



public health  
law & policy

planning for  
healthy places

# creating healthy & sustainable communities

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Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute

# Land Use Decisions Have Climate Consequences



# Land Use Decisions Have Health Consequences



Source: [http://flickr.com/photos/betta\\_design/921940289/](http://flickr.com/photos/betta_design/921940289/)



# Land use decisions have multiple health implications

**Physical Activity**  
**Fatal and Non-Fatal Injuries**  
**Respiratory Health**  
**Social Connectedness**  
**Mental Health**  
**Nutrition**  
**Water Quality**



Source: CompleteStreets.org



Source: TransportationPlanet.com

# Climate change is bad for people.



**“We need to... convince the world that humanity really is the most important species endangered by climate change.”**

*—Margaret Chan, MD, Director-General, World Health Organization*

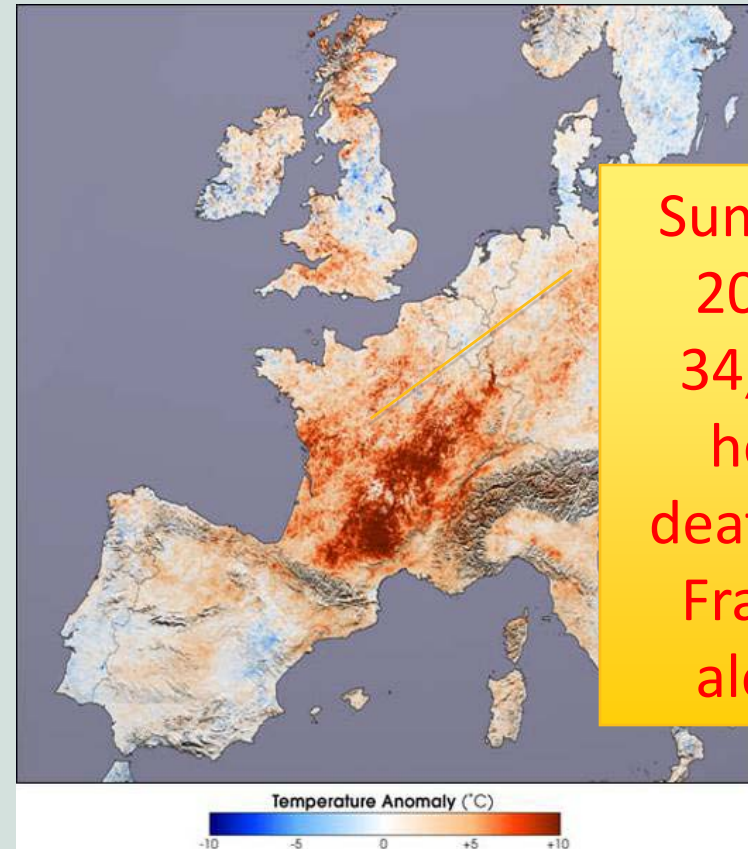


**“Climate change is one of the most serious public health threats facing our nation. Yet few Americans are aware of the very real consequences of climate change on the health of our communities, our families and our children.”**

*—Georges Benjamin, MD,  
Executive Director  
American Public Health Association*

