

Local Health Departments are preparing for the Health Effects of Climate Change

Crook County Health & Human Services, Prineville, Oregon

Background

Crook County, located in the geographic center of Oregon, encompasses 2,982 square miles and is surrounded by Deschutes County to the west and south, Jefferson and Wheeler counties to the north, and Grant and Harney counties to the East. Although considered rural, the county and region have experienced tremendous growth over the last few years. Prineville, is home to 9,530 individuals, while the remaining 13,040 (Total Population – 22,570) live throughout the county in small communities such as Paulina, Post, Alfalfa, and Powell Butte (PSU – 2016 Population Report).

Climate Change in Crook County

Crook County Health & Human Services is assessing key climate risks, identifying populations most vulnerable to the related health impacts and formulating adaptation strategies. The county is also working to build and engage interdisciplinary partnership to further enhance public readiness to take action. We believe if left unaddressed, climate change impacts will continue to affect not only our community health, but also the local economy, food production, and health care needs.



The environmental and public health consequences for Crook County include responding to drought issues and air quality. A drought declaration was called for in 2015 and since the county relies on water for agriculture, livestock, and recreation/tourism it requires our working with the community to prepare for such events. In addition, the county is growing and is home to an increased number of businesses and data centers.

Goal

To increase coordination and community participation in climate work in Crook County, Oregon.

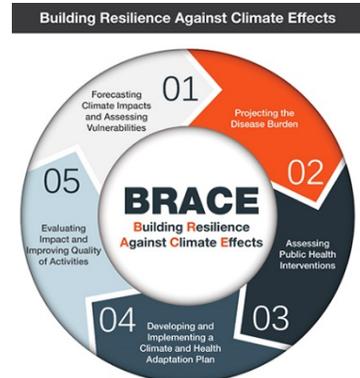
Objectives

- Develop strategies for public health staff to be a source of leadership, expertise, and guidance concerning sustainable development in Crook County;

- Raise awareness in Crook County as to the important responsibilities, and actions regarding sustainable development and climate change;
- Help shape local policy promoting sustainable development, strategizing to mitigate climate change for Crook County;
- Focus on specific issues identified in Crook County including drought, air quality, and vector-borne and communicable disease.

Achievements and Successes

- The department participated in the CDC Brace project, completed the local plan, and included the work in the emergency management response plans specifically focusing on drought.
- The City of Prineville facilitates an ongoing Air Quality Committee.
- The department work was highlighted in the State of Oregon Plan.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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