STEP TWO:
Identify Climate Risks

This is a checklist of steps you can take to help identify and assess climate-related health risks in your jurisdiction.

FIRST STEPS

__ Review the Oregon Climate and Health Profile Report, which provides an overview of climate projections and health risks in Oregon.

__ Familiarize yourself with the latest NW Climate Assessment Report, especially Chapter 7, "Human Health: Impacts and Adaptation". You can also view a presentation of the NW Regional Climate Assessment hosted by our Climate and Health program in November, 2013.

__ Here are some web-based tools that might help you assess and describe local risks:
- To locate your county in the USGS Data Viewer, click on the "viewer", then click on Oregon and select your county to generate a quick report on projected changes in temperature.
- Visit the Oregon Drought Monitor to see current and past drought declarations in your county.
- Use the Wildfire Risk Explorer to get a better understanding of wildfire risks.
- Use NOAA's Coastal Flooding Impacts Viewer to explore potential impacts due to sea level rise and storm surge.

__ Review Oregon's Public Health Hazard Vulnerability Assessment Report

__ Review Oregon's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, especially the risk assessment for your region.

NEXT STEPS

__ Identify staff in your department who are integral to this work and those who may be personally interested. These could include, but are not limited to, staff who work in:

- environmental health
- public health preparedness
- epidemiology
- communicable disease
- drinking water
- chronic disease prevention
- injury prevention

It also helps to connect with staff from other departments. Consider inviting staff or existing partners from the following types of departments:

- Planning or community development
- Emergency management
- Transportation
- Public works; water, sewer, environmental services

___ Invite everyone to 2 consecutive meetings. Here are some example Climate and Health Meeting Invitations and Meeting Agendas.

___ In the first meeting, consider using or adapting the Oregon Climate and Health Profile Presentation to get the conversation started. You can print out the Executive Summary and the Infographic for handouts.

___ In the second meeting, consider using the Prioritizing Climate Impacts Presentation. You will also need to select a process for ranking climate impacts. You can use the Local Climate Change Health Risk Assessment Tool and Guidelines developed by Benton County Health Department. Alternatively, you can lead a less formal process where you walk through the potential risks outlined in the Oregon Climate and Health Profile Report and qualitatively assess whether they are low, medium, or high level risks in your area.

___ After meeting with internal partners, develop a local Climate Risk Profile that is specific to the climate impacts in your area. Send your draft Climate Risk Profile to partners and ask them to review the document and provide feedback. Consider having additional experts review the Climate Risk Profile before you finalize the document. You can then use your local Climate Risk Profile to communicate local climate risks and priorities. It will also help to guide your planning efforts as you move forward.