

Climate and Health Interventions in Oregon
Lessons Learned in Local Implementation
Spring 2014

What is your advice for other Local Health Jurisdictions interested in engaging in climate change work?

- Take time to familiarize yourself with the science - Show that you know the subject and don't let politics guide your decisions
- Have the data to back up what you are saying
- Find commonality with staff and programs within health department Find other groups in the community who can help you with outreach (example: university partner)
- Engage stakeholders early
- Identify a core group of colleagues who can also champion the effort and serve as a sounding board
- Build an internal team/workgroup to ensure continuity
- Work with partners to build evidence
- Conduct a true community assessment
- Understand your capacity (\$, political support, etc.)
- Get leaders on board – advocate for climate work within dept.
- Help supervisors and leaders see climate change as a priority
- Engage internal decision-makers from the get-go
- Integrate into 10 essential services or other widely accepted Public Health framework
- Integrate into current practices and programs
- Have adaptation plan “live” within another plan, such as an All Hazards Response Plan, so that it will be regularly revisited
- Get creative with existing resources, partners – talk about it in a way that relates to what they do and what they are concerned about

Have you identified new opportunities or next steps? What is needed to support these efforts?

- Data that ties health outcomes to climate change
- Using data to inform changes within health department
- More outreach materials (like brochure, website, etc.)
- Interested in reaching general public
- Emergency response planning
- Clean air quality campaign
- State workgroup on Essence?
- Data – air quality, indicators/indexes, mapping, syndromic surveillance
- Evaluation – demonstrate success, tell the story with evidence
- Connecting to existing services and partner organizations
- Making information available to partners

Q&A w/ Oregon Health Authority's Climate and Health Program:

- *How do we gather and utilize more data?*
 - OHA can help to make sure counties have access to most recent and relevant data
 - OHA can provide training/assistance with accessing data resources, such as through new Essence database

- *How do we identify new funding opportunities?*
 - OHA and LHJs can compile list of funding opportunities and explore potential joint proposals
 - OHA can serve as a convener to discuss joint proposals, once identified

- *How can OHA continue to connect State-level programs so that climate change action funnels down to various LHJ programs?*
 - OHA has worked with the State's Disaster Epidemiology Workgroup to begin incorporating climate change considerations into risk communication toolkits
 - OHA has an internal Public Health Division Climate Change workgroup that meets monthly and includes members from the following programs:
 - Environmental Public Health Tracking Program
 - Health Impact Assessment Program
 - Preparedness, Surveillance, and Epidemiology Team
 - Occupational Public Health Program
 - Health Security, Preparedness and Response program
 - Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention
 - Injury and Violence Prevention
 - OHA plans to incorporate climate change considerations into the next round of updates to the State's Hazard Vulnerability Assessment template used by LHJ preparedness programs