

Community Conversation hosted by Latino Network in collaboration with CNN, BPS

Below are the notes from the Community Conversation on April 8th, 2018 with the Latino Network community, CNN area neighbors, and community leaders. These notes are written from the large tabletop posters used during the event and from the group takeaway discussions.

- People generally feel at a loss discussing climate change with the jargon, dense info, depressing, overwhelming...
 - Family “get it” but just know/experience it differently
 - POC do not need to understand climate science in order to understand climate science or the problem
 - It’s about bringing power to the table that isn’t currently happening
- Challenges around adaptation and mitigation
- How hard solutions are to address climate change
 - Makes it extremely daunting
- Climate change impacts:
 - Mass migration
 - End to global market trade
 - Water resource impacts
 - Resource exploitation impacting people’s health
- Concern about how culture will react/respond
- Hometowns already feeling impacts strongly
- Seeing areas change over time
- Seeing/considering quality of life for kids and grandkids
- Impact of sci-fi and how that shapes climate change and the potential solutions

Emergency Preparedness/Climate Change Communication

- Difference between “big quake” vs climate change events
- Engaging with folks who have different perspectives and communication/sharing knowledge
 - Have to bring everyone together regardless of social/political stance
 - Media division makes this difficult
 - How do we break these divisions between people
 - Need to build common ground
 - Need to be willing to find strength in a relationship even if there’s a significant disagreement on climate change
- Importance of having these conversations with family and friends where you have closer relationships
- Have to address and invest more broadly at the same time
- YouTube site on how to communicate climate change
 - Global Weirding → Kathryn Hayhoe
- Concern around the influence that comes from talking to people who disagree
 - 3 stages of denial
- need to know when to communicate and choose your battles
 - target the missing centrists
- stay consistent advocating your viewpoint regardless who you speak to

- people could sway on their own terms by this consistency
- dichotomy between environmental and economic development conversations
 - conversation is changing to be more nuanced in these perspectives though
- people have different skill sets and those should be exercised rather than trying to fit into roles that aren't suitable
- need radical change, but there's a lot of ways to engage
- should focus on the youth
 - baby boomers and gen x-ers failed
 - focus on getting millennials and younger engaged because past generations didn't do enough
 - power lies in the youth → all partisan
- how/will celebrities make a difference no that protest stances are being had
- government inst going to fix this
 - overthrowing capitalism or twisting it to our advantage
- environmental refugees within our country's borders
- natural resources as a point of conflict/wars

Possible Solutions?

- Independent behavior vs. institutional behavior
 - People will not act until it "hurts"
 - By the time it happens is could/will be too late
- Need to hold those accountable
- Criteria for solutions: → **shouldn't start at compromise**
 - Tangibly address climate change
 - Doesn't let industry off the hook. No rewards for "good" behavior
 - Tangible reinvestments
- where solutions are being pushed (community level) aren't where the biggest changes need to occur (institutional level)
- lunar eclipse bringing realization of the uniqueness of our planet
 - finite nature
- culturally central to a lot of people and ways of life
 - same people impacted by oppression/colonialism are most people getting hit the hardest by changing climate
- how to hold dominant communities accountable → **no compromises**
 - example: OPAL, transit policy expectations are uncompromising regardless of what TriMet offers as equitable
 - leading with a social and racial justice lens to have robust change
 - POC shouldn't have to do all of the lift though
 - Why aren't these getting more support?
 - Need to do this and support organizations doing this work
- Clean Energy Jobs Bill
 - Pushed hard for race to be considered as a vulnerable community
 - This was yanked from the bill due to concerns around being sued

- Emergency management concerns
 - Gorge Fire & lack of communication (or concern of a lack of communication)
 - Cully fire → poor emergency management
 - Not culturally respectful
 - Late evacuation notice
 - Had nowhere to go
 - PBEM is working with Latino Network to come up with culturally specific strategies
- Media doesn't blast "Climate change"
 - E.g. Puerto Rico and Houston
 - Talk about fires and floods but not climate change
 - Need to highlight things like air pollution and health issues in vulnerable communities first
- Need to use laws to mitigate resource conflict
 - Concern about how to make regulations inclusionary
 - History of oppressive, nefarious, and sometimes unintentional impacts stemming from policies
 - Example: school district shut down due to poor air quality from fires
 - PTA teams had to find funding to get air filters
 - Ordinary citizens are given too much of a role
 - When does this galvanize government intervention and protection

Table 2

- How to handle rising transportation costs
 - Reverse inverse subsidy
 - Public support
 - Bicycles
 - Storage, lanes, prices
- Climate change affects life/community
 - Finances
 - To contribute costs
 - Bikes are expensive
 - Access will cost
 - Transportation
 - Conflicts with current existence of multiple cars
 - Limited resources
 - Health
 - Due to heat limited water, contamination
 - Change neighborhoods/household
 - Break apart
 - Joint together
 - Concentration shifts (CA → PDX)
- Need to force awareness and action
 - Conversations led by community organizations

- They must be empowered
- How to take action
 - Advocate
 - Carbon cap and trade
 - Provide basic necessities
 - Local shelter and food
 - Policy: make sustainable choices simple, cheap
 - Tie education to increase costs
 - Scare tactics
 - Allow nature education
 - Berries in May/June that grow here

Table Takeaways

- Climate Change strategies in policy as defined by Latino Network
 - Meaningful reduction in carbon emissions
 - Real investments in communities most impacted
 - Holding people responsible accountable
- Need to support organizations like APANO, Portland African American Leadership Forum of Health, Living Cully, Verde
- Come to meetings like this, take what you heard, and spread it
- Contact legislator and let them know climate change is an important thing
- Express radical solutions freely
 - Need diversity of ideas and perspectives
 - Create conversations where community feels safe
 - Consider where it happens, use inclusive language, and have culturally specific facilitators

Group Takeaways (What Next?)

- Climate change/thinking green, privileged communities
 - Impacts marginalized communities most
- Open dialogue with people with differing views
 - No assumptions
- Lot of ways to address climate change issues
- Holding groups accountable and how they are responsible
- Implementing models on a city/state level (policy)
- Don't be afraid to be bold or radical
- Important to create spaces where everyone feels safe
- Strategies
 - Meaningful reduction in carbon
 - Real investments in communities most impacted
 - Responsible accountability