

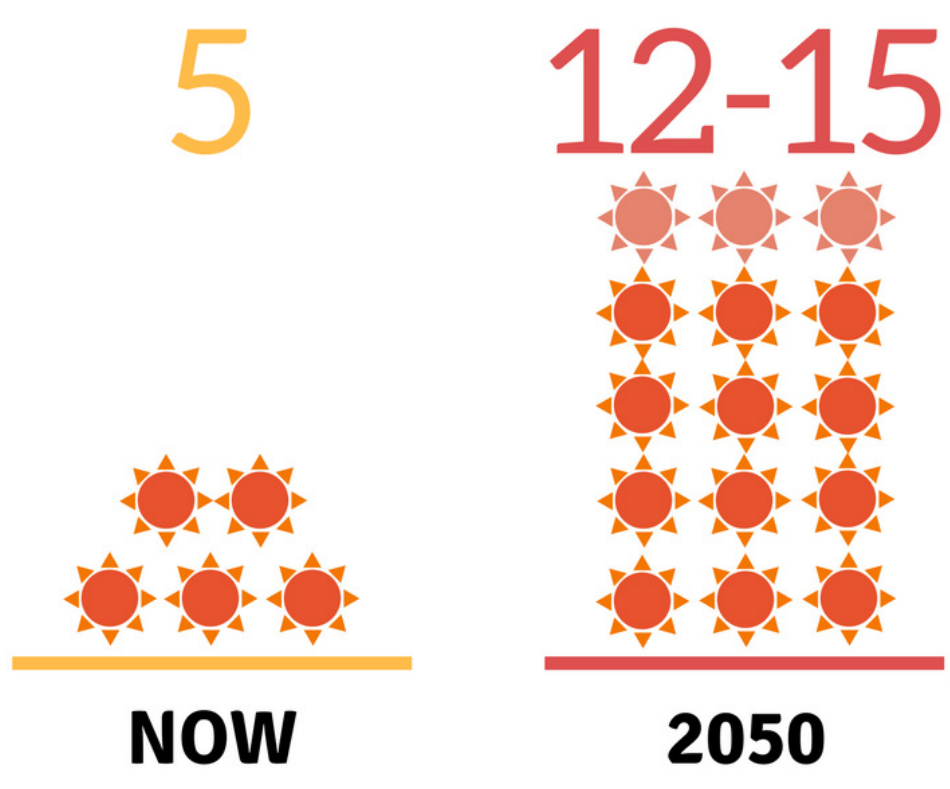
# Catalyzing Adaptation Projects in Your Organization: A Half-Day Workshop Model

Larger wildfires, hotter and longer heat waves, more frequent mudslides... The impacts of climate change have already begun to be felt. As these changes continue, they will require concerted preparation and thoughtful response. Trying to understand, prepare for, and respond to numerous climate impacts at once can be overwhelming.

