

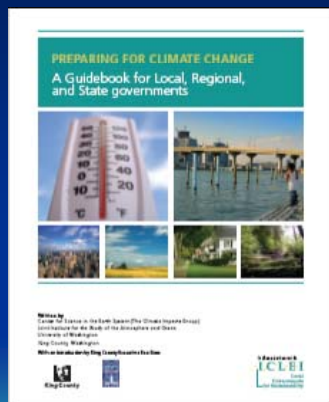
Preparing for Climate Change: A Guidebook for Local, Regional and State Governments



King County

Elizabeth Willmott
King County Executive Office
Global Warming Coordinator

Preparing for Climate Change Guidebook



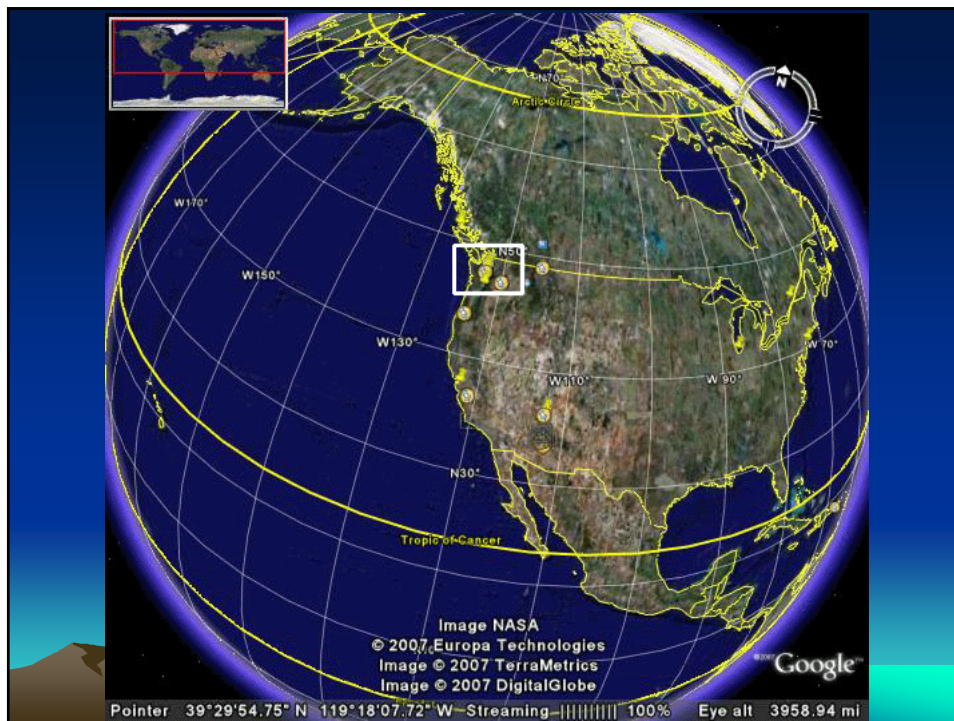
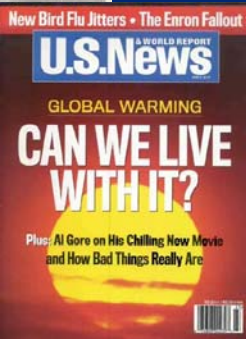

Co-authored by
The Climate Impacts Group
and
King County (WA)

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King County Executive Ron Sims

Carbon Sink

A leader in trying to adapt to a warming world, Ron Sims is head of the Seattle area's King County, which purchased development rights in the Snoqualmie Forest. The woods will be kept intact to absorb carbon dioxide emissions and prevent rainwater from running off.



