

# ACTIVITY GUIDE



## CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN EMPTY SPACES

Climate change is expected to bring hotter summers and severe rainfall events to Pittsburgh. Participants act as landscape architects to redesign a vacant lot while considering different solution strategies.

### IN THIS KIT

- Facilitation guide
- 8 laminated pictures of vacant lots on clipboards
- Dry-erase markers
- Idea board
- Development stickers

### BIG QUESTIONS

- How can we reimagine empty spaces in our neighborhoods?
- How is vacant land a resource for climate change resilience?

### HOW TO SET UP

- 1) Set vacant lot pictures, stickers, and dry-erase markers on tables.
- 2) Display Try It! sign and idea board

Want to learn more? Visit [pittsburgh.cuspproject.org](https://pittsburgh.cuspproject.org)

# CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN EMPTY SPACES

## FACILITATION GUIDE

(This works best if children are directed to the activities, while caretakers are engaged in conversation and display information. This script is written for one visitor at a time but can be adapted for groups.)

- What neighborhood do you live in? Are there any empty lots in your neighborhood?  
*(Discuss where they are, what they look like, what they are used for.)*
- If you were to recreate that space so that you and your neighbors could use it for something, what would you choose?  
*(Discuss potential uses for a vacant lot, emphasizing climate adaptations. Consider local climate change impacts: more hot days, more rainy days, poor air quality. Point out the idea board for inspiration.)*
- How can you transform an empty lot into a great neighborhood space with relief from climate impacts?  
*(Discuss climate change impacts, especially the increase in hot & rainy days.)*
- How could redesigning empty lots help communities adapt to these changes?  
*(The bare, compacted ground in empty lots allows excess stormwater to flow over it and into the sewers. It also stays hot in the summer. Look at participant's redesign and talk through the benefits of each design using idea board for reference. For example, trees provide shade and soak up excess stormwater. Reinforce the notion that improved outdoor spaces allow communities to spend their time doing activities that consume fewer resources and encourage community engagement.)*

## FINISHED KIT

## ABOUT CUSP

CUSP helps urban communities explore climate impacts and solutions through active engagement with local examples.



Climate & Urban  
Systems Partnership

