



## SECTION 7

### Protect Equity and Health

**Challenge** - Vulnerable populations may have less ability to respond to or recover from climate impacts.<sup>xxvii</sup>

**Outcome** - Social equity, cultural sensitivity, and community health considerations are incorporated into local climate change planning, program, and policy decisions.

#### VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Climate change will impact people and communities differently. Potentially vulnerable populations may include low-income, minority, people with limited English proficiency, the elderly, children, people with chronic health problems, or disabled persons. As vulnerable populations may face greater risk, their consideration and inclusion in climate change planning can help ensure equitable distribution of benefits.<sup>xxviii</sup>

#### LOCAL ACTIONS

COG and its members will continue to support actions to protect equity and health. Throughout this Plan there are actions that support equity and public health protection. Table 8 includes a variety of additional voluntary action options and flexible implementation levels. The percent column refers to the percentage of COG member local jurisdictions undertaking this action by 2020.

**Table 8: Local Action to Protect Equity and Health**

PROTECT EQUITY AND HEALTH		%
7-a	Identify the community’s priorities for equitable environmental improvements. Provide data and resources to support decision-making of priorities.	25%
7-b	Conduct cumulative environmental and health impact assessments in underserved communities.	25%
7-c	Integrate equity and health considerations and strategies into climate and energy policies, plans, and programs. Identify impacts of policies and programs to underserved populations and communities and how to maximize positive impacts and minimize negative impacts.	25%
7-d	Develop a healthy food access or food security plan.	25%
7-e	Direct environmental incentives towards vulnerable populations.	25%
7-f	Provide training to local government staff on successful public engagement techniques, equity and diversity.	25%
7-g	Support community environmental monitoring programs to increase community participation in gathering and accessing community data (e.g., citizen science).	25%
7-h	Provide meaningful engagement forums and community leadership development opportunities to enhance citizen’s knowledge on the local environmental planning process, how to influence environmental decision-making, and how to access data, technical assistance, and resources.	50%