

# Investing in Resilient Communities

## Portland Metropolitan Region

Multnomah, Washington & Clackamas Counties

Climate projections in the Portland Metro area are characterized by hotter, drier summers with an increased frequency of high-heat days, and warmer winters with more intense rain events. With a combined population of about 1.85 million in these three counties, the impacts of climate change will be most evident in large cities. For these urban areas to adapt and thrive, the region is planning to invest in solutions that build resilient infrastructure and foster community resilience.

### INFRASTRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE

Climate change will impact existing public infrastructure systems. It is essential for public safety and welfare to retrofit existing infrastructure and invest in new systems built to withstand climate change impacts.

- **Plan** for future water shortages and institute water conservation and efficiency measures.
- **Renovate** and build public infrastructure systems that are resistant to climate change impacts.
- **Ensure** that energy and communications systems provide consistent and reliable service
- **Support** the transition to renewable energy sources.
- **Develop** interconnected transportation systems with an emphasis on non-automobile travel.
- **Develop** an electric and low carbon vehicle fueling infrastructure.
- **Minimize** the environmental impacts of wastewater discharge and surface water run-off.
- **Develop** green infrastructure systems to mitigate urban heat island impacts, and to filter stormwater run-off.
- **Maximize** waste recycling and composting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Implement** building codes and standards to ensure high standards of energy efficiency.
- **Reduce** greenhouse gas emissions in government and business operations and by domestic uses.
- **Sequester** carbon on public and lands within the region to the extent feasible.
- **Protect** and enhance the ability of wetlands, riparian corridors and floodplains to accommodate floodwaters.
- **Maintain** a compact regional urban form.
- **Maintain** a robust planning and management system to address climate emergencies.
- **Monitor** climate change conditions and participate in research.

### LIVABILITY & SECURITY

Climate change will require new skills and capabilities to address environmental and quality of life impacts. Vulnerable populations including children, the elderly, those in poor physical and mental health, houseless and low-income Oregonians will be more impacted.

- **Provide** services and programs that address climate and other environmental health risks.
- **Assist** low and moderate-income residents with weatherization and energy conservation.
- **Promote** education, job creation, skills training and workforce support to provide the services, products and materials needed to mitigate climate change impacts.
- **Support** food security systems including access to locally grown foods.
- **Provide** systems for wellness checks and cooling centers for populations most vulnerable to heat.
- **Manage** the increased risk of disease due to changes in vector populations.
- **Strengthen** emergency management capacity to respond to weather-related emergencies
- **Improve** community capacity, especially of populations most vulnerable to climate change impacts, to understand, prepare for and respond to climate emergencies.