



## A PROJECT OF CLIMATE SMART MISSOULA

*Fostering partnerships and actions to address climate change in our community.*

In 2016 Climate Smart Missoula received a Bloomberg Philanthropies award for our *Summer Smart Initiative*. Year 1 of *Summer Smart* catalyzed new partnerships for both short-term, tangible actions and long-term planning and network building, all to help Missoulians be physically and mentally healthy and resilient amidst changing summer conditions. We are growing this effort and seek continued partner involvement and support for year 2 and beyond.

### **Summer Smart Goals:**

- Develop and support networks to address community and individual understanding of, and responses to, the increased risks of wildfire, smoke, and heat.
- Strengthen safety nets for the most vulnerable in our community facing heat, smoke and health risks.
- Bring the arts, creativity, and hope to this challenging issue, while sharing the science and the risks. Build momentum for high priority community health and sustainability strategies from Missoula's Climate Smart Action Plan.

During Year 1, we conducted a Community Readiness Assessment, stakeholder meetings, research, and behind-the-scenes planning, positioning *Summer Smart* for direct impact during the summer months. We developed targeted outreach products including a robust website, infographics, guides, and animated videos. We held events and discussed *Summer Smart* at presentations and panels. We helped grow trees and build shade. We co-hosted a Climate, Health and Humanities four-event Symposium, and we hosted a Health and Climate Summit that was attended by > 100 community leaders. Engagement from these leaders is increasing efforts to improve community health outcomes and plans for our community's future.

With Year 1 successfully under our belt, we are building this effort, working collaboratively with the City of Missoula, Missoula County, hospitals, and key community partners. We continue to seek assistance from local and regional confirmed and prospective partners for the following activities:

1. **Healthy Homes during wildfire smoke season.** Working with City-County Health Department and other partners, launch program to provide HEPA room air filtration units for those most at risk (low income with asthma, elderly, young children, pregnant women, respiratory or heart conditions, etc.). Provide or loan (free or sliding scale) single room units. Expand this effort to neighboring communities.
2. **Indoor Air Quality Research.** Working with UM's School of Public and Community Health Services, monitor indoor air quality at ~10 public locations around Missoula in order to assess changes from wildfire smoke.
3. **Clean Air-Cool Places.** Targeted outreach for our online map and resources so residents know where to go and when to seek relief and stay healthy. Work with partners to directly assist individuals.
4. **Targeted education and outreach** to protect vulnerable residents (extreme heat and unhealthy air). Attend events, provide resources (videos, tip sheets) to clinics, health providers, etc.) and provide direct assistance.
5. **Healthy Homes Year Round.** Continue to work with housing advocates to develop strategies to improve existing low income health and housing (energy efficiency measures), reaching those most vulnerable.
6. **Summer Smart Trees and Shade.** Partner with Home ReSource and others to encourage adding shade to existing or new buildings and utilize seed funding for creative cooling projects. Work with Trees for Missoula, our City's Urban Forestry program, and others to enhance our urban forests in equitable ways.
7. **Educate Missoulians** via clean air, home cooling and energy saving strategy guides and conversations. Host and support local events, workshops, and festivals.

Funding could support fund the purchasing of mitigation equipment (HEPA room air filters; LED lights, fans, shade cloth, etc.). Additional funding is needed for staffing to develop and administer *Summer Smart* and for key events and activities.



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