



Graphics credit: Erika Díaz Gómez and Lina María Osorio, in "Lead with Listening"

# NH Climate Summit

September 28, 2022

Kristin Marcell

Director, Climigration Network @ The Consensus Building Institute

# The Climigration Network

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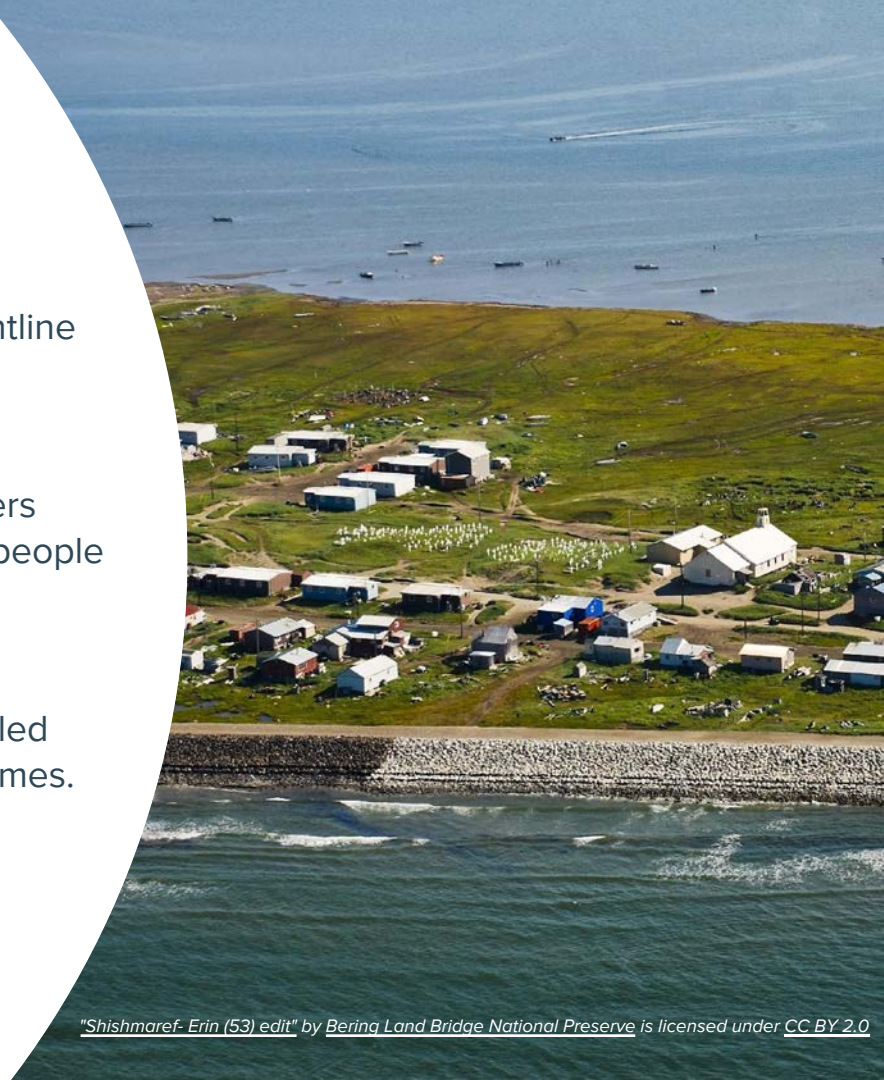
The **Climigration Network** builds relationships between frontline community leaders and practitioners in the US to co-create supportive, community-led models for relocation.

We are composed of volunteer leaders, including practitioners (lawyers, researchers, facilitators, planners, designers), and people with lived experience with climate risk.

Together, we are building new approaches to overcome regulatory, legal, financial, and social barriers to community-led relocation for those who can no longer live safely in their homes.

Climigration  
Network

Learn more at [www.Climigration.org](http://www.Climigration.org)



# Lead with Listening

A Guidebook For  
Community Conversations On  
Climate Migration

Climigration



# Lead with Listening Research Team

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# Climigration Network & Acknowledgements

*The Climigration Network* is dedicated to creating effective, community-led approaches to climate-forced displacement from areas at highest risk of threats such as flooding, fire, and drought. We can connect you to practitioners and community members holding similar conversations in other communities or help you formulate what the best next step might look like for you and your community.



## **The Co-Creators.**

### **The Climigration Network:**

Kristin Marcell, Hannah Teicher, Edward Thomas, Debra Butler, Libby Zemaitis, Kelly Leilani Main & Patrick Marchman

### **The designers of the Guidebook:**

Erika Diaz Gómez & Lina María Osorio.



Lead with Listening was made possible through the generous support of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

# A2 Leader Statement

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*The Great American Climate Migration Statement* is the product of roundtable discussions among grassroots leaders from ten low-income, Black, and Latinx communities convened by Anthropocene Alliance and the Climigration Network.

It addresses the resettlement of some 30 million Americans over the next half-century due to climate change.

Learn more:

<https://anthropocenealliance.org/great-american-climate-migration/>



*"It's not just historic injustice, it's the **current refusal to fix a continuing injustice.**"*

*"One of the things that is important is keeping neighbors together, wherever they move. Buyouts can put that into jeopardy unless there is **careful, community-led planning, including consultation with receiving towns and cities.** And help these relocated communities be sustainable."*

*"Everyone is making decisions about how to address issues we are facing, but **nobody is having conversations with us about solutions and our experience** protecting our homes."*

*"Allocating federal money through the state can be a huge barrier for getting money to Black and brown communities. Some of our state governments still celebrate the confederate flag! **Send federal dollars directly to our communities,** so we don't have to hope that the state will do the right thing."*

*"We need **enough money to move and get settled** in a new location – enough to live on until we find another job and get on our feet. There may be some good programs out there to help, but we **shouldn't have to fight so hard to get access to them.**"*

# Center Community Leaders as Experts

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**June Farmer:** How to initiate community engagement and build trust from *The Great American Climate Migration* statement and video testimonials - the statement and videos were developed in dialogue with 10 grassroots community leaders in the Anthropocene Alliance.