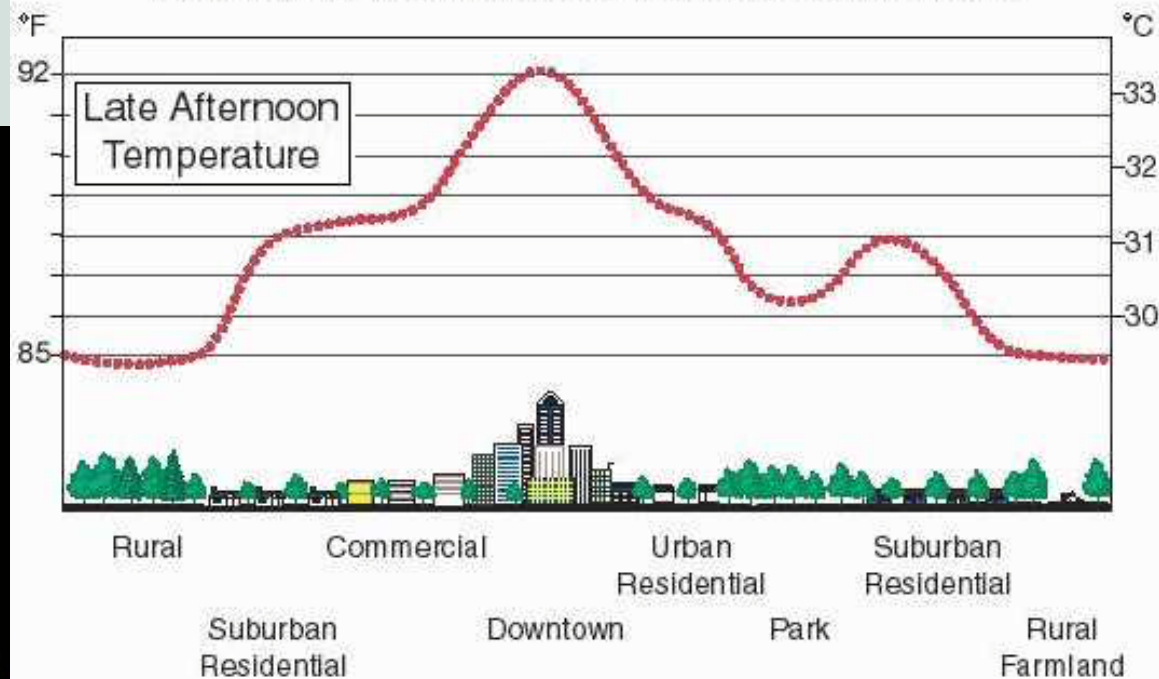
# Climate Change = rising temperatures

Extreme heat stress



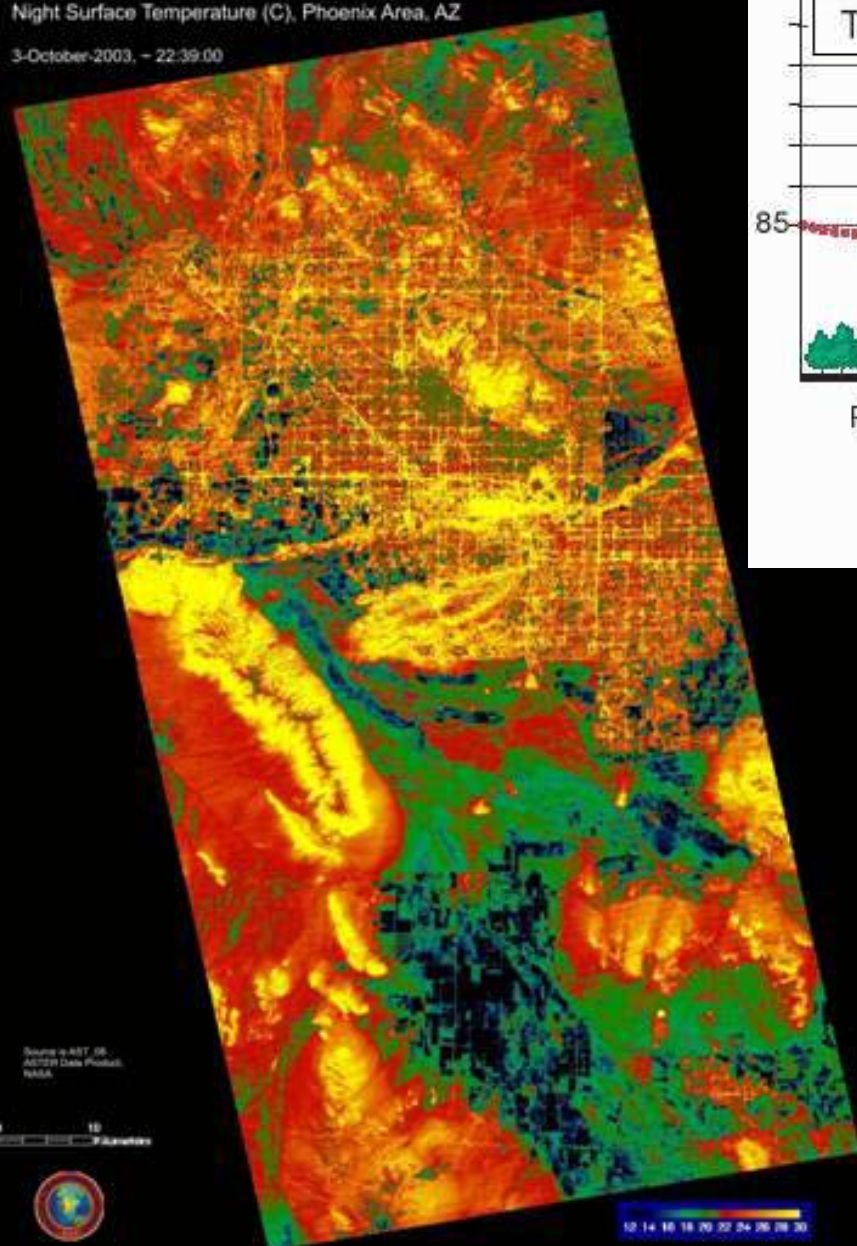


# Sketch of an Urban Heat-Island Profile



Night Surface Temperature (C), Phoenix Area, AZ

3-October-2003, - 22:39:00



Urban Heat Island  
can add 7° – 12° F

Thermal Satellite Image of  
