



# Engaging Patients & Providers in an Equity-Centered Climate Change Action Plan

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# Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this land, which is named for the Ute Tribe, is the traditional and ancestral homeland of the Shoshone, Paiute, Goshute, and Ute Tribes. The University of Utah recognizes and respects the enduring relationship that exists between many Indigenous peoples and their traditional homelands. We respect the sovereign relationship between tribes, states, and the federal government, and we affirm the University of Utah's **commitment to a partnership** with Native Nations and Urban Indian communities through research, education, and community outreach activities.

# U of U Health Climate Commitments

- President's Climate Leadership Commitment

- Target Net-Zero by 2040
- Climate resilience

- HHS Climate Pledge

- Achieve net-zero by 2040
- Create a climate resilience plan by EOY 2023



# 2010 Climate Action Plan



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## Features:

- Triple Bottom Line Centered
- Specific near-term, mid-term, and ongoing actions

## Missing:

- U of U Health
- Resilience
- Equity Focus

# A New Climate Change Action Plan

- Address evolving needs of our campus community
- Equity-centered to prioritize the **needs and voices of those most impacted** by climate change
- Prioritizes resilience, education, and research alongside mitigation
- Set priorities for achieving our ambitious climate goals

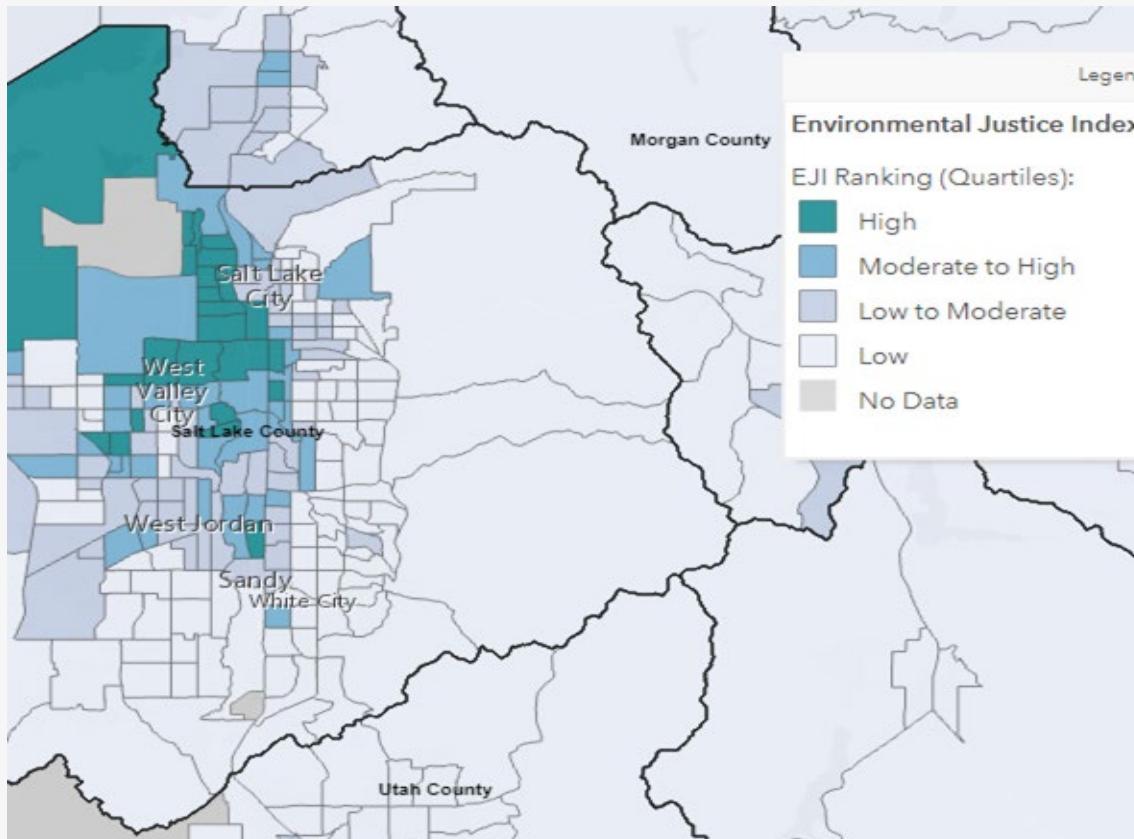


# Defining Equity

Equity aims to identify and actively **eliminate systemic barriers** to access and opportunities **that prevent the full participation** of people, specifically **those from historically marginalized groups** in higher education. Equity ensures fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all students, faculty, and staff to develop to their full academic, social, and career potential.

- University of Utah EDI Strategic Plan 2022

# Equity Centered Planning



- Pre-planning research
