REGULATORS AND PUBLIC AGENCIES

Regulators and public agencies hold power through policy enforcement, identifying and describing the scope of problems and the public mandate to respond, mediating public involvement in the regulatory process, accessing research capacity, distributing information and technical support, and allocating public financial resources to respond to identified public mandates.

AUDIENCE

- Environmental regulators at local and state agencies
- Brownfield and superfund site remediators
- Public sector green infrastructure technicians
- Public employees working on environmental justice
- Sustainability program workers
- Public housing authority employees
- Housing program policy and case managers
- Public advocates in tenants rights and supportive housing programs
- Local and state housing access program staff
- Housing inspection and enforcement
- Green building and residential energy efficiency regulators

GUIDING CONSIDERATIONS

1) Public enforcement is necessary in order for many anti-displacement policies to be effective
2) Tackling a cross-sector issue like green gentrification means expanding what is included in the regulatory mandate for any given environmental or housing agency
3) The fact that the public sector is generally not set up to collaborate efficiently across different bureaucratic structures requires thinking creatively, but new pathways are possible
4) Qualitative and emotive-responses to regulatory measures are useful and necessary pieces of data, and should be considered as such when analyzing, measuring, and implementing public programs

Example Best Practices

- Train staff to understand displacement concerns that arise through environmental remediation and green infrastructure construction
- Make tenants’ rights and advocacy resources available in public-facing environmental work
- Allocate resources to housing and environmental justice as part of policy enforcement and implementation
- Expand access to green programs for renters
- Develop methodology for recording and considering emotionally-driven public comment