

Sign up for the **Oregon Climate and Health List-Serve** and receive quarterly Newsletters intended for our partners and general public:

<http://listsmart.osl.state.or.us/mailman/listinfo/oregon-climate-and-health>

If you are a local public health practitioner, consider joining the **Oregon Climate and Health Network** of local public health practitioners and partners for opportunities to network, provide input, and share resources for climate and health in practice:

<http://listsmart.osl.state.or.us/mailman/listinfo/climate-and-health>



**April 4, 2016**

Today, the US Global Change Research Program released a new scientific report affirming climate change as a human health crisis: [Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment](http://www.health2016.globalchange.gov) (<http://www.health2016.globalchange.gov>)

Leading researchers say the report marks [a new understanding of climate and health](#).

Just as with the links between smoking and cancer, the connections between climate change and human health are clear. By limiting greenhouse gas emissions and adapting communities to be more resilient, climate action can result in unprecedented, concrete and rapid improvements to public health.

#### TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO TODAY:

(1) Check out the new report: [Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment](#).

(2) Invite your friends and colleagues to join this [list serv](#) to receive updates on climate and health strategies in Oregon.

(3) Register for the next Hot Topics in Practice webinar on April 19th: [Climate Change, Equity, and Health: Lessons Learned from Local Planning Efforts in Oregon](#).

(4) Join the [US Climate and Health Alliance](#).

(5) Reach out to people and start a conversation. If you work in the field of public health, bring together voices of all programmatic areas. For tips, check out the resources in our [Resilience Planning Toolkit](#).

(6) Connect with the [Oregon Environmental Council](#) to stay informed on climate policy in Oregon.

(7) Join the [Place Matters](#) conversation in Oregon.

(8) If you live in Portland, consider attending the upcoming Science on Tap talk: [How to Keep Hope and Your Health as Climate Change Worsens](#).

(9) Learn how to adapt more at work, at home, and in your neighborhood. What things can you do to build your personal resilience? The resilience of your family? Your community? For ideas, check out the City of Portland's [Climate Action Now](#) resource and LA's new [Resilience Builder toolkit](#).

(10) Get in touch with [Oregon's Climate and Health Program](#) and share your ideas for building collaboration and community resilience across the state of Oregon.



## \* GREETINGS \*

November 30, 2015

As the [United Nations Conference on Climate Change](#) gets underway in Paris today, we're taking climate action here at home and in our everyday work.

On our first Climate and Health Network conference call, we heard from George Luber, Chief of [CDC's Climate and Health program](#). George talked about



COP21 · CMP11  
**PARIS 2015**  
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

how climate change [threatens human health and well-being](#) and the critical role governmental public health plays in preparing communities for climate change impacts.

Renee Hackenmiller-Paradis, Manager of Oregon's Environmental Public Health section, shared how a number of environmental health programs are integrating climate change considerations into their work. As an example, the [Oregon Environmental Public Health Tracking](#) program is currently involved in the national tracking program's climate change workgroup to develop nationally consistent climate and health data measures.

We also heard from Mike Harryman, Manager of Oregon's Health Security, Preparedness and Response (HSPR) program. Mike talked about projected increases in extreme weather events and the potential impacts to Oregon's drinking water. Several Public Health Division programs including HSPR recently teamed up with local health leaders to update the [Public Health Division's Drought webpage](#), now linked to Governor Brown's new website (click on the image of Governor Brown to hear the PSA on Oregon's drought).

One of the State's newest epidemiologists, Meredith Jagger, joined the call to talk about how the [ESSENCE Syndromic Surveillance](#) system is providing a window into the health effects of climate change in Oregon. She talked about a new collaboration with Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality to analyze both health and air quality data.