King County Climate Conference October 2005



Christine Todd Whitman and Ron Sims

King County Executive Action Group on Climate Change

Interdepartmental Executive Action Team for Global Warming Preparedness

Executive Office / Office of Management and Budget

Jim Lopez, Deputy Chief of Staff, Team Lead
Elizabeth Willmott, Executive Fellow
Rod Brandon, Director of Environmental Sustainability
Maurea Brueger, Senior Advisor for Federal Relations
Karan Wolf, Senior Executive Policy Analyst
Carolyn Duncan, Communications Director
Helene Ellickson, Budget Supervisor
Chris Bushnell, Economist
Sabra Schneider, Senior Web Developer

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Pam Bissonnette, Director
Bob Burns, Deputy Director
Dave Menthle, Regional Water Policy Analyst
Jane Lamensdorf-Bucher, Regional Water Planning Program Manager
Don Thaller, Manager, Wastewater Treatment Division
Doug Howell, Special Projects Manager, Air Quality and Climate Initiative
Jim Simmonds, Water Quality and Quantity Unit Supervisor
Noel Treat, Policy and Government Relations Officer, Director's Office, DNRP
John Willenbacher, Energy Manager, Director's Office, DNRP
Lori Mean, Energy and Resources Conservation Program Manager
Beth Humphreys, Senior Planner, Solid Waste Division
Katie Spataro, Solid Waste Division Green Building Program Project Manager
Patti Southerd, Solid Waste Division
Steve Foley, Water and Land Resources, Senior Engineer
Logan Harris, Communications Specialist

Department of Transportation

Gary Prince, Senior Project Manager in the Director's Office
Jim Boon, Vehicle Maintenance Manager of Metro Transit
Windell Mitchell, Division Director of Fleet Administration
Christina O'Clair, Transportation Planner
Rochelle Ogershok, Public Affairs Coordinator, DOT

Department of Development and Environmental Services

Harry Reinert, Special Projects Manager, Director's Office of DDES
Cynthia Moffitt, Land Use Services Division, Project Manager
Todd Hurley, Land Use Services Division, Earth Scientist
Mike Dykeman, Director of Building Services
Joe Miles, Land Use Services Division Director

Office of Business Relations and Economic Development

Doug Eglington, Business Relations and Economic Development
Julia Larson, Business Relations and Economic Development

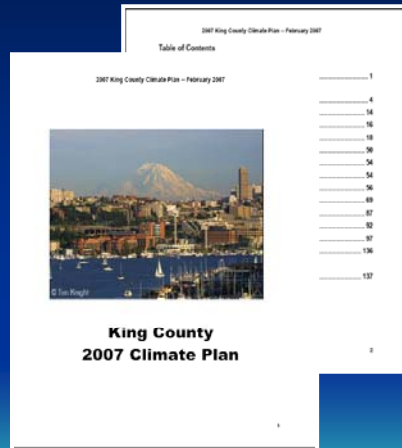
Department of Public Health

Dr. Ngazi Ojien, Director of Environmental Health
Anne Bikle, Public Health Planner in the Environmental Health Division

Department of Executive Services

Jim Burt, General Government CIP Supervisor
Bud Parker, ADMS - CIP Supervisor, Facilities Management Division
Jim Napolitano, Major Projects Manager
Mike Stachowiak, Chief Engineer
Bob Williams, Facilities and Maintenance Division Senior Financial Analyst

2007 King County Climate Plan



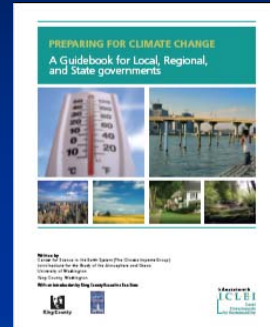
- Nationally recognized
- Among the most comprehensive regional climate plans in the US
- Bold emissions reduction goals

Today's Focus

How does a local or regional government investigate and evaluate the priority vulnerabilities and risks it faces in light of climate change?

How to Investigate Your Vulnerabilities and Risks

- [Scope the climate change impacts to your major sectors \(Chapter 4\)](#)
- Conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment (Chapter 8)
- Conduct a climate change risk assessment (Chapter 9)



Ask the Climate Question



Collect and review important information about major sectors

Climate changes in

- Temperature
- Precipitation
- Snowpack
- Sea Level

could have impacts on...

