

# Smoke Ready Communities

July 2025

Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network



## Facilitation Guide

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# ABOUT

The Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network invests in people and in place-based efforts to change relationships with fire. Together, we support leaders and strategic action, develop tools, and create and share approaches to increase wildfire resilience. Wildfire is important both ecologically and culturally, however, with wildfire comes smoke, which does have important public health considerations.

Smoke preparedness and mitigation is a priority focus area for FAC Net. This facilitator's guide is designed to support practitioners use of the graphics by sharing further details about the graphics and facilitation ideas. The goal of this companion document, along with the case study hand out, is to support practitioner's ability to communicate about and use the graphics.

If you have questions or feedback, please e-mail us at [info@fireadaptednetwork.org](mailto:info@fireadaptednetwork.org)

**DOWNLOAD  
MATERIALS**

*This document was produced by the Fire Networks partnership with support from a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior.*

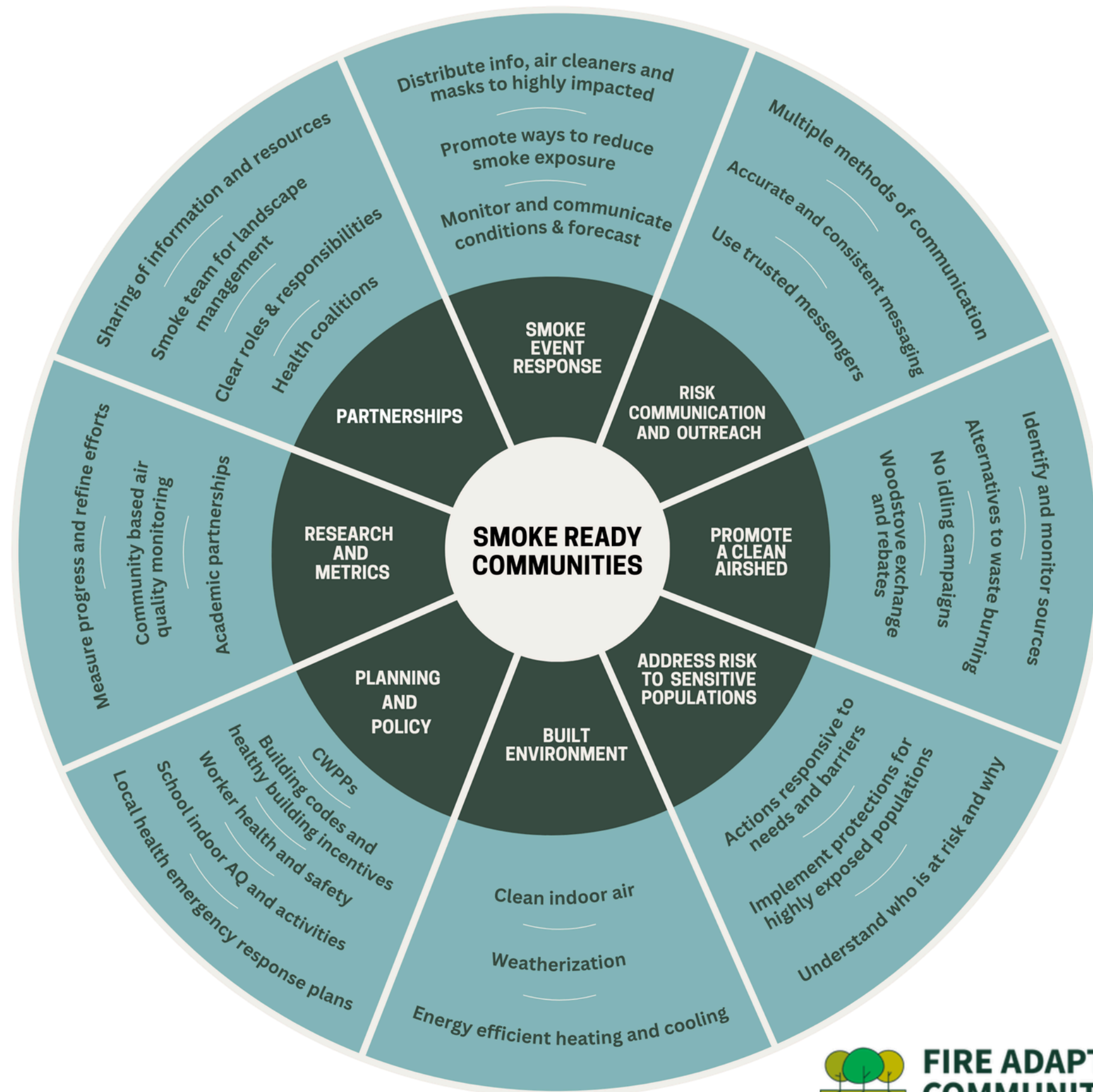
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# Smoke Ready Communities Framework