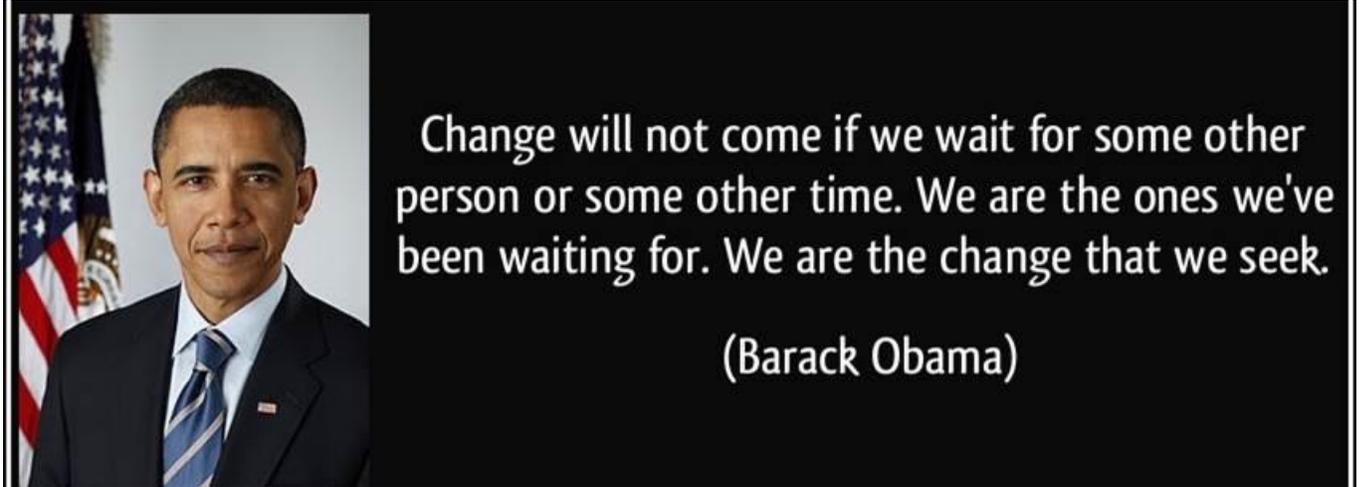
Heather Gramp, a policy specialist with Oregon's Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention section, talked about policy actions that have both [climate and health co-benefits](#), such as active transportation improvements that increase physical activity options, while decreasing air pollution and carbon emissions.

Our last speaker, Mel Rader, Director of [Upstream Public Health](#) reminded us how climate change acts as a threat multiplier, exacerbating existing health disparities. He talked about how [Health Impact Assessments](#) can be used to help evaluate health effects of proposed climate change policies.

We look forward to continuing this cross-sector dialogue on climate and health solutions in Oregon. If you haven't already, please join the [Climate and Health Network List Serve](#) and add your voice.

Public health departments of all capacities can work on climate change.

We have what we need to take action today.



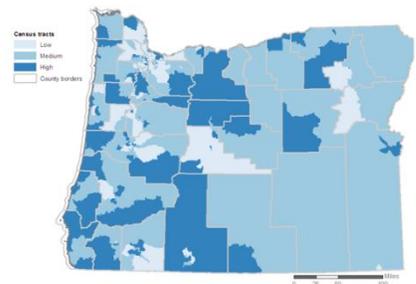
[Watch part of the speech President Obama gave today at the UN Climate Conference](#)



October 28, 2015

Oregon's Climate and Health Program is pleased to announce a number of new resources available to local health jurisdictions and partners in Oregon:

- [Oregon Social Vulnerability Assessment](#) – This statewide assessment includes a collection of maps and a new index that can be used for further vulnerability analysis. In the future, we hope to build off of this initial set of maps,



adding measures of hazard exposures and adaptive capacity.

- [Climate and Health Resilience Planning Toolkit](#) – Check out this new toolkit based on the lessons learned from five local health jurisdictions in Oregon. The toolkit includes templates for building capacity, identifying climate risks, assessing strengths and vulnerabilities, engaging stakeholders, and planning for action.
- [El Nino Effects in Oregon](#) – Join our Public Health Division’s Climate Change Workgroup for a discussion about El Nino effects in Oregon. Andy Bryant, our guest speaker from NOAA’s National Weather Service, will share insights on what to expect for the coming winter season.

