

Climate Justice informed Community Engagement Toolkits

This document is an annotated list of selected toolkits that support climate justice-focused community engagement. These resources have been selected from a diverse range of community engagement and climate justice toolkits, including those focused on university initiatives, engagement process, engagement ethics, organizational development, education and awareness, policy and advocacy, and communication. The toolkit review was conducted by Sustainability Hub and the Centre for Climate Justice (CCJ).

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1. Community Resource Handbook

This guide focuses on community-engaged research (CER), providing the fundamentals, ethical principles, participatory research methods, challenges, and key considerations for conducting CER. It also includes practical steps for planning a CER project.

Intended Audience: Institutions, Research Organization, Communities and Community-serving organizations.

Reference: Mahoney, T., Grain, K., Fraser, P., Wong, J. (2021). Community Resource Handbook. Community Engaged Research Initiative (CERi), Simon Fraser University.

2. A Guide to Advancing Climate Equity Through Place-Based Collaboration

Learn how to address the climate crisis collaboratively and inclusively. This guide offers 10 easy-to-follow steps for community engagement, assesses readiness for engagement, provides ideas for advancing climate action, shares inspiring stories from communities, and includes additional resources on advancing climate action or addressing climate injustice.

Intended Audience: Communities and their representations, small business owner and local governments.

Reference: Tamarack Institute. (2024). Guide | 10: A guide for advancing climate equity through place-based collaboration. Tamarack Institute.

3. Climate Justice Toolkit for Municipalities

Explore how municipalities can advance climate justice within communities, including how to engage, partner, or collaborate with communities on climate justice issues. The toolkit also highlights the current level of climate justice implementation in BC municipalities, identifies areas for improvement, and shares case studies.

Intended Audience: Municipalities and other relevant stakeholders planning engagement with communities.

Reference: Sutherland, B., Liu, A., & Romses, H. (2021). Climate Justice Toolkit for Municipalities. Vancouver: British Columbia Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC).

4. Beyond Inclusion: Equity in Public Engagement

This guide covers key equitable public engagement principles to help inform choices and guide actions when planning and implementing public engagement. It aims to maximize the meaningful and equitable inclusion of diverse voices in decisions made by governments, organizations, and institutions across sectors. It also outlines how to scope inclusive and accessible projects, types of accessibility challenges and recommended resources to navigate community engagement.

Intended Audience: Public engagement practitioners.

Reference: Simon Fraser University's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue. (2020). Beyond Inclusion: Equity in Public Engagement.

5. Community Culture Climate Justice

This toolkit, developed by emerging leaders from eight First Nations, Métis, and Zambian communities, aims to advance climate justice within their communities' climate actions. It explores how to engage communities with a climate justice focus, plan events, and navigate challenges related to climate change.

Intended Audience: Relevant stakeholders planning engagement with community.

Reference: Videau. (n.d.). Community Culture Climate Justice: Climate Action Toolkit. Victoria: Videau and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

6. Engagement Principles and Guiding Practices

This toolkit suggests guiding principles for defining, designing, implementing, and concluding community engagement in planning processes. It provides 2-5 principles for each process, adopted by the UBC Board of Governors.

Intended Audience: UBC University

Reference: UBC. (2016, April). Campus + Community Planning Engagement Principles. Retrieved from The University of British Columbia: https://planning.ubc.ca/sites/default/files/2019-12/CHARTER_UBC_CCPEngagementCharter_0.pdf

7. Understanding community-led approaches to community change

Explore four types of community engagement approaches: community-informed, community-shaped, community-driven, and community-owned. This guide covers the benefits, risks, conditions, power dynamics, roles, ways of working, and methods of engagement for each approach, along with core functions of these approaches and key consideration to deepen engagement.

Intended Audience: Relevant stakeholders, including communities and their leaders, organizations, funders, non-profits, and governmental agencies.

Reference: Attygalle, L. (2020). Understanding community-led approaches to community change. Tamarack Institute.

8. Community Engagement Toolkit

Effectively plan community engagement through five process-oriented approaches and 47 engagement methods. These approaches are adaptable and can be tailored to community issues and developments. The toolkit also details four types of community impact resulting from engagement and provides criteria for assessing these impacts.