- Engaging President's Climate Commitment Task Force early
- Including equity as a scored component of RFP
- Equity Consultant

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# Why Did the U of U Center Equity in Our Plan?



- Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion are U core values
- Equity is one of the three pillars of sustainability
- Campus community asked us to center equity in climate work
- Resilient future is not possible without addressing equity
- Part of being a leader on climate change

# Equity and Climate-Health Impacts



- Climate change is already impacting health, but not equally
- Historically marginalized communities contribute the least but are impacted first and worst

# Why Might You Center Equity in Your Plan?

Historically marginalized people have ideas that uplift everyone.

Centering the voices and needs of historically marginalized people enhances the quality and impact of climate change action planning.



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*“Just being at the table is not enough, but being able to make the decisions and drive the conversations. We aren’t causing the problem but we are bearing the impacts.”*

*(University Neighborhood Partners Residents Group, 3 Nov 2022)*

# CCAP Timeline

**BRAINSTORM**  
Gather input through equity listening sessions, pop-ups, and survey.

**DRAFT PLAN**  
Develop draft Climate Change Action Plan using technical analysis and input shared.

**FINALIZE**  
Respond to feedback, finalize the Climate Change Action Plan, and widely share.



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# Equity-Centered Approach



- Strategically reached marginalized voices
- These ideas informed and shaped other activities
- Ensured these voices were reflected in the final plan

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# CCAP Engagement Process

- Equity interviews
- Equity listening sessions
- Survey
- Interactive Pop-up Events
- In-person roundtables
- Virtual roundtables
- Patient Engagement



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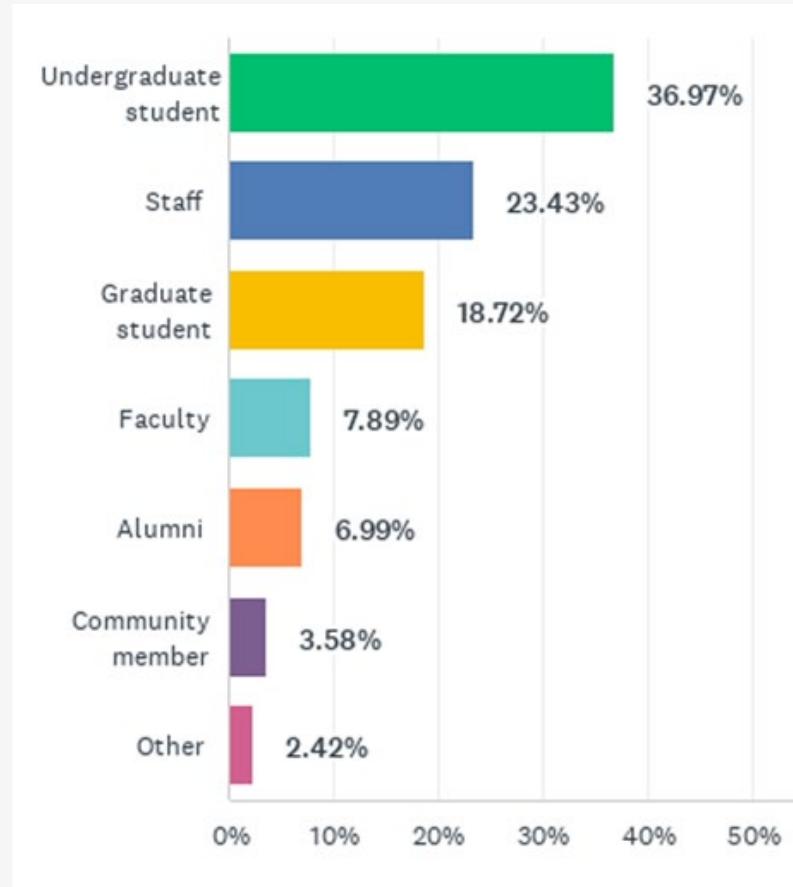


