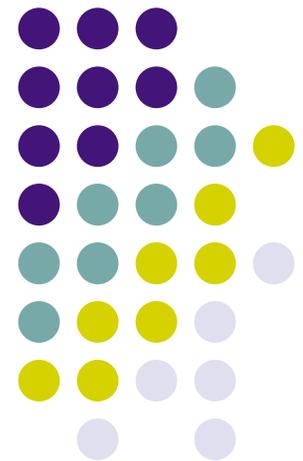


Ready for Change:

Preparing Public Health Agencies for the Impacts of Climate Change

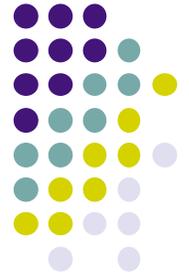


A presentation by the Climate Leadership Initiative

Contact: Stacy Vynne svynne@uoregon.edu 541 346 0467

climlead.uoregon.edu

Climate Leadership Initiative

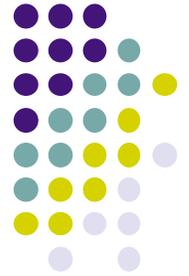


The Climate Leadership Initiative is a social-science based global climate change research, education, and technical assistance consortium between The Resource Innovation Group, a 501 (c)3 non-profit, and the Institute for a Sustainable Environment at the University of Oregon.

CLI is part of the new Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments program (NOAA's RISA) for the Pacific Northwest (with OCCRI, Idaho, PSU, Washington).

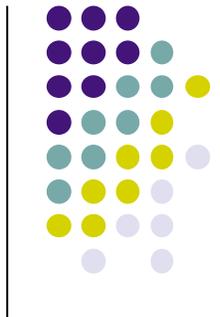


Today's Webinar



- Oregon Public Health Department Survey
- Public Health Mitigation
- Public Health Preparedness
- Future planning for workshops

Support Provided By



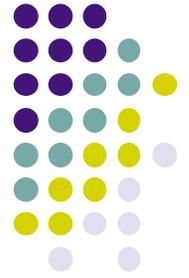
Conference of Local Health Officials



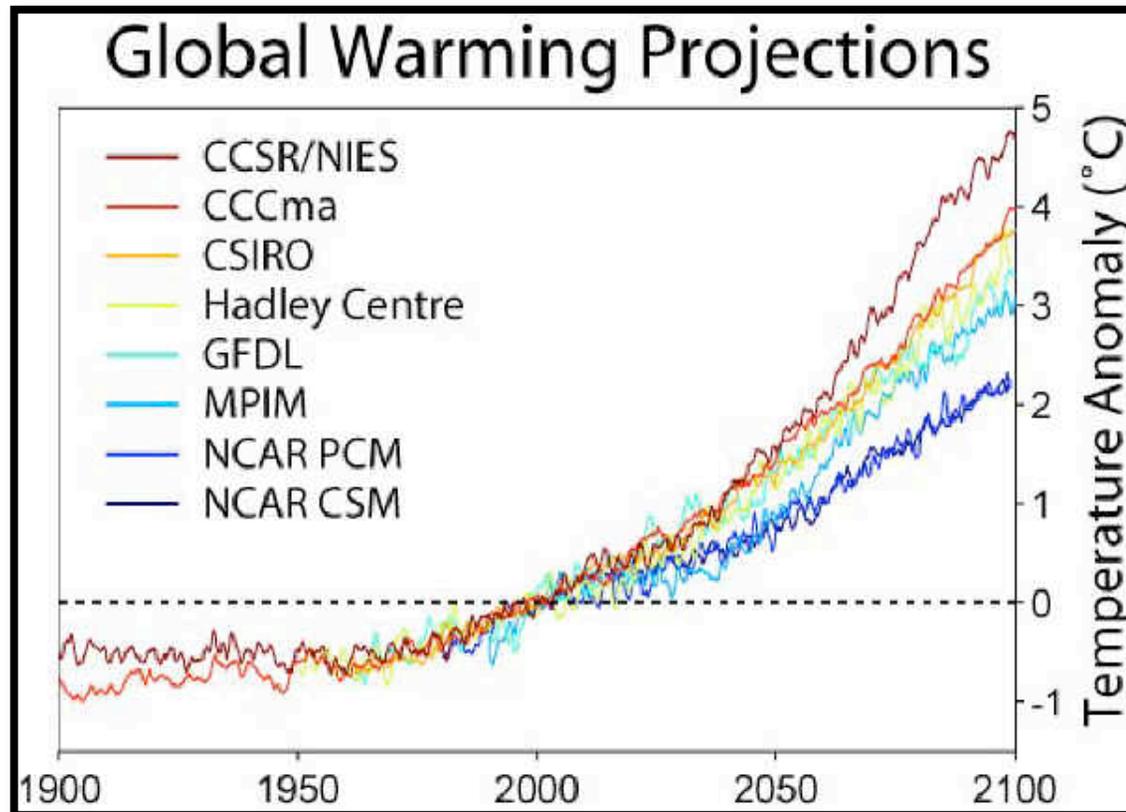
The Community's Partner for Better Health



