San Antonio
6. Washington D.C.



Case Studies



Preference: Equity Focus

Lessons Learned

Process

- Incorporate **equity** in all strategies
- Don't diminish **stressors**
- Include hazard **mapping**
- Get community **input**
- Define who is **responsible** for what actions

Resource needs

- More **resources** = **more** engagement
- Consider **consultant**: technical expertise, community engagement & reporting
- Identify **resources** prior to implementation

Implementation

- Define **metrics** for success
- Focus on **actionable** strategies
- Consider **equitable** distribution of resources/projects



Chief Resilience Officer (CRO)

- Created by 100RC
- Ideally reports to executives
- Help bridge departmental gaps in communication and collaboration
- Collaborative focus is envisioned for community engagement
- Ideal candidate based on the city's challenges and goals (earthquakes: San Francisco, Norfolk: community development)



Theresa O'Donnell,
Dallas (former) CRO



Lori D. Nelson, Boston
CRO



Kevin Bush, Washington
D.C. CRO

Draft Climate Resilience Blueprint

Broad Recommendations:

- Hire Chief Resilience Officer
- Community resilience pilot in vulnerable neighborhoods
- Critical assets including businesses
- Integrated Green Infrastructure Plan
- Citywide Preparedness Campaign

Next Steps:

- Develop options in greater detail
- Clarifying possible budget impacts
- Memo to council by August 22nd



Questions?