

CEER's Eight Point Plan

We call on our elected leaders, industry, and other decision makers to:

- 1. Focus on Equity:** Ensure that environmental equity and needs-based spending of disaster dollars is at the heart of this recovery effort. Develop a regional body, adopted in partnership with community and environmental groups that operates under principles of equity, to address pollution, place, and the public's health.
- 2. Embrace Transparency:** Ensure open and formal processes to inform the public about how each jurisdiction is prioritizing its investments and how those investments are directly related to harm caused by Hurricane Harvey.
- 3. Focus on Our Air:** Minimize the negative health consequences from air pollution events by promoting compliance with clean air laws. Limit public infrastructure like schools from being placed near hazardous facilities or from being built in neighborhoods. Strengthen emergency preparedness plans for hazardous facilities. Require facilities to make investments limiting harmful exposure events and inform residents about safety hazards. Examine an industry funding mechanism for pollution control.
- 4. Focus on Our Land:** Ensure the protection of sustainable landscapes. Prioritize collaborative stream restoration efforts that improve air and water quality. Fund additional land acquisition to strengthen conservation such as those outlined in the Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan, including on the Katy Prairie, along our bayous, along Lake Houston shores, and our barrier islands. Incorporate low-impact and sustainable development (i.e. ecology-based solutions) while reworking development codes.
- 5. Focus on Our Water:** Prevent contaminants from entering our waterways. Require all wastewater treatment facilities and toxic waste sites to account for flood waters and storm surge, and maintain any spills or releases within their own facilities. Require that local industrial facilities and chemical storage tanks "armor" themselves to prevent chemicals from contaminating our watersheds. Address drinking water concerns both for source water and flooded pipes by prioritizing an outside, independent audit on drinking water safety.
- 6. Focus on Resource Recovery and Recycling:** Improve and expand the regional emergency debris removal plan. Increase recycling opportunities to maximize diversion of all recoverable and harmful materials from landfills to minimize impact of temporary debris removal sites on communities. Begin a public education program regarding the importance of curbside separation of waste after a disaster and consider alternatives to waste recovery.
- 7. Focus on Displaced People:** Ensure that affordable housing units are sited outside the 500-year flood plain. Ensure that both rental and owner-occupied units are replaced so that affordable housing options are available near major centers of employment and public transportation.
- 8. Embrace Resiliency:** Commit to a region-wide climate action plan. Ensure that future public investments reflect the environmental, social, and economic risks associated with a coastal landscape, an industrial ship channel and a growing population in a city rich with bayous and streams.

The Coalition for Environment, Equity, and Resilience

The Coalition for Environment, Equity, and Resilience (CEER Houston) is a collaboration raising awareness of the connection between pollution, place, and the public's health.

CEER aims to drive community voices into the post-Hurricane Harvey decision-making process to promote equity and resilience by emphasizing land, water, air, waste, and housing policies that reduce human exposure to pollution and strengthen environmental conservation.

Our Vision

CEER envisions a region that is equitable, environmentally sustainable and economically strong where residents have the opportunity to live, work, learn, play, and pray free from environmental hazards. To make that vision a reality, we advocate for public and private investment in protecting communities by cleaning up hazards that contaminate our air, water, and land, while at the same time prevent or reduce flooding.

Our Purpose

We work together to raise awareness of the connections between environmental threats, like flooding and pollution, and community health and well-being. We bring the voice of the community to the table where decisions are made to influence policy and promote the development of a more environmentally equitable and resilient Houston.

We work directly with the community, government officials, and others to promote and strengthen equity, public health, and resilience.