- [Human health](#)
- [Flooding, stormwater and wastewater](#)
- [Streamflow and water supply](#)
- Soil and water for agriculture
- Roads and bridges
- Hydropower
- Coastal livelihoods
- Forest health and biodiversity

List your planning areas

Areas in which a government or community manages, plans or makes policy

- [Human health](#)
- [Flooding, stormwater and wastewater](#)
- [Streamflow and water supply](#)
- Agriculture
- Roads and bridges
- Watershed planning for biodiversity

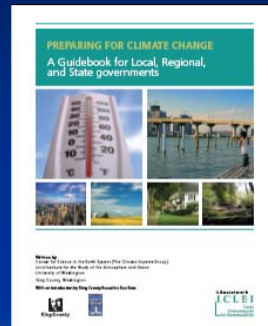
Know What You Don't Know



- What are the existing trends in your area for [temperature](#), [snowpack](#) and [rainfall](#)?
- How credible are your sources?
- How confident are your forecasts?
- [Keep a log of your answers](#)

How to Evaluate Your Vulnerabilities

- Scope the climate change impacts to your major sectors (Chapter 4)
- [Conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment \(Chapter 8\)](#)
- Conduct a climate change risk assessment (Chapter 9)



Evaluate the Systems Related to Your Planning Areas

1. How **sensitive** are the **built, natural and human systems** in your planning areas to climate change?
2. How much **adaptive capacity** do they (or you) have?

Are your systems sensitive to climate?

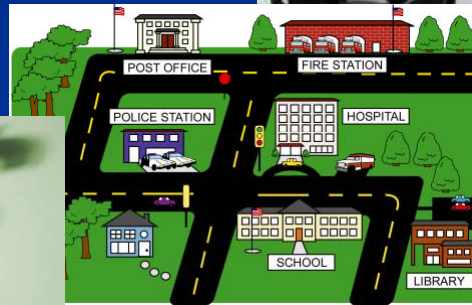
<i>Questions to Determine Sensitivity</i>	<i>Sample Indications and Illustrations</i>
Is the (human) community already under stress?	Poverty, disease, social isolation
Is there existing competition for natural resources?	Drinking water supply, hydropower, salmon
Does the species require specific living conditions?	Water temperature, soil moisture
Is the built system exposed to existing climate variability?	Coastal homes, floodplain developments

How Much Adaptive Capacity Do Your Systems Have?

<i>Planning area</i>	<i>System</i>	<i>Examples of Adaptive Capacity</i>
Human health	Human	Physical fitness, money to install A/C
Snowpack	Built, human	Reclaimed water system, conservation program
Floodplains	Built	Ability to migrate or relocate, build new berms, armor or sea walls

How Vulnerable Are We...

to summer heat?



Risk = Consequence x Probability

- What are the known economic, ecological, social, cultural, and/or legal consequences of a climate change impact?

X

- How likely is it that the impact will occur?

=

Risk

What Are Your Priority Planning Areas?

	Low vulnerability	High vulnerability
High risk	May be priority planning areas	Should be priority planning areas
Low risk	Are unlikely to be priority planning areas	May be priority planning areas

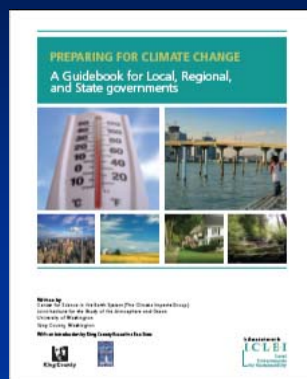
Risk tolerance is an "X factor"

Preparing for Climate Change Later Chapters

How does a local or regional government develop preparedness strategies in its priority planning areas?

How does a government measure resilience?

Preparing for Climate Change



<http://www.cses.washington.edu/cig/fpt/planning/guidebook/gateway.php>

Contact:

Elizabeth Willmott

King County Executive Office

elizabeth.willmott@kingcounty.gov

(206) 296-4301

