

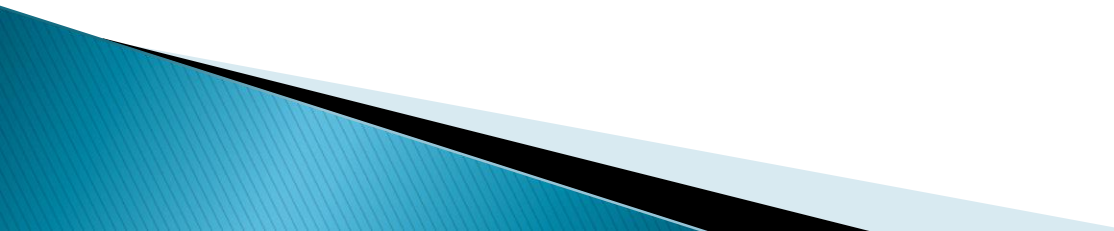
Climate Change and Disability



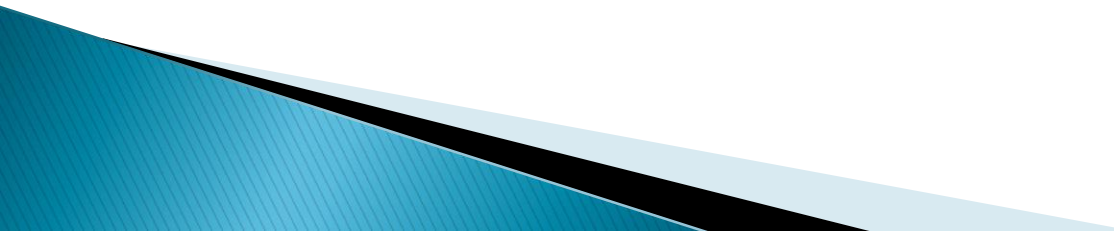
Integrating Access & Equity
in Alameda's Resilience Plans

