

Evaluation Findings: Climate and Health Story Project



Background

The Oregon Climate and Health Program collected stories and images to illustrate different perspectives on health effects of Climate Change in Oregon. “Story Quotes” were included in the Climate and Health Profile Report and used in presentations and other communications materials to convey the diverse concerns and perspectives of people across our state.

Process

1. We identified a diversity of stakeholders across the state through existing partnerships.
2. We asked each participant to respond to a list of questions and invited participants to respond through e-mail, a phone call, or an in-person interview.

Here is what we said:

We created some questions to help prompt thoughts, but you can choose to answer just one or all, depending on what seems most relevant to you. It's a very open frame because we're interested in hearing about what's most on your mind when it comes to climate change. Your answers can be in a professional or personal context. It can be a sentence that summarizes your thoughts or pages that describe your experience :) Here are the questions we are wondering about:

- *What are your main concerns when it comes to climate change?*
 - *What is the general attitude about climate change among your co-workers, family and friends?*
 - *How do you think climate change might impact your work?*
 - *Do you think your community is changing in response to climate change?*
 - *What are the opportunities that come from climate change?*
3. Over 40 people participated in the project and provided responses. Almost all of the responses were received through e-mail.
 4. The Climate and Health Program Team selected 16 Story Quotes to illustrate the information in the Climate and Health Profile Report. The Team made appointments with each of the participants to take photos, sign consent forms

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and confirm the quotes. Participants received the high resolution portraits and were able to use them for their own personal use.

5. After the report was published, story participants were e-mailed the final report and asked to participate in an online survey. There were 6 participants who provided feedback.

(1) What were your feelings or thoughts when you were asked to answer questions about community impacts of climate change?

- I feel comfortable answering questions.
- It was interesting to think on a deeper level about how climate change will impact my overall community rather than just my immediate one.
- Relieved that people were working on this issue and how it is going to affect human health grateful for the opportunity to input my thoughts and position
- I couldn't make the connection initially but then, I met with [the program coordinator] and saw how relevant it was.
- I appreciated being asked
- that's easy: "bravo" and "amen"

(2) Did participation in this project help you think about climate change in a different way? If so, please explain.

- I learned a lot more than I realized I would through this process.
- I have been thinking about all the different ways climate change has been, continues to and will affect this planet in many different ways, including the impacts on people and communities.
- sure, how do you explain how it actually affects us not just superficial "global warming"
- Absolutely! I can think beyond prevention of disease and illness in a clinic and take an environment approach to health.
- yes. it helped me think about the mental health impacts of climate change
- yes, look, the OHA is on it!

(3) Do you have any suggestions for how we might do this kind of project differently next time?

- It was a bit challenging due to being the first to do this work at the county level, but very rewarding.

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- As scary and unnerving as the information will be, I think it's best to present information that will move people to action. Talking about impacts on resources (especially water), and showing how particularly alarming reductions in supply will affect this generation, now, is very important. People often think this is not problem because they believe they will not be impacted. ending on a positive note is ok, as long as you don't let people off the hook.
- well done
- I wish we could have more time to help plan interviews so we can really go deep into rural communities.
- No
- well, not to put too fine a point on it or anything, but "so what?" as the response afterward -- that's what needs to be different next time. I know it's not easy (especially politically) to direct people to give up their overseas travel, their meeting travel, their less than 50mpg new car they're gonna buy, their A/C, etc etc but clearly we've reached that point, no? and yet, how to make those changes? I

(4) Did you learn something new by looking at the Oregon Climate and Health Profile Report? If so, please let us know.

- I was involved in the process, so knew most of the information but I think the report is very useful for all counties to use in the future.
- The report was very interesting. I liked hearing the perspectives of other industries/business owners regarding climate change.
- It helped me to learn more about impacts on Oregon and what others are doing to make a change.
- yes, all of the different perspectives that I wouldn't have thought about myself
- All I learned was new. It is a bummer that budget won't allow you guys to go present your findings to my peers from the west coast in San Diego :(
- I haven't taken time to read it yet

(5) Do you have any additional thoughts, concerns, or ideas when it comes to the impacts of climate change? We're interested in continuing to hear from you.

- Just glad we participated in the process.
- Na
- Could you come over and do a presentation to the Office of Equity and Inclusion, the transformation center?

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- [The Program Coordinator] is doing a great job to get this going. Next round have a look at the American Psychological Association Task Force Report (google that) to see what warrants incorporation there as well. It's "medical" if
- you take a broad enough view of medicine; it's certainly public health. Good luck as you go. It may seem like a losing battle but as someone said, it's not "can we save the planet" but "how much can we save" and that is what we're working on.

To view the Story Portraits and Story Quotes, see: the [Climate and Health Story Project](#).