

Combatting Climate Change is Central to DLCD's Work



Largely due to pollution from human activities, global temperatures are rising and extreme weather events are growing more frequent and severe. The climate changes already underway, and the coming climate disruption, are a major challenge for today's Oregonians. Oregon's Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) uses many strategies to reduce climate change and respond to its effects.

Working to Cut Pollution Land Use and Transportation Planning

Transportation is the largest contributor to global warming in Oregon, making up about 40% of Oregon's climate emissions. While other agencies work to change how much cars and trucks pollute, DLCD works to increase transportation choices and reduce how often Oregonians must drive.

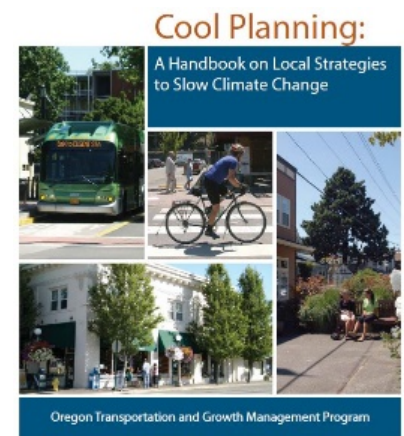
Well-designed communities allow Oregonians to choose public transit, biking, or walking for errands, outings, and trips to work, school, and places of worship. Oregon's **urban growth boundaries and planning framework** are a proven way to cut greenhouse gas pollution from transportation.



Through **grants and technical assistance to local governments**, DLCD and our partner agency the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) help create communities with shorter and less frequent car trips by implementing Oregon's planning goals related to transportation, housing, and urban growth. Land use plans that mix housing with employment and others uses mean families no longer need to drive as much – saving them money and reducing pollution. DLCD also works with communities to place housing near transit so that residents aren't dependent on driving. For example, the Portland region's efforts to mix residential and employment uses and encouraging other means of travel has cut carbon emissions per capita by 22% since 1990 while saving the average household several hundred dollars a year.

DLCD has published resources for cities, such as **Cool Planning: A Handbook on Local Strategies to Slow Climate Change** (2011). We have also had statewide tours from national speakers, and hire consultants to help cities increase housing and transportation choices through ODOT and DLCD's **Transportation and Growth Management Program** and other planning grants.

With ODOT, DLCD helps lead the **Oregon Sustainable Transportation Initiative**, which provides a roadmap for reducing global warming pollution from transportation. Through assessment, scenario planning tools, and technical assistance, our agencies provide guidance on how much certain action cut pollution. Using the tools, the initiative allows communities to identify feasible ways to reduce the pollution from driving, such as reforming parking management, changing land use patterns, and increasing downtown housing.



Capturing Carbon Maintaining Working Farms and Forestlands

Oregon's working farms and forests keep carbon pollution sequestered in existing soils, plants and trees. Oregon's planning program – specifically Oregon's Planning Goal 3 (agricultural lands) and Goal 4 (forest lands) – help keep these lands in production, rather than converting them to other uses and releasing sequestered carbon.

Addressing the Biggest Climate Risks Natural Hazards Planning

Scientists project climate change will make Oregon's natural hazards more frequent and severe, and to bring new natural hazards. For the State of Oregon, DLCD builds and maintains the **Oregon Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan**, which identifies eleven natural hazards: coastal erosion, drought, dust storms, earthquakes, wildfire, floods, landslides, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, windstorms, and winter storms. This plan includes a description of each of the hazards, and explains what can be done to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of damage to life, property, and resources.



Helping the Most Impacted Communities Coastal Management and Climate Change

At the Oregon coast, sea level rise and increasing extreme storms and wave heights will worsen erosion and other coastal hazards. DLCD's Oregon Coastal Management Program developed an **exposure inventory of Oregon's estuaries** to serve as a statewide resource for sea level rise planning in and around estuaries. The inventory determines the assets and geographies most likely to be affected by sea level rise, and prioritizes areas to focus future resources and investigation.

Climate change is also increasing the acidity of coastal waters, making shellfish and other marine and estuarine species more vulnerable. DLCD staff participate on the **Oregon Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Task Force** and help maintain its web site. Additionally, DLCD coastal staff provide ongoing support, education, outreach, and technical assistance to various agencies and organizations on climate change topics at the national, state, and local level.

Identifying Risks and Responses Oregon Climate Change Adaptation Framework

At the direction of Governor Brown, DLCD is coordinating the State of Oregon's work on the **Oregon Climate Change Adaptation Framework**. The Framework explores the risks of climate change in Oregon and identifies how State agencies can most effectively respond to those risks. We are working with 23 state agencies – from Business Oregon to the Oregon Health Authority, the Oregon Department of Forestry to the Oregon Department of Energy, and many more. DLCD reviewed climate adaptation plans from 17 other states to identify the most effective strategies and approaches to government work and, over a period of ten months, vetted those strategies with a multi-agency group. The 2020 Framework builds on a 2010 Framework document, and will be adopted as part of Oregon's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.



Updating Oregon's Planning Program for Climate Change

In late 2020, DLCD will meet with stakeholders to discuss how Oregon's planning program might further reduce climate pollution and better prepare the state's environment and economy for the impacts of climate change. While the statewide planning program addresses climate change in multiple ways, the nineteen goals defining the program predate today's overwhelming science on the causes and risks of climate change. This exploratory discussion will not lead to revisions of any of the state's planning goals but will serve to identify potential issues and areas for further work.

Stay Informed and Connected

Learn more about DLCD's climate work at: www.oregon.gov/lcd/CL/.

Sign up for updates on DLCD's climate change work at public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORDLCD/subscriber/new.

Or contact Christine Shirley at (503) 934-0027 or christine.shirley@state.or.us. Thank you!