Phoenix, AZ Night Surface  
Temperature

# Climate Change = droughts and floods

Water and food scarcity





# Climate Change = reduced air quality

Air pollution = asthma, cardiovascular disease

Pollens = allergies, respiratory problems



# Climate Change = stronger storms and rising sea levels

Injuries, fatalities





# Climate Change = disrupted ecosystems

New opportunities for diseases to thrive

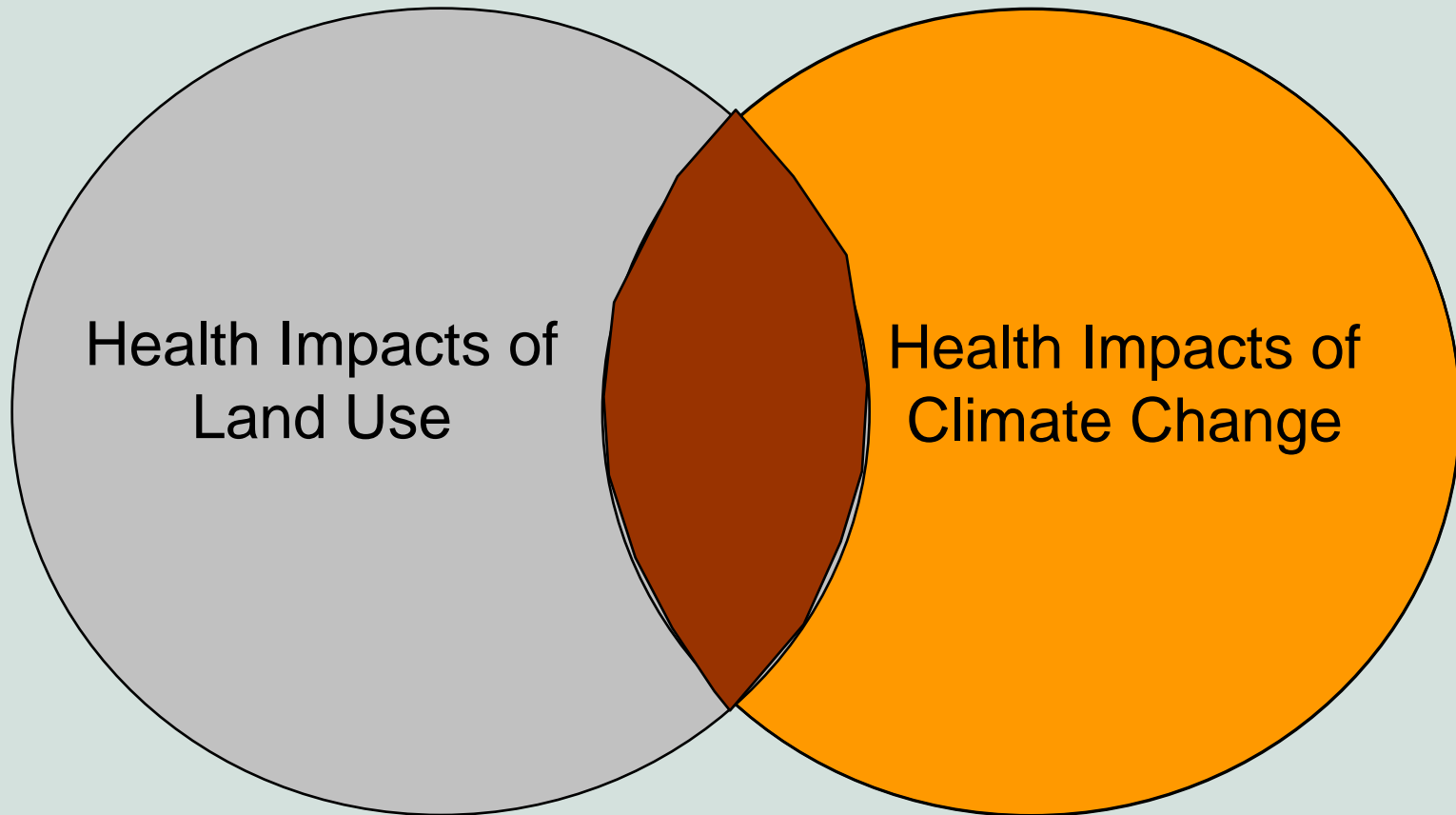


Prediction:

Because of Climate Change,  
Vector distributions will increase in  
latitude and altitude



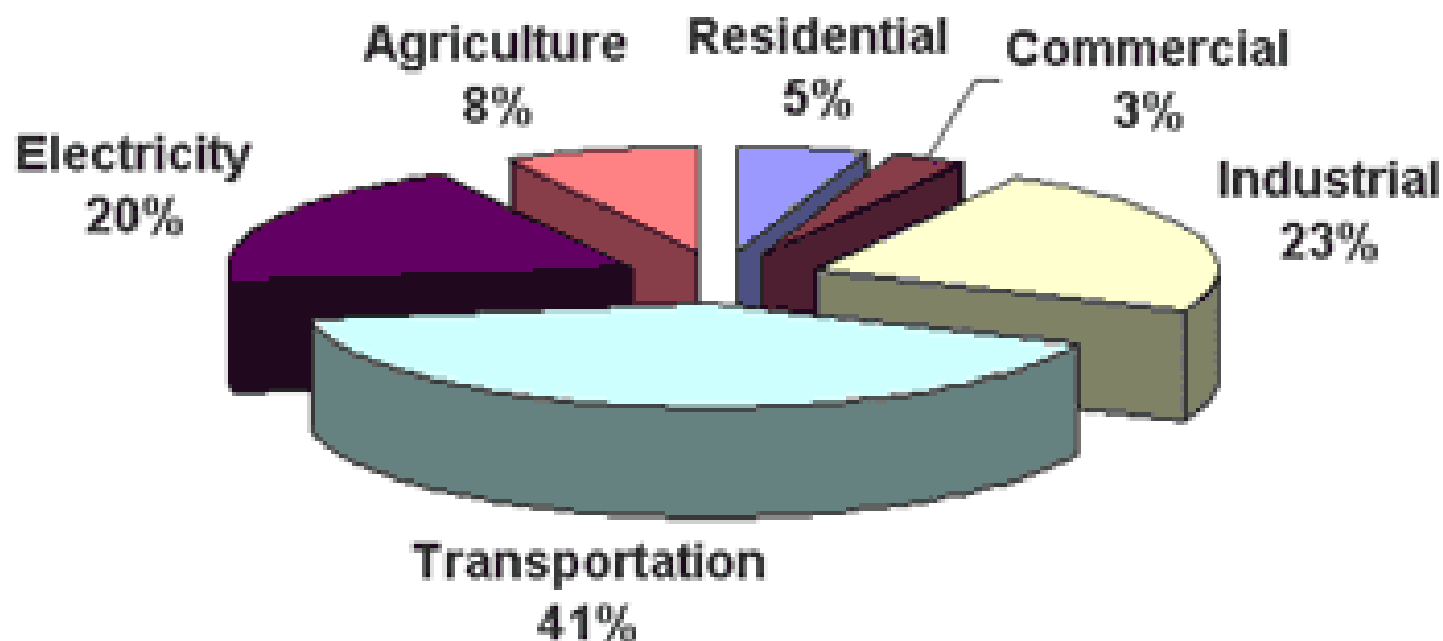
# What about...climate change, land use, and health?



