

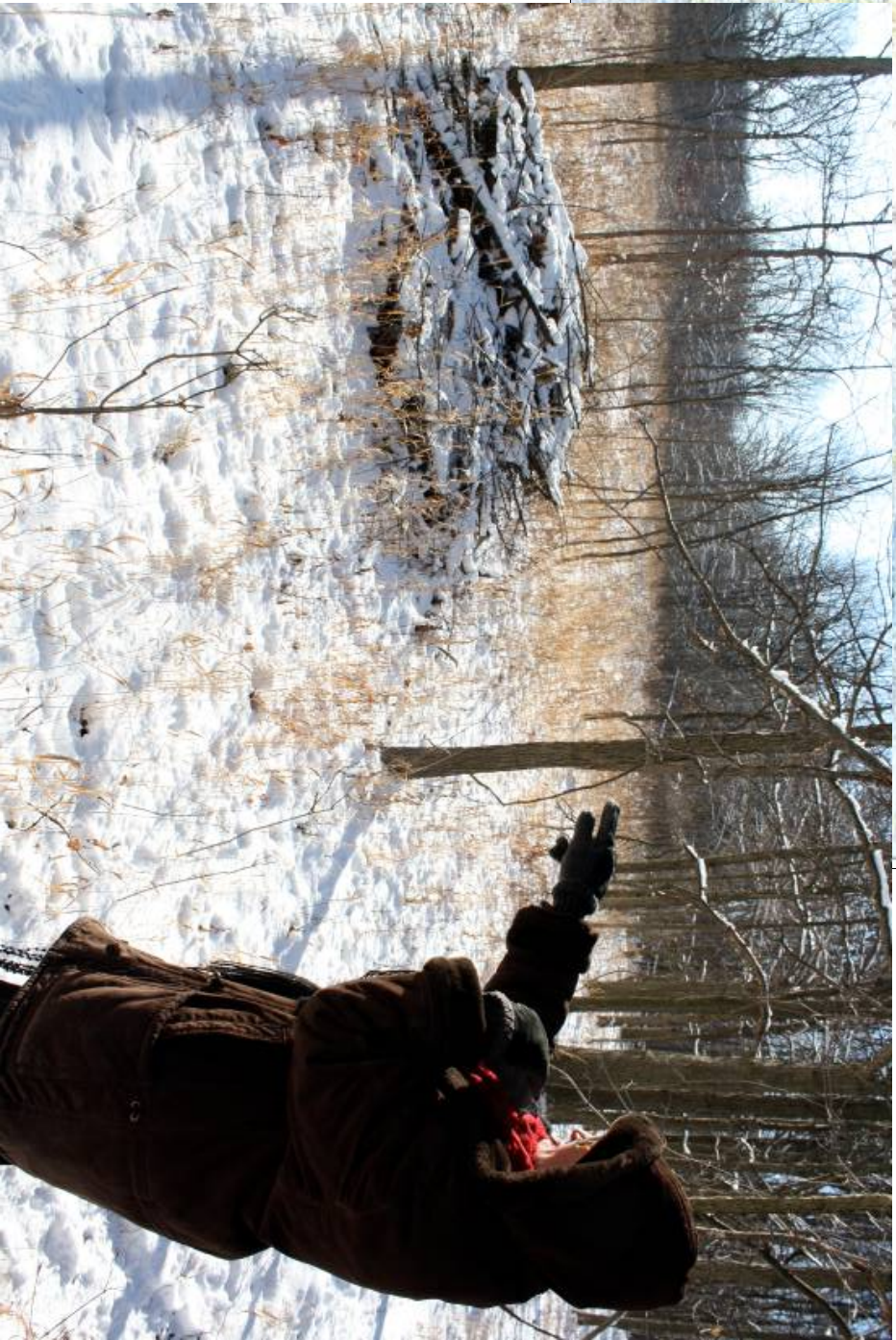


RE-THINKING “PLACE”

as a Strategy for Climate Engagement

Jennifer Hirsch, Ph.D.

