Emily York, MPH
Program Coordinator
Climate and Health Program
Oregon Health Authority
Adaptation in Action:

1. Resilience planning
2. Climate and health awareness
3. Community engagement
1. Resilience Planning
When I think about climate change, it’s so easy to think about gloom and doom, but it’s so much more motivating to think about it as an opportunity to come together and do things better.

Bonnie Shoffner
Restoration Volunteer Coordinator
Climate Resilience Plan

Strategies are organized by public health capabilities

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2. Climate and Health Awareness
Climate and Health Planning Toolkit

Start using the toolkit

Purpose

This toolkit provides local health jurisdictions guidance on how to integrate climate change work into local public health practice.
Before we assess and plan...

- **COMMUNICATE** – What are your key messages? What are the facts and stories you will use to illustrate the need for action?

- **CONNECT** – How does this work connect to existing public health priorities? How does it connect with efforts in other agencies, sectors, and community-based organizations in your jurisdiction?

- **BUILD CAPACITY** - What is the level of awareness and readiness of your community and your health department? Who are your champions and where can you seek additional support & funding?
Increasing Climate Literacy
Who is doing climate and health work?

- Healthy Communities Coordinator
- Public Health Preparedness Planner
- Environmental Health Specialist
- Health Promotion Specialist
- Communicable Disease Investigator
- All Hazards Epidemiologist
What are they doing?

“We received overwhelming positive feedback from the community residents regarding the new Workshop Series we piloted. We were able to provide community members with valuable information on the relationship between climate and health.”

“We developed guidance for large sporting events held on hot days and distributed it to key events, reaching thousands of participants.”
“We designed and implemented a program that was able to pay for nearly 50 well water quality tests for bacteria and nitrates and were also able to develop and distribute educational materials on drought health risks in English and Spanish.”

“Our greatest success was being part of the City of Medford's natural hazard mitigation planning process and contributing the climate and health aspects.”
Collective Impact in One Year:

• 105 partnerships were built or strengthened
• 28 changes in systems
• 9 changes in policies
3. Community Engagement
“To support community change we have to be grounded in what the community needs, not just what we perceive they need.”

Charmaine Kinney, MPA-HA
Multnomah County Mental Health
Voices of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

13/14  “Survival”  - Karlen Yallup

9/14  “Through the eyes of a Nation”

11/14  “Changing Seasons”  - Neal...

10/14  “Water is Life”  - Scott Kalama
“In the face of the storm, people who hadn’t talked to each other in years were working side-by-side.”

GEOFF WULLSCHLAGER
City Manager, City of Wheeler
When crisis comes, we begin to see that community is the true and irreplaceable infrastructure.
“We can carry these concepts forward... into what we already do, but we can’t take on something that is unfunded.... the only way it’s moving forward is in those subtle ways of incorporating the philosophies and strategies into our everyday work.”
Questions to ask…

• How might future climate scenarios change the way we approach this work?
• Are there ways that we can achieve climate goals (like reducing greenhouse gas emissions) while also achieving our public health goals?
• How can we take a strengths-based approach?
• Are there new community partners we can engage with?
• How could this project also build social cohesion within the communities we serve?
• How is this work building community resilience to stress and adversity?
“It doesn’t necessarily mean taking on more work, but doing our work differently and hopefully, in more meaningful ways.”

-Julie Black
Workforce Development Coordinator, Oregon Public Health Division