[June Farmer is on the Advisory Council for Community-led Solutions Project.]



# Center Community Members as Experts

HOW AM I BUILDING ON THE  
LIVED EXPERIENCE OF  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS?

"My community has actually witnessed changes to our coast for over a decade. But when we would mention the trees shouldn't be laying down on shore, the elected officials didn't pay any mind...and not really seeing what we saw as natives because they were in political offices, but not out living from the shoreline. And so this has been a major thing since. Now, [to] have people come back to our community and say, wait a minute, we're on to something."

- Queen Quet





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Some communities may be just starting to experience the impacts of climate change and thinking about moving may be new. However, we heard that for others, climate change and climate migration is not a “future” problem — it is happening to them now. More than 40,000 households have received home buyouts from the Federal Emergency Management Agency since 1989, primarily in the form of post-disaster assistance. Communities such as Isle de Jean Charles in Louisiana, and Newtok in Alaska, have already faced the difficult decision to relocate and have struggled through the problems of inadequate relocation assistance.

Community members are the experts on their lived experience - they are likely to have already witnessed or experienced the impacts forecasted by climate models and policy briefs. They may have been grappling with the emotional consequences of this challenge for a long time. It is imperative to first listen—and lead with questions, not answers—to learn from their knowledge and hear their needs before making recommendations. Overlooking their experience will likely lead to them feeling dismissed and ignored and will miss opportunities to leverage their valuable partnership.

It’s important to encourage people to listen to and share lived experiences. Creating space for this vulnerability, when done in a trauma-informed way, repositions people who have lived experience as experts in the conversation.

# Reflections

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- *What came to mind, how do you feel, as you listened to June's remarks or read this insight from the Guidebook?*
- *Have you had experience trying to do this? What insights do you have from that experience?*
- *What are the barriers you might face to doing what the Guidebook is calling for?*
- *What benefits do you think might come from this shift in approach?*

# Words Matter

WHAT'S WRONG WITH USING  
LANGUAGE LIKE "MANAGED  
RETREAT"?

## Conversations Matter

70 percent of people in the U.S. believe that climate change is happening according to research by the Yale Climate Change Communication program. Yet, less than 1 in 3 people ever talk about climate change with others.



# Network Core Principles

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Our approach is grounded in “targeted universalism.”

Our goal is to ensure that all neighborhoods that make the difficult decision to consider relocation due to increasing flood or fire risk have the support they need to transition to a safe and welcoming place to call home.

Learn more: [climigration.org/core-principles](https://climigration.org/core-principles)

## Local Self-Determination & Humanity

Local voices must determine what their particular community wants, needs, and is willing to do.

## Supportive Systems

Communities and households need the right systems in place to enable their self-determination.

## Equity

A long history of structural and institutional racism in the United States has led to a climate crisis in many Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color.

## Restoration & Legacy

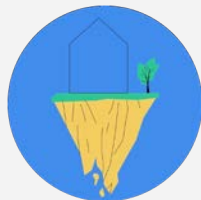
The places people leave can be transformed in ways that benefit the broader community and honor both nature and the history and memories of those who have moved on.

## Receiving Communities

Climigration is not just about people, structures, and ecosystems leaving — it is also about where they end up.

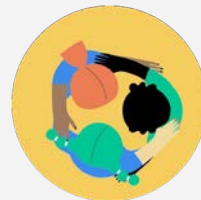
# Climigration Network Workgroups

Graphics credit: Erika Diaz Gómez and Lina María Osorio, in "Lead with Listening"



## Ecosystems & People

- **Chairs:** Kelly Leilani Main & Debra Butler
- **Focus:** Climate migration responses are inclusive of the rights of nature and ecosystems



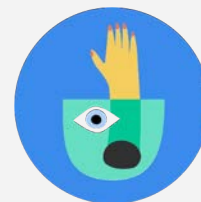
## Learning, Programming & Events

- **Chairs:** Rachel Isacoff & Meg Perry
- **Focus:** Programming to further member learning on equity, justice, and the lived experiences of climigration



## Research, Innovation & Evaluation

- **Chair:** Anamaria Bukvic
- **Focus:** Foster networking, knowledge exchange, collaboration, and research engagement



## Narrative Building & Communications

- **Chairs:** Patrick Marchman & Hannah Teicher
- **Focus:** Build on *Lead with Listening* and support narratives of community-led migration



## Funding & Resources

- **Chair:** Carri Hulet
- **Focus:** Identifying funders and programs that align with the efforts/needs of partner communities



## Policy & Law

- **Chair:** Robin Bronen
- **Focus:** Explore legal and policy barriers to safe, equitable community-led migration

# Join the Conversation

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- **Join the Climigration Network** - more info on our 6 workgroups and how to join here: [climigration.org/our-workgroups](https://climigration.org/our-workgroups)
- **Subscribe to our newsletter**, here: [climigration.org/joinconversation](https://climigration.org/joinconversation)
- **Follow us on LinkedIn** @ Climigration Network: [linkedin.com/company/climigration-network](https://linkedin.com/company/climigration-network)

