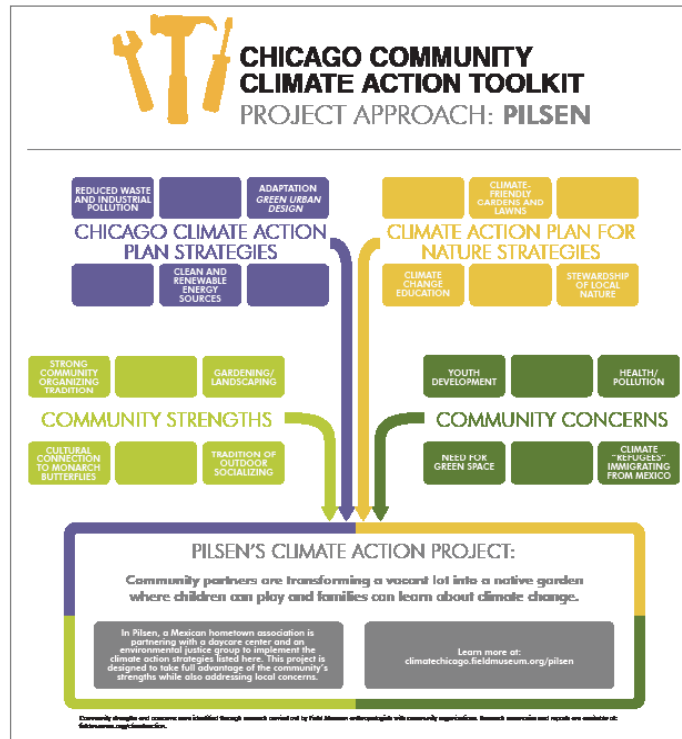


# WORKSHOP: DEVELOP YOUR OWN CLIMATE ACTION PROJECT IDEAS

## Introduction

At the beginning of the Chicago Community Climate Action Toolkit project, The Field Museum worked with partner organizations in each community to figure out what kind of local climate action projects would build on community strengths, address community concerns, and, at the same time, advance some of the strategies from the region's two climate action plans. Then, we created a Climate Action Approach Diagram demonstrating how their project does these things. Here is an example of one of those diagrams—and there is a full page version of it towards the end of this document:



This and the Approach Diagrams for the other communities we worked with are available on these pages:

- [climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/pilsen](http://climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/pilsen)
- [climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/forest-glen](http://climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/forest-glen)
- [climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/bronzeville](http://climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/bronzeville)
- [climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/south-chicago](http://climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/south-chicago)

This document provides guidelines for bringing together some key stakeholders in your community to brainstorm climate action project ideas and then to create your own Climate Action Approach Diagram, tailored to the particular strengths and concerns of your community.



Find this and other climate action tools at  
[climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org](http://climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org)



## 1 PREPARE FOR THE WORKSHOP

1. Study Up! Make sure you and everyone else you will be working with has a basic understanding of how climate change is impacting the Chicago region and is expected to further impact it in the future, by reading *Climate Change in the Windy City and the World* ([climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/learn#windy](http://climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/learn#windy)).
2. Read the Plans. Familiarize yourselves with the strategies recommended by the Chicago region's two climate action plans: the Chicago Climate Action Plan, which is the City's roadmap to reduce greenhouse gases (see the overview: [chicagoclimataction.org/filebin/pdf/CCAPOverview.pdf](http://chicagoclimataction.org/filebin/pdf/CCAPOverview.pdf)), and the Climate Action Plan for Nature, which focuses on the natural environment in the whole Chicago region (read about the strategies at: [climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/learn#capn](http://climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/learn#capn)).

## 2 CONDUCT THE WORKSHOP

### Time:

- 2 hours
- The workshops can be done during the same session or as two separate workshops

**Number of People:** You can do this workshop with just a few people or with a larger group. To make sure you get a bunch of ideas, try to convene at least 4-5 people. Maximum is probably 20-25.

