

News Release

New Guidebook Now Available on Building Public Health Capacity for Climate Change

For immediate release

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The Resource Innovation Group and Biositu, LLC, announce the release of *Public Health and Climate Change: A Guide for Increasing the Capacity of Local Public Health Departments*. Climate change is already impacting public health around the world, a trend that can be expected to increase in the United States and elsewhere as temperatures rise. Responding to the seriousness of the coming challenge, many local health departments have started integrating planning for the health impacts of climate change into existing programs in spite of stretched budgets and time. The new guidebook provides a much-needed framework for initiating and integrating climate planning within county, regional, and tribal public health departments and agencies. The strategies and activities presented in the guidebook enhance efforts to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for impacts. An upcoming series of webinars will complement the guidebook and further build institutional capacity to prepare for the health impacts of climate change.

The authors developed the guidebook using results and input from several projects that integrate climate and health, including climate change demonstration sites funded by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Northwest Health Foundation and participants in a series of workshops with public health workers across Oregon and the Northwest.

Alejandro Queral of the Northwest Health Foundation said, “The public health sector plays an essential role in building community resilience to the impacts of climate change. This guidebook is an essential resource for local public health systems seeking to prepare for and mitigate the very real impact of climate change in their communities.”

Co-author Stacy Vynne stated, “We hope that this guidebook builds off of the existing expertise and capacity of our public health sector to fill an identified gap in supporting departments and agencies in moving forward with planning.”

Co-author Adele Houghton added, “Local health departments and their partners in emergency preparedness are experts in safeguarding the public during and after natural disasters. This guidebook provides a framework for leveraging that expertise to create the conditions for long-term community prosperity and resilience.”

The guidebook is divided into four sections:

Section One: Overview of the impacts of climate change on public health.

Section Two: Opportunities and strategies for integrating climate planning across programs.

Section Three: Strategies for identifying and building unique external collaborations to help users meet their goals in a resource-efficient way.

Section Four: Recommendations for communicating with varied stakeholders.

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