

Puget Sound Climate Resiliency and Adaptation at the Local Level: Survey Results

PUGET SOUND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE:
RESOURCES FOR BUILDING RESILIENCE
JANUARY 26, 2018



Resilient America Program

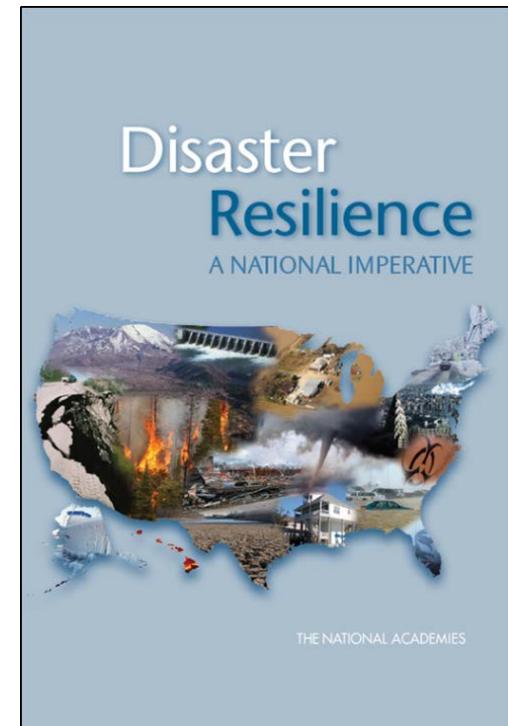
- Based on the 2012 report, [*Disaster Resilience: A National Imperative*](#)
- Launched in January 2014
- A way to engage diverse sets of stakeholders in communities and across the nation to build resilience to hazards and other disruptions

Disaster Resilience: A National Imperative

The ability to prepare and plan for, absorb, recover from, or more successfully adapt to actual or potential adverse events

The **foundation** is four key actions communities could take to build resilience:

- Understand and **communicate risk**;
- **Build and strengthen partnerships** among community stakeholders;
- **Measure resilience**;
- **Share information and data**.



