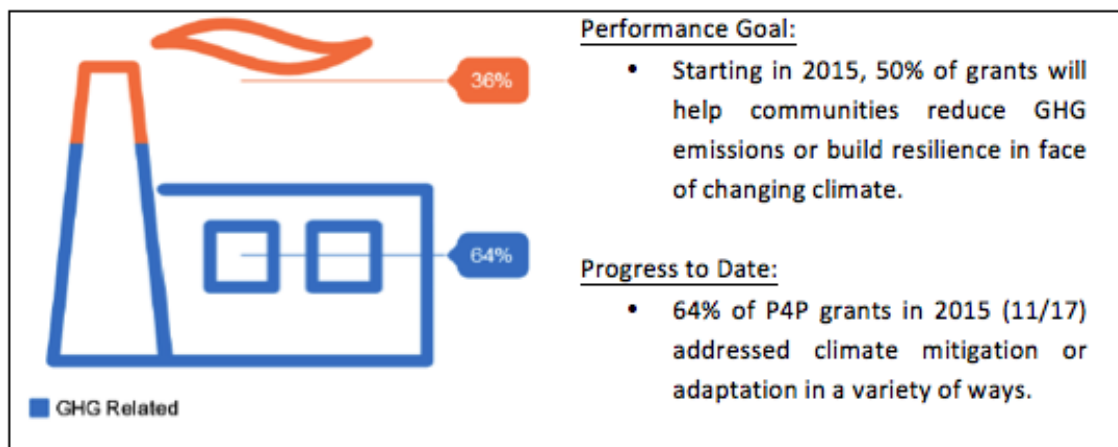


Partners for Places Sees Climate Change Adaptation Priorities Evolving

Climate change is one of the most urgent issues of our time. It is no surprise that 64% of Partners for Places (P4P) grants this past year addressed climate change mitigation or adaptation.

Climate change adaptation has been a key issue for Partners for Places grantees since the fund launched in 2012, but the focus of the work has changed. Between 2012 and 2016, Partners for Places adaptation grants shifted from broad adaptation planning and public engagement to specific actions to address climate change impacts, mirroring the increasing maturity of the field.



So far in 2016, we've seen a strong focus on green infrastructure projects to help manage and adapt to impacts of climate change. Bridgeport CT will use its 2016 grant to develop a community-led, neighborhood-scale Deep Greening Plan to guide investments in trees, open space, and green storm water infrastructure. Burlington VT will enhance the City's integrated storm water management planning efforts by focusing on public space, including green infrastructure pilots on schoolyards. And moving to the Great Lakes region, Milwaukee WI will create one key public access point to its new Inner Harbor and river network development using biophilic design principles. Biophilic design enhances human physical and mental well-being by fostering positive connections between people and nature. A core objective for the City of Milwaukee is to build the community stake in Milwaukee's water resources.

In 2015, Partners for Places also made grants for green infrastructure, but the most common topic was building neighborhood-scale resiliency. New Orleans LA chose to create a public data and mapping tool to inform, coordinate, and guide green infrastructure decisions. The Trust for Public Land is developing the tool for New Orleans and more than a dozen other cities through its Climate-Smart Cities™ program. The Chula Vista CA grant was used to develop a formal water reuse framework shaped by a cost-benefit analysis of reuse options, a scan of financing opportunities, and public input on options. In the Intermountain West region, Missoula MT is preparing the community to thrive amid increasing heat and summer wildfire smoke through network building, education, and planning.

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Baltimore MD, Cleveland OH, and Louisville KY all zoomed in on neighborhood scale adaptation. Baltimore committed to enhance resiliency in neighborhoods most vulnerable to the impacts of natural hazards and climate change. A Cleveland OH P4P grant went for the Climate Ambassador Project, which seeks to transform two Cleveland neighborhoods by empowering residents to lead climate resilience initiatives. This project also is pursuing job and entrepreneurship opportunities in climate resilience projects. Louisville's grant built upon its 2013 citywide urban heat island mapping grant, by implementing a neighborhood-scale greening plan in a socio-economically and environmentally-challenged neighborhood. The earlier 2013 grant helped Louisville understand its growing urban heat problem and how to work as a community to reduce it, while the 2015 grant helps the city address the problem.

2014 grants also dealt with the core impacts of climate change, flooding and excessive heat. The first year of a two-year grant to Buffalo NY created a public education and engagement campaign around storm water management and green infrastructure. The Mayor of Buffalo launched the first engagement initiative, the Rain Check Downspout Disconnect and Rain Barrel program. In year two, Buffalo is continuing to implement the campaign. The grant to Miami-Dade County FL addressed both heat and health by empowering two South Florida communities to cultivate shaded open spaces that promote physical activity. The Miami-Dade team found that getting community "buy-in" from recognized community members and asking residents to suggest locations and tree species in their own community increased stewardship and social connections.

On the food front, Boston MA received funding in 2014 to become one of the first cities of its size to assess gaps in food system resilience and identify ways to address them. In May 2015, Mayor Walsh released *Resilient Food Systems, Resilient Cities: Recommendations for the City of Boston*, an action plan to ensure the city's food system is able to withstand and recover from disruptions and natural disasters.

Looking back on the first two years of Partners for Places adaptation grants, the focus was very different. In 2012 and 2013, most P4P grants related to climate change adaptation sought to engage the public in implementation of climate action plans. Ann Arbor MI received a grant to mobilize the community to support implementation of the Ann Arbor Climate Action Plan. Oakland CA was funded to engage community organizations and residents in the implementation of the City of Oakland's Energy and Climate Action Plan. Binghamton NY developed a Task Force to coordinate community engagement in the implementation of Binghamton's Energy and Climate Action Plan. While Portland OR in a seminal Partners for Places project, integrated equity into its revised Portland/Multnomah County Climate Action Plan, addressing both greenhouse gas reductions and climate change adaptation.

Partners for Places (P4P) is a successful matching grant program that improves U.S. and Canadian communities by building partnerships between local government sustainability leaders and place-based foundations. National funders invest in local projects developed through these partnerships to promote a healthy environment, a strong economy, and well-being for all residents. Partners for Places is led by the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities in partnership with the Urban Sustainability Directors Network. In its first four and a half years, Partners for Places generated \$7 million, half from 95 matching funders, for sustainability and climate action projects. For more information, please visit [this website](#).