



# Oregon

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TO: Land Conservation and Development Commission

FROM: Jim Rue, Director  
Christine Shirley, Climate Change Resilience Coordinator

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 11, July 23-24, 2020, LCDC Meeting**



## BRIEFING ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FRAMEWORK

### I. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

This agenda item updates the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) on progress towards the publication of the Oregon Climate Change Adaptation Framework (Framework).

**Purpose.** To bring commissioners up to date on this multi-agency effort.

**Objective.** To receive feedback on the strategy, and support for the Policy Option Package to continue the work.

For further information about this report, please contact Christine Shirley, Climate Change Resilience Coordinator, at 503-934-0027 or [christine.shirley@state.or.us](mailto:christine.shirley@state.or.us).

### II. BACKGROUND

At the request of Governor Brown, department staff are revising the 2010 Oregon Climate Change Adaptation Framework. The project began in January 2019 with the formation of the Climate Change Adaptation Workgroup (Workgroup), comprised of representatives from 25 state agencies and coordinated by DLCDC staff. Workgroup review of the 2010 Framework found that while the risk drivers of climate change remain largely unchanged since 2010, the consequences are unfolding faster and with greater intensity than expected a decade ago. More is known, furthermore, about how climate change affects people, infrastructure, and ecosystems. For this reason, the Workgroup expanded discussion of the consequences of climate change. Strategic adaptive responses to these consequences are offered under six themes: the Economy, Natural World, Built Environment, Public Health, Cultural Heritage, and Social Systems.

Workgroup members recognize that an effective state program of climate change adaptation will require strong leadership, a commitment to equitable adaptation, a better

understanding of who and what is vulnerable to the consequences of climate change, a culture of interagency cooperation, and a means to ensure climate change is integrated into agency operations.

## **A. A STATE PROGRAM OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION**

Over months of deliberation, workgroup members have identified five overarching actions needed for the state to move forward with an enterprise-wide response to climate change.

- 1. Provide Leadership:**  
Establish a governance structure comprised of state agency leaders empowered to set direction and allocate resources;
- 2. Embrace Equity**  
Engage disproportionately affected frontline and marginalized communities to ensure investments are targeted where they are needed most;
- 3. Assess Vulnerability**  
Produce a rigorous and comprehensive vulnerability assessment intended to help leadership prioritize and target adaptation actions where and for whom they are most needed;
- 4. Support Collaboration**  
Encourage a culture of interagency collaboration by building an information sharing and coordination platform so that state leadership and staff can draw from the same vetted data and information and can easily communicate across agencies to develop coordinated responses to climate change;
- 5. Mainstream Climate Adaptation**  
Integrate climate change adaptation into agency work, including missions, authorities, programs, plans and budget requests.

These also were submitted as action items to the Oregon Natural Hazard Mitigation plan. Recommendations 2 and 3 may be of particular interest to the commission.

## **B. FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATION 2: EMBRACE EQUITY**

One of the Framework's guiding principles is to "Embrace equitable and inclusive processes and actions that center frontline and marginalized communities and foster their resilience." The Oregon Health Authority and Department of Forestry were able to support this principle by providing supplementary funding to engage the services of a consultant to help the Workgroup think through and operationalize this principle. The result will be an Equity Blueprint, intended for use by state agencies when scoping, planning, and implementing climate change adaptation measures.

**C. FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATION 3: ASSESS VULNERABILITY**

Workgroup members also identified an urgent need to complete an enterprise-wide climate change vulnerability assessment. The qualitative descriptions of vulnerability developed in the draft Framework are insufficient to help decision makers identify populations, communities, or systems most at risk from deleterious effects of climate change. In response, a vulnerability assessment is included as a funding request in DLCD's Climate Change Adaptation Policy Option Package. A comprehensive climate change vulnerability assessment would use internally consistent data and methodologies across the enterprise, allowing decision makers to compare climate change consequences across agencies and sectors. A multi-agency vulnerability assessment will, furthermore, help to identify impacted communities from several perspectives thereby helping to identify those most affected by climate change, as called for in Governor Brown's Executive Order 20-04.

**D. DRAFT FRAMEWORK PUBLIC REVIEW**

DLCD will begin circulating the draft Framework among interested parties beginning in August. Members have identified over 300 interest groups and community-serving organizations who will be contacted by email. Staff intend to additionally conduct up to ten in depth interviews by telephone with community serving organizations who may not respond to a survey. These contacts will be followed by a webinar during which time staff will ask questions of participants about their climate change adaptation priorities and solicit comments on the draft Framework. A more general call for comment also will be made through DLCD's GovDelivery email subscription service. Staff have updated the climate change adaptation section of the DLCD webpage and established a unique email box where comments may be delivered to the Workgroup. The Workgroup expects to publish the revised Framework in December 2020.

**E. SEVERAL ADAPTATION STRATEGIES FALL WITHIN DLCD'S AUTHORITY**

Several short-term strategies developed in the Framework fall within DLCD's authority to implement. These include:

- Continuing the Climate Change Resilience Coordinator position to continue to coordinate the leadership structure for the Climate Change Adaptation Work Group
- Managing a contract to complete the climate change vulnerability assessment
- Continuing to participate in inter agency councils and teams including but not limited to: the Oregon Coordinating Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia, the Governor's Wildfire Council, The Global Warming Commission, the Environmental Justice Task Force, and the Governor's new Interagency Workgroup on Climate Impacts to Impacted Communities
- Supporting the Every Mile Counts rulemaking effort for urban redevelopment and livable places

- Supporting the 100-year Water Vision implementation efforts
- Continuing to participate on multi-state climate change forums, such as the Pacific Coast Collaborative
- Providing information and technical assistance on how cities and counties can leverage Oregon's comprehensive planning program to mitigate and adapt to climate change
- Continuing to advise coastal cities and counties on natural hazard reduction techniques, particularly in areas affected by sea level rise
- Working with the Oregon Health Authority on implementation of the State Health Improvement Plan including providing cities with information about how to correct or avoid creation of urban heat islands
- Ensuring that flood prone cities and counties actively participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and encouraging participation in the Community Rating System
- Working with the Office of Emergency Management to improve local access to FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants, which now allow funds to be directed to projects that reduce the deleterious effects of climate change
- Integrating climate change equity and adaptation into DLCD programs, projects, and grant criteria.

### **Summary Considerations and Constraints**

**Considerations.** It is one of DLCD's leading biennial priorities to both respond to (adapt) and to mitigate (reduce the effects) of a changing climate. We believe this is one of the most serious issues of our time. Actions we take now, while not immediately evident, could help maintain a livable natural and social ecosystem for future generations.

**Constraints.** Staff were able to initiate this update using federal Coastal Management funds. The position for the original Framework (2010) has been eliminated through the loss of federal funds due to a lawsuit over forest practices. Without the Policy Option Package to continue this work, progress will likely be lost.

The Climate Change Adaptation Policy Option Package includes a funding request for one full time position to continue coordinating with state agencies to implement the Framework over the next biennium. The position also would allow DLCD to work with cities and counties to incorporate climate change adaptation provisions into their comprehensive community plans. Several jurisdictions have already asked for this type of assistance.

### **III. RECOMMENDED ACTION/CONCLUSION**

Staff would appreciate commissioners' guidance in response to the following questions:

1. Do you have particular concerns about climate change adaptation that should be addressed in Climate Change Adaptation Framework?
2. Are there additional measures that should be included in the DLCD actions?

We hope to be able to continue this work, together.

IV. **ATTACHMENTS**

A. **ONE-PAGE OVERVIEW**