

# Climate Conscious Contractors and Community



The proposed project seeks to target equity-eligible homes in the Fair Haven neighborhood. The targeted community is characterized by: 1-4 family, owner occupied properties, averaging 2,000 sq.ft. living area and sided with aluminum or vinyl; residents are primarily hispanic-speaking, low income, and with high unemployment; 92% of the population have a high energy burden; and 98% of households are linguistically isolated. These characteristics place said structures and community members as natural candidates for air source heat pumps, blown-in cellulose insulation, and home improvement funding resources. The Fair Haven neighborhood is particularly vulnerable to rising urban heat island temperatures due to its dense development pattern and relative lack of green space.

Additionally, small contractors are Spanish speaking and do not have access to industry specific education, trainings, certifications, and professional development. They are unfamiliar and uninformed of available technologies & methods in building performance and weatherization. The language barrier, coupled with lack of knowledge and capacities, have limited their professional services and business growth, negatively impacting them and the communities.

The project partners have been identified based on their roles within the community and for their expertise in the following areas: Junta for Progressive action (residential services, community outreach and education); EmergeCT (community relationship building and employment services); New Haven Regional Contractors Alliance (contractors training and support services); EFG (program management, weatherization training and sustainable housing); and , PACE (data, tracking analysis and heat smart deployment)