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Presentation Title: It's All Connected: Creating A Climate, Health & Equity Mindset

Abstract: Systemic racism is easy to see in a video where a white police officer kneels on the neck of a Black man. It is harder, though, for people to see the systemic racism that leaves a young asthmatic Latino child gasping for air or that leaves a young Black woman mourning her stillborn child. As climate activists and local leaders, our collective challenge is to effectively engage community members in climate action and, part of that challenge is to acknowledge and address the systemic racism embedded in our economic and environmental systems. People of Color and low-income households are likely to feel the worst impacts of climate change even though their emissions are typically lower than many other Americans. In this presentation I'll talk about how our office, the Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change, leveraged a health equity training program to create a diverse stakeholder team, articulate a theory of change and launch an initiative to illuminate the intersection of health, equity and climate change and then to mobilize action at that intersection. The health equity training enabled climate advocates to step outside their expertise to think more broadly and deeply about the social determinants of health, the communities we aim to support and influence, and the ways we can collaborate more effectively with a diverse group of partners and allies. The presentation will provide attendees with actionable ideas about articulating the intersection of health-equity and climate change as well as about building a coalition in this critical space.