**WHAT: El Nino Effects in Oregon webinar**

**WHEN: Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2-3pm, [REGISTER HERE](#)**

- [Statewide Climate and Health Network](#) – Join a new network of local health practitioners and partners across the state who are interested in sharing resources, opportunities and promising practices for integrating climate change considerations into public health practice. [Join the listserv](#) and save the date for our first conference call...

**WHAT: Oregon Climate and Health Network**

*Quarterly conference call*

**WHEN: Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2-3pm, [REGISTER HERE](#)**

# Oregon Climate and Health Program



June 16, 2015 | Oregon's Drought and Our Health

As summer approaches, Oregonians are preparing for unusually dry conditions. The majority of our counties are now in [emergency drought status](#). The Public Health Division has pulled together a drought team and is coordinating risk communication with other State agencies. We're looking to our neighbors and learning from new resources such as the [Water Crisis & Health](#) initiative of the Public Health Alliance of Southern California.

Drought poses many [potential health problems](#). Some health effects occur in the short-term and can be observed and measured. But the slow appearance and chronic nature of drought also results in longer-term, indirect health effects that are not always easy to anticipate. It can have effects not only our physical health, but also our mental health. As we experience changes in the landscape, conflicts in water use, risks of income loss and displacement, and increased pressure on our food systems, communities are challenged to cope with the extra stress that drought can bring.

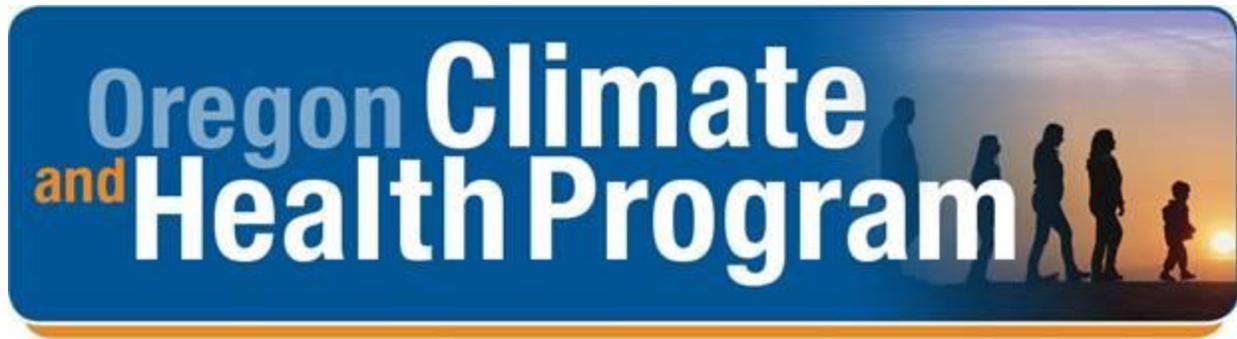
Next week, [Oregon's Climate and Health Program](#) will host a Brown Bag Lecture and Skills Training Workshop on [Transformational Resilience](#), an initiative that is working to prepare communities for the psychological, emotional, and social stresses generated by climate disruption. The events are free and open to all. We hope you will join us.



"To mitigate, prepare for, and thrive in the midst of the rising climate change-enhanced adversity, every organization and community will need a solid understanding of how chronic trauma and stress affect individuals and groups. They also need to understand how to enhance rather than undermine psychological and emotional resilience."

- Bob Doppelt, Director of [The Resource Innovation Group](#)

[www.healthoregon.org/climatechange](http://www.healthoregon.org/climatechange)



April 8, 2015 | National Movement on Climate and Health

Yesterday, President Barack Obama and the Surgeon General announced recommendations to start protecting communities from climate change. They highlighted the release of several new publications and new initiatives to promote action:

1. [President Obama's Announcement](#) and [Video on Climate Change and Health with the Surgeon General](#)
2. [The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment](#) - Open for public comment
3. The Public Health Institute released [Climate Change, Health, and Equity: Opportunities for Action](#)
4. Climate Access' [The Preparation Frame: A Guide to Building Understanding of Climate Impacts and Engagement in Solutions](#)

Oregon's Climate and Health Program is working with partners across the nation to coordinate efforts to prepare for the health effects of climate change. We're also working with partners across the state to highlight strategies that build the resilience of our communities and public health system here in Oregon.