Public Health and Climate Change



- “Unequivocal” evidence that mean temperatures are rising



CDC Potential Health Impacts of Climate Change



Weather Event	Health Effects	Population Most Affected
Heat waves	Heat stress	Extremes of age, athletes, people with respiratory disease
Extreme weather events, (rain, hurricane, tornado, flooding)	Injuries, drowning	Coastal, low-lying land dwellers, low SES
Droughts, floods, increased mean temperature	Vector-, food-and water-borne diseases	Multiple populations at risk
Sea-level rise	Injuries, drowning, water and soil salinization, ecosystem and economic disruption	Coastal, low SES
Drought, ecosystem migration	Food and water shortages, malnutrition	Low SES, elderly, children
Extreme weather events, droughts	Mass population movement, international conflict	General population
Increases in ground-level ozone, airborne allergens, and other pollutants	Respiratory disease exacerbations (COPD, asthma, allergic rhinitis, bronchitis)	Elderly, children, those with respiratory disease
Climate change generally; extreme events	Mental health	Young, displaced, agricultural sector, low SES

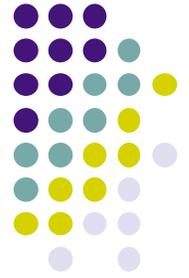
CDC Policy on Climate Change and Public Health: <http://www.cdc.gov/ClimateChange/policy.htm>

Public Health and Climate Change



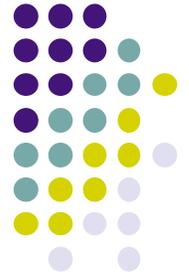
- Already play a pivotal role protecting communities
- Foundations for preparedness are already present in existing programs
- Opportunity to act as role model and build awareness

Oregon Public Health Survey



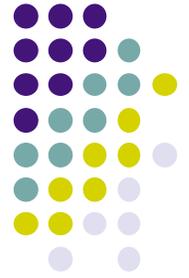
- Objectives
 - 1) assess current knowledge on health risks associated with climate change;
 - 2) assess current level of preparation to manage climate change associated health risks; and
 - 3) identify resource and training needs.
- Responses were received from 25 out of 35 counties with public health departments.

