Connecting Community Voices to Climate Health Policy in Three U.S. Cities

WHERE: Greater Boston, Phoenix, and New Orleans
WHEN: Summer 2026
HOW: Photovoice campaigns
WHY: Elevate resident voices to inform policy

Community-Based Organization Partners:

FAIRMOUNT INDIGO CDC Collaborative
Unlimited Potential
HOLLYGROVE-DIXON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
China Town Community Land Trust
GreenRoots
New Orleans East Green Infrastructure Collective

Voices from the Field: Heat at Work



@Community Adaptations to City Heat (CATCH) Participants, 2026

"I'm a gardening expert. Because I work outdoors, I have to be very well prepared: large umbrella, hat, clothing that covers my body, lots of water, everything ready before I go out. If I didn't protect myself like this, I could get heat stroke, because in my work there are no places to take a break and be protected from the sun."

—Lorenzo (Phoenix)



@Community Adaptations to City Heat (CATCH) Participants, 2026

"The protocol to stay safe from extreme heat at work is to drink a lot of water. But water alone is not enough. You lose many essential salts when you sweat. And since heat doesn't make you hungry, it's not easy to replenish them with food. There are electrolyte drinks, but they're expensive!"

—Antonio (Phoenix)



@C-HEAT Participants, 2021

"My husband works in construction. During heat waves, construction workers are vulnerable to dehydration and heat shock, and the effects of intense heat can increase the risk of occupational accidents. Once I heard a construction worker say that on a very hot day, he felt like his shoe soles were melting when walking on a roof. What protections do labor regulations offer to protect these workers from the intense heat and their health risks?"

—Roxana (Boston)

Community Calls to Action:

-Establish outdoor worker protection protocols, including water + shade breaks.
-Employers provide electrolytes to outdoor workers.
-Accessible shade structures at work sites.
-Adjust working hours to minimize strenuous work during hottest periods.
-Train workers to recognize heat exhaustion + how to respond.

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"The photo shows a mobile solar generator, which I built in a class offered by our neighborhood association. With it, I am less worried about power outages because I can use the stored energy to keep a fan or other appliance running. This shows how solar energy can help people with the energy burden many face when trying to stay cool with fans or AC, even if they don't have solar panels in their homes. I think it also helps people feel more comfortable with the idea of installing solar panels."

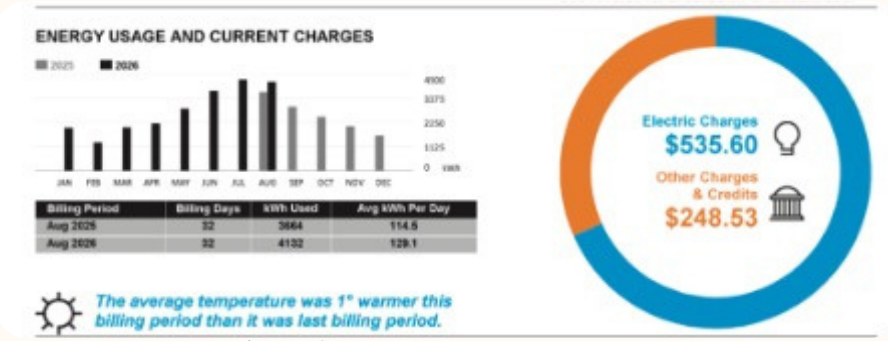
—Giovanni (New Orleans)

Voices from the Field: Heat, Clean Energy, and Affordability



"This is my neighbor's house. This past month, my neighbor's electricity bill was $27, while mine was $300. It would be great if policies existed that made it easier for everyone to get solar panels. The up-front cost of purchasing and servicing the panels, on top of utility bills, makes for a steep barrier to entry."

—Barbara (New Orleans)



"My electric bill is $535 for one month. The graph shows the spike in energy use during the hottest months of June, July and August. Energy bills seem to keep increasing and it's hard to keep up. What can be done to improve this situation for community residents?"
—Dai'Jah (New Orleans)

Community Calls to Action

-Provide financial assistance to reduce + subsidize energy bills.
-Facilitate residential solar installation through financial + educational initiatives.
-Support residents to acquire (or build their own) solar batteries or generators.
-Combine interventions to amplify impact.