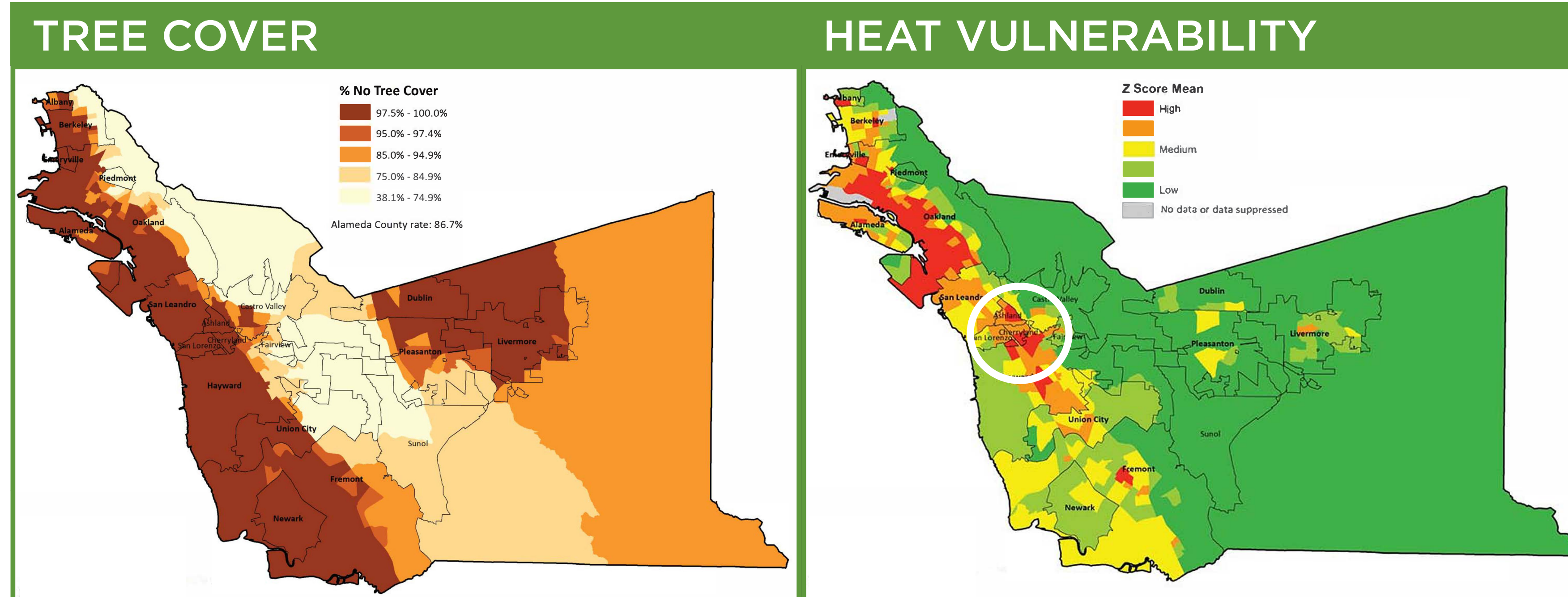
We found an easier way to get started. Alameda County jumpstarted climate resilience planning within our organization by holding half-day workshops on single topics to convene internal partners. We've turned our experience with this approach into a guide for others to use.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

## Projected Number of Extreme Heat Days



The Team presented tailored research: hotter temperatures increase the risk of heat-related illnesses, which can be deadly, particularly for seniors and children under 5 without AC.



The Planning and Public Health Departments shared maps that identified local census tracts with the highest vulnerability to extreme heat, based on social, health, and environmental factors.

The composite Heat Vulnerability Map overlays data to identify areas in the county most vulnerable to increased and extreme heat.

The map identified two unincorporated communities as key areas of need. These communities became the focus of the Planning Department's adaptation workshop.



Workshop breakout groups explored using tree cover, cool pavements, and cool roofs to reduce the urban heat island effect. Using colored sticky notes, participants ranked their favorite ideas.



## OUTCOMES

- Secured a state grant for \$140,000 to fund a tree planting program in heat-vulnerable communities
- Built cross-agency relationships across Planning, Public Health, and Sustainability Office

Workshop Model



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## 1970



PM 2.5 from wildfire smoke can enter the bloodstream and lungs, which can impair lung function and increase the risk of heart attack.

## TODAY



The Tubbs Fire in October 2017 resulted in the worst air quality on record in the Bay Area at the time, creating additional motivation to act.

The workshop began by sharing climate data: increases in average temperature and drought create longer, more intense wildfires. The California wildfire season is 2 months longer than it was in 1970.



Communication to Public Health clients was identified as a priority for the workshop.

Workshop participants explored impacts of poor air quality from wildfire smoke on vulnerable populations, particularly to respiratory health.



Public Health employees brainstormed ideas for health advisory communications to their clients on days with heavy wildfire smoke.



- Created a flyer with targeted information for Public Health clients on protective action to take during a wildfire smoke event; flyer was translated into 5 additional languages



- Secured a grant to develop a Countywide protocol for wildfire smoke advisories