Alex Ghenis, World Institute on Disability

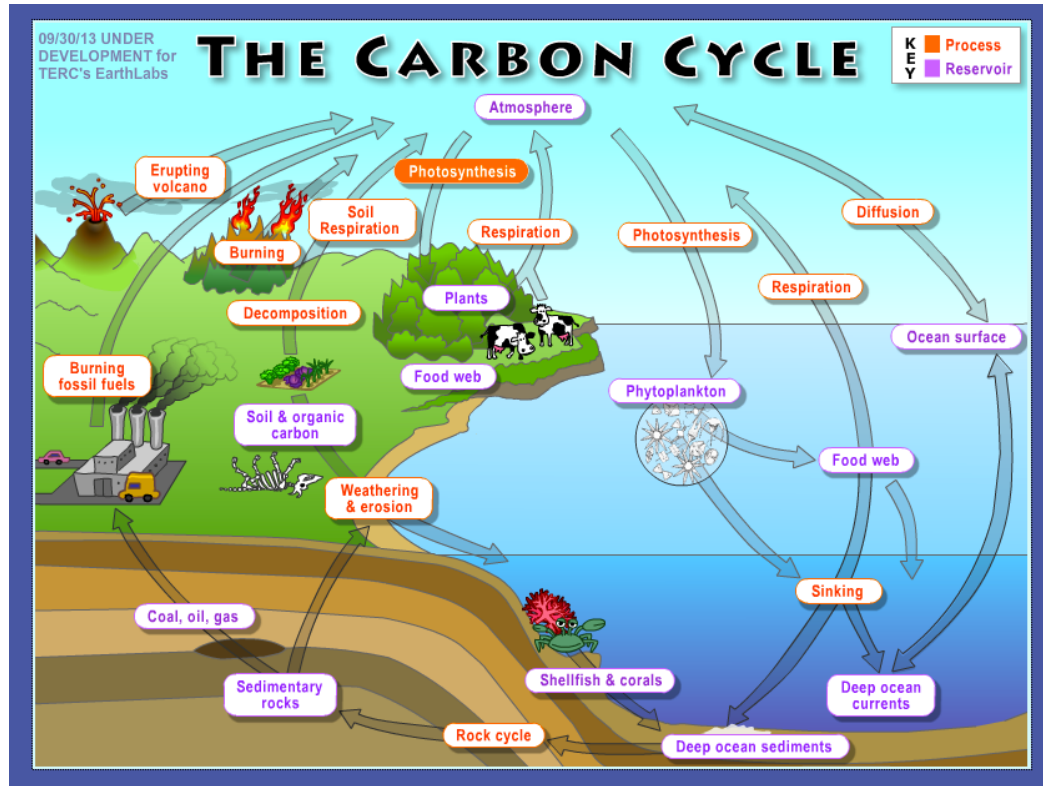
Overview

- ▶ Climate change is here & progressing
 - ▶ Large need for adaptation & resilience
 - ▶ Adaptive climate justice: focus on disability
 - ▶ Alameda's resilience needs & plans
 - ▶ Integrating disability in Alameda
 - ▶ A partnership with WID
 - ▶ Next steps
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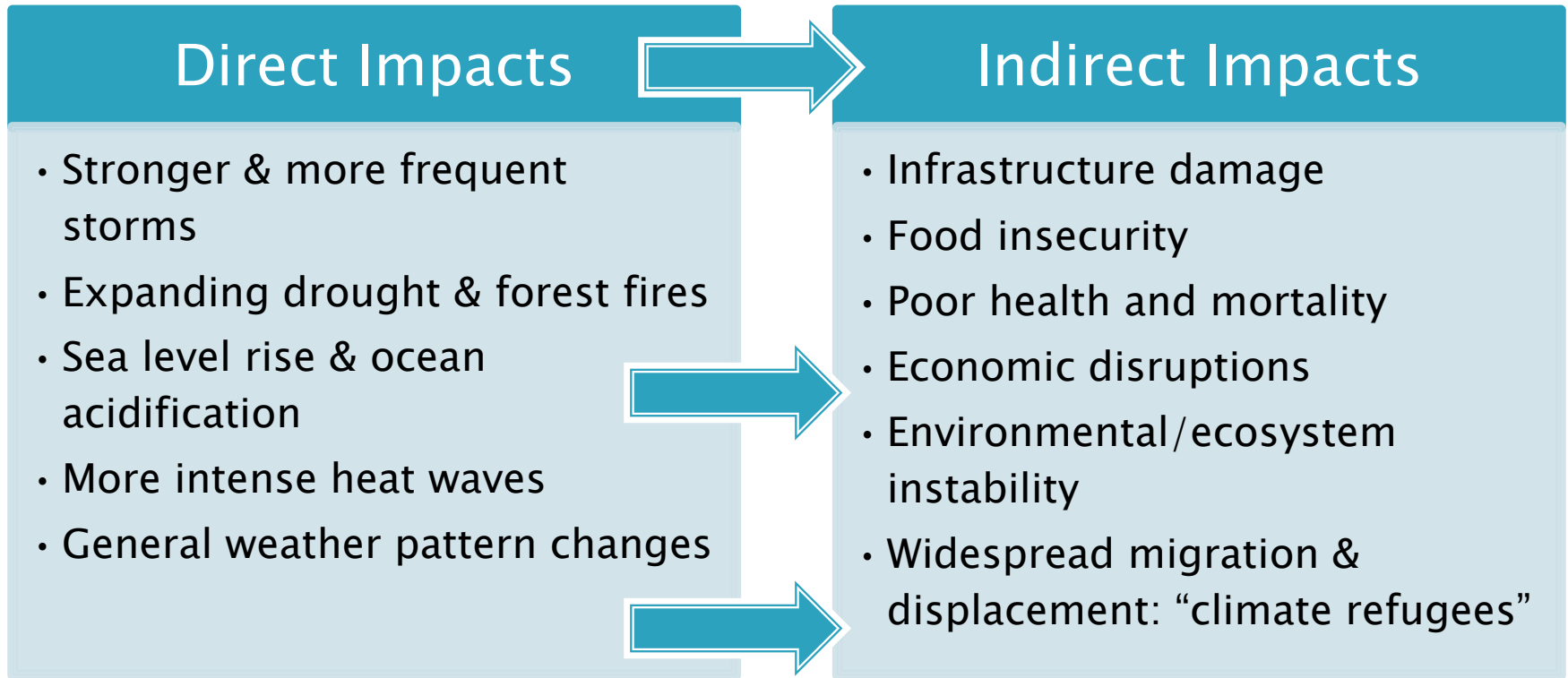
So, What is Climate Change?