Oregon Public Health Survey: Results



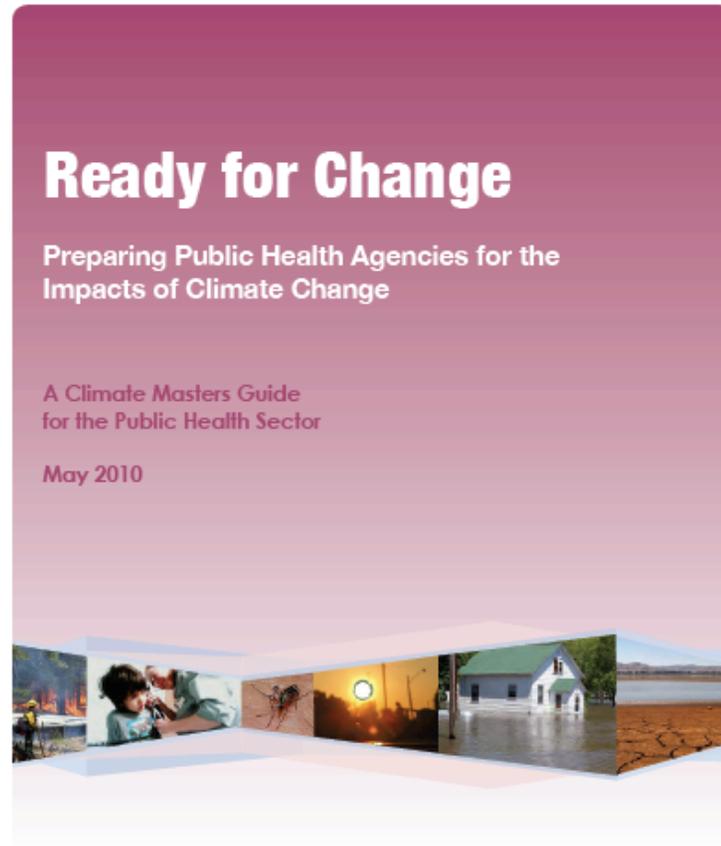
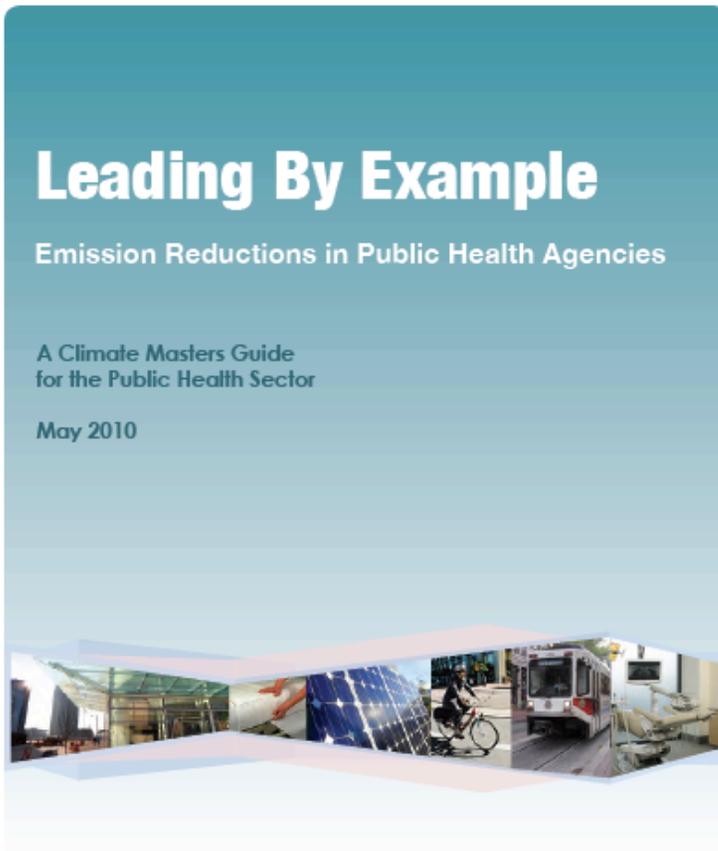
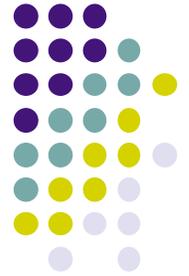
- Global climate change is a serious or very serious problem
- Many are knowledgeable about public health and climate change
- Expectation that climate change will have greater impacts in the next twenty years
- There is a need for dedicated additional resources

Oregon Public Health Survey: Recommendations

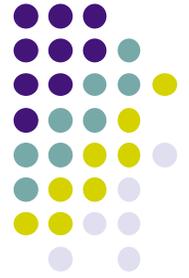


- Education as a means of increasing climate change priorities
- Provide local projections and local risks
- Identify opportunities for building on current programs
- Provide training for public health employees
- Develop networks for collaboration

Guidebooks: Overview and Introduction



Leading by Example: Emissions Reductions in Public Health Agencies



- Carbon emissions reduction challenge
- Stewards of public dollars
- Role model



Leading by Example:

Emissions Reductions in Public Health Agencies



- Capacity Assessment
- Green Building Design
- Reduce Energy Waste
- Alternative Energy Generation
- Employee and Visitor Transportation
- Food
- Purchasing and products
- Waste
- Water
- Outreach

Capacity Assessment



THE PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT LIFE-CYCLE
(STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT - STRATEGIC PLANNING)