 **CleanMed**  
PITTSTURGH 2023



# Engaging Providers

# Campus-Wide Survey

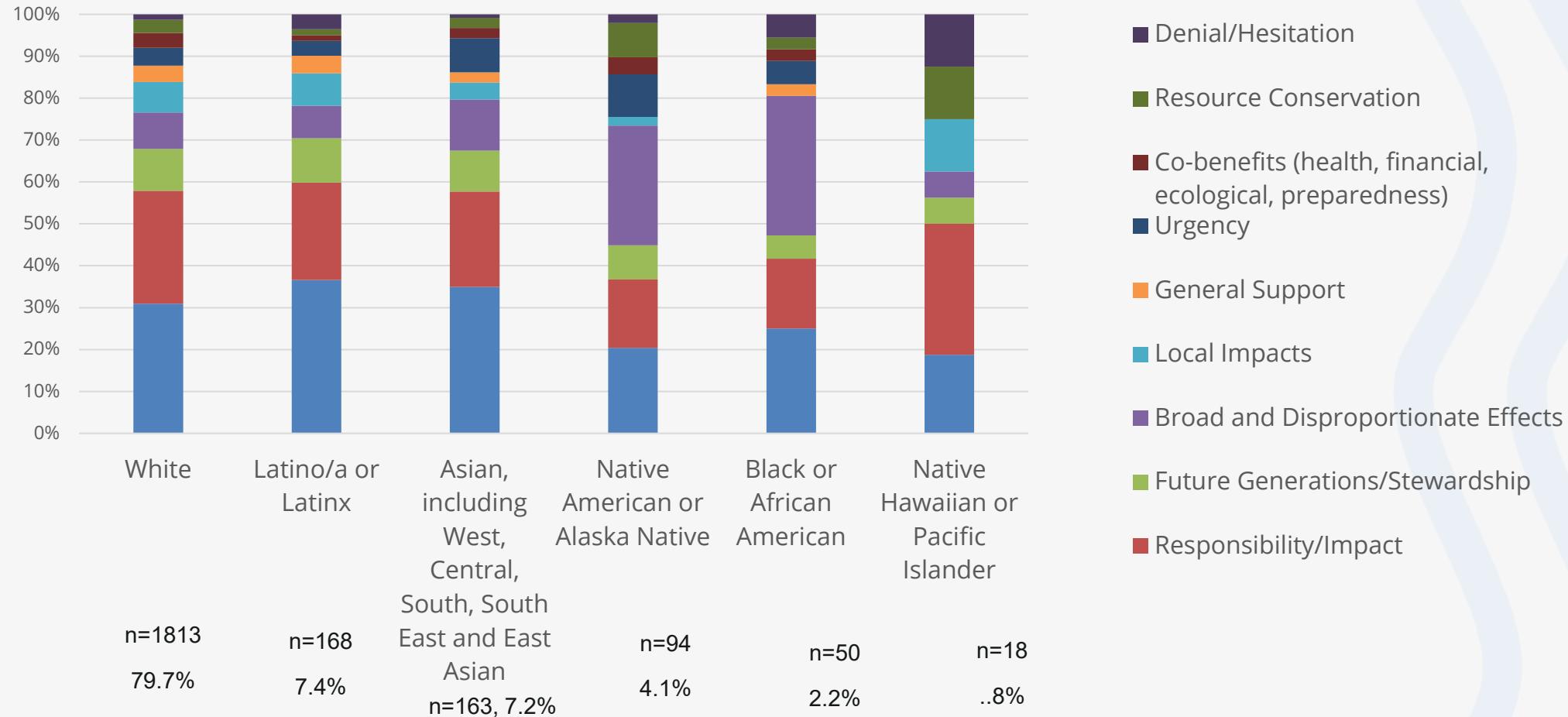


- Open for 4 weeks
- Sent via @theU
- 2,318 Respondents
  - ~230 UUH

# Campus-Wide Survey

Why do you think it's important for the U to address climate change? (Open Response)

## Values by Racial/Ethnic Identity



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# Roundtable Discussions



- In-Person Roundtable
  - Proactive Action / Visible Leadership
  - Equity / Inclusion / Relational
  - Collaboration / Communication
  - Holistic / True Cost
- Virtual Roundtable

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# Engaging Patients

# Patient Survey



English ▾

**This month, we would like your feedback on how the University of Utah should act to respond to climate change.**

Climate change is here. We know it worsens existing problems globally and locally, affects our health and well-being, and that historically marginalized people are often