



Media Release

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Contact: Nancy Ross, Pacific Institute, 510-251-1600 x106, nross@pacinst.org

ARE YOU A CLIMATE CHANGE SURVIVOR?

New Free Activity Workbook Puts Tools and Information to Build Resilience to Climate Change in Communities' Hands

April 24, 2013, Oakland, CA: Oakland residents can take steps to protect and strengthen their communities in the face of climate change impacts. *Are You a Climate Change Survivor?* is the fun new activity workbook, game, and handy fact sheets from the Pacific Institute and Oakland Climate Action Coalition (OCAC) that provide engaging activities to raise awareness about climate change impacts like heat waves, flooding, and poor air quality – and the tools that community members can use to build safety and resilience.

From “Climate Justice Human Bingo” and “Climate Change Bean Bag Toss,” to “Putting Our Treasures on the Map” and “Community Resilience Lifeboat,” the projects, games, and discussions in the [Are You a Climate Change Survivor? activity workbook](#) provide resources and things to do that range from basic learning about climate change and how climate change affects us, to how community members can prepare and how to create more resilient communities.

“The [game Climate Change Survivor](#) is like the atmosphere’s version of *Sorry!*” said Catalina Garzón, director of the Pacific Institute’s Community Strategies Program. “Community groups, community health workers and educators, church groups, schools, families, and even groups of neighbors can download the game board and game cards free online and have a great time while learning about different climate change impacts, how we might be vulnerable, and what we can do to better prepare and protect ourselves from these impacts. And that’s just one of the many resources offered in the new activity workbook.”

The compilation of activities and resources were developed by the Pacific Institute and OCAC and piloted at community meetings, events, and workshops. The focus is on creating a space where diverse people and organizations can imagine and implement solutions that protect Oakland residents as they face the local impacts of climate change, such as heat waves, floods, wildfires, poor air quality, and rising utility costs.

“By developing creative solutions to the related problems of pollution and poverty, we aim to improve the health and wealth of Oakland’s communities,” said Margaret Gordon, co-chair of OCAC’s Resilience and Adaptation Committee. “Our committee’s work connects residents of vulnerable communities to the resources and capacity they need to take individual and collective action to build their resiliency to local climate impacts and to engage in climate adaptation planning efforts to better prepare and protect their communities from these impacts.”

The *Are You a Climate Change Survivor?* activity workbook is complemented by colorful downloadable [Community Resilience Factsheets](#) providing more information about how climate

change will impact communities in Oakland in terms of air quality, extreme heat, flooding, rising electricity costs, wildfires, and water availability/quality. They include practical tips for how to protect yourself, save money, and build resilience to climate change impacts while encouraging friends and neighbors to do the same.

The 2012 Pacific Institute study [*Community-Based Climate Adaptation Planning: Case Study of Oakland, California*](http://www.pacinst.org/reports/oakland_climate_adaptation) provided a detailed analysis of climate impacts, vulnerabilities, and adaptation options to inform the development of a comprehensive and equitable climate adaptation plan effort for Oakland that engages local communities in the process. The research identifies social vulnerability to climate impacts shaped by a variety of factors, including income, race, health, age, English fluency, etc. The report is free online at http://www.pacinst.org/reports/oakland_climate_adaptation

“Of Oakland’s 400,000-plus residents, nearly 60% reside in census tracts with a high social vulnerability, largely concentrated in the flatlands neighborhoods near the shoreline,” said Garzón. “In our report, we identify 50 strategies for adaptation to climate change impacts, highlights of which are played out in the activities in our ‘Climate Change Survivor’ workbook, to make them actionable for residents of Oakland’s most vulnerable communities.”

Download the *Are You a Climate Change Survivor?* activity workbook, game, and factsheets at www.pacinst.org/reports/climate_change_survivor_workbook For more information or with questions or feedback, please contact Pacific Institute Program Director Catalina Garzón at cgarzon@pacinst.org or at 510- 251-1600.

The Pacific Institute, based in Oakland, California, is a nonpartisan research institute that works to create a healthier planet and sustainable communities. Through interdisciplinary research and partnering with stakeholders, the Institute produces solutions that advance environmental protection, economic development, and social equity – in California, nationally, and internationally. www.pacinst.org

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