

## RESULTS OF AN INFORMAL SURVEY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON NEEDS RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE

At a workshop on climate change conducted on October 25, 2007 for local government officials in Oregon's coastal jurisdictions, the Oregon Coastal Management Program conducted an informal survey. Workshop participants were asked to respond to a single open-ended question:

***What do cities and counties need from state and federal agencies related to climate change?***

The survey resulted in 43 responses. Analysis of the responses shows that they can be separated into several categories. Some responses are in the form of a question or concern, but the rest indicate a specific need for some kind of state or federal agency action. The categories of local government need that apparent in the survey responses are defined and interpreted as follows:

Data and information: Data and/or information to better understand or predict the likely effects of climate change on coastal communities are needed.

Guidance: Materials to assess or improve local governments' ability to respond to the effects of climate change are needed.

Leadership: Political leadership to support local initiatives is needed.

Funding: Funding to assess vulnerability, develop adaptation plans, or to implement adaptation measures.

Outreach: Informational materials for the general public and elected officials about climate change and the need for action are needed.

Infrastructure: Structural measures are needed to mitigate the effects of climate change on coastal communities.

Question or concern: Survey response is a question or concern; no specific need was noted. Each response stated in the form of a question or concern has also been interpreted as falling within one of the other categories.

Although the question was not explicitly asked, and the responses do not specifically indicate such, in general, the survey responses reveal that most of those attending the workshop believe that global climate change is real, and that the effects of climate change will require some action on the part of local government. In numerical terms, the survey responses were as follows:

- Half of the responses (21) indicate a need for data and information; many of these responses specify a need for information about the effects of climate change at the community or watershed scale.
- Nearly one quarter (9) of the responses highlight the need for outreach efforts and/or materials.
- One tenth (4) of the responses indicate a need for guidance materials on preparing for the effects of climate change.
- Another one tenth (4) indicate a need for funding to plan for or implement response measures.
- Three responses call for state-level leadership.
- Two responses indicate a need for infrastructure to protect coastal communities from the effects of climate change.

Table 1 on the following pages lists all the survey responses and the categories into which each response was placed.

Workshop participants were also encouraged to write down questions during the workshop presentations, so follow-up information could be provided in the event there wasn't time at the workshop for doing so. Three questions were submitted, but were not raised during the workshop:

*What changes in the Earth as a whole do we see which may make reference to the past a poor predictor of the future?*

*Are trends in Oregon climate different than trends in other parts of the world, or Earth as a whole?*

*What was the maximum stand in sea level during past inter-glacial periods compared with today?*

**Table 1. Responses to the question “What do cities and counties need from state and federal agencies related to climate change?”, and categories of responses**

Survey response	Data and/or Information	Guidance	Leadership	Funding	Outreach	Infrastructure	Question or Concern
What will over building do to the coast line?	X						X
How would you stop PUDs (lots of homes/planned unit developments) going in along the coast?		X					
Regional or community-specific information regarding effects of global warming/climate change	X						
Recommended course(s) of action to mitigate effects of sea level rise and other climate change concerns		X					
Grant programs to prepare community plans to address climate change.				X			
Want to know the possible scenarios that might result from climate change.	X						
Access to the latest climate change scientific data and how the Oregon Coast may be affected.	X						
Technical support to help determine how the ocean levels will change— which properties will be hit the most.	X						
What direction of tech [standards] can we add to our code to help? Roof top gardens – more trees?		X					
Impact of climate change on coast	X						
1. What/how will climate change impact sea level/flood elevations/coastal erosion?	X						
2. What are the changes in ocean temperature expected to be?	X						
Effects on water resources	X						

Survey response	Data and/or Information	Guidance	Leadership	Funding	Outreach	Infrastructure	Question or Concern
Effects on weather and ocean impacts	X						
Effect on energy resources	X						
In general—what are all the possible impacts?	X						
Estimates of beach narrowing.	X						
Effects of shoreline armoring in regards to sea level change	X						
Concern: Changes in frequency and intensity of storms and the effect that has on design standards and other aspects of planning.	X						X
Concern: Changes in ocean conditions causing changes in productivity and species composition.	X						X
Concern: Sea level rise, changes in rainfall altering salinity and other aspects of estuarine habitat.	X						X
Concern: Change in climate may introduce new diseases and pests to the area.	X						X
Will local governments need to change zoning codes to address effects of climate change -- e.g., larger setbacks from ocean resources?		X					X
An informational brochure for the public and educational information for decision makers would be helpful to inform communities about effects of climate change.					X		
White paper explaining that climate projections are based on modeling, and expressed by bureaucrats on IPCC, are nowhere close to a scientific consensus and that even if close to useful would take centuries to occur.					X		
Also that south coast is rising, due to tectonics, faster than rise of sea level.					X		
Simplified scientific data to explain to the public the necessity to take action on this topic.	X				X		
Educational component in the school system.					X		
What is the level of confidence around the estimates of possible sea level	X						X

Survey response	Data and/or Information	Guidance	Leadership	Funding	Outreach	Infrastructure	Question or Concern
change and air temperature changes?							
Effect communication with the press and public regarding how much impact is due to “man” and how much is normal processes—if possible.					X		
Concerted political action.			X				
Direct state actions to reduce greenhouse gasses.			X				
Financial assistance to local governments to prepare and implement plans to reduce greenhouse gasses.				X			
High priority for public education efforts.					X		
Funding to do local assessments of vulnerability of infrastructure - - sewer, especially.				X			
Stormwater overflow during flooding from rains.	X						X
Tsunami alert—timeframe for evacuation.					X		X
Structural protections from gales.						X	
Levee reinforcements.						X	
Grants to apply for additional support to make plans.				X			
Unified message.			X		X		