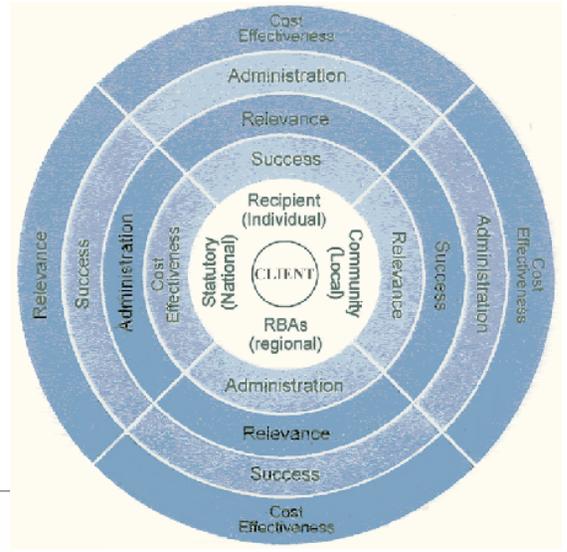
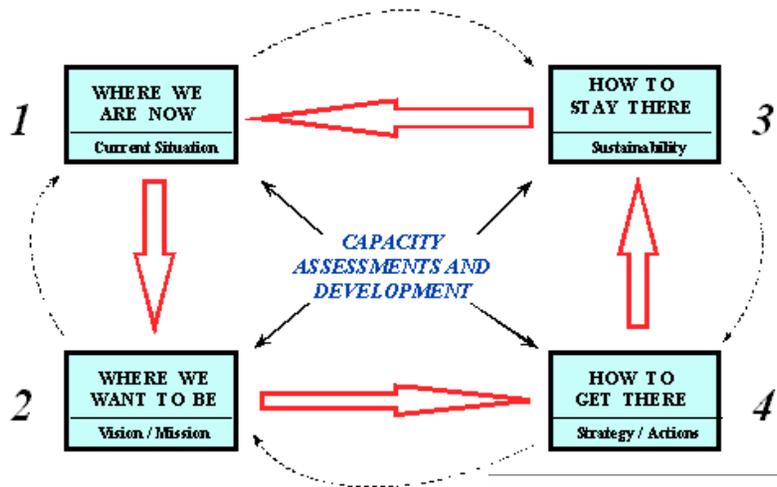
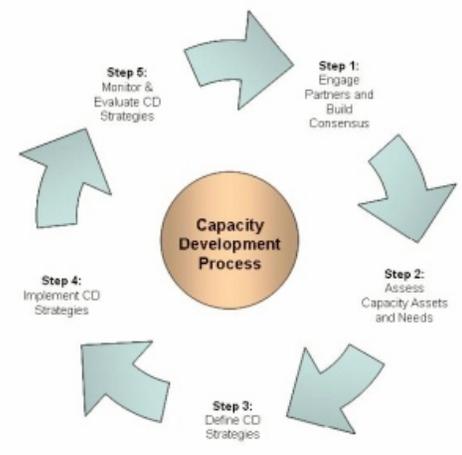


Figure 1

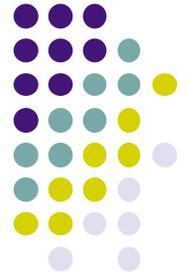


Green Building Design

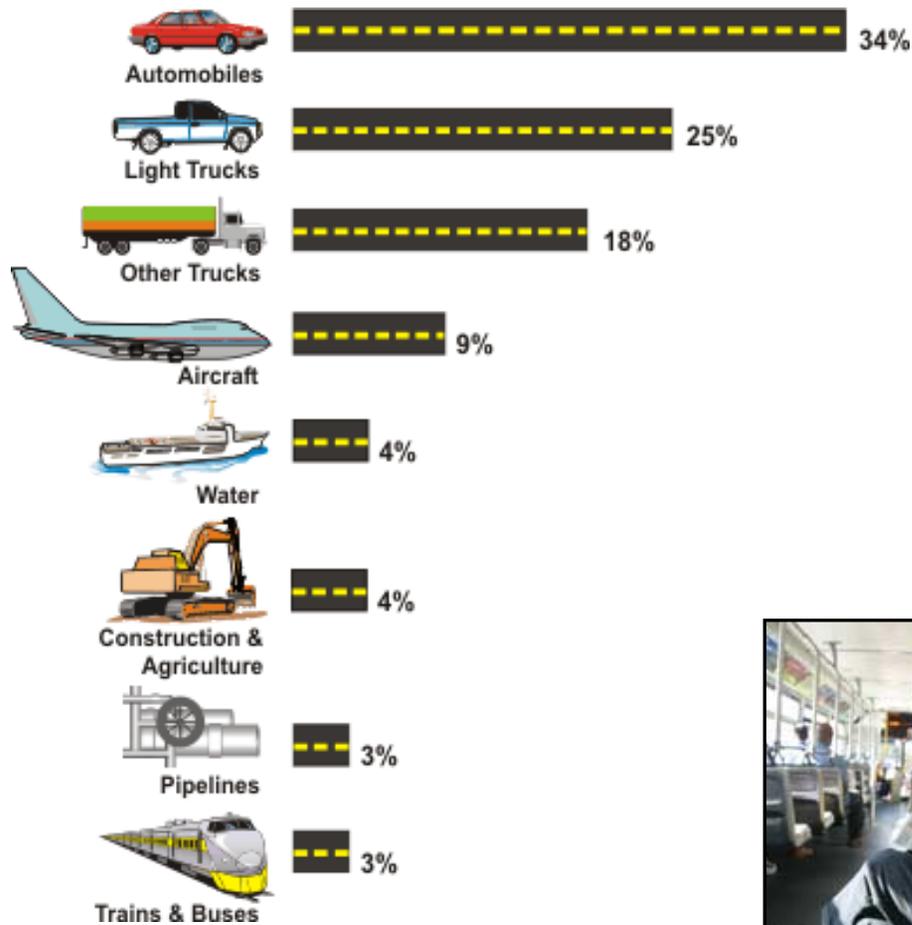
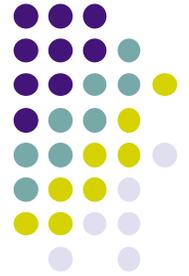