- ▶ “Thermal radiation” comes down from the sun
 - ▶ Greenhouse gases (GHGs) trap thermal radiation & keep the atmosphere warm
 - ▶ We emit carbon dioxide & other GHGs by burning fossil fuels, cutting down forests, etc.
 - ▶ These GHGs trap extra radiation & warm up the atmosphere even more (“global warming”)
 - ▶ The warmer atmosphere changes weather and other aspects of the climate (ie soil moisture)
 - ▶ This affects nature, ecosystems & humanity
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Climate: Complex & Fragile

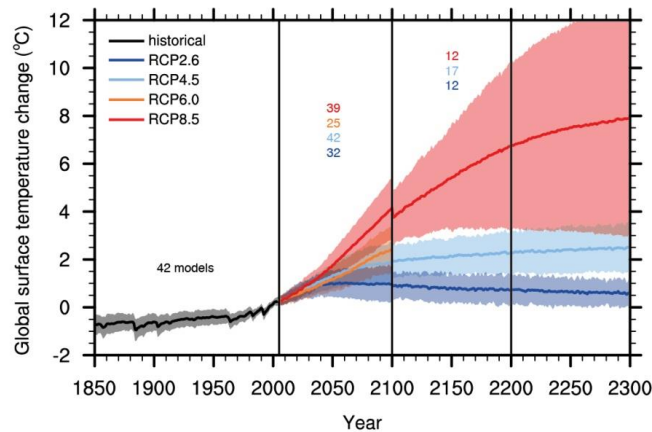


Climate Change: Impacts



“Stop Climate Change”

- ▶ International targets include 1.5 and 2°C
- ▶ Climate scientists predict large changes even if we cut emissions.
- ▶ Unfortunately, we cannot “stop global warming.”



Adaptation: Vital but Neglected

- ▶ Preparing for climate change is very important
- ▶ Saves lives, well-being, economies & more
- ▶ Step 1: Create general resiliency
 - Physical & economic infrastructure
 - Social systems and support networks
- ▶ Step 2: Situation-Focused Planning
 - Disaster readiness & response (DRR)
 - Resource management (i.e. water & drought)
 - Internal & international migration
- ▶ Start early, provide resources, plan ahead

Adaptive Climate Justice

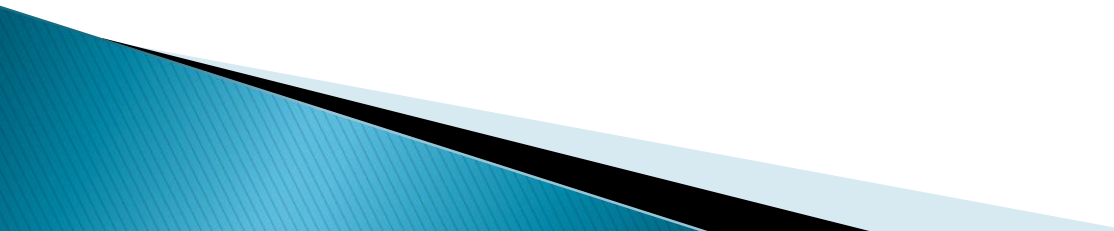
- ▶ Oppressed & marginalized groups will be hit hardest & supported least
 - “Developing” countries & the global South
 - Economically disempowered & poor
 - People of color & religious/ethnic minorities
 - People with disabilities
- ▶ Adaptive climate justice
 - Address root causes of vulnerability
 - Prepare with specific focus on vulnerable groups
 - Provide resources using equity framework

“What does Climate Change have to do with Disability?!”



