

CLIMATE READY PHILLY

2016 OVERVIEW

In June 2016, we conducted two workshops in close collaboration with the Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA), the National Nursing Centers Consortium (NNCC), New Kensington Community Development Corporation, and the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. Two of our workshops sought to train community educators and other community leaders to deliver workshops focused on climate change in Philadelphia. We call these “train the trainer” workshops. The first of these featured an interactive activity about “green” cleaning products and the second featured an interactive activity about “cool roofs.” The third workshop was designed for community members and was hosted by New Kensington Community Development Corporation (NKCDC). Following the workshop, NNCC partners adapted our workshop materials to conduct additional “train the trainer” workshops for community health workers and public health officials.

Train the Trainer Workshop Findings

- Survey data collected prior to the workshop indicated that participants were knowledgeable about climate change and potential impacts on Philadelphia

- The most common places where participants reported learning about climate change prior to this workshop were school, the news, the internet, and television
- Survey data showed that prior to the workshop participants overwhelmingly felt concerned about the possible negative effects of climate change on home health
- Following the workshop, participants demonstrated a higher level of awareness about how climate change in Philadelphia may impact instances of asthma, air pollution, and vector-borne illnesses and pests. Similarly, participants were able to identify specific chemicals and compounds found in home cleaning products that can affect human health
- Following the workshop, participants demonstrated an increased awareness of how asthma affects the body

Community Member Workshop Findings

- Survey data collected indicated a significant increase in participant knowledge regarding expected effects of climate change in Philadelphia. Prior to the workshop, participants recognized that air pollution and temperatures would increase with climate change. Following the workshop, participants focused on air quality, home health, and increased utility costs and pests
- Following the workshop, there was a significant increase in the number of participants who expected climate change to worsen breathing problems, including asthma, and dust for Philadelphians
- Survey data demonstrated an increased awareness of how home cleaning products can negatively affect home health. Many participants in post-workshop surveys suggested that using “green” or “homemade” cleaning products could help reduce the effects of climate change in their homes
- Survey data indicated significant increases in knowledge about how home weatherization can increase home energy efficiency. Participants also mentioned drying clothing outside as a method to decrease utility costs