most impacted by the changes. The U has already taken significant steps to address climate change, and future actions will center equity and prioritize those most impacted.

Results from this survey, and a similar campus-wide survey, will be explored further at interactive roundtables held later this fall.

[Click here](#) to learn more and register for upcoming Climate Change Action events.

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# Some Patients Don't See Climate-Health Connections

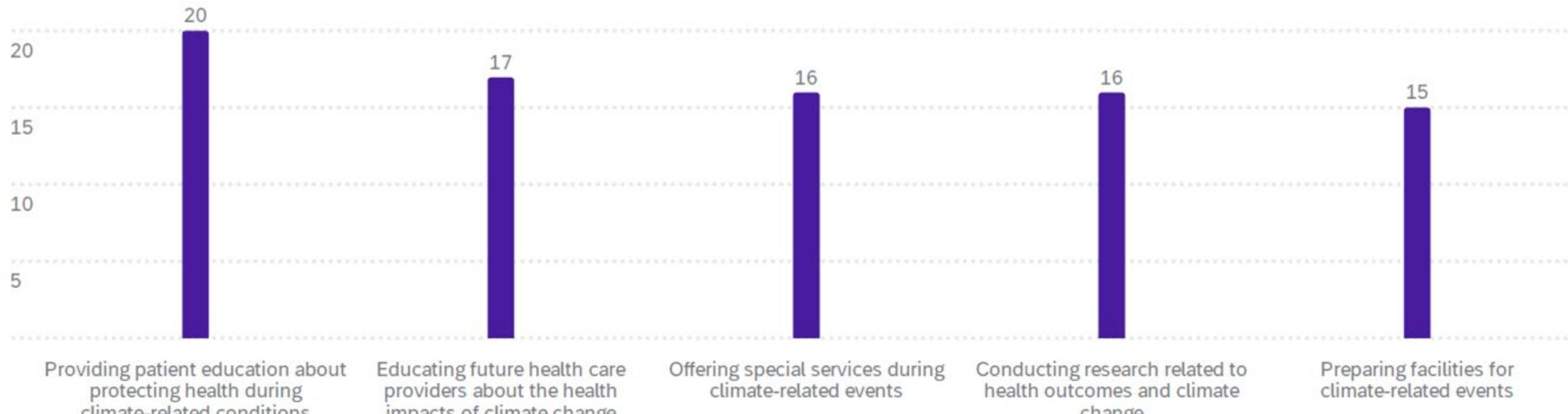
- *"This is kind of weird. This is a hospital. While you should be mindful of resources, I do not think climate change is your lane... Stay in your lane!"*
- *"Climate change should not be a priority or focus of the University. They can do better good elsewhere."*

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# But Some Patients Do...

What do you want to see the U prioritize in responding to the health related effects of climate change?



