

## STEP THREE: Engage and Assess



How do we engage stakeholders and assess vulnerabilities and opportunities?

The first steps in this checklist focuses on assessing vulnerabilities. The next steps involve assessing community strengths and assets and engaging stakeholders in meaningful dialogue to better understand community concerns and solutions.

### **FIRST STEPS: Assess Vulnerabilities**

- \_\_\_ Review the following resources on vulnerability:
  - Oregon’s [Climate and Health Equity resource page](#)
  - The vulnerability section of the [Oregon Climate and Health Profile Report](#)
  - The Human Health section of the [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#).
  
- \_\_\_ Consult the Oregon Climate and Health Program’s Social Vulnerability Assessment materials (*available Fall 2015*).
  
- \_\_\_ Review a summary of [Lessons Learned](#) from previous Climate and Health Planning efforts in Oregon.
  
- \_\_\_ Consider which populations may be particularly vulnerable within your jurisdiction. This will be partly based on the climate impacts you have identified as your greatest risks. For example, if “Wildfire” is a key concern in your community, vulnerable groups listed in the [Oregon Climate and Health Profile Report](#) include: people with existing illnesses like asthma, infants, children, older adults, private well users, and people living in rural areas or at the wildland/urban interface. Consider what kind of further assessment, mapping, or research is needed for future planning.
  
- \_\_\_ Consider asking partners what kind of additional information is needed for climate change decision-making. What kinds of maps or data are needed to make informed decisions? Consider using the following resources to develop a local vulnerability assessment:
  - [Environmental Health Indicators of Climate Change](#), Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists.

- Environmental Public Health Tracking, [Climate Change Data Portal](#)
- [Developing Climate Change Environmental Public Health Indicators: Guidance for Local Health Departments](#), Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, September 2013
- EPA's new [EJ SCREEN](#) or [C-FERST](#) tools to assess specific vulnerabilities in your community.

— Take a look at the CDC's guidance on [Projecting the Burden of Disease](#) and get in touch with [Oregon's Climate and Health Program](#) to understand what kinds of additional technical assistance may be available.

### **NEXT STEPS: Assess Community Strengths & Assets**

— Become familiar with community strengths and resources through existing plans, partnerships, and research. Take a look at:

- Your health department's Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)
- Coordinated Care Organization ([CCO Community Health Improvement Plan](#))
- Other plans in your jurisdiction that relate to climate and health. This could include comprehensive plans, preparedness plans, and even strategic plans of Community Based Organizations who serve vulnerable populations in your jurisdiction

— Through reviewing plans and meeting with partners, take note of community strengths and assets in your community that could be further leveraged. Conduct an assessment of community strengths and assets. Here are tools that could help with this exercise:

- [The Community Toolbox: Identifying community assets and resources](#)
- [Healthy People 2020 Brainstorm: Community Assets](#)
- [Example of a county-level asset inventory framework](#)
- [Best Practices in Local Mitigation Planning: Identify Community Assets](#)

## NEXT: Ground-truth your findings

- Plan to host a community event to ground truth your assessments. The event can be organized in different ways. You could present your new local Climate Risk Profile and community assessments, invite guest speakers, break out into workgroups by topic, or show a film to facilitate dialogue. This [Local Climate Events](#) tool provides a summary of recent community events that have occurred over the last few years in Oregon – each takes a slightly different approach. Consider using one of these events to model your public outreach.
- Gather community input to better understand concerns, priorities, and community solutions. You can use this [Story Project](#) tool to develop a method for collecting feedback at your event or through another form of outreach. At this point in the process, stakeholder engagement can be more open-ended and can help you “take the pulse” on how community members are thinking about climate change and health.
- Develop a system for recording the input you receive. Continue to compile opportunities and strategies that arise through conversations with stakeholders and partners. You will want to keep a running record of suggested actions, partnerships, and contacts for future action.