Modeled off the the [FAC framework](#), this resource provides examples of the elements of smoke ready communities work, along with some examples of that work.

This is not a one-size-fits all approach and not all elements will make sense for your work.

Use this tool to help with planning, hold conversations with partners, or educate your community.



# Smoke Ready Community Elements

The graphic is **not** intended to be comprehensive or directive. There is a lot of nuance and overlap in each “bucket”. The goal of this graphic is to help orient your community and partners to the general core areas. The outer wheel is intended to be used as examples of what that work might look like in each area. The boxes below further explain the meaning behind each core area.

## Partnerships

Builds teams across sectors and agencies to coordinate and implement wildfire and prescribed fire smoke preparedness and response, and promote a clean airshed.

## Smoke Event Response

Local public health and partners plan and respond effectively to smoke events.

## Risk Communication & Outreach

Accurate, timely and consistent messaging about smoke and physical and mental health, and strategies to limit exposure need to reach everyone, but especially at-risk populations.

# Smoke Ready Community Elements

## Promote a Clean Airshed

Health impacts in a community result from the total cumulative exposure to air pollution from any source, not just wildfire or prescribed fire smoke.

Reducing pollution whenever possible is critical.

## Address risk to Smoke-Sensitive Populations

Smoke impacts everyone differently. For example, children and adolescents, seniors, pregnant people, those with heart or lung conditions, or who have suffered a stroke are more sensitive. Outdoor workers in agriculture, construction, field research, and recreation as well as unhoused community members and those in substandard housing have larger exposures to smoke.

## Built Environment

Works to ensure clean indoor air is equitably available in all buildings, even during a smoke event.

# Smoke Ready Community Elements

## Planning & Policy

Smoke readiness can be achieved through comprehensive and integrated hazard mitigation, built environment, and adaptation planning and policy.

## Research & Metrics

Measuring air quality trends, smoke health impacts, and effectiveness of interventions provides the ability to strategically adjust, improve, and justify investment in smoke readiness.

The descriptions for each core element of a smoke ready community contain ideas of how you might talk about that focus area.

You should come up with your own examples and ideas from your own community to make it relevant.

# Facilitation Idea

1

Print out, or put the graphic on a virtual whiteboard such as *Mural*.

2

Put a line around the graphic and make an extension of each pie piece (example to the left, outlined in black).