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# Patient Design Studio Session- Take Aways

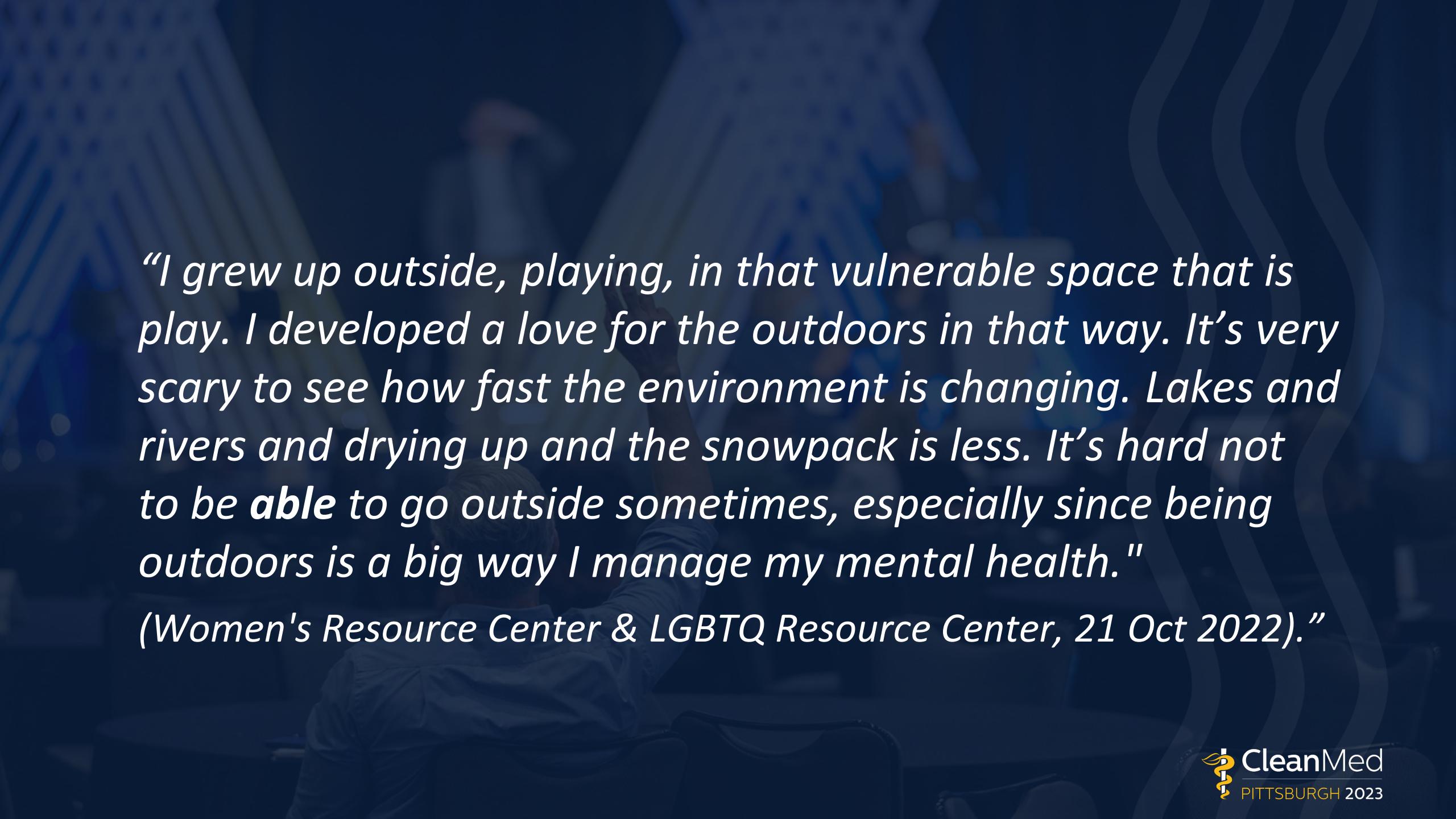
- Patients are feeling the health effects of climate change and are altering how they live their lives (recreation, transportation, etc.)
- Patients want more education on how to protect their health against the effects of climate change
- Communication and education efforts should be prioritized for vulnerable populations