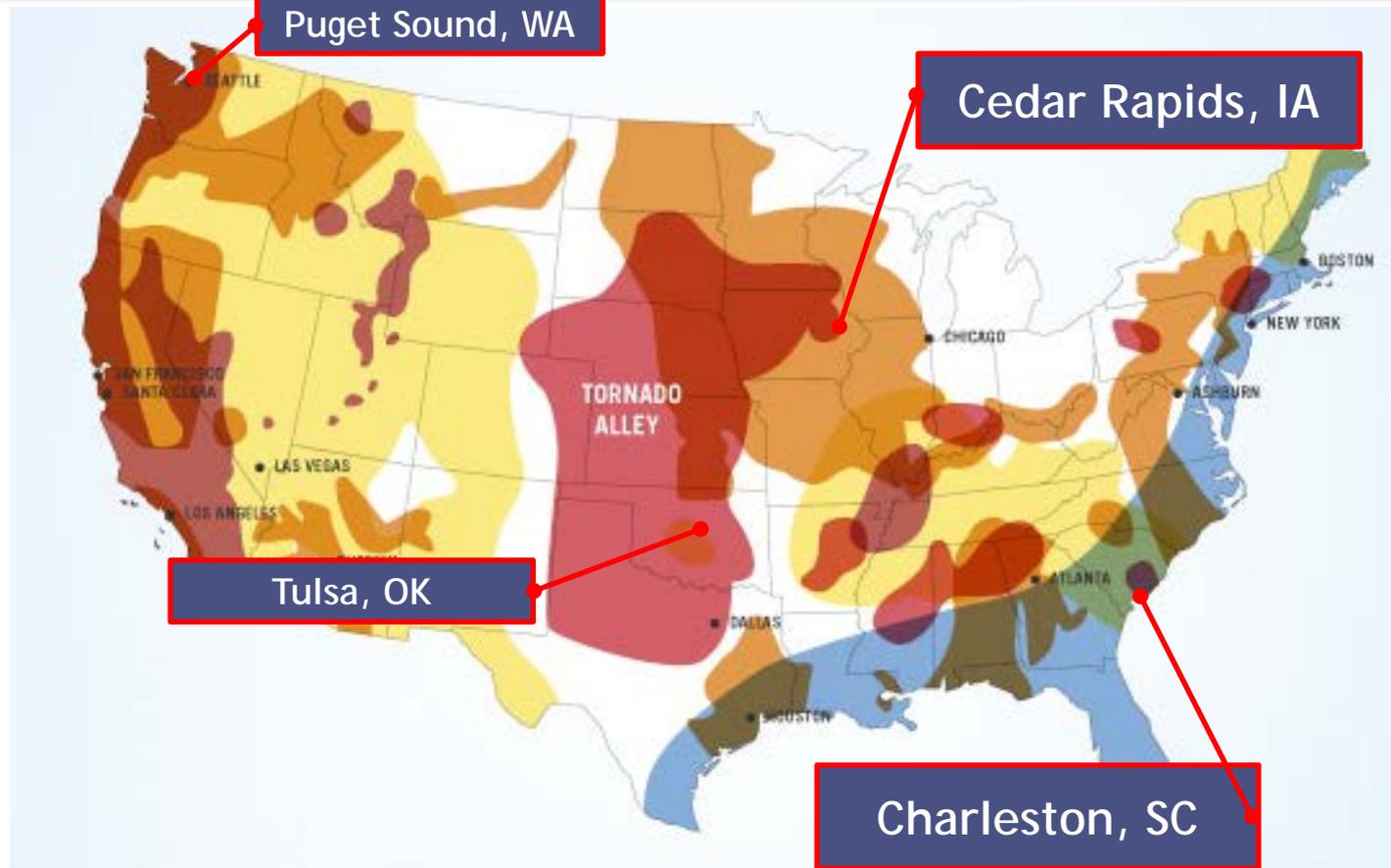
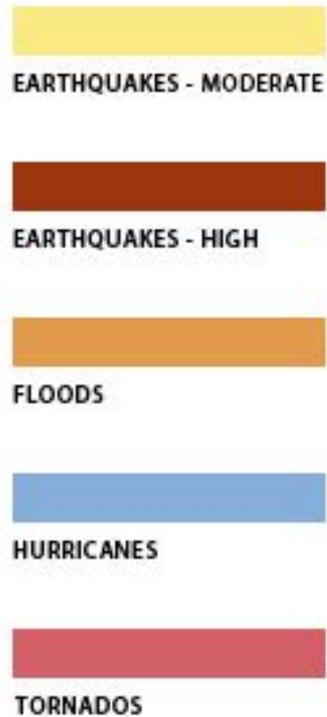
A little background:

Resilient America Community Partnerships

The Resilient America program partners with communities to identify strengths, priorities, and challenges for building resilience, and actions communities can take to support these priorities

- Understand community priorities for building resilience
- Provide expertise and resources
- Build partnerships and networks
- Establish baselines, identify key issues, & prioritize actions
- Implement resilience building actions
- Support local efforts to build resilience in the community

Community Partners



Natural Disaster Risk Map from <http://www.crisishq.com/why-prepare/us-natural-disaster-map/>

Partnering in the Central Puget Sound Region

In 2017, the Roundtable and the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) initiated a project to convene and hear from jurisdictions across the region about their efforts and needs for building resilience to climate impacts.

1. Survey
2. Meeting with jurisdictions

The purpose was to:

- better understand local climate risks and how future climate risks will impact their communities
- identify key priorities and challenges in addressing these risks
- explore actions that communities could take to address the challenges and impacts
- discuss ways that the PSRC could support local decision makers

