

Connecting Community Values with Climate Change Adaptation Through a School Greening Project



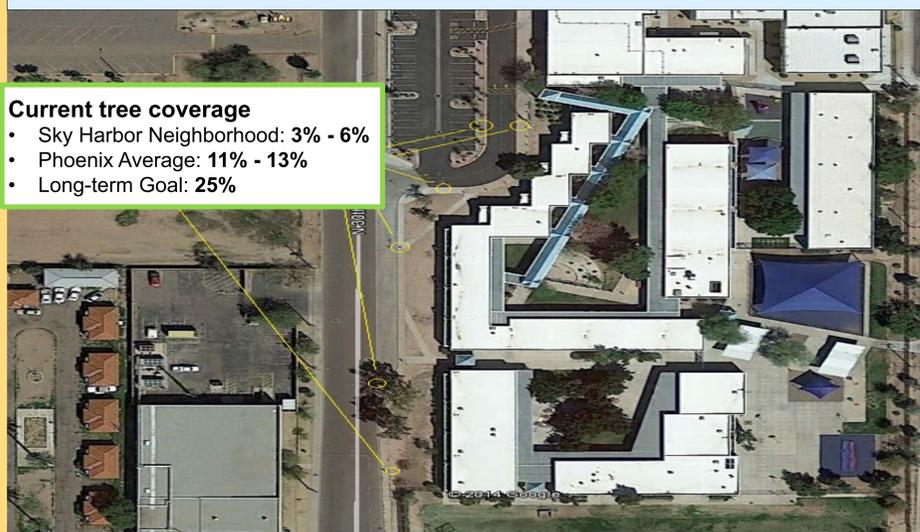
Brandon Ruiz (Intern)
 Summer Waters (Mentor, Sonoran Institute), Sharon Harlan (Faculty Mentor)
 Internship for Science-Practice Integration

How can community participation in climate adaptation initiatives become a higher priority for and more accessible to communities?

The Sonoran Institute is undertaking an initiative to assist vulnerable communities in adapting to climate change by developing plans to increase resilience to climate-related impacts. This project seeks to spread awareness and knowledge of the problems that climate change creates for communities and how climate adaptation can meet their expressed needs. This process highlights **intervention points** aimed at **empowering communities to meet climate challenges**.

My project's focus is in a south Phoenix neighborhood near Sky Harbor Airport. Community leaders identified climate change as a concern for residents, but it is **not a high priority** on their list of needs.

Location of greening project at Wilson Primary School.



Current tree coverage

- Sky Harbor Neighborhood: 3% - 6%
- Phoenix Average: 11% - 13%
- Long-term Goal: 25%

Methods

1. Interconnect stakeholders

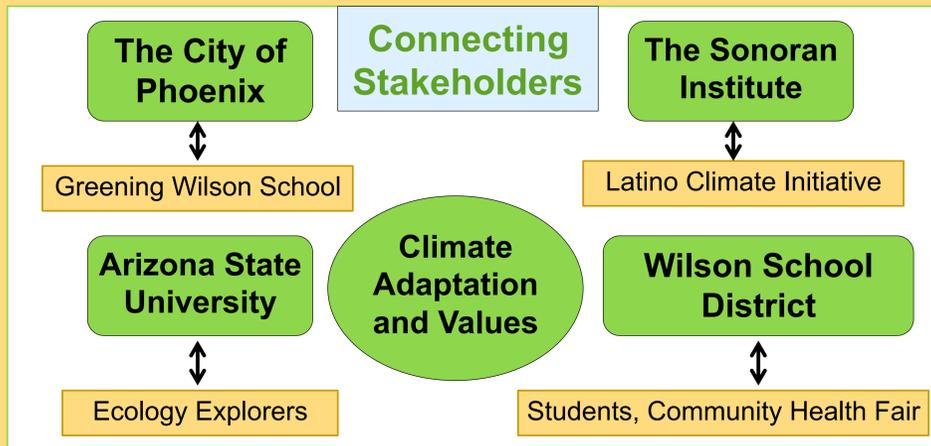
- Linked initiatives and activities between organizations like the Sonoran Institute, the community, ASU and the City of Phoenix.