jhirsch683@gmail.com



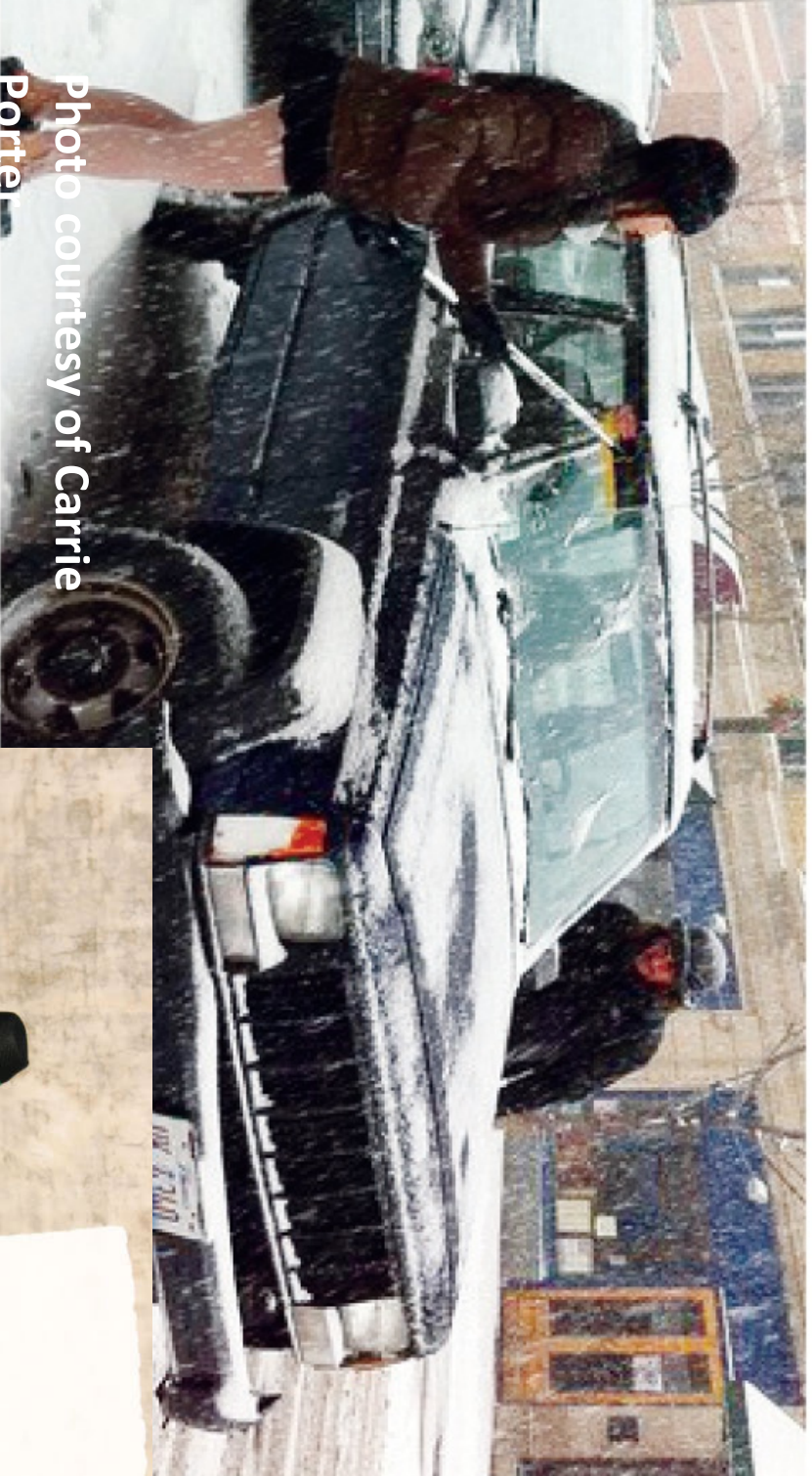


Photo courtesy of Carrie Porter





- **9 Rapid Ethnographic Community Research Studies**

- **4 Collaborative Climate Action Programs** involving over 100 community and institutional partners from across Chicago

- Energy Action Network
- South Chicago Retrofit Project
- Chicago Community Climate Action Toolkit
- accelerate77



The “local” is one place-node
embedded in a broader
conception of place



What 3 Words Come to Mind When You Hear Climate Change?