Survey Goals

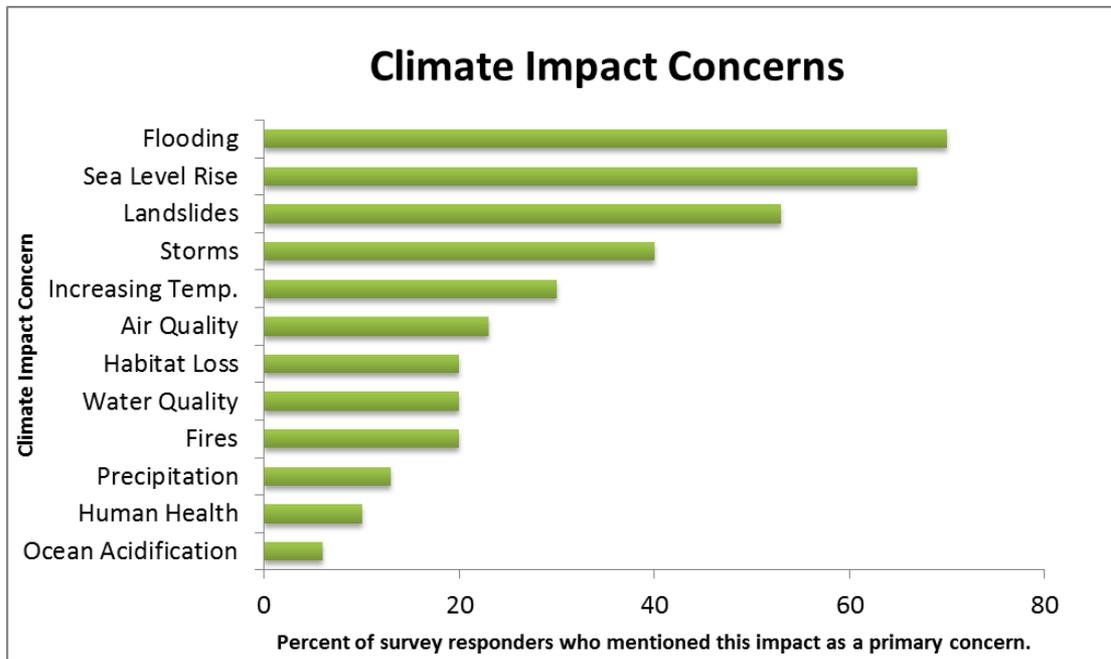
The Resilient America Roundtable facilitated a survey in the Central Puget Sound Region (King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap) to learn about local jurisdictions' goals, priorities, and challenges around climate preparedness and resiliency. Goals of the survey included:

- Gain a better understanding of how PSRC member organizations are assessing their future climate risks;
- Learn about ways PSRC member organizations are prioritizing and preparing for future climate change; and,
- Identify ways that the PSRC could support the region and their member organizations in being prepared for future climate risks.

Survey Questions

- What climate impacts are of concern to your organization? How do/will these impacts affect your community?
- Has your organization conducted an evaluation of projected climate impacts in your community, such as a climate vulnerability assessment?
- Does your organization include climate resiliency or adaptation policies in your planning documents, such as the Comprehensive Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan, or in other planning efforts? If so, what are some examples of these policies?
- What challenges does your organization face when it comes to incorporating climate resiliency into your planning or implementation efforts?
- Given PSRC's role in regional planning, what could PSRC do to help local jurisdictions address their future climate risks? (E.g. technical assistance, setting regional policies, providing a forum for peer sharing, etc.)
- What could be done at the regional scale to mitigate climate impacts?

What climate impacts are of concern to your organization?



Percent of survey responders (n = 30) who mentioned each climate impact as a primary concern.

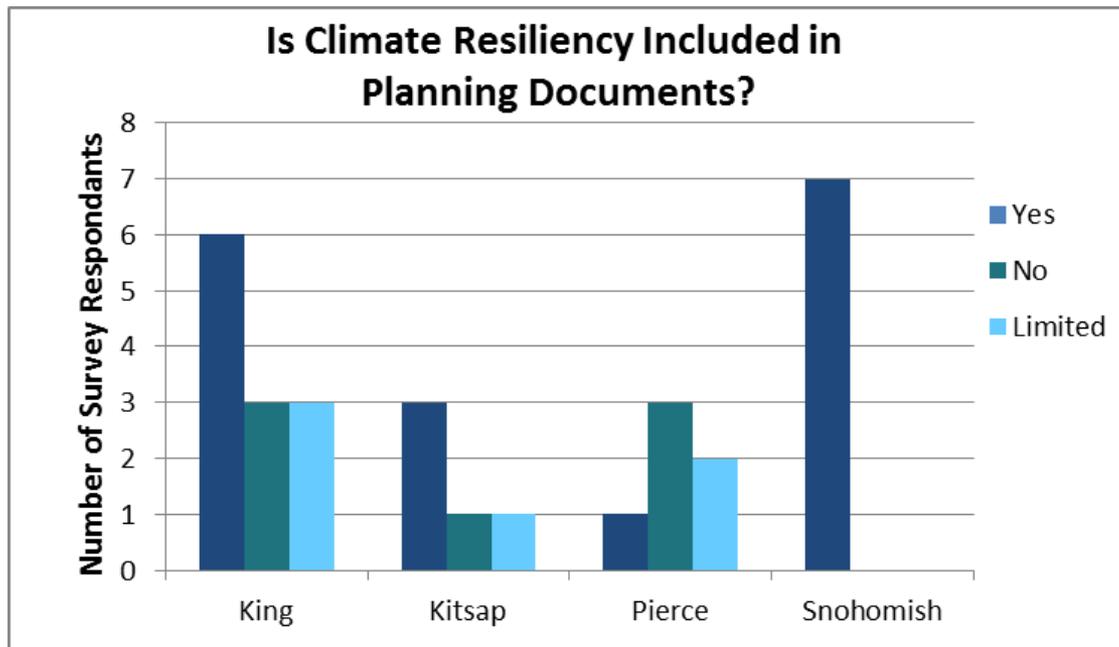
Other climate impact concerns included:

- decreased winter snowpack
- drought
- higher winter stream flows
- impacts to potable water
- increases in disease
- insect outbreaks
- loss of animal habitats
- lower summer stream flows
- reduced rainfall
- reduced snowfall
- soil erosion

“Increased temperatures can be hazardous for the young and elderly, require increased energy consumption and cost to cool indoor temperatures, degrade animal habitat (e.g., salmon), alter precipitation patterns, snowpack levels and runoff periods affecting water supplies and energy costs (due to reliance on hydro-power), and make communities less resilient to wildfire.”

Does your organization include climate resiliency or adaptation policies in your planning documents?

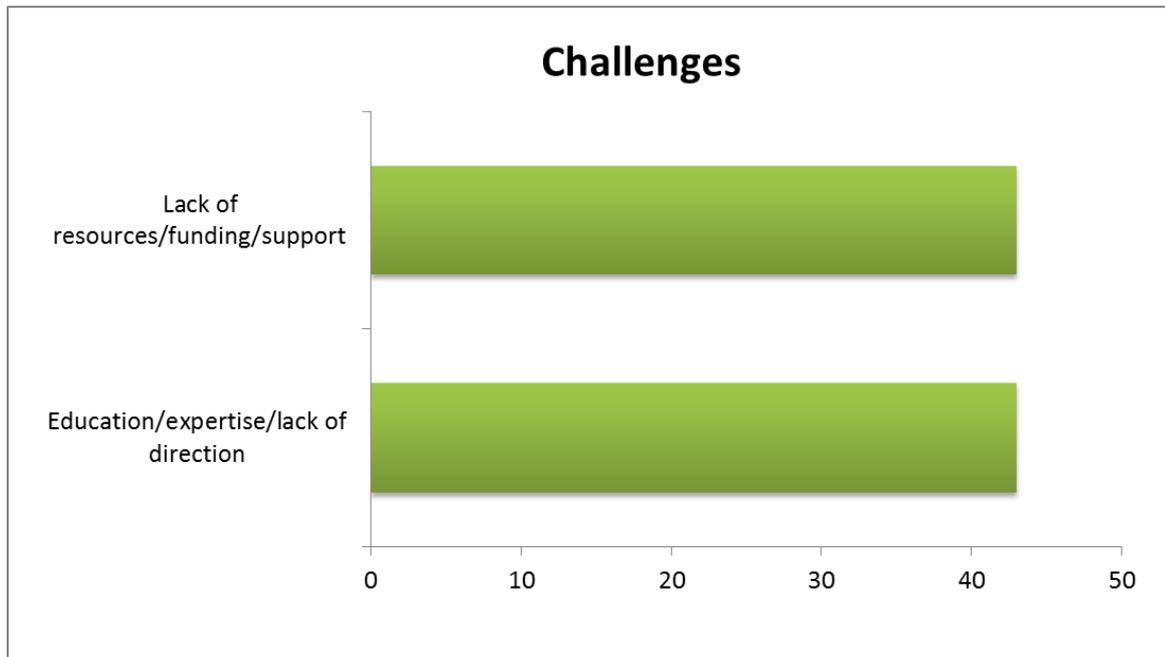
- 37% of respondents have completed an evaluation of climate impacts for their community or organization



"Policy documents are not specific to "climate change;" however, they do address protection of the environment and sustainable growth that provides housing choices and locates population centers adjacent to transit and services."