# Land use to promote health has “co-benefits” in reducing greenhouse gas emissions

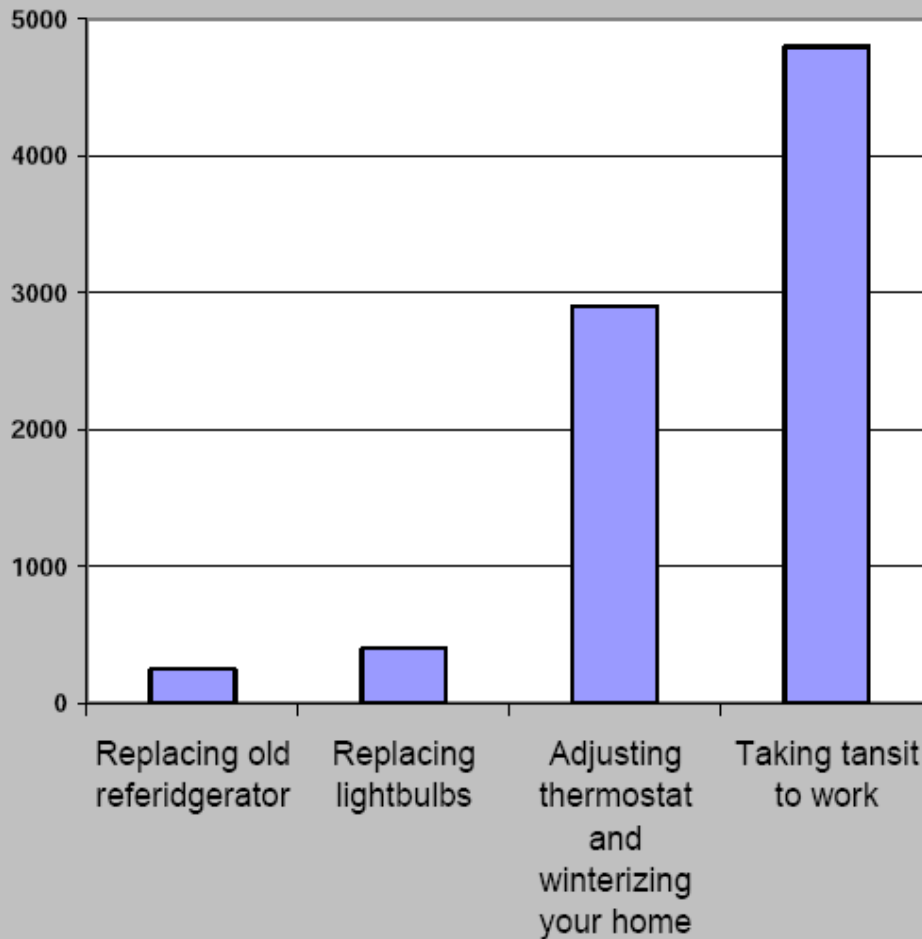
## California Global Warming Emissions by Sector (2002)

Source: California Energy Commission: *"Inventory of California Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990 to 2002 Update"*