Disability Rights: For a Good Life

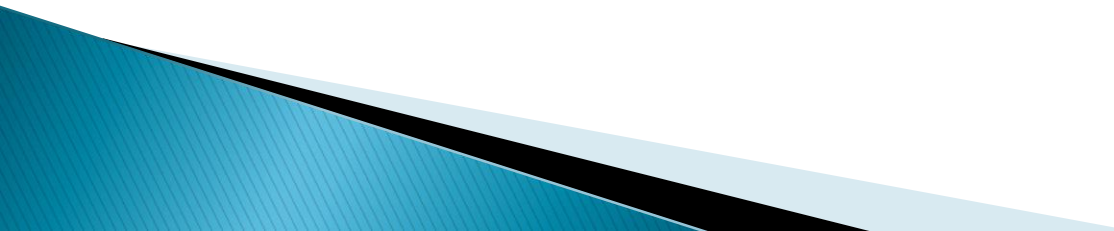
People with disabilities (PWD) need support for health & independence

- ▶ Medical: quality healthcare, equipment, supplies, medication
 - ▶ Life quality resources: personal assistance, accessible housing, transportation, jobs
 - ▶ Funding & stability: social services, community & family support
 - ▶ Takes time & effort to develop, and is vulnerable
- 

CC Leads to More Disability

- ▶ “Disability-adjusted life years” (DALYs, a Public Health measure)
 - “Quantifies” levels of disability, population & time to a single metric of quality of life
 - Existing focus of major reports
- ▶ Increased DALYs have many causes including:
 - Storm-related injuries
 - Crop shortages & malnutrition
 - Invasive diseases
 - Climate-related conflict & war injuries

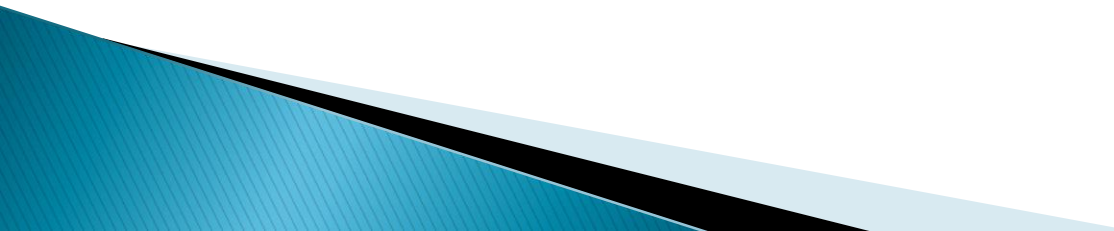
Major Impacts on PWDs

- ▶ Storms & natural disasters
 - Inaccessible shelters & evacuation methods
 - Fragile support systems (medical, caregivers, etc)
 - ▶ Heat waves
 - Increased chance of heat exhaustion & heatstroke
 - Reduced access to air-conditioning
 - ▶ Displacement/Migration
 - Accessible transit & housing
 - Portable government, medical & personal supports
 - ▶ Economic effects
 - PWDs already have low employment & high poverty
 - Jeopardized government services
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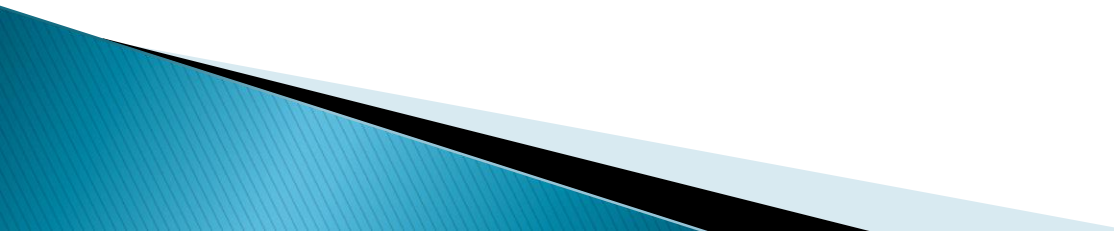
Key Example: Natural Disasters



