Equitable Rebuilding: Afforfable Housing and Electrification

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Rural areas are particularly vulnerable to disaster

- Lack of infrastructure and adequate communication systems
- Limited first responders
- Lean municipal staff
- Jurisdictions that frequently lack housing expertise
- Limited construction workforce
- Limited accessible and affordable housing for displaced families and individuals



Disasters are an affordable housing

- Damage to and destruction of limited affordable housing stock
- Drives up homelessness
- Increases need for affordable homes
- Shortage of housing creates secondary displacement
- Increasing costs, including insurance, resilient building materials

Community Housing Improvement
Program's Paradise Community Village
was destroyed in the Camp Fire



Disadvantaged communities hit hardest

- Communities of color, people with disabilities, older adults, and low-income communities are more likely to be impacted at every stage
- Housing insecurity pre-disaster
- Insufficiently accounted for in disaster planning
- Most likely to suffer during a disaster
- Least well-served during disaster recovery





Lessons from Rural Affordable Ho

- Modification of building design and materials
- Cross-sector partnerships to inform dense, resilient, and equitable rebuilding
- Creation of disaster-focused staff positions
- Building community support for resilient, affordable housing before disaster strikes



Burbank Housing's Fife Creek community in Guerneville is built upon podiums and stilts to mitigate flood risk



Reframing the Risks in Recovery

Ongoing gentrification and displacement

since 1976

Disaster rebuilding must prioritize the needs of vulnerable populations and ensure new housing geared towards all income levels

Decarbonization goals seen as less important than speed of rebuilding

Electric new construction can be far more cost-effective for developers and lower-income residents, in addition to health benefits

Affordability, resilience, and decarbonization are complex and costly

Expand incentives and public funding for affordable, all-electric construction

Provide capacity building and technical assistance to support communities in sustainable and silient construction projects