We encourage you to use the information in this e-mail and the resources found on our [program website](#). Please let us know how we can continue to support your efforts to raise awareness and take action on these important issues.

Registration is still open for the [NW Environmental Health Conference](#), next Friday, April 17th.

The conference will focus on climate change, featuring keynotes by [Dr. John M. Balbus](#) and [Julie Novy-Hildesley](#), and include panels on recent local research and action. Hope to see you there!



March 3, 2015 | Community Conversations: Climate Change and Health

Oregon's mountains are at less than 20 percent of normal snow, with no respite in sight. January 2015 was the second hottest on record, following a 2014 that was the warmest year on record. Although this makes for a pleasant winter here in the Northwest, communities in Oregon are already gearing up for another year of serious drought and wildfires. Here are some ways to get involved and informed:

***Upcoming Events:***

- [March 10th: Climate Change and the Public's Health](#). The Oregon Public Health Institute and 350 PDX will host a community dialogue on Climate Change and Health from 4-6 pm at the [Center for Intercultural Organizing](#). RSVP [here](#).
- [March 10th & 11th: Tribal Leaders Summit on Climate Change](#). The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians will convene tribal leaders to discuss climate change impacts and share tribal strategies. Register [here](#).
- [March 26th: Weathering Change: Local Solutions for Strong Communities](#). Check out this webinar series and join Cara Pike on March 26th for the next discussion on: [Getting the Message Out](#).
- [April 17th: NW Environmental Health Conference](#). The Oregon Environmental Council presents this 7th annual conference featuring a keynote address by Dr. John M. Balbus MD, MPH and several panel sessions focused on climate and health. Register [here](#).
- [May 12: Clean Med Conference](#). Presented by Health Care Without Harm and Practice Greenhealth, this national conference will occur in Portland and feature a special session on climate and health. Register [here](#).

**In case you missed it...**

- The City of Portland and Multnomah County have released the draft [2015 Climate Action Plan](#) for public comment. The draft plan builds on Portland's 20+ year legacy of climate action and incorporates more strategies for preparation.
- The USDA's new Scientific Report of the [2015 Dietary Guidelines](#) Advisory Committee recommends more fruits and veggies and less meat for climate change reasons, also pointing out that such diets are better for health. This report is also open for public comment.
- Oregon's Climate and Health Program updated our [Climate and Health Equity](#) webpage to include some new resources for incorporating equity considerations into program planning.
- Check out the [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#) for information and resources for addressing climatechange in your work and in your community.



**November 18 2014 | Our Climate, our Health – Upcoming Events in Oregon**

**Upcoming Events:**

- [Climate Risk: What it means for Oregon's Health Care Sectors](#)  
Friday, Nov. 21, 8-11:30am | World Trade Center in Portland, OR  
National experts and local leaders, including Oregon's Public Health Division Director Lillian Shirley, will convene to discuss climate preparedness and leadership within the health care sector.
- [Access to traditional tribal foods in Oregon's changing climate](#)  
Thursday, Dec. 11th, 1-2pm | Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St.  
Cheryl Shippentower, Plant Ecologist at the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, will discuss the impacts of climate change on 'First Foods' and efforts to protect and restore native plant resources critical to tribal culture in Oregon.

***In the News:***

- [Warmer Climate Imperils our Health](#) - Steve Law, Portland Tribune
- [What your Doctor Should Be Telling You About Climate Change](#) - Rex Burkholder, GoLocalPDX

"Building resilience is vital for all stakeholders including medical providers, patients, health care leaders, organizations and communities, since a true health system transformation cannot simply occur within an exam room." - Safina Koreishi, MD MPH

[www.healthoregon.org/climatechange](http://www.healthoregon.org/climatechange)



**September 23 2014 | Oregon's Climate and Health Profile Report Released**

We are pleased to announce the release of the [Oregon Climate and Health Profile Report](#). This report outlines the health risks that may increase as our climate changes and describes the populations who are most vulnerable to these risks.