# Design for health and climate change

**Pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> Saved per Year**



Source: The American Public Transit Association

1/3 of Americans who use public transit to get to work meet their daily requirements for physical activity

by walking as part of their daily life, including to and from the transit stop



# Zoning and General Plan Policies can...

Support **mixed-use developments**



Source: Affordable Housing Design Advisor



that connect people to  
transit and services  
and promotes healthy  
living

Source: Congress for the New Urbanism

# Increased public transit





# Places where people want to walk

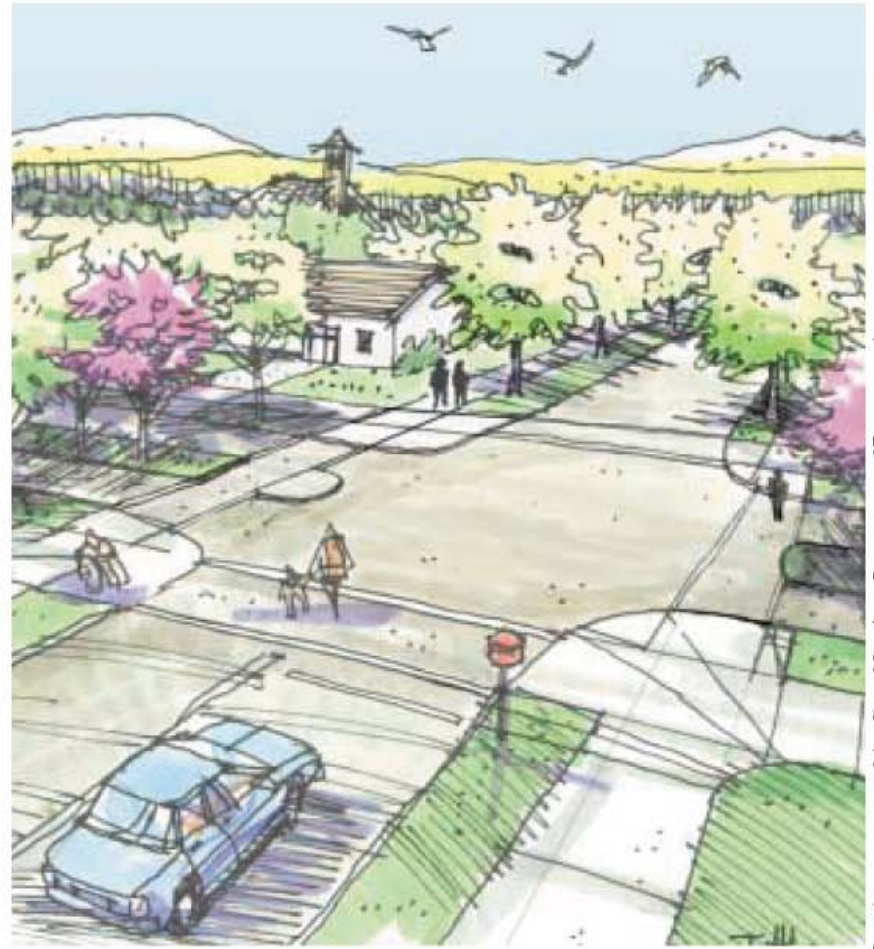
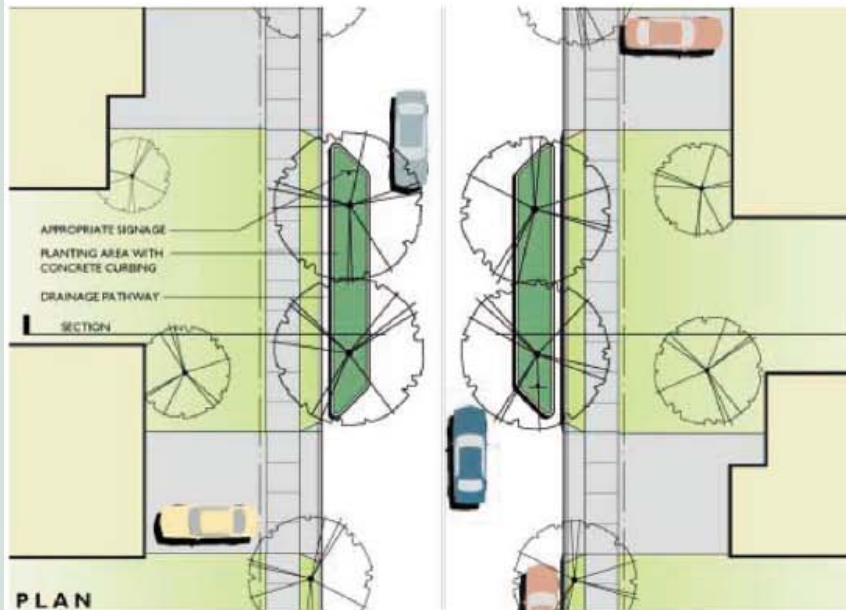




