CLIMATE ADAPTATION
HOW ARE WESTERN STATES ADDRESSING IT?

Tuesday, Sept. 26 | 2 p.m. EDT | FREE CSG Webinar Presented by CSG West
State policies to prepare for future climate

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CSG West webinar
About the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions

- Independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization

- Working to advance strong policy and action to:
  - reduce greenhouse gas emissions
  - promote clean energy
  - strengthen resilience to climate impacts

- Brings city, state, and national policymakers together with businesses and other stakeholders.

- Ranks regularly among the top environmental think tanks in the world.
Business Environmental Leadership Council (BELC)
Climate change has made the West drier and hotter.

State policies to prepare for future climate change.

September 26, 2017
Climate change has raised sea levels (except in AK) and caused ocean acidification.
Economic impacts of climate change (without adaptation)

- Hot, arid counties to see economic loss of a few percent GDP
- Note this study does not consider water supply, disease vectors, population

Hsiang, Kopp, Jina, Rising, et al.
Understanding and responding to climate risks

Vulnerability = Exposure + Sensitivity

Mitigation (Reducing Greenhouse Gases)

Potential Impact

Adaptive Capacity

Traits that increase vulnerability to wildfires
- Increasing length of wildfire seasons and intensity of wildfires.
- Many residences in forested areas at risk
- Increasing temperatures
- Economic dependence on timber
- High proportion of vulnerable populations
- Little preparation for fires
- Low awareness among residents
- No firefighting equipment

Traits that decrease vulnerability to wildfires
- Land conservation
- Building codes
- Zoning regulations
- Fire prevention incentives
- Diverse economic reliance on natural resources
- Fire-resistant materials
- Effective forest fire management
- Emergency reserve
- Preparation for firefighting and evacuation

Mitigation (Reducing Greenhouse Gases)
Climate threat: wildfire
Reduce exposure with defensible space

http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_100feet
Climate threat: heat
Reduce sensitivity with home weatherization

https://energy.gov/eere/wipo/weatherization-assistance-program-1
Climate threat: sea level rise
Increase capacity with beach and dune restoration

http://climateadaptation.hawaii.gov/
Recommendations for state legislators

Communicate with local and regional experts about your state’s climate risks.

Example sources: State Climatologist, Universities, Local agencies (e.g., the Western Adaptation Alliance), Federal agencies (e.g., NOAA)

Fund a Climate Assessment, if your state doesn’t have one already.

Alter building codes, update design guidelines, and create incentive programs to reduce exposure/sensitivity and increase adaptive capacity

Examples: Firescaping and defensible spaces, rainwater harvesting, cool roofs and pavements, energy and water efficiency, stormwater trading programs
FOR MORE INFORMATION

C2ES.ORG

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Climate Resolve

- Founded in 2010
- "Wall to wall" climate organization
- Our theory of change is to put climate impacts and adaptation first
- Advocacy at state, regional and municipal level
  - Cool roofs
  - State laws on climate resilience
- Consulting services
  - State of California
  - Southern California Association of Governments
  - Los Angeles, Long Beach
- Communications
Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action (LARC)

• Founded in 2008
• Housed at UCLA
• Members include:
  • City of Los Angeles
  • City of Long Beach
  • City of Santa Clarita
  • City of Santa Monica
  • County of Los Angeles
  • Southern California Edison
  • Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
  • Southern California Assn of Governments
  • select NGOs and academia
This report explores five sectors and shows how they are interconnected.
Climate change is driven by human emissions of greenhouse gases, and we are already experiencing its effects.
ARCCA
The Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation

A network of leading regional collaboratives from across California that work together to advance adaptation statewide and increase local capacity to build community resilience.
Resources

2017 Legislative Update

• Fact sheet to be released in early October

Learning Session Webinars

• 10/17 – Voluntary Resilience Standards
• TBD – Climate Justice Working Group Findings

Join Us

• Join ARCCA as an affiliate member
• California Resiliency Practitioners List Serv & Directory

Learn more at www.ARCCAcalifornia.org.
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Questions?

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