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Comment from Delcambre, Sharon

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General Comment

One of the challenges of doing climate AmeriCorps work is that climate solutions are inherently dependent on local community context. Also, climate is changing, meaning the community context in which the service occurs is changing. It would be helpful to study how AmeriCorps programs can be set up to be flexible and encompass the true diversity of programming that is needed in local communities most effectively.

The list of topics of study (education and training, disaster response, conservation, wildfire mitigation, and energy efficiency) is much too narrow. Instead of looking at the existing topics of climate service, I recommend looking at the potential types of service that are needed in communities.

In order to determine this, it will be important to include community-based organizations in the evaluation process. This is also a critical component of ensuring the evaluation can answer questions about how programs are promoting environmental justice. I recommend asking community organizations about the types of service that are needed in their communities as well as what the barriers are to them accessing AmeriCorps service.

Additionally, it is important to ask where missed connections are between AmeriCorps programs and the broader climate movement. What are barriers to collaborations with other programs? How can the AmeriCorps structure facilitate cross-organizational connections?

It is a great idea to study civic engagement and career development for members, as this is a critical

component of climate service (developing the next generation of climate leaders). This may be hard to gather data on, given that it is not an existing performance measure and most programs may lack capacity to collect this information.

Ideally this evaluation could be completed more quickly, so that programs currently getting off the ground could benefit from the outcomes of this study. 32 months is extremely long in the quickly-changing world of climate change.

Submitted by Sharon Delcambre, Impact and Improvement Evaluator for Climate at ServeMinnesota