Located in Portland, OR, the Providence Newberg Medical Center set the stage for green hospital construction in 2006, when engineers and architects met Oregon's stringent structural standards for hospitals while incorporating environmental building materials and achieving environmental design.

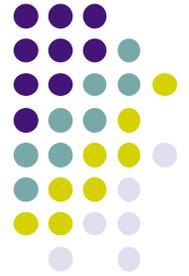
Alternative Energy Generation



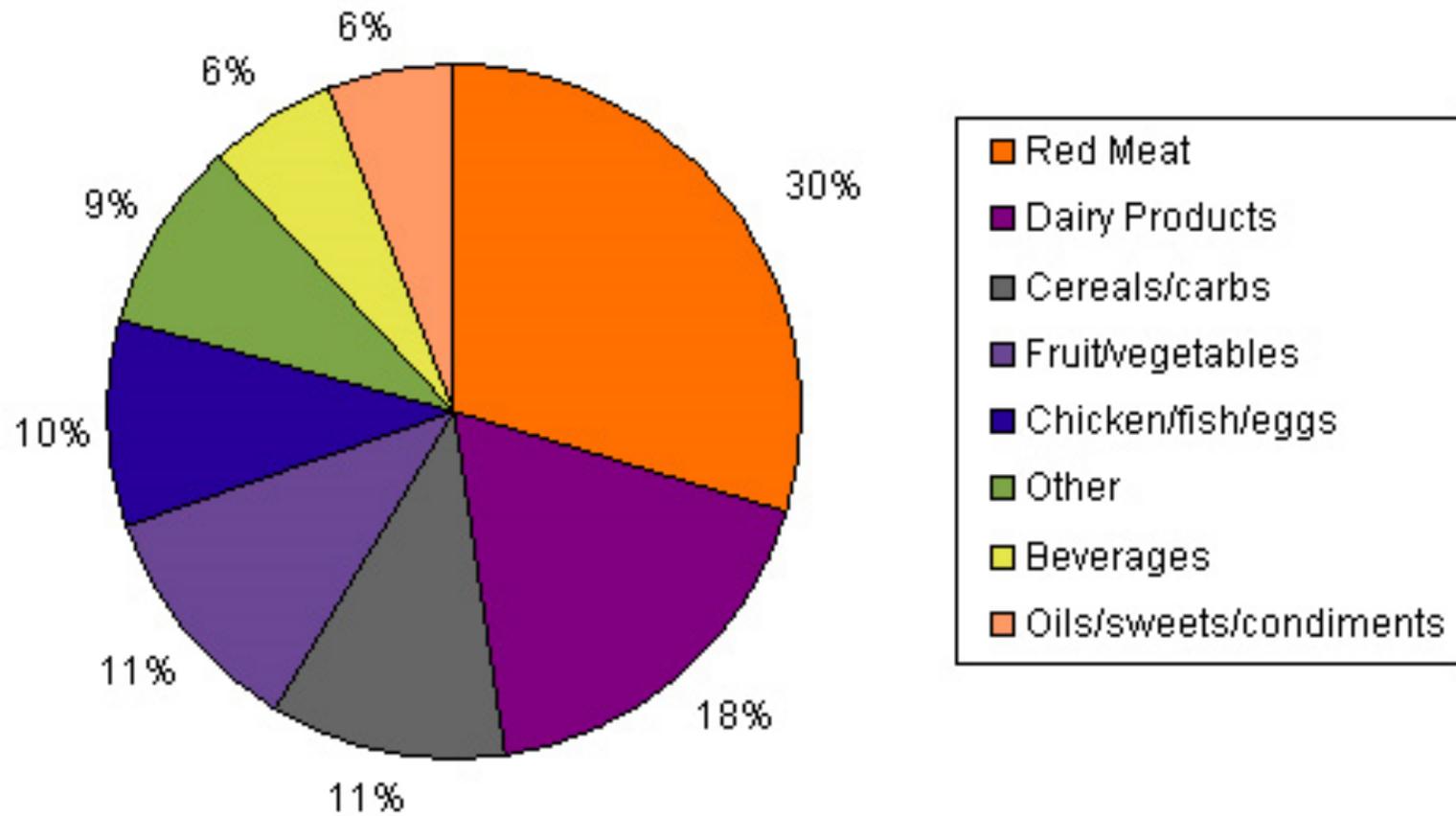
Employee and Visitor Transportation



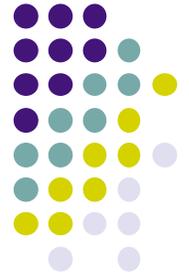
Food



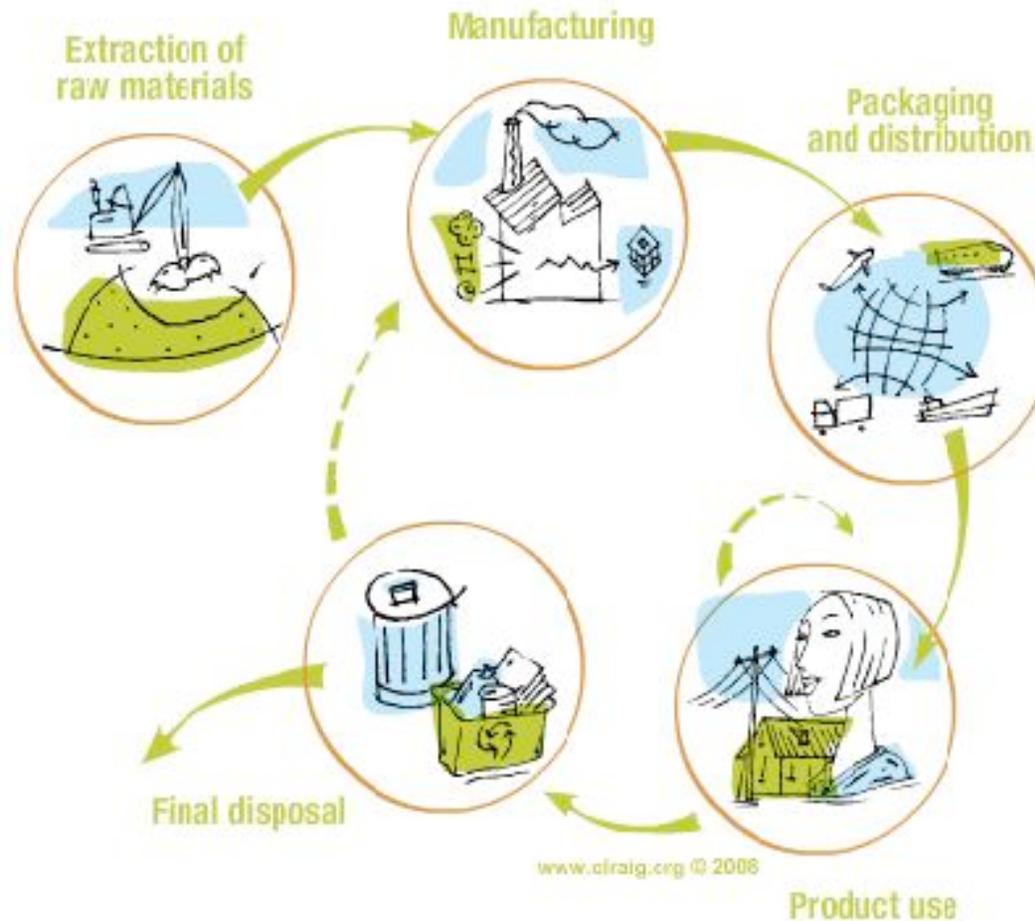
Greenhouse gas emissions from food



Purchasing, products and waste



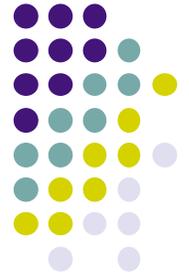