Salt Lake City on August 6, 2021

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*“I grew up outside, playing, in that vulnerable space that is play. I developed a love for the outdoors in that way. It’s very scary to see how fast the environment is changing. Lakes and rivers are drying up and the snowpack is less. It’s hard not to be **able** to go outside sometimes, especially since being outdoors is a big way I manage my mental health.”*

*(Women's Resource Center & LGBTQ Resource Center, 21 Oct 2022).”*

# Patient Engagement Impacts

## Resilience – Drafted Key Actions



- Develop resources and **strategies for improving personal mental and physical health and resilience**
- Maintain relationships to ensure community members from historically marginalized groups are equitably involved in climate adaptation planning
- Develop training for **U of U Health providers to address the physical and mental health impacts of climate change** and related events

A dark, semi-transparent background image of a person from the back, wearing a blue shirt. Their right arm is raised, with fingers spread in a 'V' or 'OK' gesture. The background is a blurred indoor setting with other people and blue chairs.

# Equity-Centered Engagement

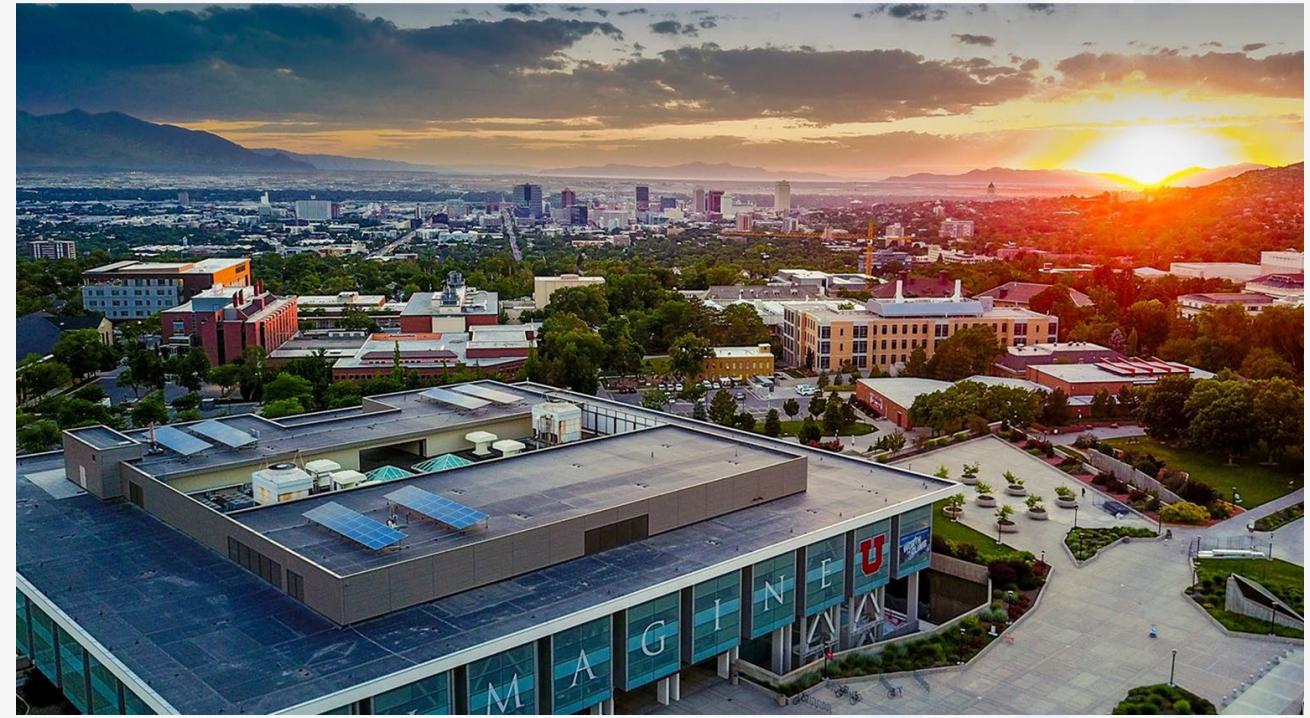


# Equity Listening Sessions

- Work **where relationships already existed between communities and the U** to ensure follow through and accountability
- Created settings where historically marginalized **people could meet within their own communities** and be heard in an anti-oppressive way

