

*Michael Mendez, Yale F&ES, Pinchot Faculty Fellow – “Climate Justice, Health Co-benefits, and Urban Greening Projects”*. In recent decades, spatial ways of knowing climate change and assessing its impact have shifted from a global scale to the scale of the city. Recognizing that subnational governments are uniquely positioned to reduce global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in light of their ability to influence local patterns of urban development, economic activity and energy use, cities around the world have begun to develop their own climate action policies. However, in urban climate governance, community-based strategies that integrate climate change interventions with population health outcomes are often excluded. This talk will highlight how community-based organizations employ urban forestry and community gardens to address climate change and public health in low-income communities of color. Case examples from California will illustrate methods in which urban greening projects provide multiple benefits to the community and to the greater ecosystem.