**Space:** If more than 5 people will attend, it is best to divide people into small groups for some of the activities, so you will want a room with some tables that can be separated for small group work.

### Materials:

1. A few sets of the preparation materials, for reference (*Climate Change in the Windy City and the World*, Chicago Climate Action Plan Overview Summary, and Climate Action Plan for Nature: Community Adaptation Strategies).
2. One set of Visual Collages of Climate-Friendly Practices (available at [climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/doyourown](http://climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/doyourown))
3. 1 copy per person of the Pilsen Climate Action Approach Diagram (below)
4. 1 copy per person of the Climate Action Project Worksheet (pages 5–6)

## FACILITATION INSTRUCTIONS:

### ACTIVITY #1: 35 minutes (large group)

Goal: Review the Chicago region's climate action strategies

### Instructions:

**10 minutes: Review the Plans.** Refer to the reference documents introducing the Chicago region's two climate action plans and briefly review each plan's five strategies.

- Make sure everyone understands what "climate action" is. The Toolkit project defines it as the diverse and creative ways in which communities respond to climate change. *Climate Change in the Windy City and the World* includes a number of examples of community-based climate action that show the power of building on communities' strengths—such as strong local businesses, frugality, conserving water growing food, etc.—to implement the region's climate action strategies in locally meaningful ways. Connecting climate action projects to community strengths ultimately attracts more participation and helps ensure that projects will be sustained into the future. For example, we expect that the major component of the Pilsen Toolkit project—installing a native garden—will be successful long-term because it is being maintained in part by a popular daycare center that is using it for youth programming and child development.
- Take a few minutes especially to explain the Chicago Climate Action Plan (CCAP) "Adaptation" strategy, which is the most difficult for people to understand. See the definitions of "mitigation" and "adaptation" on p.18 of *Climate Change in the Windy City and the World*. Note that the other 4 CCAP strategies are intended to be mitigation strategies; and the 5 strategies from the Climate Action Plan for Nature (CAPN) are primarily adaptation strategies. However, many climate actions serve to both mitigate (lessen) emissions and help humans, plants, and animals adapt to (cope with) changes caused by climate change.

**5 minutes: Show Video.** If you have the technology to do this, show a short video or two about climate action in the Chicago region. There are two available on the Toolkit website ([climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/learn](http://climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/learn)), ranging from 1 to 4 minutes long. The website also has a downloadable discussion guide.

## WANT HELP?

The Field Museum and our Toolkit partners are available to help other organizations figure out how to best use this guide and other climate action tools to advance their work. For a list of partners and contact information, please see: [climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/about](http://climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/about)

**15 minutes: Interview Each Other.** Next, to help everyone understand what these strategies really mean, interview volunteers from the group, using the Visual Collages. Pull up two chairs to the front of the room. You sit in one and have a volunteer sit in the other as the interviewee. Choose one of the collages, introduce the topic, and then show it to the volunteer interviewee. Using the guiding questions on the front and back of the collage, have a short conversation with the volunteer about the practices related to the collage topic that s/he does or has seen other people do in the community. Do this a few times, with 3-4 volunteers, using a different collage each time so that the group gets a good understanding of the different types of practices that fit under the climate action strategies.

- Note: There is a collage for each of the 4 CCAP mitigation strategies but no collage specifically called "Adaptation." There are also not specific collages for the strategies from the CAPN. Rather, the Land and Water collages include many actions that are considered to be adaptation and that are covered under the CCAP Adaptation strategy and the 5 CAPN strategies.

**5 minutes: Check In.** Before moving on to the next activity, take a moment to ask if people generally understand the 10 strategies. If they have further questions, address them as a group.

ACTIVITY #2: 1 hour 10 min. (large, small, large groups)

Goal: Brainstorm ideas for expanding or developing new local climate action projects that will address a climate change challenge and also another issue that residents care about.

- Note: You may wish to focus on a particular topic or program. For example, if you are already doing a garden and you want help thinking about how to expand the garden or garden programming or connect your garden work more closely to climate action, then focus this activity around that topic rather than leaving it open-ended.