Number of respondents from each county that included climate resiliency or adaptation policies in planning documents (Yes), have not included them (No), or will be soon/have limited inclusion (Limited).

What challenges does your organization face when it comes to incorporating climate resiliency into your planning or implementation efforts?



Percent that each topic or item was listed as a challenge to implementing climate resiliency policy into planning documents by survey participants (n=30).

“Inability to expressly identify impacts that are directly linked to climate issues.”

“We have neither the funding, staff, nor elected mandate from our elected officials for such work.”

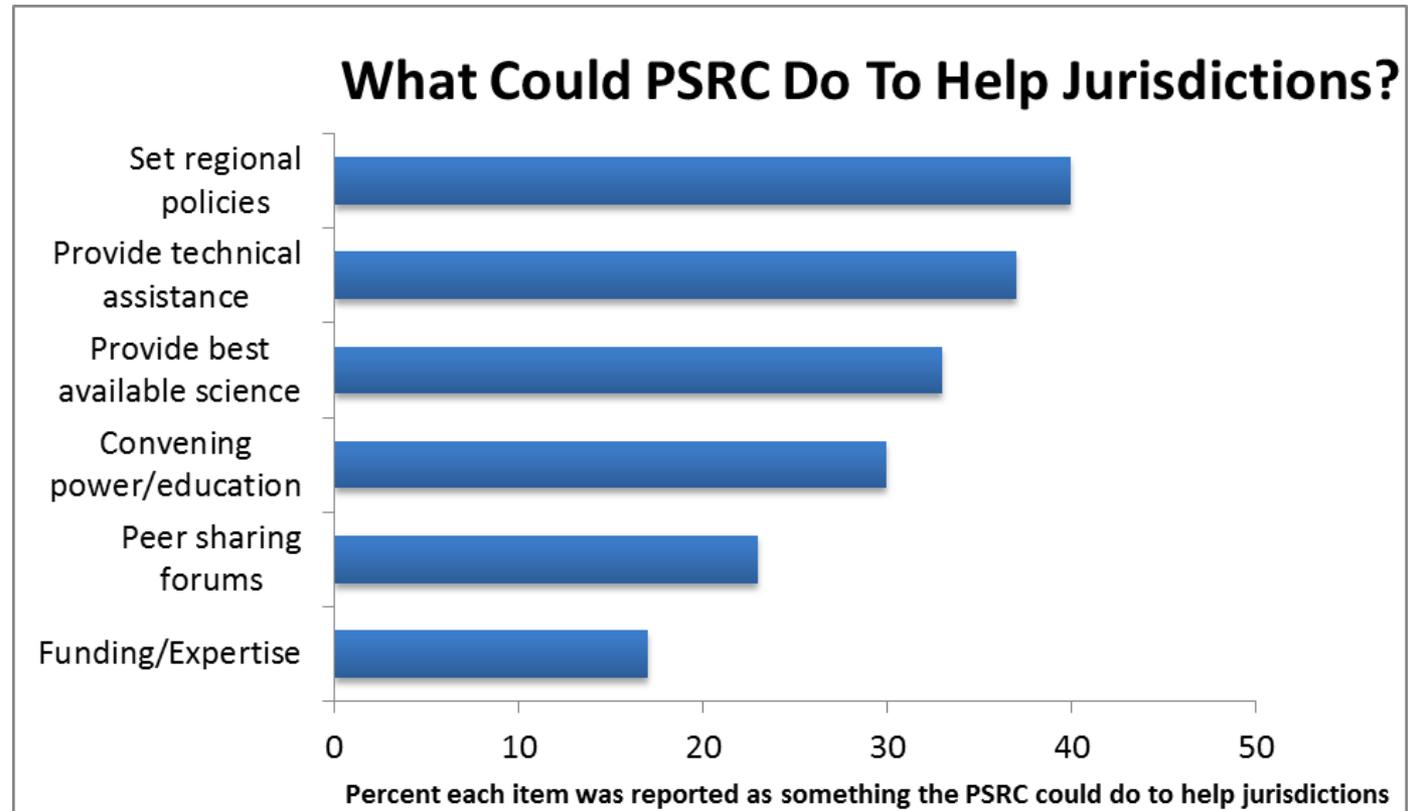
“No incentive to take action, no feeling of urgency.”