The life cycle of a product



Water

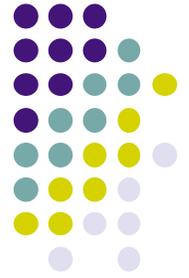


Outreach and Template Policies

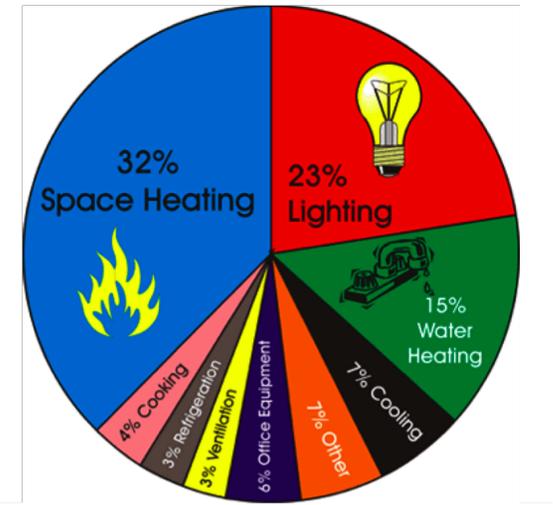


Sample Language: “Weather patterns affect just about everything in our lives – the ability to grow the food we eat, the kinds of infectious diseases and pests that can thrive in our region and affect our health, the amount of water we have for drinking and maintaining our property, and our experiences in keeping our homes and families safe from extreme weather.”⁸⁹

Example: Reduce Energy Waste



- Energy demand is on the rise
- Cutting waste, cuts costs
- Identify key areas to reduce usage
- Set realistic, short term goals
