

**Climate Protection Planning**  
*Interior Issues Council Climate Change  
Task Force Meeting*

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# USA Mission

**Our mission is to build, serve and foster a movement of local governments to advance deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and achieve tangible improvements in local sustainability.**



- **Local Government Member Association & Network in 50 countries**
- **Technical Support and Policy Organization**
- **US – Focus on Climate Mitigation & Adaptation**
- **PNW Office in Seattle (Thanks!) – one of 6 regional offices**



# Climate Protection

**In the face of climate change and subsequent impacts, more and more communities and businesses are seeking successful approaches in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and developing preparedness strategies for current and future organizational practices.**



# Climate Protection Means. . .

**Reducing Energy Use and GHG Emissions**

**Improving Climate Resiliency**

Building Codes  
Water management  
Transportation  
Solid Waste  
Affordable Housing  
Public Health  
Urban planning

Recreation/Open Space  
Food security  
Economic development  
Community outreach  
Air/water quality  
Environmental justice

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**Improving Community Livability**

*Environment \* Equity \* Economy*

# Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

Even if we are able to freeze greenhouse gas emissions, we will still experience the impacts of global climate change for decades to come.

Many US communities (especially in Alaska) are particularly susceptible to flooding, coastal erosion, drought, and intense hurricanes and wildfires.

Adaptation work cannot proceed *instead of* or *in competition with* mitigation work. Mitigation and adaptation can be complementary strategies.

ICLEI's Adaptation tools are designed to work in concert with our Cities for Climate Protection's mitigation efforts.

Local governments engaged in climate protection work must continue to develop and implement effective emissions reductions plans in order to slow and ultimately stop climate change, even as they consider plans to make the community more climate resilient

# **A Two-Pronged Approach —Mitigation and Adaptation**

## **Mitigation:**

**Focuses on GHG reduction programs beginning with baseline inventories, goal setting, action plan development and implementation.**

## **Adaptation:**

**Focuses on building resiliency to climate change impacts through identifying vulnerable sectors, goal setting, and preparedness planning.**

# A Two-Pronged Approach

## Mitigation Milestones

- 1. Conduct a Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- 2. Set an Emissions Reduction Target
- 3. Develop a GHG Reduction Plan
- 4. Implement the Plan
- 5. Monitor and Reevaluate

## Adaptation Milestones

- 1. Conduct a Climate Resiliency Study
- 2. Prioritize Areas for Action and Set Goals
- 3. Develop a Climate Resilient Action Plan
- 4. Implement the Plan
- 5. Monitor and Reevaluate