Disaster Readiness and Response

- ▶ Communication for sensory disabilities
 - Storm warnings on TV. Closed captioning is key
 - Announcements in shelters: TTY, CCTV, interpreters
 - ▶ Evacuation
 - Accessible buses & operational paratransit
 - Mass evacuations of nursing homes etc.
 - ▶ Shelters
 - Fully accessible with medical support
 - Confusion around “special needs” shelters
 - ▶ Recovery: housing and employment
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Executive Order B-30-15

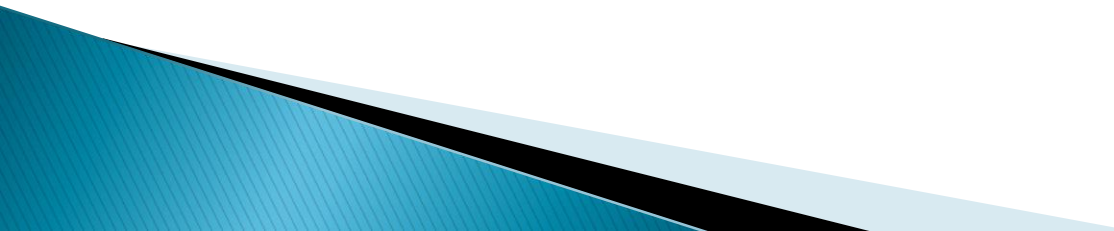
- ▶ Signed by Gov. Brown (4/29/2015)
 - ▶ GHG target of 40% below 1990 levels by 2030
 - ▶ “Safeguarding California” adaptation plan: update every 3 years
 - ▶ “The state’s Five-Year Infrastructure Plan will take current and future climate change impacts into account in all infrastructure projects”
 - ▶ “Actions should protect the state’s most vulnerable populations”
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Alameda's Needs