2. Hold workshop with community members

- Shared knowledge of risks residents face, and spread awareness of school greening project to garner residents' interest in participation.

3. Conduct Surveys

- Gauged likeliness of participation in the school greening project and ranked their areas of concern.



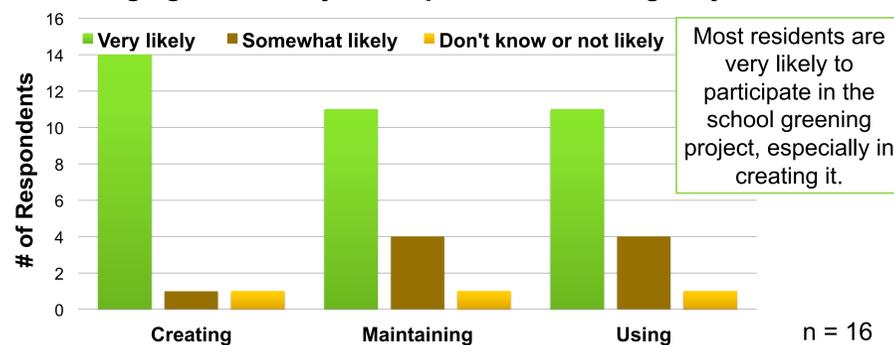
Community Engagement

Community residents identified Wilson School as one of the most valuable assets to the community.



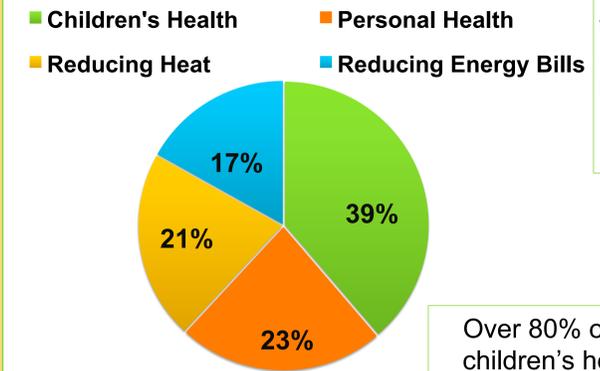
Survey Findings

Gauging Community Participation in Greening Project



Most residents are very likely to participate in the school greening project, especially in creating it.

Areas of Resident Concern Weighted



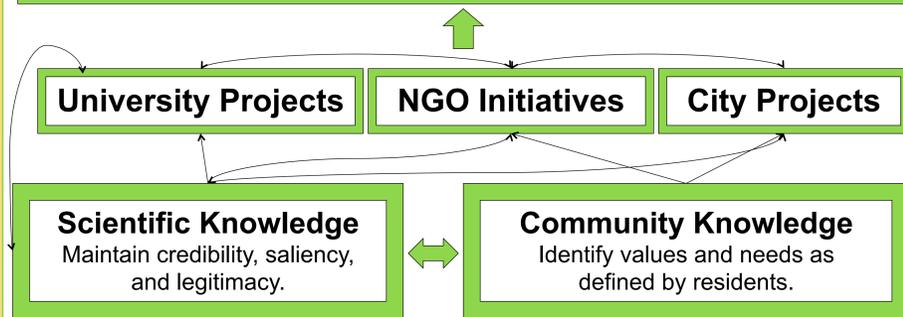
Each resident was asked to rank the importance of four possible climate-related concerns. Ranking was as follows: 1st = 4pts, 2nd = 3pts, 3rd = 2pts, 4th = 1pt.

Over 80% of respondent's picked children's health as #1 priority over other areas. (13 of 16 respondents)

Scientific knowledge and community knowledge must be aligned.

Connected community values and needs to adaptation strategies

Gauge interest and acceptance for strategies through community input. Allow them to further shape idea. Work **with** them, and not **for** them.



Further Projects

Follow up on the other interests identified by residents.

- Tree shade program for homes.
- Weatherization of homes.
- Establishing community leadership network.

Acknowledgment

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