

CELEBRATING



OREGON

Department of
Land Conservation
& Development

State government has a duty to our communities, businesses, and future generations to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are changing our climate and ocean, and to act across all sectors to address the impacts of climate change.

Climate change is one of the most complex issues facing us today. It involves many dimensions – science, economics, society, politics, and moral and ethical questions. It is a global problem, felt on local scales, that will be around for thousands of years.

Mostly due to pollution from human activities, temperatures are rising, and extreme weather events are more frequent and severe. Cities, counties, and regions throughout Oregon are already being impacted by climate change. DLCD offers programs that address climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sequestration.

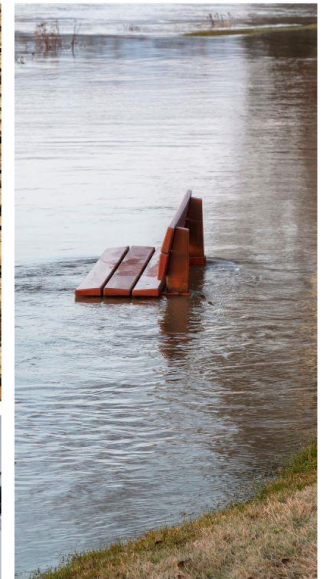
Climate change vulnerability is greater in communities that are marginalized, under-represented, and traditionally excluded from decision making. DLCD is working to identify, include, and elevate these voices in all facets of our community engagement, policy development, and decision making.

Focusing on Oregon's Vulnerabilities

[DLCD's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment](#) will provide a better understanding of how to support Oregonians by providing people in all regions of the state opportunities to describe how climate change is or might affect their well-being, livelihoods, and cultural identity. DLCD will use this information to address climate vulnerability when developing or modifying state policy, programs, and projects. The Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment is work directed by the [2021 Climate Change Adaptation Framework \(CCAF\)](#), a 24-agency collaboration grounded in equity and science. The Climate Change Adaptation Framework identifies the most effective government climate response strategies and provides action steps for state agencies to put ideas and best practices into action.

Creating Climate Friendly Communities

DLCD is working to reduce climate pollution and create more [livable and equitable communities](#) in Oregon by modernizing how metropolitan area cities in Oregon plan for community development, transportation, and housing. DLCD has set [greenhouse gas reduction targets](#) for the metropolitan areas where most Oregonians live and work. In partnership with the Oregon Department of Transportation, DLCD is working directly with local governments within these metropolitan areas, offering grants and technical assistance to help them meet their greenhouse gas reduction targets. DLCD has committed \$810,000 from the legislature for community engagement and technical work in the 2021-23 biennium, and ODOT has committed over \$15 million in federal funding to support transportation system planning and regional scenario planning.



Mitigating Natural Hazards

DLCD helps communities throughout Oregon reduce risk by developing, maintaining, and implementing FEMA-approved [natural hazards mitigation plans](#) (NHMPs). Up to date plans also confer eligibility for certain federal natural hazards mitigation and disaster relief funding. NHMPs help the State and its communities reduce risk by identifying and characterizing the hazards most likely to occur; assessing how climate change is likely to influence those hazards; understanding potential impacts upon people, property, and the environment; and determining actions that could be implemented to reduce those impacts. DLCD provides technical assistance to communities, helping them keep their NHMPs updated and FEMA-approved. DLCD also stewards the [Oregon Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan](#) (Oregon NHMP). The Oregon Climate Change Adaptation Framework is a component of the Oregon NHMP. When completed, the DLCD Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment will be incorporated into the statewide plan.

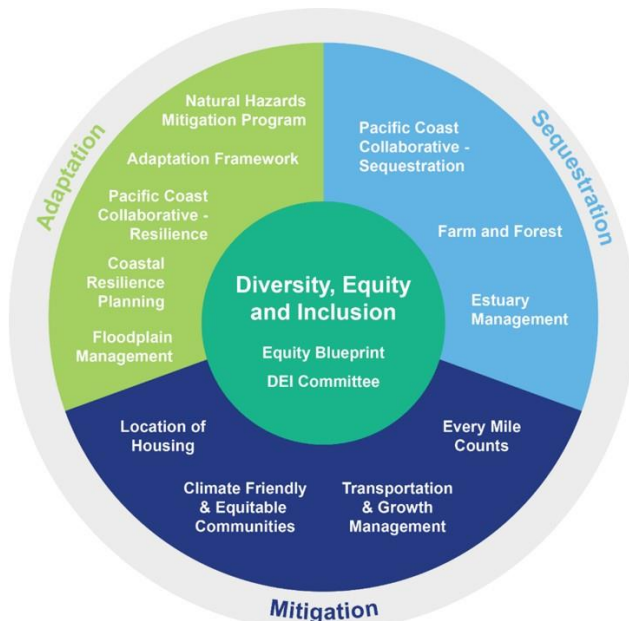
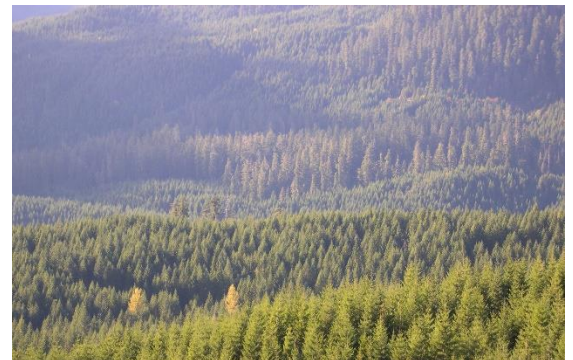
Capturing and Storing Carbon

Carbon dioxide is the most common greenhouse gas. Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide. It reduces the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and can help reduce climate change.

Since 1973, Oregon's statewide land use program has worked to maintain our natural and working lands. By limiting urbanization and protecting our farms and forests, the land use planning system reduces emissions due to land conversion by over 1.7 million tons of carbon – annually. This is the equivalent of keeping 366,298 cars off the road for one year.

Forests are only one of Oregon's carbon sequestration assets. Coastal wetlands and [estuaries](#) not only support clean water, fisheries, recreational and cultural assets, flood mitigation, local economies and biodiversity; they currently hold [83.7 million tons of blue carbon](#). Despite protections, these areas are at risk. Coastal erosion, rising sea levels, and development are among the factors reducing our ability to store blue carbon in coastal wetlands and estuaries.

In 2021, DLCD created a [blue carbon data sharing portal](#) that coordinates statewide efforts to protect coastal wetlands and help Oregon develop policy recommendations for future protections.



Equitable Outcomes

Climate change is amplifying Oregon's social, physical, economic, and political vulnerabilities. Taking a narrow approach to climate justice and climate action will miss key information. A holistic and inclusive strategy to problem solving is critical to our success. The land use planning process has historically excluded or inadequately represented the people likely to be most impacted by climate change. DLCD is incorporating efforts to address both vulnerable communities and diversity, equity, inclusion, and racial justice into our climate change adaptation and natural hazards mitigation strategies, as well as our agency Strategic Plan. By centering equity in our work, we are taking steps to protect Oregon's most vulnerable communities.