3

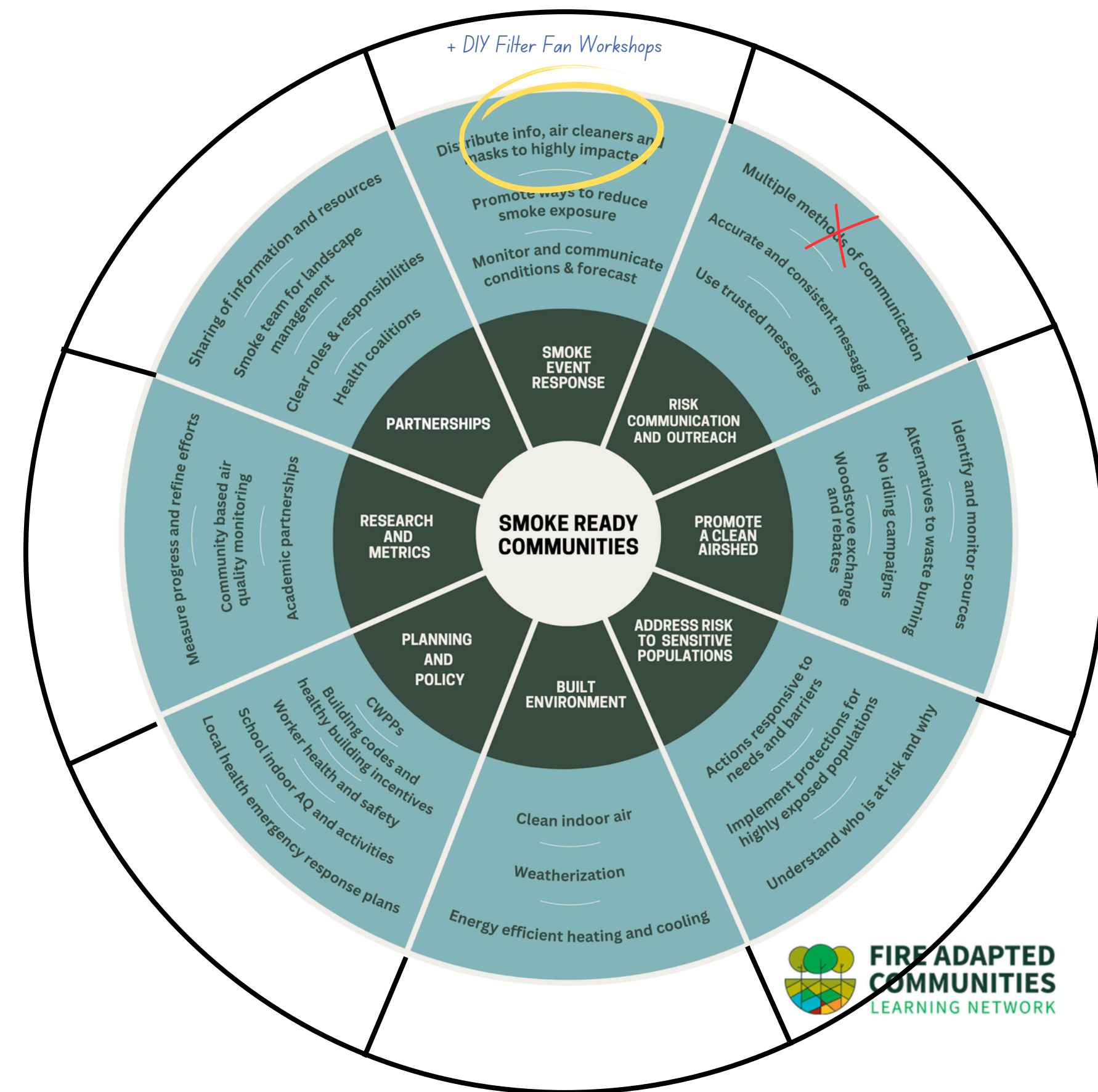
Cross out actions you are not taking in your community and circle actions that you are.

4

Write in additional activities you're doing in each bucket area (example in blue writing).

5

Use these actions to formulate discussions around partnerships, funding, and priorities for work.





# Smoke Ready Communities: Who Should Be Engaged?

This graphic displays the types of partners you might want to engage in your smoke ready communities work.

Some organizations or roles may fall into multiple buckets. This is not supposed to be comprehensive but rather a starting place of who you might want to engage around your smoke work.

The Town of Make Believe  
Fire Dept

Make Believe County OEM

Blue = partners we are engaging  
Orange = partners we want to engage.



# Facilitation Idea

- 1 Print out, or put graphic on a virtual whiteboard such as *Mural*.
- 2 Choose two color markers (or font colors if virtual); one for partners you are currently engaging and one for partners you HOPE to engage.
- 3 Be specific; list out the names of actual partners in your community.
- 4 Bonus: connect this work with your FAC graphic or Smoke Ready Communities graphic work to get a full picture of how your work and partnerships overlap.



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