Visual Collages of Climate-Friendly Practices

Object Elicitation

Place Yourself On the Line

Climate-Friendly Practices Checklist

What Does Climate Change Look Like to You?

Participatory Photography

Story Collecting/Telling

Green Asset Mapping
Community Curation

Participatory Mapping Home Interviews Community Concerns Checklist

Participatory Action Research

Data Visualization Photography/Video

Community Review of Findings





Key Finding #1

Many research participants became aware of and concerned about climate change through their southern or global connections

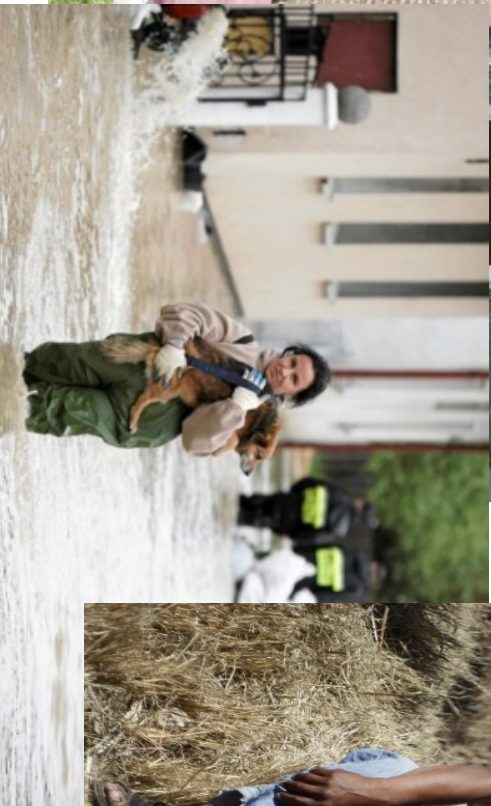
Trans-regional: Hurricane Katrina



Global: Climate refugees from Mexico



Global: Floods in Poland



Key Finding #2

Many respondents learned climate-friendly practices through personal experiences in or connections to the U.S. South and other countries



Trans-regional: Southern gardening



Global: Energy & gardening practices from Poland



Global: Water conservation from Mexico

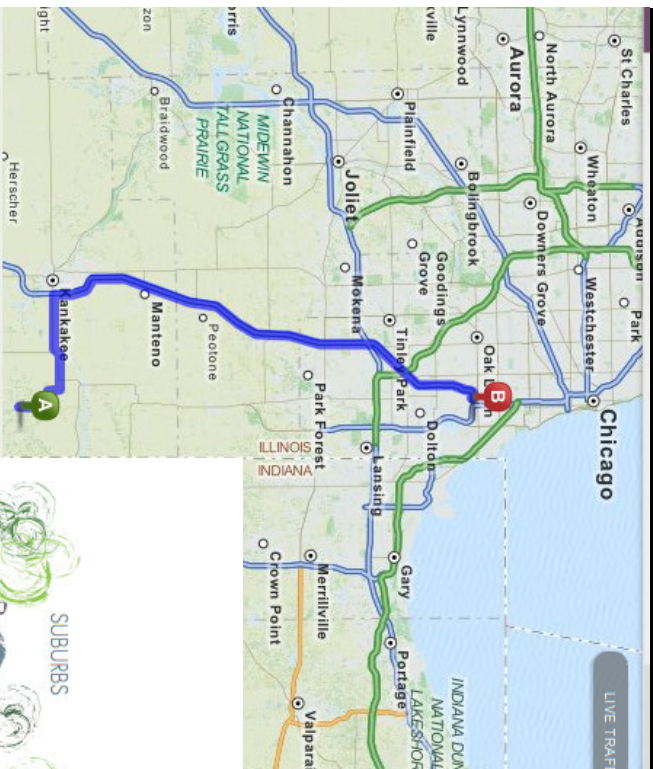
“Creating a Polish Home”

- Moved from Chicago to the suburbs when Grandma arrived from Poland
- Grandma grows vegetables in backyard, using tools she brought with her from Poland
- Cooks homemade Polish dishes
- Children attend Polish Saturday school
- Grandpa heads a coalition of Polish hometown associations in the city
- Father is a carpenter who renovated his home last year, incorporating a number of eco-friendly components to help the environment and improve quality of life
- Knowledge of these practices comes partly from conversations with family in Poland, where he hears that soon, CFLs will be the only light bulbs available on the market