Given PSRC's role in regional planning, what could PSRC do to help local jurisdictions address their future climate risks?

"It would be great for PSRC to come out with the best available science for this region as a guiding document."

"Peer sharing is a valuable way to increase the understanding of climate change and foster opportunities to implement climate resiliency."

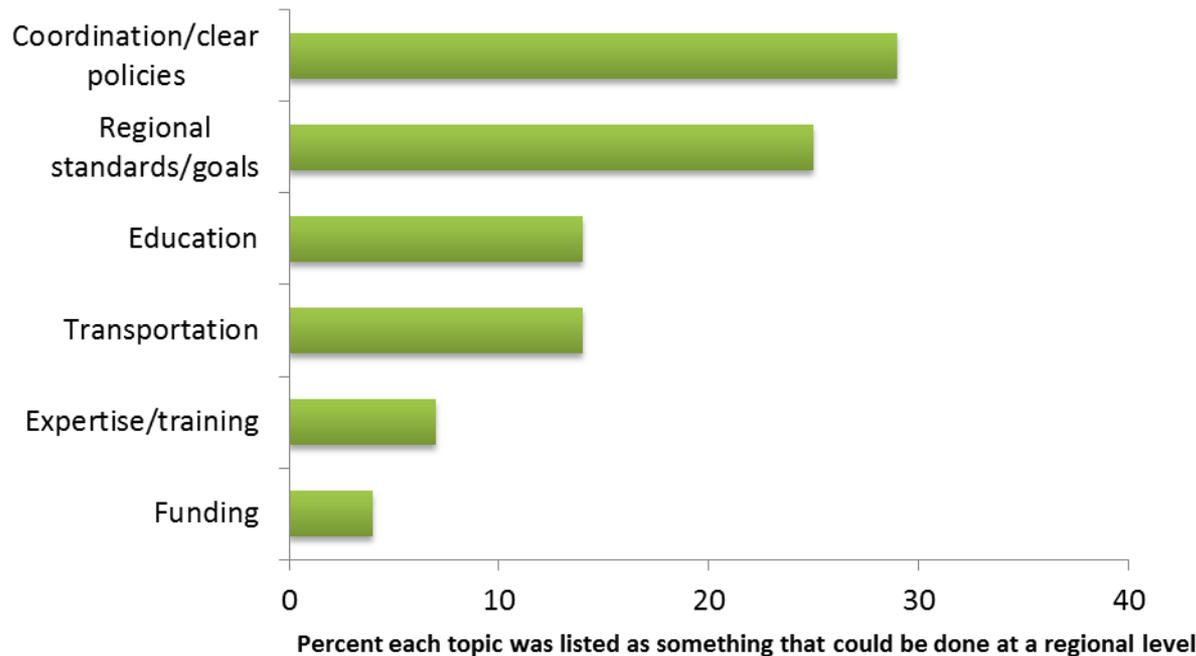
"Setting climate change policies could be challenging as many jurisdictions do not have the resources to implement."



Percent each item or topic was reported by survey participants as something the Puget Sound Regional Council could do to help jurisdictions address their climate risks.

What could be done at the regional scale to mitigate climate impacts?

What Could Be Done At The Regional Level?



Jurisdictions suggested that the PSRC:

- develop regional standards, codes, and policies for transportation and building innovation that jurisdictions agree to;
- establish regional policies that rationalize the protection of shared regional infrastructure and shared regional utilities;
- and prioritize threats, establish goals to address these threats, and identify ways jurisdictions can work towards these goals collectively.

Percent each topic was mentioned by a survey participant as something that could be done regionally to help mitigate climate impacts.

Jurisdiction Meetings



The Puyallup Tribe



of Indians



Pierce County



University Place
WASHINGTON

Thank you!

Visit us: <http://ResilientAmerica.nas.edu>

Contact us: Resilience@nas.edu