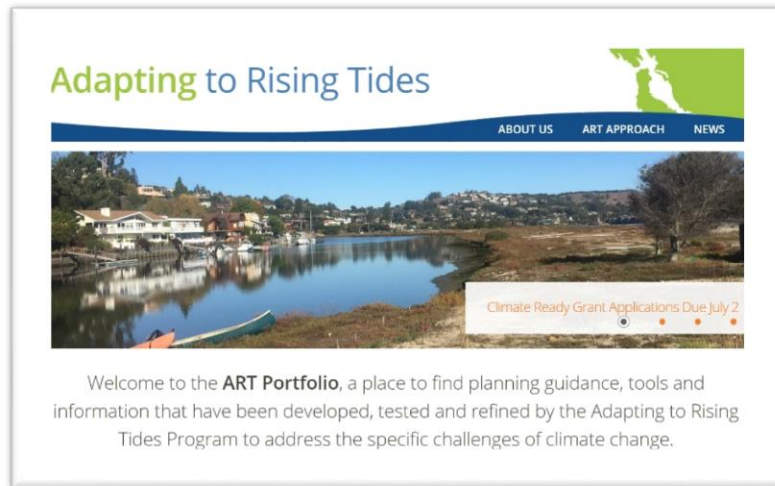


Credit: www.jewishalameda.com

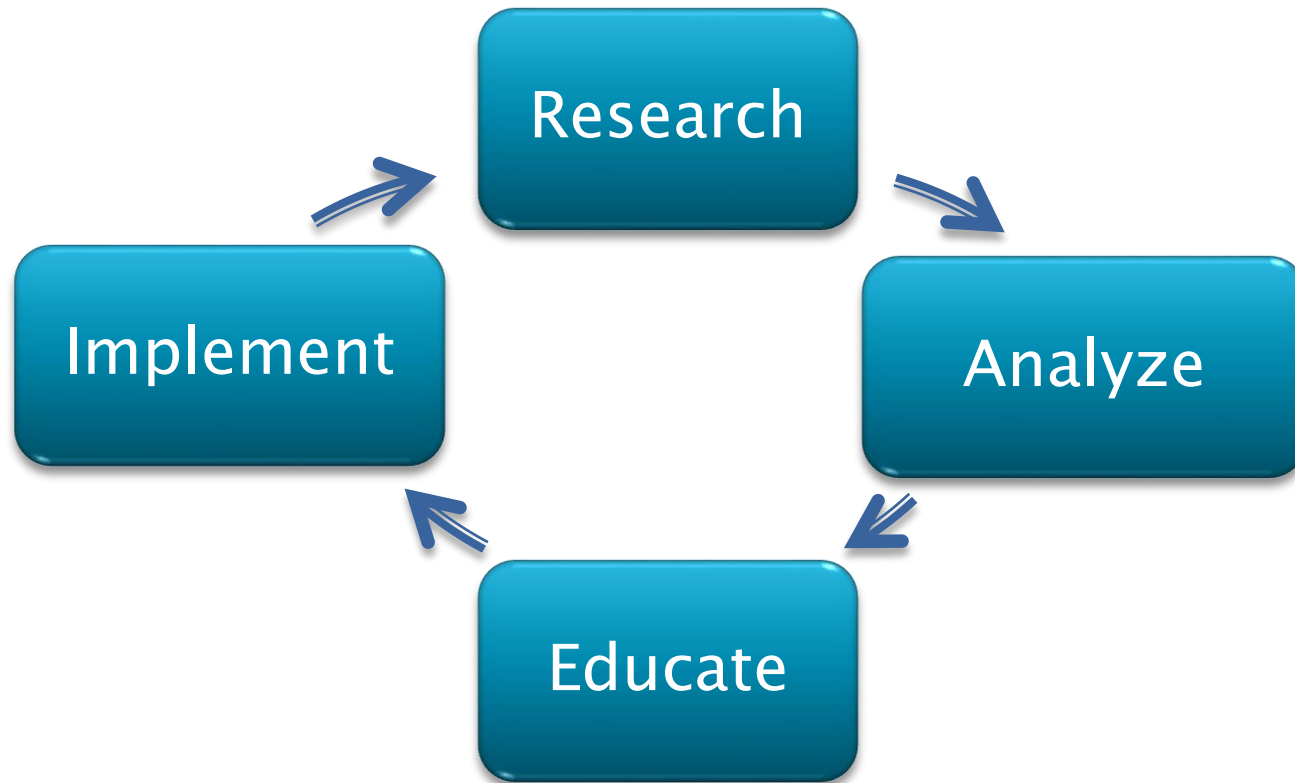
Alameda's Needs

- ▶ Stronger storms & extreme weather
 - Disaster readiness, response & recovery (DRR)
 - Resilient infrastructure
 - Individual & community preparation
 - ▶ Drought, water shortages & crop stress
 - Wise water management & financial supports
 - Community food programs
 - ▶ Sea level rise
 - Strengthened & raised levees/sea-walls
 - Housing/buildings: reinforce and/or relocate
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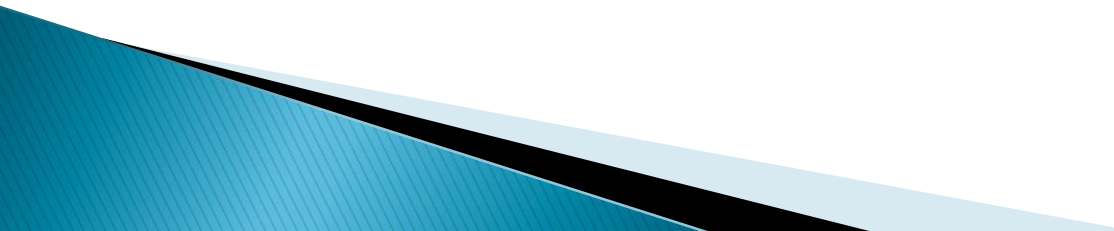
Existing Efforts



