



**OREGON**

Department of  
Land Conservation  
& Development

# Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

Understanding how climate change may affect Oregon communities.

## Overview

Climate change is altering how people live, make a living, and maintain their sense of place. Because of this, the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) is working on an effort called the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, which will help us understand how climate change may affect existing and future social vulnerabilities across Oregon. This information will help state agencies, policymakers and others develop climate change adaptation actions that support people's wellbeing, livelihoods, and community identity.

DLCD recognizes that taking steps to adapt to climate change is not a substitute for taking immediate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, climate impacts are already underway and even if emissions are reduced, additional impacts are inevitable. Agencies and policy makers need to plan for these changes.

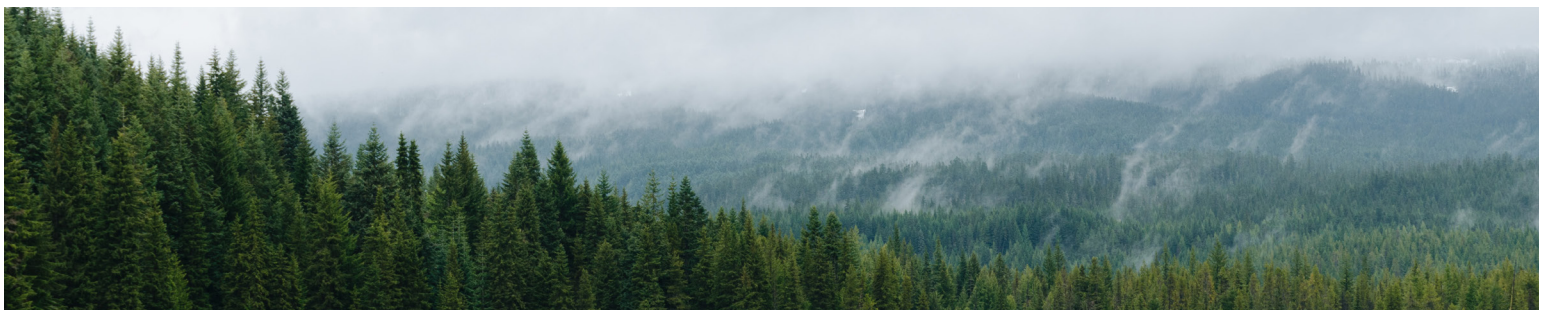
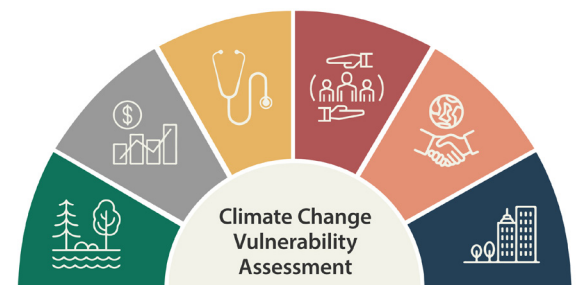
The Legislature is providing funds to DLCD to coordinate and produce this assessment.

This assessment is not intended to propose or develop specific adaptation measures. Rather, it will be used to better understand community values so that agencies and policymakers can choose adaptation measures that will support community needs. Future community engagement will need to occur before adaptation measures are implemented.

## Why are we doing this work?

Many state agencies have examined how climate change is likely to affect the communities and regions they serve. Although state agencies and policymakers have no shortage of ideas about how to adapt to a changing climate, they do not have a way to evaluate which adaptation measures best support the needs and values of communities across the state.

The Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment will fill this gap and help them determine which adaptation strategies fit the values and needs of their communities.

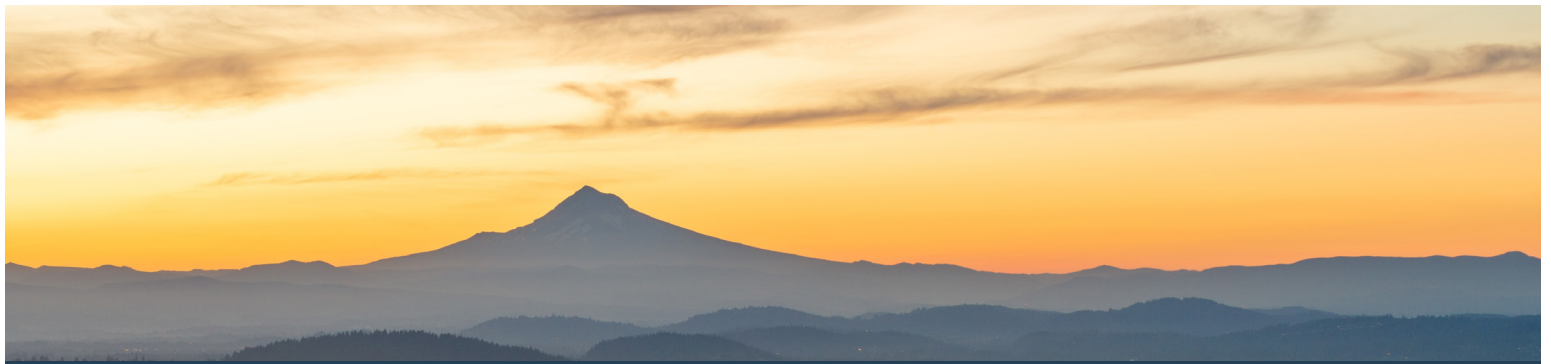


Please visit DLCD's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment web page to learn more:  
[oregon.gov/lcd/CL/Pages/Vulnerability-Assessment.aspx](https://oregon.gov/lcd/CL/Pages/Vulnerability-Assessment.aspx)

## How will this work be completed?

Interviews will be conducted with community leaders and a series of regional workshops will be held to develop a shared understanding of the effects of climate change on local communities. The Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Advisory Group, which represents a diverse range of interests across the state, will guide the assessment process and outreach approaches, and help ensure that the recommended next steps to implement a climate change adaptation program reflect the findings of the vulnerability assessment.

Information will be gathered regionally and analyzed using interactive, online models to examine the effects of various approaches to climate change adaptation on people and their communities. The completed models will be made available to state agencies, local governments, community-based stakeholders, and others and will help them visualize the unique connections in each community that affect wellbeing, livelihoods, and community identity as they relate to climate change.



## When will this work take place?

The vulnerability assessment will be completed by June 2023. After this date, DLCD will maintain and refine resulting models as well as work with state agencies, policymakers, and others to use the tools to evaluate the effects of proposed adaptation policies and projects on wellbeing, livelihoods, and community identity.

## What will the results of this work be?

- Eight posters that visually describe the physical effects of climate change within each of the state's natural hazard mitigation regions.
- A summary report of information gathered from interviews and community workshops across the state and recommendations for further action to be considered by the Oregon Legislature and state agencies.
- A set of interactive, online models that describe the process and outcomes of the assessment, which will help state agencies and policymakers evaluate how proposed policies and adaptation projects support community values and avoid unintended negative consequences.

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