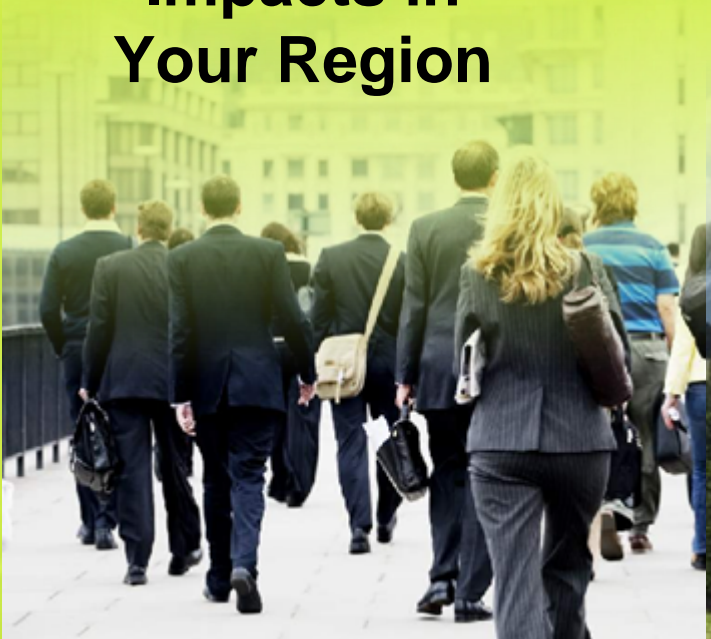
# Steps for Climate Adaptation Planning

**Follow and Tailor “Preparing for Climate Change: A Guidebook for Local, Regional, and State Governments**



# First 3 Steps from the Adaptation Guidebook Chapters

**1. Build Your  
Team &  
Understand  
the Climate  
Impacts in  
Your Region**



**2. Conduct Your  
Climate Change  
Vulnerability  
Assessment**



**3. Set Your  
Preparedness  
Goals &  
Prioritize**



# **Last Two Steps from the Adaptation Guidebook**

**4. Implement Your Plan**

**5. Measure and Update**

# Major Sectors Evaluated for Planning



- **Hydrology and water resources**
- **Agriculture**
- **Food Security**
- **Biodiversity/endangered species**
- **Forests**
- **Recreation**
- **Energy**
- **Transportation**
- **Community Infrastructure**
- **Business**
- **Health**
  - Heat, diseases, insects, wildfires, air quality
- **Cultural and Historical Heritage**

# City of Fort Collins

- **Climate Adaptation Planning Focused on Water Sector**
- **Partnered with NOAA's Western Water Assessment**



# Keene, New Hampshire

- **Pilot City for Developing Guidebook and ICLEI Milestones**
- **Completed Climate Adaptation Action Plan Report**



# Homer, Alaska

## Adaptation measures

This section includes recommendations for steps that the City of Homer can take to prepare the community for unavoidable climate change. Possible or likely impacts in Homer include disruption of commercial fisheries due to ocean acidification and warming waters, damage to infrastructure from more frequent and severe storms, water shortages due to increased evaporation of surface water, increased coastal erosion from rising sea levels and storm events, and increased wildfire risks due to hotter, drier conditions and continued bark beetle infestations.

The City of Homer has recently joined a pilot project sponsored by ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability aimed at developing guidelines to help cities meet the challenge of adaptation. Our first meeting with ICLEI staff and NOAA climate scientists was September 14. The Adaptation section of this plan will be updated as we learn more about possible climate impacts and about how other cities are preparing for change. We also hope that community members will share their ideas.

**The City of Homer will be proactive in helping to create a resilient local economy.**

1. Work with other groups and individuals to encourage local economic self-reliance, so that community needs are met by locally owned businesses and locally produced products as much as possible. Encourage a culture of "intergenerational equity."
2. Establish Homer as a "B-C" "hot spot."
3. Encourage and support a curriculum at the UAA Kachemak Bay campus specific to climate change and sustainability.
4. Anticipate and promote new opportunities in local agriculture.
5. Support green economic growth by promoting economic policies that encourage businesses that employ sustainable energy practices.
6. Anticipate population increases resulting from an influx of "climate refugees" and maintain growth management policies to maximize benefits and minimize adverse impacts.
7. Encourage water conservation.
8. Develop a new water source for the Homer community.



Proactive measures help build local economic self-reliance and reduce "spartan" greenhouse gas emissions.

**The City of Homer will take steps to protect existing infrastructure from the impacts of climate change.**



While still under construction, the Homer annual takes a beating during a winter storm event.

1. Inform decision making by providing information illustrating the impact of projected sea level rise, storm surges, and coastal bluff erosion within the city.
2. Develop management plans specific to Port and Harbor facilities on the Homer Spit (construction, maintenance, dredging, etc.) that take into account climate change impacts.

**The City of Homer will update emergency preparedness plans, taking into account likely climate impacts.**

1. Inventory the storm water runoff system and identify problem areas. Develop evacuation plans for flood-prone areas.
2. Increase fire fighting capability, for both wildfire and structural fires.

**The City of Homer will adopt wise policies for future development.**

1. Enact restrictions against development on erosion-prone bluffs.
2. Assess the City's future drinking water needs and options for addressing those needs.
3. Support use of wetland maps that are based on the hydrologic value of wetlands in planning and zoning.

# Miami-Dade, Florida

- Land use planning and building regulations
- Water supply and delivery
- Transportation and Infrastructure



- Conservation of natural lands and marine life
- Beaches and beach management
- Extreme events: emergency preparedness and response

# Benefits/Incentives



## GOVERNMENT

- Save taxpayers' dollars
- Prepared for change
- Build the local economy and create jobs
- Improve air quality
- Improve community health and safety
- Improve community livability
- Connect cities with new opportunities
- Create a legacy of leadership



## BUSINESS

- Save money
- Build new markets and expansion
- Improve performance through efficiency
- Improve employee working conditions
- Improve public image and stewardship
- Connect business with new markets through innovation
- Create a legacy of leadership

# Thank You



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