# Hospitable and safe bikeways



# Slowing down cars





# Street trees and urban vegetation



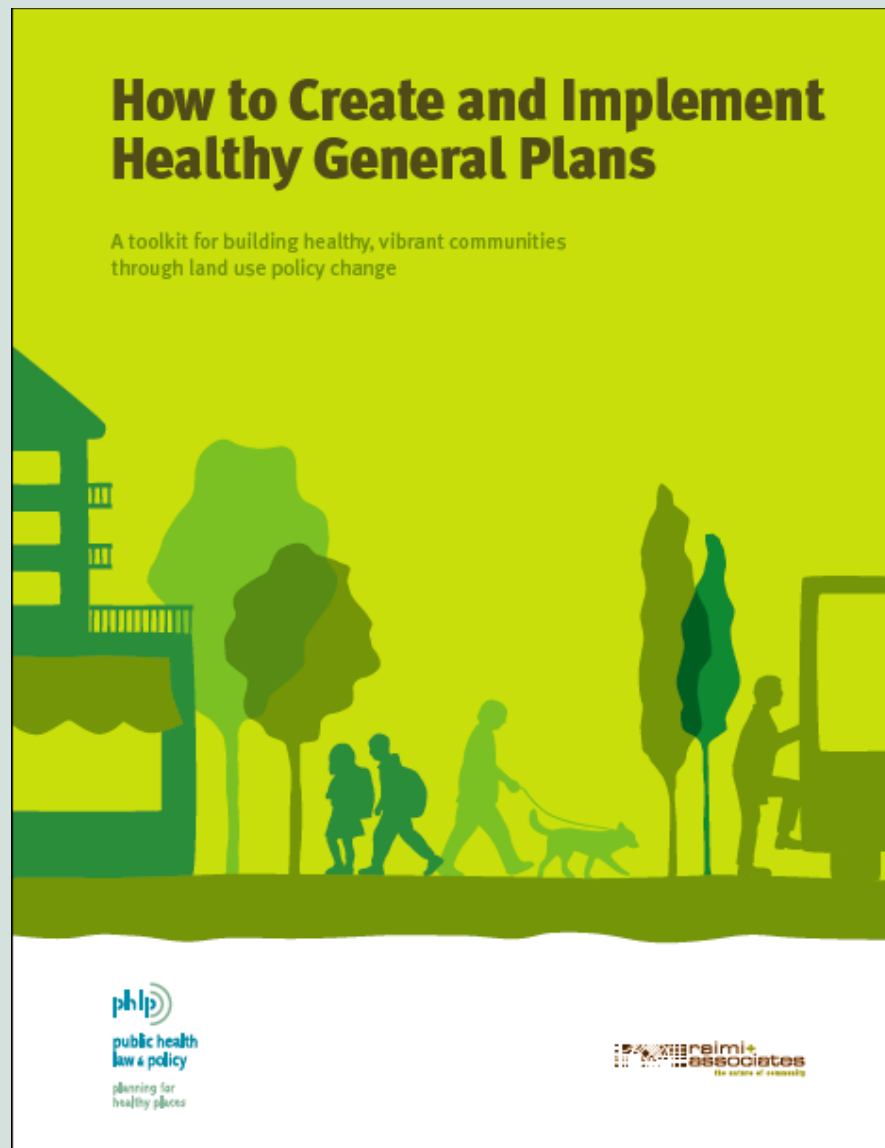


# Healthy, local food



# Model Policies

- Vision Statement and Community Health
- Physical Activity and Transportation
- Access to Healthy Food
- Protection from Pollution
- Mental Health and Social Capital
- Access to Health Services
- Includes ideas for implementation and measurement!



# Why should we work together?

- Problem requires immediate action – all hands on deck
- Public health is still not a traditional land use partner – we must be interdisciplinary to address issues
- Increased community and political capital



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