

# Climate and Health Adaptation Plan

*The effects of climate change already can be seen in Oregon's marine environments, forestlands, 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, Crook County and the Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division worked to develop a climate change adaptation plan to protect the health of its community.** *The Centers for Disease Control's five-step Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) framework was implemented, which allowed Crook 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

Crook County Health Department (CCHD) is assessing key climate change risks, identifying populations most vulnerable to the related health impacts, and formulating possible adaptation strategies. The county is also working to build and engage interdisciplinary partnerships to further enhance public readiness to take action. The Crook County Health Department believes that if left unaddressed, climate change impacts will continue to affect not only our community health, but also the local economy, food production, and health care needs.



### Injury/Morbidity/Mortality

- Extreme weather and storm events
- Rising temperatures



### Water and Vector-borne Diseases

- Insect and pest outbreaks
- Higher precipitation levels and flood events
- Increased algal blooms due to warming waters
- Changes in habitat and species



### Respiratory Diseases

- Degraded air quality
- Rising temperatures
- Increased pollen counts
- Increased mold exposure
- Increases in wildfires



### Malnutrition and Food Security

- Rising sea levels
- Rising temperatures and drought events
- Threatened food supplies



### Mental Health

- Extreme weather threats and displacement
- Economic stress
- Environmental degradation

Statewide risks to human health

# Key local climate variables and adaptation strategies



## Air quality

1. Monitor Crook County's air quality results; compare them to past results in order to monitor trends.
2. Strengthen partnerships with the area DEQ to provide information to and protect the public during acute smoke events using the DEQ visibility scale, air quality index monitoring, and protocol.
3. Monitor asthma trends related to smoke events through the Coordinated Care Organization claims system.
4. Implement a Healthy Homes Initiative to assist in the education of families in Crook County.



## Drought

1. Develop strategies to recognize health effects of drought on the population of Crook County. Continue to build relationships with regional partners.
2. Ensure information targeting at-risk populations for identified health effects related to drought are culturally appropriate and accessible.
3. Continue to gather local information through community assessment and incorporate into the regional health improvement plan.
4. Coordinate efforts through the Emergency Management work group.



## Vector-borne and communicable disease

1. Monitor health trends in Crook County in regard to diseases that are vector-borne.
2. Receive reports and investigate reports of disease cases or clusters per communicable disease protocols, with local climate change risks incorporated into the assessment of contributing factors.
3. Foster and maintain lines of communication with local laboratories, hospitals, medical clinics, and schools in regard to notifying CCHD about unusual disease and/or trends, in addition to reportable diseases.

**For more information and/or the full report, contact Crook County Health Department at 541-447-5165.**

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is one of nine agencies across the country that received a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health (CDC-NCEH) as part of the Climate-Ready States and Cities Initiative. This program is intended to help agencies address the public health effects of climate change related events. The Climate and Public Health Program is part of the Public Health Division of the Oregon Health Authority.