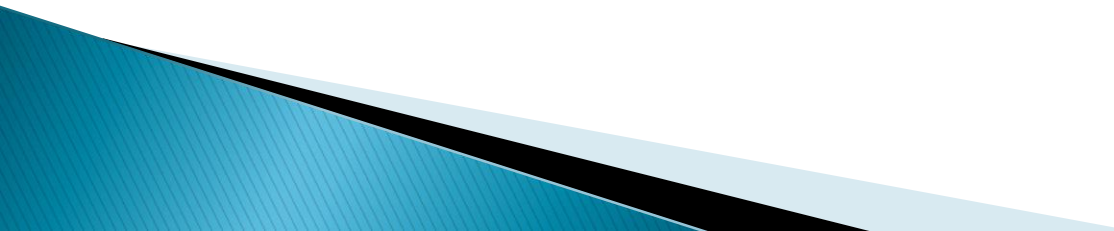
Climate & Disability in Alameda



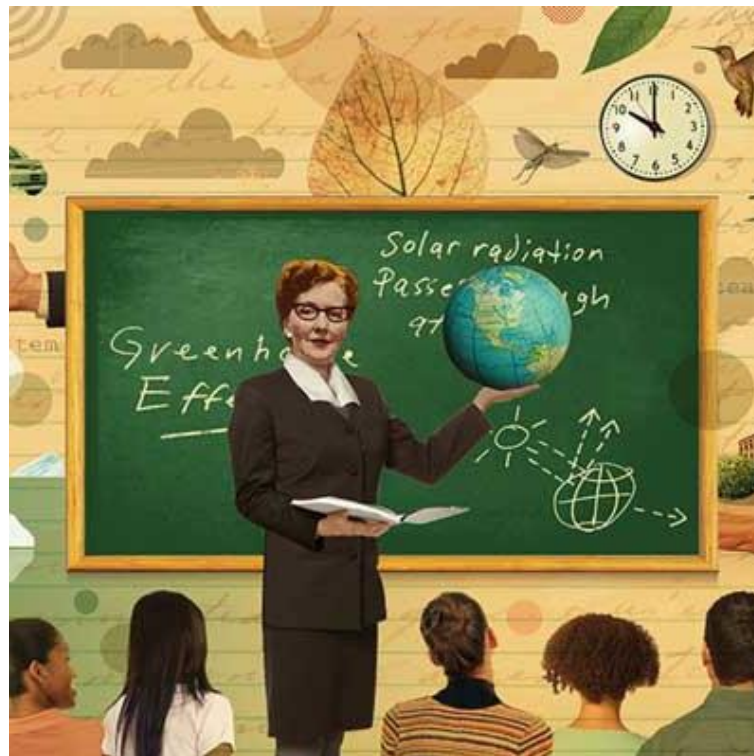
Research

- ▶ ID key stakeholders (local, state, national)
 - Disability agencies, non-profits, leadership
 - Climate-related: resiliency, DRR, pub health
 - ▶ Outreach, understand & document
 - Focus groups & interviews
 - Collect informational resources
 - ▶ Be multi-faceted & intersectional
 - ▶ Build connections for future work
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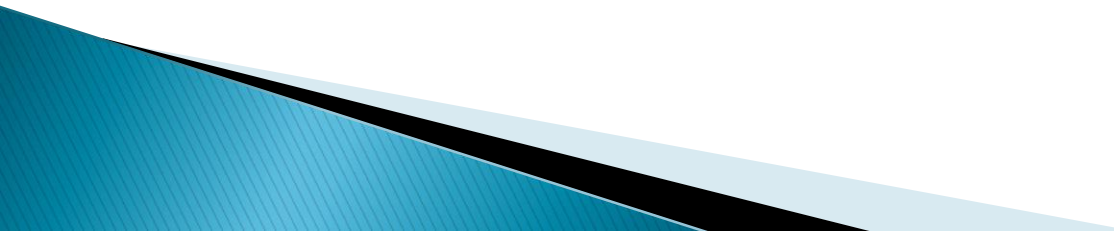
Analyze: Needs & Policies