- Make quick changes and invest in long term solutions
- Ideas in Action: OHSU



Source: EIA.2006. Commercial Buildings

Ready for Change:

Preparing Public Health Agencies For The Impacts of Climate Change

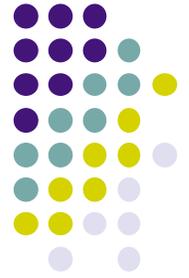


- Creating climate action plans
- Reducing risks and building resilience
- Employee and community recommendations



Ready for Change:

Preparing Public Health Agencies For The Impacts of Climate Change



- Extreme Heat
- Disease Patterns
- Water
- Food
- Air Quality
- Mental Health
- Communication

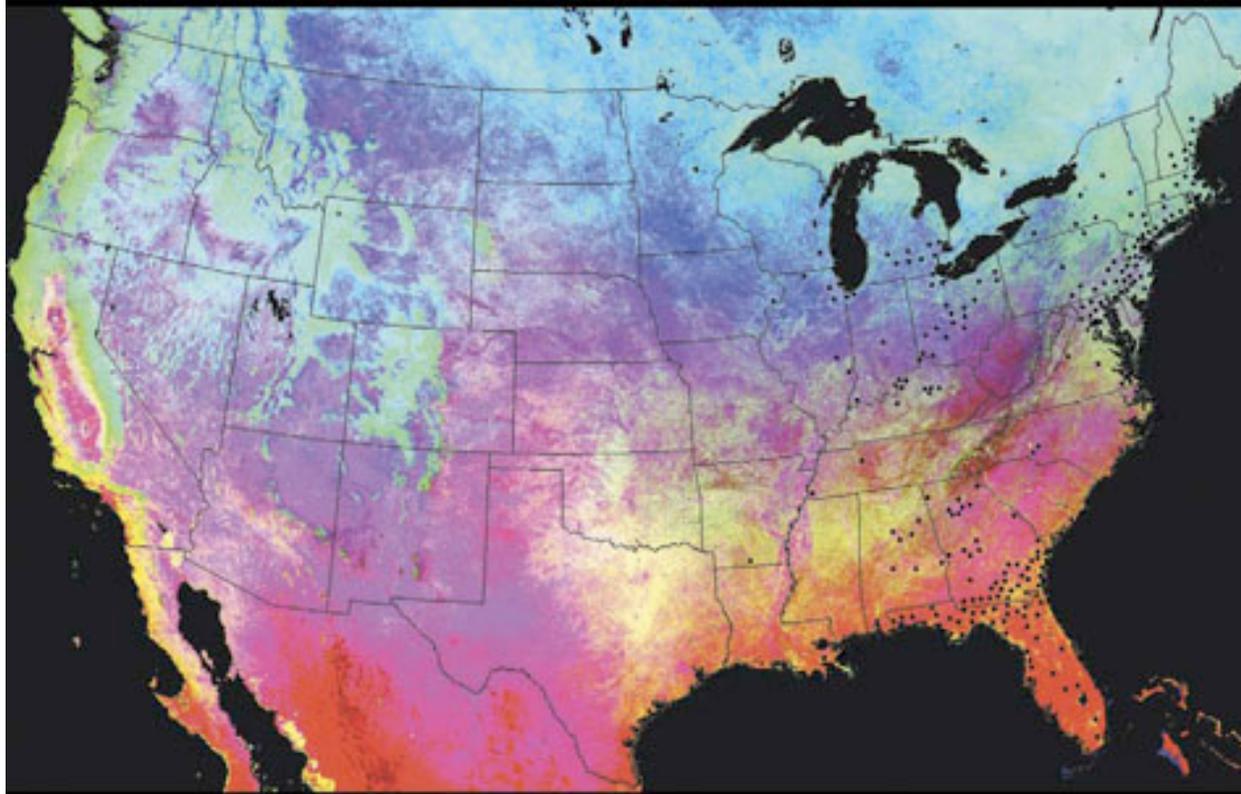
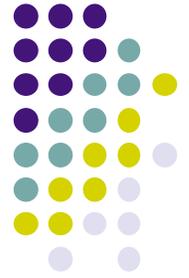
Extreme Heat



