www.healthoregon.org/climatechange
Click on: Local Resilience Planning
Climate and Health Adaptation Plan

The impacts of climate change already can be seen in Oregon’s native environments, forests, agriculture, and transportation infrastructure. It is likely that more severe impacts from climate change will begin to affect the state, including the overall health of its residents. As part of a two-year collaboration, Benton County Health Department worked with the Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division to develop a climate change adaptation plan to protect the health of its community. The Center for Disease Control’s five-step Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRAVE) framework was implemented, which allowed Benton County to provide an overview of local climate change and health projections, and for the development of possible interventions that would allow communities and identified vulnerable populations to adapt to predicted changes.

Role of public health

The Benton County Health Department protects the health and well-being of everyone who lives, works, learns, and plays in Benton County. With a particular focus on preventing health problems before they occur, much of what the county health department does contributes to the monitoring and assessment of health impacts related to climate change. The county health department is therefore ideally suited to engage, coordinate, and implement strategies that address our local climate vulnerabilities.

Statewide risks to human health

- Injury Mortality/Morbidity
  - Intense weather events
  - Severe storms
  - Rising temperatures
- Water and Vector-borne Diseases
  - Dengue fever
- Respiratory Diseases
  - Asthma
  - Allergies
- Malnutrition and Food Security
  - Faring expenses
- Mental Health
  - Extreme weather events
  - High temperatures

North Central Public Health District

Climate Adaptation Plan
August 2013
Climate and Health Planning Toolkit

Start using the toolkit

Purpose

This toolkit provides local health jurisdictions guidance on how to integrate climate change work into local public health practice.

Using the toolkit

Health departments of all capacities can incorporate climate change considerations into existing planning and programming. For those with higher capacity, this toolkit can serve as a resource for developing a Climate and Health Resilience Plan (also called an "adaptation plan" or a "climate change preparedness plan.").

This toolkit is adapted from CDC's Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) framework and modified on the experience of five local health jurisdictions in Oregon. This toolkit builds on their lessons learned through planning for climate change at the local level. We invite you to explore and identify the tools that are most relevant to your jurisdiction.

Resources

- Climate Adaptation
- Climate Mitigation
- Climate Projections

Contact Us

- Climate and Health Planning Toolkit
Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication Tools

The Oregon Public Health Division works with local health authorities and tribes to ensure that all Oregonians get accurate and timely emergency information in the event of a public health emergency.

During a public health emergency, Oregon Public Health Division will work together with key partners to get important messages protecting the public’s health and safety out quickly through a variety of channels, including television, print, radio and web-based media, and the Oregon Public Health Division's website.

Health communicators work to identify and outreach to risk communication partners throughout the state in an effort to prepare for and respond to a public health emergency. Oregon Public Health Division also supports local health departments by providing training and technical assistance in crisis and emergency risk communication methods and strategies and the development of outreach materials for the public on a variety of emergency preparedness topics.

Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication (CERC) Toolkits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Health Hazard</th>
<th>Download Files</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wildfire Smoke</td>
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<td>Extreme Heat</td>
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<td>Flooding</td>
<td>Word, PDF</td>
<td>2015</td>
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For more information about risk communication...
“The problems that face us are linked. It’s not a set of problems. It’s a system of problems. Now it’s time to look for a system of solutions.”

Janine Benyus
Nobel Laureate Symposium, 2011
Public Health Modernization

Communicable Disease Protection
Detect and respond to traditional and emerging infectious disease.

Equitable Access to Health Services
Ensure preventive services widely available.

Health Promotion, Disease and Injury Prevention
Support environments and policies that provide access to well being for everyone.

Environmental Health
Limiting environmental risks to human health.

Health Within Reach
98% of local health departments have indicated only partial to minimal ability to identify and prevent environmental health hazards.
1. INOLVE
2. PARTNER
3. ASSESS
4. PLAN
5. PREPARE
6. COMMUNICATE
7. LEAD
1. INVOLVE

- Standardize the use of an equity framework
- Listen to new voices and empower new leaders

“To support community change we have to be grounded in what the community needs, not just what we perceive they need.”

-Charmaine Kinney, MPA-HA
Multnomah County Mental Health & Addiction Services Division
2. PARTNER

- Ensure meaningful engagement in planning and action
- Acknowledge and support programmatic activities that strengthen social networks and social cohesion

“Strengthening social networks, building social resilience, and supporting efforts that build community are probably the most important long range strategies we have to avoid climate disaster”

-Tom Engle, RN MN
Board Chair, Alliances of Nurses for a Healthy Environment
3. ASSESS

- Prioritize, track, analyze and share key climate and health indicators
- Use mixed methods to assess resilience

"When we pair qualitative data with quantitative data, we get a much richer picture of what’s going on in a community.

- Kari Christensen, MPH
Brownfield Coordinator
OHA-Public Health Division
4. PLAN

• Increase the number of policies and plans that include health and climate considerations
• Promote and inform policies that improve air quality
• Promote and inform policies that improve local food systems

“There’s value in thinking more holistically about the cost and benefits of our choices”.

Eric Hesse, MPP, MS
Strategic Planning Coordinator
Trimet
5. PREPARE

- Integrate climate and health information into coordinated emergency preparedness plans and activities.
- Support emergency planners in involving diverse populations in culturally responsive ways.

“Adapting to climate change will require agencies to work together to develop strategies that address the interconnected impacts of climate change.”

-Malia Losordo, JD
Graduate Student in Water Resources Policy and Management at OSU
6. COMMUNICATE

• Partner with healthcare providers, and other partners who directly educate the public, to deliver climate and health messages

• Use storytelling methods, such as case studies and story maps, to engage and learn from stakeholders

“Providing continuing education that builds the climate literacy of our workforce helps the nursing profession continue to provide quality care to our patients and our communities.”

-PK Martin
Education and Research Specialist
Oregon Nurses Association
7. LEAD

• Provide bold leadership on climate
• Improve internal operations to lower carbon footprint
• Train the public health workforce

“It doesn’t necessarily mean taking on more work, but doing our work differently and hopefully, in more meaningful ways.”

-Julie Black
Workforce Development Coordinator
Oregon Public Health Division
Climate Summit

What if it's a big hoax and we create a better world for nothing?

- Energy independence
- Preserve rainforests
- Sustainability
- Green jobs
- Livable cities
- Renewables
- Clean water, air
- Healthy children
- Etc. etc.
www.healthoregon.org/climatechange

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