# Main Themes From Equity-driven Engagement

- Addressing power-imbalances in decision-making
- Learning from Indigenous people and knowledge
- Drawing on faculty researching and discussing climate justice
- Engaging with creative solutions for decolonization
- Responding to mental health impacts of climate change



# What We Heard: Climate & Health

- *"I felt I was on this journey [having concern for climate change] myself. I felt that other people weren't experiencing this as desperately as I was."*

(Women's Resource Center & LGBTWQ Resource Center, 21 Oct 2022)

- *"My family has always relied on natural remedies. Things we go to that have always worked for us, even from when we were very young. When we take our children to the doctors, they try to implement western medicine. They can look down on us. These really help. I think it's very important to respect natural medicines and cultural knowledge. How can they support our communities to still use our own natural medicines as well? It is in my comfort zone and makes me feel safe."*

(Center Equity & Student Belonging, 16 Nov 2022)

- *"It's much harder to find medicinal plants. Sometimes you find something and you can't use it because of the pollution."*

(American Indian Resource Center, 18 Oct 2022)

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# What We Heard: Other Themes

- *“The same processes of colonization are the same processes that strain our planet. We have to take care of that.”*  
(University Neighborhood Partners Residents Group, 3 Nov 2022)
- *“You need to make this bigger than the native person, the grandmother, the nation. We didn’t create this situation, so you need to draw us in to help stop it.”*  
(American Indian Resource Center, 18 Oct 2022)
- *“A lot of our society is set up to think of these things [land, water and air] to use rather than to think of these things to have a relationship with.”*  
(University Neighborhood Partners Residents Group, 3 Nov 2022)
- *“The U is very powerful. Are they going to support people to become advocates and be advocates?”*  
(University Neighborhood Partners Residents Group, 3 Nov 2022)

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# Equity Engagement Impacts



- Shaped climate change action values and principles
- Helped prioritize core areas for action (air quality and mental health)
- Resilience actions addressed the disproportionate impacts of climate change
- Shaped future decision-making framework

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# The CCAP Principles & Values

- **Impact.** Lead with creative, achievable actions on campus and in local communities that visibly respond to the urgency of climate change.
- **Respect.** Center the voices and needs of Indigenous Peoples—the original stewards of land—and all historically marginalized people, as we strategize to repair and regenerate ecosystems.
- **Reciprocity.** Develop fair, equitable collaborations and mutually beneficial relationships across disciplines, identities, and geographies.
- **Accountability.** Track and transparently communicate climate change actions and progress with the university community, local partners, national peers and global counterparts.

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# Considerations for Centering Equity In Your Plan

## With a Consultant:

- Equity lens from the beginning of the project, and shaping the project
- The speed of trust – developing quality in equitable engagement
- Drawing on experience to see gaps and bring impacts

## Without a Consultant:

- Keep equity principles central throughout the project
- Re-frame your processes around equity
- Take time to build trust and relationships
- Add resources and structures to support the marginalized voices within your communities **and teams**

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# Lessons Learned

- Working through established relationships with accountability was essential
- Centering equity takes time – you have to move at the pace of trust in the community
- Balancing budgets, timelines, and relationships is challenging



# Next Steps & New Collaborations



- Strategic conversations to guide institutional groups' approach
- Building a relationship that goes beyond input to actual decision making power
- One Impact: Environmental Justice Resident Committee

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The University of Utah Climate Change Action Plan will be published later this year.

You can track our progress here:

<https://sustainability.utah.edu/climatecommitment/>

**Stay Tuned!**

# Q & A



# Thank You!

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