

How do we Engage Stakeholders and Assess our Strengths and Vulnerabilities?

This checklist can help assess vulnerabilities and engage in meaningful dialogue with stakeholders to better understand community strengths and needs.

FIRST STEPS

- Review the following resources on vulnerability:
 - The vulnerability section of the [Oregon Climate and Health Profile Report](#)
 - The Human Health section of the [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#).
 - Oregon's [Public Health Hazard Vulnerability Assessment](#)
 - Your regional risk assessment within the State's latest [Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan](#).

- Review a summary of [Lessons Learned](#) from previous Climate and Health Planning efforts in Oregon.

- Review the Oregon Climate and Health Program's Social Vulnerability Assessment materials (*available Spring 2015*).

- Review your Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for your jurisdiction. You can find links to many of these documents on the [Conference of Local Health Officials webpage](#).

- Identify community strengths and resources through existing plans, partnerships, and research. Some helpful tools for doing this include:
 - [The Community Toolbox: Identifying community assets and resources](#)
 - [Healthy People 2020 Brainstorm: Community Assets](#)
 - [Example of a county-level asset inventory framework](#)
 - [Best Practices in Local Mitigation Planning: Identify Community Assets](#)

- Use Oregon’s [Climate and Health Equity resource page](#) to review the concepts of environmental justice. Practice talking about these issues in the context of climate change.

- Consider which populations may be particularly vulnerable within your jurisdiction. This will be partly based on the climate impacts you have identified as your greatest risks. For example, if “Wildfire” is a key concern in your communities, vulnerable groups listed in the [Oregon Climate and Health Profile Report](#) include: people with existing illnesses like asthma, infants, children, older adults, private well users, and people living in rural areas or at the wildland/urban interface. Consider what kind of further assessment, mapping, or research is needed for future planning.

NEXT STEPS

- Host a community event to raise awareness and gather input. The event can be organized in different ways. You could present your new local Climate Risk Profile, invite guest speakers, break out into workgroups by topic, or show a film to facilitate dialogue. The [Local Climate Events](#) tool provides a summary of recent community events that have occurred over the last few years in Oregon – each take slightly different approaches and can give you ideas for how you might organize your event.

- Gather community input to better understand health concerns, climate change priorities, and community solutions. You may want to use the [Story Project](#) tool to develop a project for collecting more input from your community. At this point in the process, stakeholder engagement can be more open-ended and help you “take the pulse” on how community members are thinking about health effects of climate change.

- Consider asking partners and stakeholders what kind of additional information is needed for climate change decision-making. What kinds of maps or data are needed to make informed decisions? Consider using the following resources:
 - [Environmental Health Indicators of Climate Change](#), Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists.

- Environmental Public Health Tracking, [Climate Change Data Portal](#)
- [Developing Climate Change Environmental Public Health Indicators: Guidance for Local Health Departments](#), Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, September 2013

— You may also be able to use the EPA's new [EJ SCREEN](#) or [C-FERST](#) tools to assess specific vulnerabilities in your community.

— Get in touch with [Oregon's Climate and Health Program](#) to understand what kinds of additional technical assistance may be available.

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