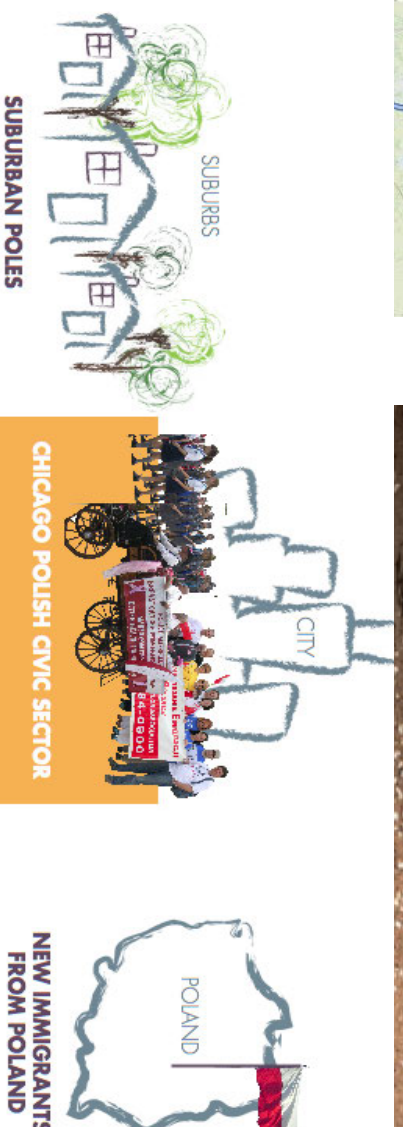
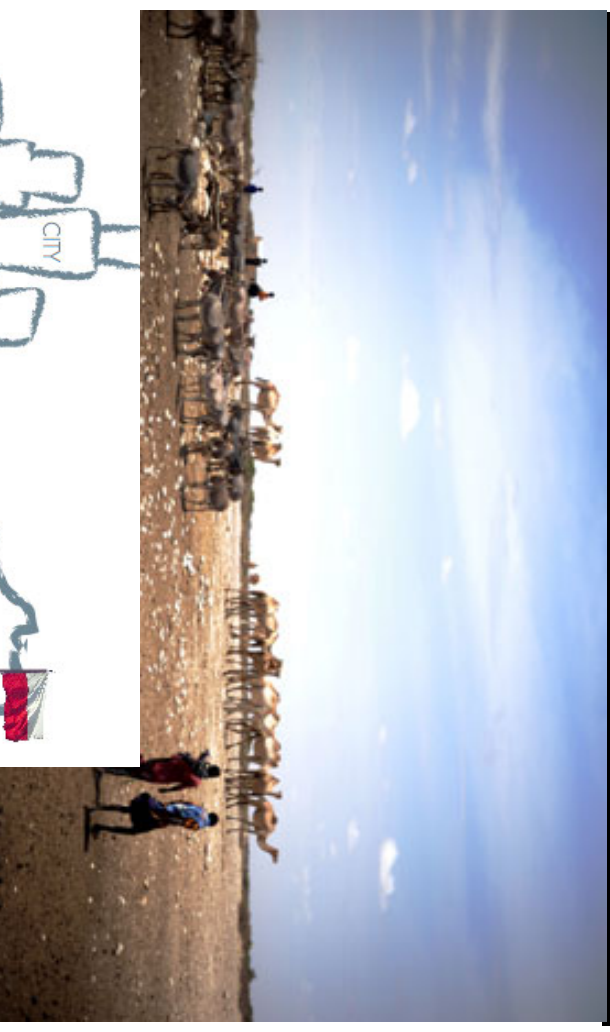
Key Finding #3

A number of community programs related to climate action link Chicago neighborhoods to other parts of the Chicago region and to other countries

Chicago Region:
Soul food farmers markets



Global: Green Ramadan



Global: Helping & learning from Poland



Community-based Monarch sanctuaries

Casa Michoacán/PERRO/El Hogar del Niño, La Alianza Verde (Pilsen)

Lessons for Action:

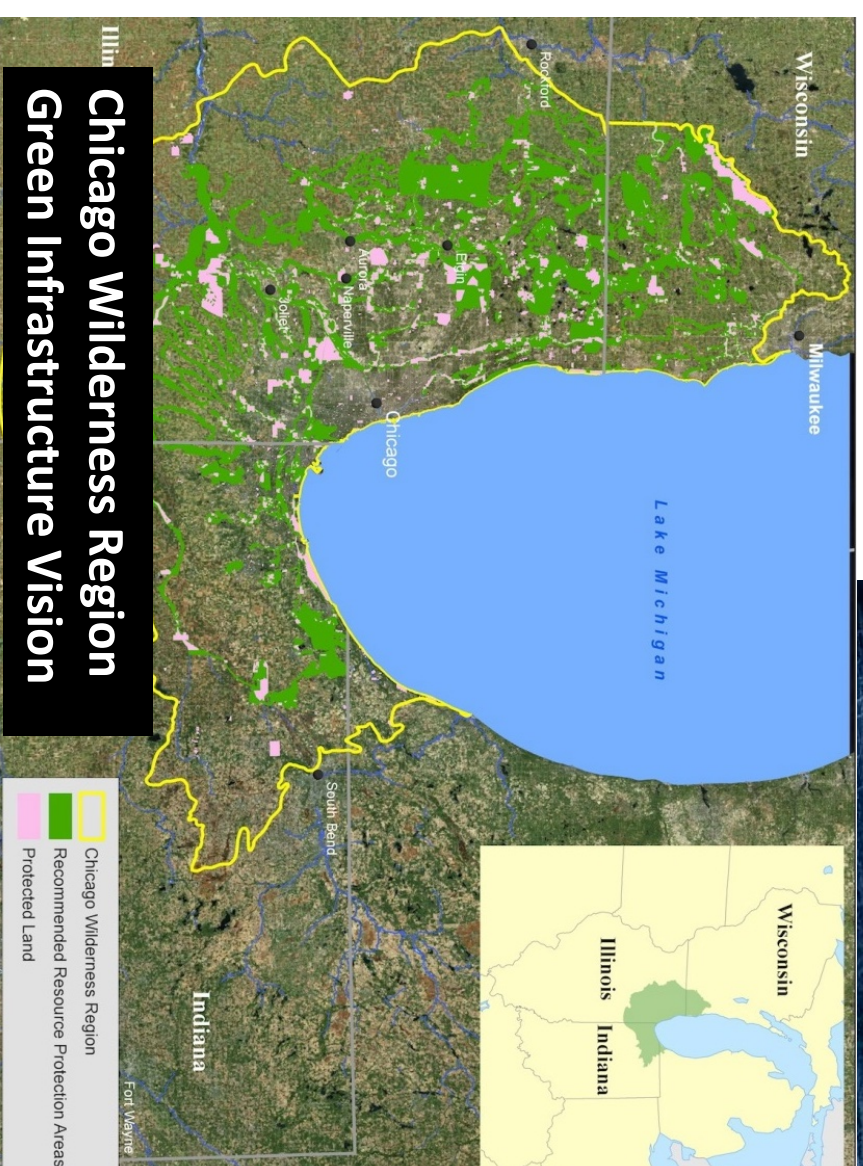
Working in communities, across scales...



1. Is key to meeting people “where they’re at” and tapping into things they care about
2. Requires focusing anew on heritage – which can be thought of as an additional co-benefit (preserving and reviving heritage)

3. Allows community-based climate work to support and benefit from regional planning efforts

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, GoTo2040 Regional Plan



A broader place-based model for climate action, linking neighborhood assets and conditions to regional, trans-regional, and global issues...



4. Encourages collaboration & systems thinking
5. Nurtures creative problem-solving...and addresses local leaders' desire to expand the physical and imaginative realms of community possibility

"We aspire to what's around us...but when viewing climate change, we get a chance to see the entire world; therefore our visions become global opportunities."

— Carolyn Thomas, God's Gang



Learn More



**CHICAGO COMMUNITY
CLIMATE ACTION TOOLKIT**

climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org



LIKE the Toolkit on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/climatechicago>



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