As part of the report, we developed an infographic (below) that can be used to help explain the health effects of climate change.

We hope you will share these resources with your partners and colleagues. Also, let us know if you're interested in scheduling a presentation of the report. We look forward to working with you to develop strategies that protect the health of our communities.



***In the News:***

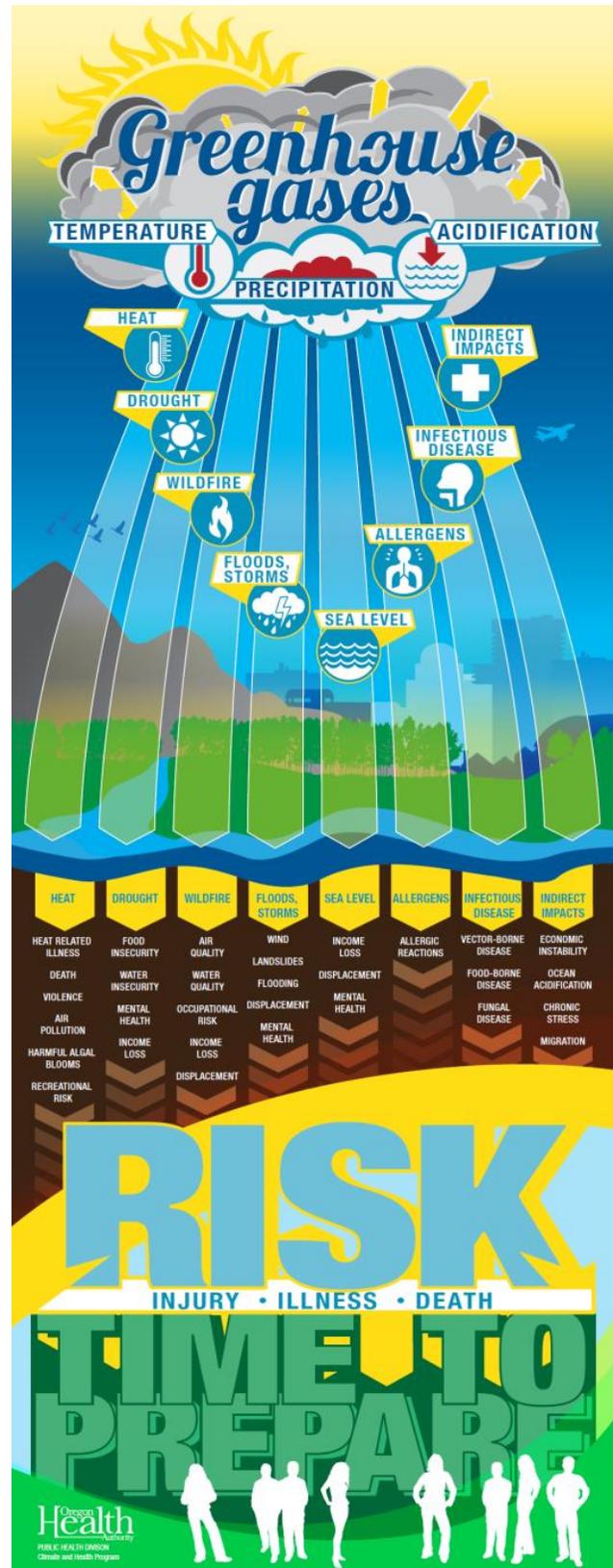
- [Oregon Global Warming Commission to discuss health impacts](#)
- [Portland rally supports People's Climate March in NYC](#)
- [Bracing for Impact: Benton County Adaptation Planning](#)
- [Stories from the Field: Climate Change Planning in Benton County](#)

**In case you missed it...**

- [National Climate Assessment highlights human health](#)

***Program Updates:***

- Join us for a Grand Rounds presentation on Oregon's Climate and Health Profile: *October 2, 11:30am-12:30pm | Portland State Office Building (800 NE Oregon St.), Room#1B*
- View our [Climate and Health Program's Progress Report](#)





**April 9, 2014 | Climate and Health Connections**

As the climate changes, we're exposed to new health risks. Oregon is working to better understand these risks and how we can prepare and protect our communities. With your help, we're developing strategies that build resilience across the state. Thank you for being a part of this work.