- ▶ Primary & secondary climate impacts
 - Storms: disaster relief & recovery (DRR)
 - Sea-level rise & displacement
 - Housing & economic needs
 - Multiple disability focus
 - ▶ Policy development & implementation
 - ▶ Stakeholder capacities & opportunities
 - ▶ Roadmap: responsibilities, timeline, etc.
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Educate



Educate

- ▶ Tailored info & outreach
 - Geographic area/jurisdiction
 - Topic: i.e. disability rights, environmental justice, climate resilience, DRR, public health
 - Resource type: print/digital, video, in-person
 - ▶ “Nothing about us, without us”
 - ▶ Speak their language
 - ▶ Solution-focused
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Coordinate Efforts

- ▶ Disability reforms are beneficial regardless
 - ▶ Access & resiliency are vital, but especially in a tumultuous world
 - ▶ Climate prep provides another strong argument
- ▶ Disability highlights the need for climate prep
- ▶ Connect & coordinate
 - ▶ Brainstorm policy
 - ▶ Combine messages
 - ▶ Advocate together

If we are reforming our city, we should make it accessible for all



Oregon Live

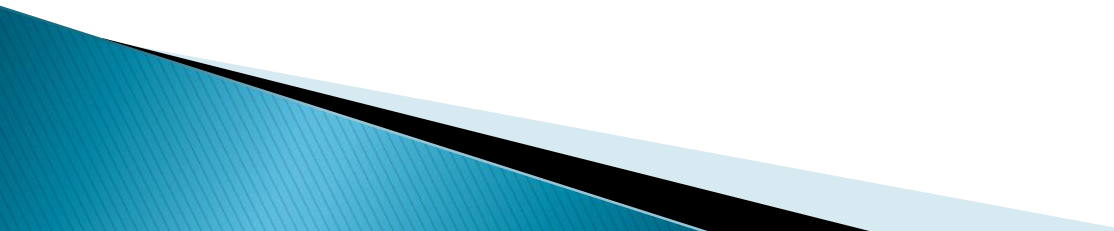
World Institute on Disability



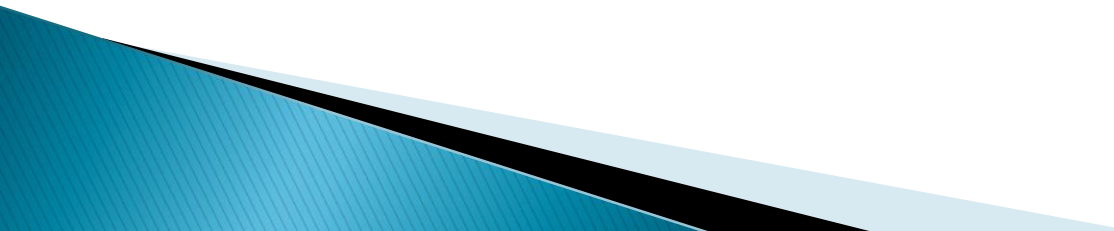
- ▶ Over 35 years' experience in disability research, education and policy
- ▶ Direct consulting w/ government, non-profits, & business communities
- ▶ Local, national & international partners
- ▶ 10+ years of disaster readiness efforts
- ▶ “New Earth Disability” climate change & disability initiative

WID & Alameda

Alameda is a leader in its climate resilience efforts. WID can help through:

- ▶ Analyzing inclusion opportunities in resilience plans & policies
 - ▶ Connecting to key stakeholders
 - ▶ On-the-ground community research
 - ▶ Active input in city efforts
 - ▶ Ongoing consultation with up-to-date regional, state & national progress
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Next Steps

- ▶ Understand Alameda's current & future climate resiliency efforts
 - ▶ Identify opportunities for disability inclusion in planning & development
 - ▶ Articulate need for research, policies, implementation & related funding
 - ▶ Secure buy-in, bring in partners as needed
 - ▶ Develop plan for actions, time frames & resource needs
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Collaborate



Contact

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