Instructions:

**10 minutes: Practice Process.** Using the Pilsen Climate Action Approach Diagram as an example, walk the large group through the process of coming up with some local climate action project ideas and then creating your own diagram.

**40 minutes: Complete Worksheets.** Break people into small groups. Instruct everyone to complete their Climate Action Project Worksheet in these groups. Explain the worksheet instructions to make sure everyone understands what they should do.

- Note: Each group should complete one or two worksheets by the end of the activity, focused on the project(s) that they are most enthusiastic about.

**20 minutes: Discuss Worksheets.** Reconvene the large group and have each small group explain their worksheet and the final project idea that they came up with.

WRAP-UP: 15 minutes (large group)

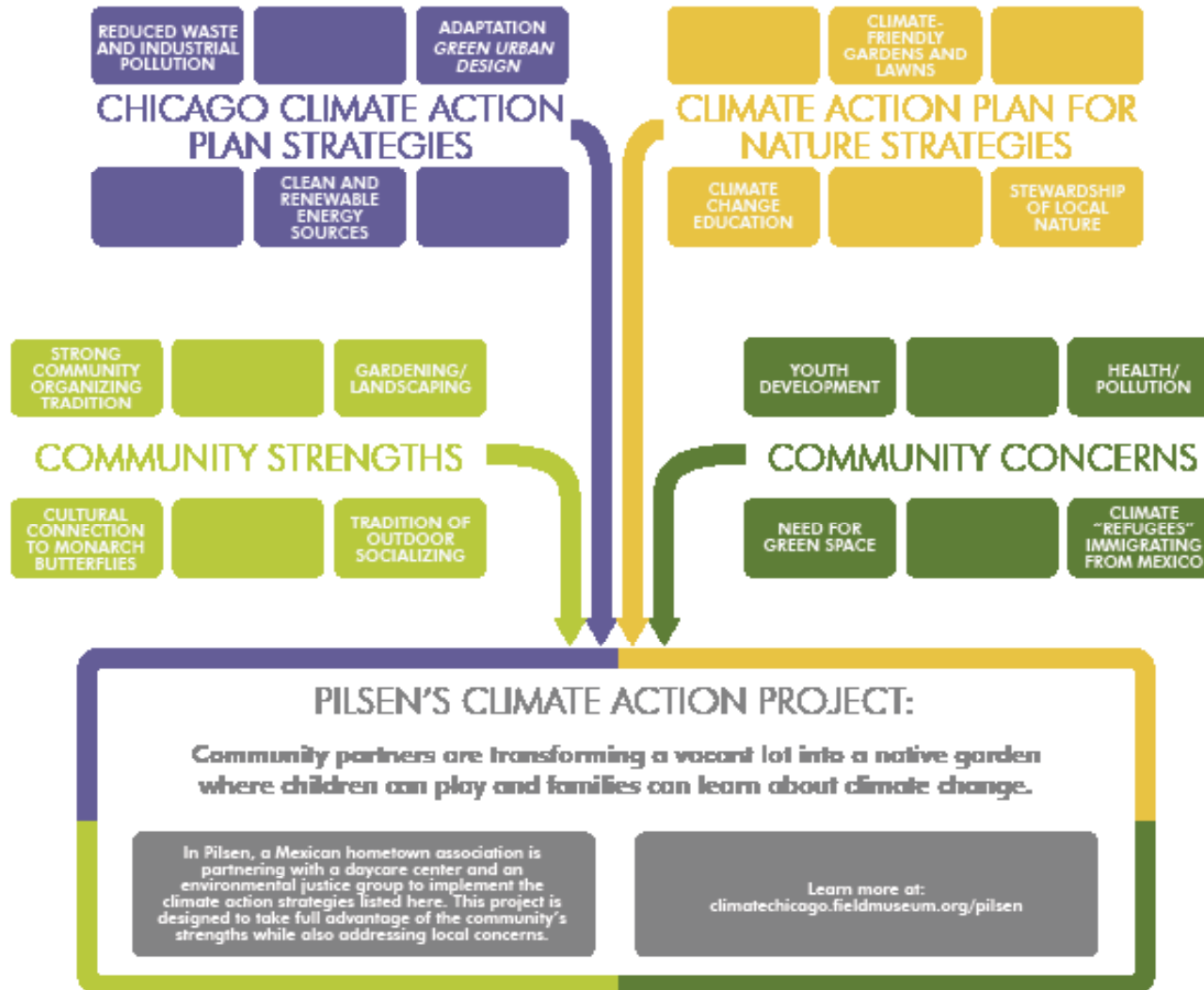
**Discuss Next Steps.** Assuming that your goal is to use this workshop as a springboard to actual action, spend this last bit of time talking about next steps and developing a broad work plan. Consider questions such as: How much more work is required to flesh out your project concept? Do you know for sure which project you want to focus on, or do you need more time to choose from a few ideas? How will you then move from discussion to action? Who else needs to be involved in these conversations, to think big-picture and also to work out practical details such as budget, funding, time, staffing, space, etc.?