Utilize Your Cooling Center
Check On Friends and Loved Ones

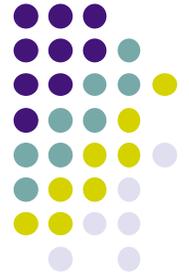


Disease Patterns



NASA is working to develop an early warning system for disease outbreaks that combines data from environmental satellites with field work. This composite of land surface temperatures recorded between 1997 and 2000 was used to help monitor and predict the spread of West Nile Virus in the United States.

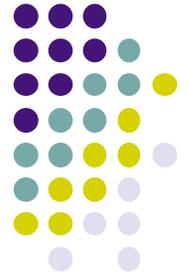
Water Quality



Food



Communication



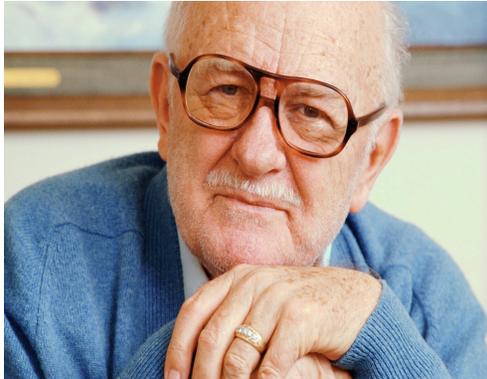
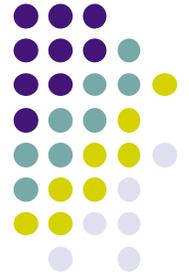
Sample language: In addition to doing everything we can to prevent the worst effects of global warming, we must also prepare for the effects we are already experiencing. Just like a responsible homeowner wouldn't wait for a rainstorm to fix the hole in the roof, we can't wait for the worst effects of climate change to reach us before we take action.¹⁰⁰



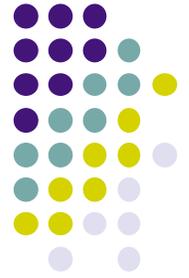
Example: Mental Health

- Studies from Katrina and 2004 Tsunami
- Health risks: PTSD, reduced productivity, suicide, stress
- Vulnerable populations: elderly, rural, low income, minority
- Steps to prepare the public
- Steps to prepare employees
- Ideas in Action: Project CREST

Integrated Health Preparedness Planning

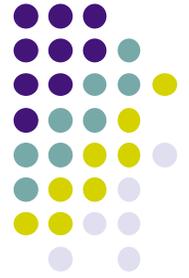


- Develop whole systems approach
- Define limits and unintended consequences of human intervention
- Create adaptive and flexible management strategies



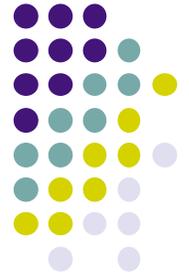
Summary: Next Steps

- Provide trainings for public health officials on climate change
- Continually improve guidebooks and workshops
- Train-the-trainers program for public health agencies



Those of us working in public health should recognize that climate disruption affects promoting good health for us all. There is an opportunity now for us to lead by example and take some responsibility for the impact on the Earth's climate.

-Dr. Mel Kohn, Oregon Public Health Division



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<http://climlead.uoregon.edu>

Guidebooks: <http://climlead.uoregon.edu/node/168>