***In the News:***

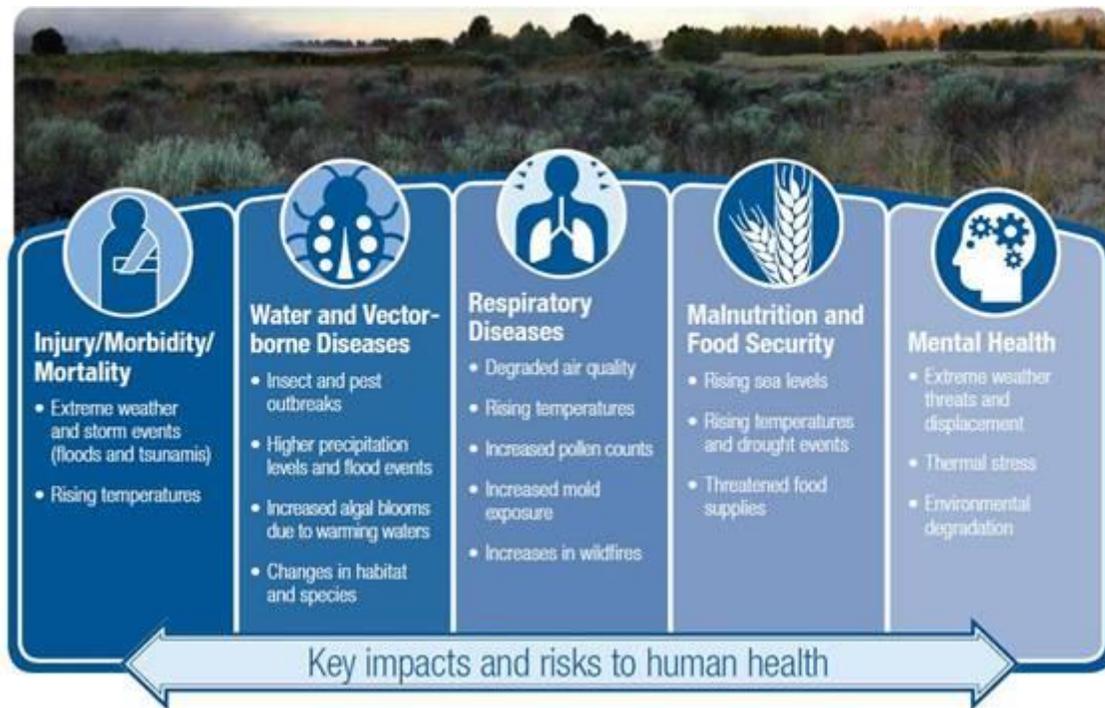
- The [International Panel on Climate Change](#) recently released their report on Climate Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability:
  - [Nobody on this Planet Will Be Untouched](#)
  - [Can we turn our Greatest Health Threat into our Greatest Opportunity?](#)
- Portland and Multnomah County's new [Climate Change Preparation Strategy](#) is open for comment through the end of this week.
- ClimateProgress asks: [Is Your State Prepared for the Health Impacts of Climate Change?](#)

***Program Updates:***

- Oregon Public Health Division Director, Lillian Shirley, was recently appointed to the [Oregon Global Warming Commission](#) - we look forward to supporting her efforts to highlight the public health implications of climate change in Oregon.
- [Oregon's Climate and Health Program](#) was recently awarded technical assistance from the [Georgetown Climate Center](#). With their assistance, we're developing a toolbox for local health jurisdictions to integrate climate change planning into public health practice.

- Do you think climate change will affect our quality of life here in Oregon? What are your concerns? What are your ideas? **We're interested in hearing from you and including your perspective in our Story Project.** Please e-mail our Program Coordinator at: [emily.a.york@state.or.us](mailto:emily.a.york@state.or.us) and share your unique perspective.

*Health risks identified in coordination  
with local health partners across Oregon include:*



[www.healthoregon.org/climatechange](http://www.healthoregon.org/climatechange)