

Oregon Climate and Health Program



The Oregon Public Health Division is pleased to share our progress toward achieving our climate change goals in the 2014-15 program year. We continue to follow the 5-step BRACE (Building Resilience Against Climate Effects) framework developed by our funder, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The following is a summary of our work over the last year.

Oregon's Climate and Health Profile

The completion of our first major publication fulfills the first step of the BRACE framework. It describes the different health risks that may increase as our climate changes in Oregon and communities who are most vulnerable to these risks.

Based on literature review and stakeholder input, eight climate impacts are included in the report:

- Heat
- Drought
- Wildfire
- Storms & flooding
- Sea-Level Rise
- Infectious disease
- Allergens
- Other indirect impacts

As part of creating the report:

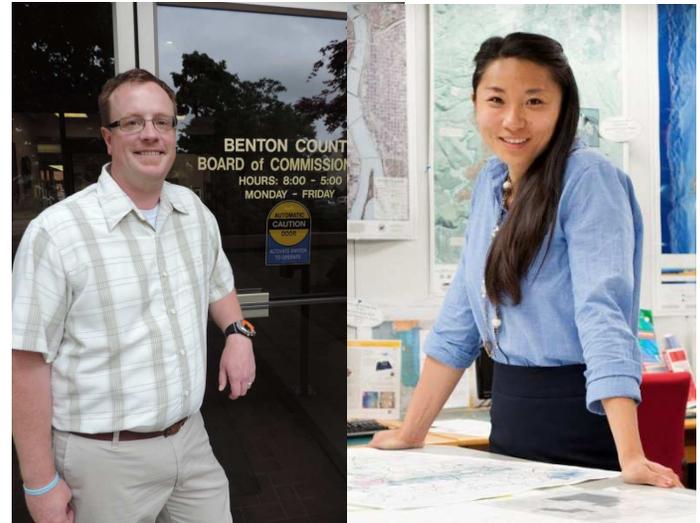
- We studied historic and projected climate data sets and identified the most relevant climate scenarios to use in our analysis.
- Over 20 key internal and external experts provided their input.
- We launched a story project to capture different perspectives and illustrate how Oregonians are thinking about climate change and health.
- Our Public Health Division Director, Lillian Shirley, was appointed to the Oregon Global Warming Commission and will present the report to commission members.



"Climate change is a reality we all must face. Yet, the most impacted communities are those who are least responsible. We must collectively arrive at a moment of decision, where we fully acknowledge the science and start supporting the communities who will be most affected."
– Faduma Ali, Community Organizer at Groundwork Portland

Program developments

- We created a new program strategic plan.
- We updated the program website to include more resources and information for partners.
- We developed a new e-mail listserv that now has over 400 members.
- We developed a new local BRACE toolbox that includes planning and decision-making tools developed in response to the needs expressed by our local partners.
- The program secured technical assistance from the [Georgetown Climate Center](#) and joined their national adaptation network.
- We started an internal Climate Change workgroup that includes staff from:
 - The Environmental Public Health Tracking program
 - The Health Impact Assessment program
 - Occupational Health
 - The Preparedness, Surveillance, and Epidemiology Team; and
 - The Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention section
- We presented to the following groups:
 - Healthy Communities workgroup within the [Conference of Local Health Officials](#)
 - The statewide health security and preparedness liaisons
 - [Pacific NW Climate Science conference](#)
 - [Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Network](#)
 - [Oregon Healthy Climate Partnership](#)
 - Douglas County Global Warming Coalition
 - [Oregon Public Health Association](#) annual meeting



Partnerships

- We provided technical assistance to five local health jurisdictions as they began implementation of their respective climate and health adaptation plans.
- We facilitated conversations with the Oregon Dept. of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), Oregon Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), and University of Oregon on applying social vulnerability assessments to local hazard mitigation planning
- We served on [The Resource Innovation Group](#)'s Transformational Resilience advisory committee.
- We served on the Portland-Multnomah Climate Action Plan steering committee.
- We participated in North Coast Resilience projects facilitated by DLCD.
- We collaborated with fellow CDC grantees and participated in the CDC's BRACE evaluation workgroup

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