Enabling Climate Resilient Neighbourhood Houses

Jesuit Social Services' Centre for Just Places' work with Neighbourhood Houses and Community Centres

Our work enabling neighbourhood houses

Over the past five years, Jesuit Social Services' Centre for Just Places has worked with over 20 neighbourhood houses and neighbourhood house networks across Victoria to help enable place-based climate and disaster resilience. Through this experience, we have developed tools, resources and approaches tailored to the neighbourhood house sector, recognising that:

- Neighbourhood houses are often on the frontline of supporting people most affected by climate change and disasters.
- Many neighbourhood houses are under-resourced despite the critical role they play in community and climate resilience.
- Staff and volunteers have limited time and capacity to engage in additional planning and training.
- Effective climate resilience work builds on neighbourhood house sector principles, using community-led, strengths-based and participatory approaches.

Our offerings are designed to be practical, flexible and responsive to the realities of neighbourhood house work, helping organisations build capability while supporting their communities.

What we offer

- Climate and disaster resilience action planning (for individual houses or networks)
- Climate justice 101 workshops

Who we work with

Neighbourhood houses and community centers

Providing neighbourhood houses with tailored and individualised support to design and deliver climate justice workshops or climate and disaster resilience action plans.

Neighbourhood house networks

Working with neighbourhood house networks to deliver regional or sub-regional capability building or action plans.

Local government

Supporting councils to effectively support neighbourhood houses and community centres in their municipality through workshops and capability building.

Jesuit Social Services
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Our offerings

Climate and disaster resilience action planning (4-6 x 2 hour workshops)

This facilitated workshop series supports neighbourhood houses and community centres to identify climate and disaster risks, understand their impacts on local communities, and develop a practical action plan to strengthen resilience. Grounded in a community development and climate justice approach, the program can be delivered to individual neighbourhood houses, or can be undertaken collectively as neighbourhood house networks.

Participants will:

- Build understanding of local climate and disaster risks and their implications for community
- Identify local groups and places most exposed to climate impacts and existing inequities
- Map community assets, strengths and resilience-building opportunities
- Prioritise actions that support equitable climate and disaster resilience
- Develop a practical climate and disaster resilience action plan for their neighbourhood house or neighbourhood house network

Suitable for neighbourhood house staff, volunteers, board members and community leaders, this series supports neighbourhood houses to understand and strengthen their role in building climate and community resilience before, during and after climate and disaster events.

Climate Justice 101 workshop (3 hours)

This introductory workshop provides a practical understanding of climate justice and what it means for neighbourhood houses and the communities they serve.

Participants will explore:

- What is climate justice and why it matters
- How climate change and disasters can deepen existing inequalities
- The unique role neighbourhood houses can play in supporting community resilience
- Practical ways to apply a climate justice lens to programs, services, decision-making and community engagement

The workshop is suitable for neighbourhood house staff, volunteers, board members and community leaders, and is designed to build confidence, knowledge and practical skills for climate action at the local level.

Neighbourhood houses and community centres are critical actors in strengthening local climate and community resilience, yet many remain chronically under-resourced and under-funded.

As part of our commitment to climate justice, we seek to address inequities in access to climate resilience resources, funding, and opportunities. The Centre for Just Places can work with individual neighbourhood houses and neighbourhood house networks to identify and apply for funding to access our offerings.

For more information:

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