

CHECKLIST FOR NEIGHBORS

1

Assess extreme weather risks to your property and local infrastructure.

- ☐ Learn about specific risks to your home and community. You can use online tools and resources to understand the main climate threats to your area, such as flooding, wildfire or extreme heat.
- ☐ Regularly check your insurance coverages to ensure you are adequately prepared in the event of a loss. Ensure your coverages match your climate risk profile—such as flood or wildfire insurance if you are in an impacted area.
- ☐ Document your home's belongings and record the various of large assets in the event you need to make an insurance claim.
- ☐ Keep important documents and other valuables in water-proof containers that can be easily accessed during an emergency.

2

Collaborate with your neighbors to better **understand your collective vulnerability to extreme weather and develop potential mitigation strategies.**

- ☐ Develop checklists and other forms of risk assessment to empower your neighbors to learn about potential risks to their homes and properties.
- ☐ Use existing networks such as neighborhood associations or homeowner/condominium associations to distribute checklists and promote awareness of extreme weather risks.
- ☐ Form committees or working groups with your neighbors to collectivize your efforts. Pool resources and work together to develop potential mitigation strategies.

3

Tap into **simple and efficient neighborhood-wide communication systems** that can be used for extreme weather events and other emergencies.

- ☐ If one hasn't already been identified, designate an "official" communication medium—such as WhatsApp, an email chain or a group text.
- ☐ Identify which sources you'll pull emergency alerts and information from, such as local emergency management offices or national weather agencies.
- ☐ Decide whether to communicate in a large group text or send out one-way alerts to many people at once (e.g. WhatsApp's Broadcast feature).
- ☐ Figure out who needs a phone call or a knock on their door in addition to text alerts.

4

Organize a neighborhood support system where you and your neighbors **share personal and public resilience resources** to ensure the most vulnerable in your community stay safe during extreme heat or flooding.

- ☐ Survey your neighbors to identify those most vulnerable to extreme weather.
- ☐ Coordinate to see who has cooling amenities, such as air conditioning, fans or pools—and is willing to share. Identify who needs cooling amenities during extreme heat. Additionally, ask your neighbors if they may need assistance right before or during flooding events, such as access to groceries and emergency supplies or a ride to a resilience hub to wait out a storm.
- ☐ If you have a car, offer a ride to your neighbors who may need assistance accessing resources or getting out of a dangerous situation.

5

Upgrade and perform regular maintenance to your home and property to reduce stormwater runoff and add more shade.

- ☐ Regularly clear your gutters, downspouts and any storm drains near your property to ensure that water can flow unobstructed during heavy rain.
- ☐ Connect your downspouts to rain barrels and collect rainwater to reduce stormwater runoff and provide a source of water for your yard.
- ☐ Plant native plants and trees for stormwater gardens and replace pavement with permeable materials to increase overall permeability around your property.
- ☐ Add shade structures to create a cooler backyard for warmer months.

6

Reclaim underutilized spaces in your neighborhood to **add more greenery and open space**, and host regular **block clean up days** with your neighbors to strengthen community bonds and keep new spaces clean.

- ☐ Survey your neighborhood for underutilized spaces such as empty tree pits or dirt patches on sidewalks.
- ☐ Plant trees or low-maintenance shrubs/flowers that require little watering and care in empty tree pits.
- ☐ Organize a rotation of neighbors to help with upkeep.
- ☐ Gather contact information from your neighbors and spread the word (including a date, time and meeting place) through flyers, social media, community boards and word of mouth.
- ☐ Collect supplies ahead of time, including shovels, rakes, gloves, trash bags, recycling bins, watering cans and wheelbarrows.
- ☐ Split volunteers into groups for different jobs, like trash pick-up, planting flowers or shrubs, pruning trees or clearing storm drains, and assign team leads to keep each group on track.
- ☐ Decide in advance how trash and yard waste will be disposed of (hauling to the local dump, arranging a city pick-up, etc.)
- ☐ End the day with a potluck or block party to celebrate everyone's hard work.
- ☐ Determine future frequency of clean up days based on neighbor interest and availability.