

CHICAGO – APRIL 01, 2012:

Chicago Communities Develop Local Models for Climate Action

What do public art, daycare, and cooking demonstrations have to do with climate change?

Our world's climate is changing. We're seeing the effects here at home: more frequent heat waves and floods and more 100° summer days. Across the Chicago region, people are working together in creative ways to reduce the impacts of climate change – and improve their communities' quality of life for generations to come.

As part of the The Field Museum's [Chicago Community Climate Action Toolkit](http://climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org) project, organizations in four Chicago neighborhoods—Bronzeville, Forest Glen, Pilsen, and South Chicago—are leading their communities in local climate action. Each project builds on the community's heritage and other strengths to slow climate change or reduce its effects, while also addressing key local concerns. The projects range from native plant gardens to art exhibits to rain barrel installations to green economy tours – reflecting the geographic and cultural diversity of these four neighborhoods. Each community's story is told in a short video documentary on the Toolkit website (climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org).

The website also offers an abundance of tools to help others start their own community climate action projects. These tools include a basic primer on climate change and its impacts on the Chicago region, a climate action comic book, a guide to climate-friendly food, community action strategies for helping the region's plants and wildlife adapt to climate change, educational videos, and more. Materials are available in English and Spanish.

Learn more: climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org

Contact: Jennifer Hirsch, P 312.665.7480, E jhirsch@fieldmuseum.org

Major Sponsor: The Boeing Company

Additional Support: City of Chicago and Global Philanthropy Partnership

Background:

The Field Museum's division of Environment, Culture, and Conservation (ECCo) has been engaging communities across the Chicago Region in climate action since 2008. Our work is based on ethnographic studies conducted across Chicago by Museum anthropologists. We work with the City of Chicago, Chicago Wilderness, the Chicago Cultural Alliance, and other partners across the region to translate research findings and climate science into community climate action projects. The projects aim to improve local quality of life and implement the strategies of the region's two climate action plans: the Chicago Climate Action Plan and the Chicago Wilderness Climate Action Plan for Nature.

About ECCo:

ECCo translates museum knowledge into lasting results for conservation and cultural understanding. In the Chicago region, ECCo leads pioneering collaborations to bring people and nature together, in all their diversity, in the midst of a huge metropolis. Through ECCo's efforts in South America, regional and national governments have protected 21 million acres of wilderness, mostly in the Amazon headwaters.