

Technical Expertise

Connecting lived experience, community knowledge, and practical support for shared climate action.

Knowledge moves in many directions

Cleveland Climate Week values the knowledge people carry from homes, neighborhoods, classrooms, gardens, workplaces, research, organizing, and lived experience.

Technical Expertise

Technical expertise is not only about credentials, degrees, or job titles. It is also about lived experience, neighborhood knowledge, cultural memory, practical skills, and the wisdom people build by caring for their homes, families, land, streets, schools, gardens, businesses, and communities over time.

For Cleveland Climate Week, technical expertise means bringing the right knowledge into the right spaces so people can learn from one another, fill gaps, and move from concern to action together.

Some people bring scientific, academic, professional, or organizational knowledge. Others bring hands-on experience from managing a garden, organizing neighbors, caring for elders during heat waves, reducing household waste, navigating high utility bills, repairing homes, teaching young people, protecting trees, responding after storms, or noticing changes in their neighborhood before anyone writes a report about them.

Both kinds of knowledge matter

Cleveland Climate Week creates space for neighbors, community groups, universities, nonprofits, students, artists, small businesses, environmental professionals, and local organizations to connect around shared climate concerns and practical solutions.

Feedback Loops and Crosswalks

This work also means creating better ways for information to move back and forth. Too often, residents share concerns, attend meetings, complete surveys, or offer ideas, but never hear what happened next. Cleveland Climate Week can help create clearer feedback loops, meaning people can see how their voices, questions, stories, and recommendations are heard, used, shared, or followed up on.

It also helps build crosswalks between groups that may be working on connected issues but using different language. A resident may be talking about flooding on their street. A university researcher may call it stormwater management. A nonprofit may frame it as housing stability. A public health partner may connect it to mold, asthma, or stress. These are not separate conversations. They are connected pieces of the same issue.

Cleveland Climate Week can help people find those connections, understand one another, and work together without needing everyone to speak the same professional language.

How Knowledge Sharing Helps

Need	How knowledge sharing helps
Neighbors have questions	Connect people to clear, trusted information and people who can help.
Community groups need support	Match local ideas with tools, partners, volunteers, or resources.
Universities want to be useful	Create pathways for research, students, and faculty to support real community priorities.
Nonprofits are working separately	Help groups find one another and reduce duplicated effort.
Residents know what is changing	Lift up lived experience as evidence and guidance.
Youth want to get involved	Connect young people to mentors, projects, and career pathways.
Small businesses want to participate	Offer practical ways to support sustainability and community resilience.
Good ideas need momentum	Bring together people who can help move them forward.

Filling Gaps

This work is also about filling gaps. Sometimes the gap is information. Sometimes it is trust. Sometimes it is funding, translation, transportation, internet access, meeting space, data, volunteers, or simply knowing who else is working on the same issue.

Cleveland Climate Week helps close those gaps by building relationships across sectors and across neighborhoods. It invites people to share what they know, ask for what they need, and find partners who can help carry the work further.

Regional Connection

Through partners like the Environmental Professionals Network and EPN Connect, Cleveland Climate Week can help people connect locally and regionally with others working on environmental topics. EPN Connect is free to join and creates a shared space where residents, students, educators, community leaders, nonprofits, universities, professionals, small businesses, and organizations can find one another, share opportunities, post events, exchange resources, and build relationships.

At its best, technical expertise is shared with humility. It does not replace community knowledge. It strengthens it. It helps neighbors, institutions, and organizations learn together, solve problems together, and build climate solutions that reflect the wisdom, needs, and leadership already present in Cleveland and across Northeast Ohio.

Contact

CLE Climate Week

For questions or to share technical expertise, community knowledge, or partnership ideas, please contact:
email: info@cleclimateweek.org, website: www.cleclimateweek.org