Intended Audience: Municipal social planners and planning staff

Reference: sparc bc. (2013). Community Engagement Toolkit. Burnaby: Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia.

9. Tools for Change: Understanding the Needs of Climate Justice Organizers in Canada

This report highlights the biggest challenges faced by climate justice organizers and offers suggestions for tailored support and resources for advancing climate justice. The recommendations are based on qualitative research from interviews with climate justice group organizers across Anglophone Canada.

Intended Audience: Climate Justice Groups

Reference: Harvey-Sánchez, A. (2024). Tools for Change: Understanding the Needs of Climate Justice Organizers in Canada. The Climate Justice Organizing HUB, Montreal, Canada.

10. Principles of Climate Justice

Learn the high-level principles of climate justice and explore linked resources such as case studies and papers.

Intended Audience: Relevant stakeholders.

Reference: Mary Robinson Foundation. (2011). Principles of Climate Justice. Retrieved from Mary Robinson Foundation: <https://www.mrfcj.org/principles-of-climate-justice/>

11. [Community Engagement Toolkit for Planning](#)

This detailed, process-oriented toolkit recommends guiding principles and checklists for structuring engagement scopes, identifying stakeholders, and selecting effective engagement tools. It includes a checklist for engaging specific groups, such as Indigenous Peoples, and provides guidance on engagement strategies, data collection, analysis, feedback collection, report development, and evaluation.

Intended Audience: Local Governments

Reference: State of Queensland. (2017). Community engagement toolkit for planning. Brisbane: Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.

12. [Amnesty Canada's Climate Justice Resource Kit](#)

This resource kit offers a list of activities with detailed guidance for engaging and educating communities. The activities cater to various age groups and interests, and the accompanying documents provide ideas, templates, and key steps for conducting each activity.

Intended Audience: Relevant stakeholders planning engagement with community.

Reference: Amnesty International. (2024, September). Amnesty Canada's Climate Justice Resource Kit: Now Available with Tools to Engage Your Community. Retrieved from Amnesty International: <https://amnesty.ca/features/climate-justice-resource-kit/>

13. [Centering Justice in Climate Emergency Response](#)

Learn the basic principles of climate justice and how to integrate these principles into climate emergency responses, engaging both within and beyond institutions or organizations, including communities. This toolkit provides additional resources to expand knowledge about climate justice and its integration into climate actions within British Columbia.

Intended Audience: Institutions, researchers, organizations.

Reference: Kluttz, J. (2022). Centering Justice in Climate Emergency Response. Vancouver: The University of British Columbia.

14. [Community Engagement Toolkit](#)

Assess readiness and structure purposeful, equitable, transparent, and strategic community engagement through step-by-step guidance and twelve tools. The toolkit emphasizes that well-executed community engagement enhances data-driven efforts, making strategies more relevant, widely accepted, and effective.

Intended Audience: Leaders and organizations in the public, philanthropic, and nonprofit sectors who are responsible for community engagement and data-driven decision-making.

Reference: Schmitz, P. (2017). Community Engagement Toolkit. Collective Impact Forum and Leading Inside Out.

15. [Peer-to- peer community engagement guide](#)

This guide focuses on nurturing peer-to-peer connections and collaboration among young movement builders, moving away from the standard top-down engagement approach and. Learn about peer-to-peer engagement practices, boundary-setting, conflict management, trust-building, and the role of proactive and reactive approaches in fostering engagement. It also explores key questions to ask before engaging with peers.

Intended Audience: Young movement builders.

Reference: Bundu, I., & Podolinsky, M. (2022). Peer-to-Peer Community Engagement Guide. Toronto: The Youth Harbour.

16. [Community Engagement Planning Canvas](#)

Plan your project using this canvas, which incorporates key engagement theories such as The Engagement Triangle, Public Participation Spectrum, and To-For-With-By. The canvas helps you reflect, generate ideas, and refine your approach.

Intended Audience: Relevant stakeholders planning engagement with community.

Reference: Tamarack Institute. (2020). Community Engagement Planning Canvas. Tamarack Institute.