# CHICAGO COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION TOOLKIT

## PROJECT APPROACH: PILSEN

# PILSEN CLIMATE ACTION PROJECT APPROACH DIAGRAM



Community strengths and concerns were identified through research carried out by Field Museum anthropologists with community organizations. Research assistance and reports are available at: [fieldmuseum.org/climateaction](http://fieldmuseum.org/climateaction).

# CLIMATE ACTION PROJECT WORKSHEET

As a small group, follow the instructions below to complete the blank diagram on the next page. Fill out a diagram for the one or two best project ideas you come up with.

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Fill in the Community Strengths and Community Concerns sections first.
  - Use these guiding questions to help you brainstorm some strengths and concerns that can be incorporated into a climate action project:
    - Are any of the CCAP or CAPN strategies already being done in your community, by organizations or individuals (lots of people already doing some of these things)?  
Hint: Think back to the Visual Collage interviews. What kinds of things did the interviewees say they do or have seen others do?
    - What are your community's greatest strengths? These can be physical assets (e.g., buildings, parks, rivers, homes, etc.) or practices and values (e.g., strong sense of family, caring about the outdoors, gardening knowledge going back generations, strong community organizations, etc.).
    - What are the issues or concerns that residents care most about and that community organizations are mobilizing around (e.g., education, passing on a sense of cultural heritage, economic development, foreclosures, etc.)?
    - What programs or projects, run by an organization you work with or by others in your community, do you think might lend themselves to incorporating one of the climate action strategies? For example, some organizations have youth or senior programs and have incorporated gardening. Others have affordable housing programs and have incorporated retrofits [energy efficient buildings] to help people save money on utility bills.
2. Then circle or highlight the CCAP and/or CAPN strategies that you think ...
  - Could build on some of the strengths you identified to address some of the concerns.
  - Make the most sense for your community.
3. Finally, look at everything you have filled in and discuss what kinds of climate action programs might be good for your community to take on. If you have one idea that you all think is best, complete one worksheet. If you have two, complete another. Be prepared to explain your worksheets to the whole group.



# CHICAGO COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION TOOLKIT

PROJECT APPROACH FOR YOUR COMMUNITY: \_\_\_\_\_

ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS		REDUCED WASTE AND INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION
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## CHICAGO CLIMATE ACTION PLAN STRATEGIES

IMPROVED TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS	ADAPTATION	CLEAN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES
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## COMMUNITY STRENGTHS

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CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION	MONITORING LOCAL NATURE	CLIMATE-FRIENDLY GARDENS AND LAWNS
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## CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR NATURE STRATEGIES

STEWARDSHIP OF LOCAL NATURE		WATER CONSERVATION
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## COMMUNITY CONCERNS

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CLIMATE ACTION PROJECT IDEAS:		
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