

Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Priority Actions – Survey Results

18 Respondents

19 Actions identified by 10 or more respondents as a priority

General

| Priority Actions | Number of Respondents |
|---|-----------------------|
| Action 135 - Priority Rank 8 - Direct staff members to develop their technical expertise and skills to prepare for and respond to climate change impacts. | 11 |
| Action 132 - Priority Rank 7 - Update the regional climate adaptation plan periodically with new information, evaluate implementation efforts and effectiveness, amend strategies and actions as necessary, and enhance community climate literacy (e.g., by working with schools, libraries, and other partners to enhance the public's understanding of climate change causes, impacts and responses). | 13 |
| Action 81 - Priority Rank 7 - Create hazard recovery plans and prioritize the restoration of vital public safety facilities and other essential community assets. | 11 |
| Action 85 - Priority Rank 7 - Pursue funding to implement highest-priority actions identified in the adopted Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region. | 12 |

Drought & Water Quality

| Priority Actions | Number of Respondents |
|---|-----------------------|
| Action 12 - Priority Rank 8 - Develop and implement a comprehensive drought-response strategy that sets action levels for different drought stages. | 11 |
| Action 90 - Priority Rank 7 - Evaluate and secure sustained funding to support long-term monitoring of ground and surface water quality and quantity. | 10 |
| Action 14 - Priority Rank 6 - Increase treatment and reuse of reclaimed water for irrigating plants, supplementing low streamflow, and other purposes. | 10 |

Flood & Erosion

| Priority Actions | Number of Respondents |
|---|-----------------------|
| Action 4 - Priority Rank 8 - Evaluate and secure sustained funding to restore and protect riparian vegetation along freshwater and marine shorelines. | 10 |
| Action 2 - Priority Rank 7 - Require larger setbacks and vegetated buffers for new construction adjacent to shorelines vulnerable to flooding and erosion exacerbated by sea-level rise. | 10 |
| Action 104 - Priority Rank 6 - Design new and replacement stream culverts and other drainage infrastructure to accommodate projected higher peak flows associated with more frequent and intense heavy precipitation events. | 12 |

Plants & Animals

| Priority Actions | Number of Respondents |
|--|-----------------------|
| Action 106 - Priority Risk 8 - Increase funding, education, and incentives for private landowners to manage lands in ways that enhance ecological and economic resilience (e.g., protecting and restoring forests, prairies, and shoreline/riparian areas). | 11 |
| Action 155 - Priority Risk 5 - Support Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) implementation to encourage conservation of agricultural lands and critical areas (e.g., riparian stream buffers) that provide ecosystem services. | 10 |

Transportation & Energy

| Priority Actions | Number of Respondents |
|--|-----------------------|
| Action 98 - Priority Rank 7 - Offer rebates or utility bill credits to induce residential rate-payers to weatherize their home, install renewable energy systems, and purchase energy-efficient appliances (including air conditioners) that provide a hedge against power outages and price increases. | 13 |
| Action 141 - Priority Rank 7 - Elevate, reinforce or relocate important electrical equipment that is within critical areas at risk of flooding and/or landslides | 11 |
| Action 23 - Priority Rank 6 - Expand and retrofit the region's energy distribution, monitoring, and storage infrastructure to support on-site renewable energy generation. | 11 |
| Action 37 - Priority Rank 6 - Explore additional incentives that support the installation of small-scale renewable energy systems in buildings, which could provide a hedge against utility power outages and price increases. | 10 |
| Action 16 - Priority Rank 6 - Map transportation infrastructure that is vulnerable to repeated floods and/or landslides, and designate alternative travel routes for critical transportation corridors when roads must be closed because of natural hazards. | 13 |

Wildfire & Extreme Heat

| Priority Actions | Number of Respondents |
|--|-----------------------|
| Action 18 - Priority Rank 6 - Plant drought- and pest-resistant trees, shrubs and grasses in parks, landscaping strips and other urban areas. | 10 |
| Action 139 - Priority Rank 3 - Require new developments in high-risk wildfire areas to submit a fire-protection plan during site plan review. | 10 |

General

| Action | Number of Respondents |
|---|-----------------------|
| Action 135 - Priority Rank 8 - Direct staff members to develop their technical expertise and skills to prepare for and respond to climate change impacts. | 11 |
| Action 132 - Priority Rank 7 - Update the regional climate adaptation plan periodically with new information, evaluate implementation efforts and effectiveness, amend strategies and actions as necessary, and enhance community climate literacy (e.g., by working with schools, libraries, and other partners to enhance the public's understanding of climate change causes, impacts and responses). | 13 |
| Action 81 - Priority Rank 7 - Create hazard recovery plans and prioritize the restoration of vital public safety facilities and other essential community assets. | 11 |
| Action 85 - Priority Rank 7 - Pursue funding to implement highest-priority actions identified in the adopted Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region. | 12 |
| Action 133 - Priority Rank 7 - Consider the full life-cycle costs, including climate change impacts, on assets (e.g., roads, buildings, parks) -- from initial siting and design to ongoing operations and maintenance. | 8 |
| Action 58 - Priority Rank 7 - Increase incentives to make urban infill and redevelopment projects more viable financially. | 8 |
| Action 157 - Priority Rank 7 - Create a household preparedness plan and store of food, water, and other supplies (lanterns, bicycles, etc.) to use in case a flood or other hazard cuts off automobile access to goods, services, and emergency responders. | 4 |
| Action 136 - Priority Rank 7 - Align land use, hazard mitigation, transportation, capital improvement, and other plans so that they work toward the same goals. | 8 |
| Action 100 - Priority Rank 7 - Assess potential climate change-induced population migration within and to the Thurston Region, and evaluate response strategies. | 5 |
| Action 147 - Priority Rank 6 - Encourage neighborhoods to become familiar with residents who have skills and tools to assist others with special needs (e.g., elderly or disabled), should residents need to provide emergency response in the event that police and fire cannot provide immediate assistance. | 3 |
| Action 50 - Priority Rank 6 - Integrate climate change impacts into planning of operations and coordination of disaster response and recovery activities among public health, law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, and other first-responders. | 7 |
| Action 69 - Priority Rank 6 - Encourage residents to organize or participate in regular emergency preparedness, response, and recovery planning and training events. | 4 |
| Action 148 - Priority Rank 6 - Identify a neighborhood hub (e.g., a school or other location that's safe, accessible and well-known) to serve as a temporary coordination site for local hazard response and recovery efforts, and publicize the hub's location widely. | 5 |
| Action 146 - Priority Rank 6 - Increase the number of residents who receive Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to improve local hazard preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. Ensure efforts are ongoing. | 6 |
| Action 125 - Priority Rank 6 - Develop and adopt tools that predict drought and flood events by tracking soil moisture, streamflow, precipitation, groundwater levels, tide levels, well levels, reservoir levels, and weather forecasts. | 7 |
| Action 124 - Priority Rank 6 - Create a website that details health risks exacerbated by climate change and provides information that helps residents prepare for and respond to drought, poor air quality, extreme heat, disease vectors, and other threats. | 5 |
| Action 88 - Priority Rank 5 - Develop a countywide disaster debris management plan with actions to efficiently dispose of or recycle materials (organic and artificial) after a disaster. | 6 |
| Action 87 - Priority Rank 5 - Advocate for expanding the eligibility of federal disaster-assistance funding to allow for the replacement or relocation of aging or vulnerable infrastructure before it fails. | 6 |
| Action 119 - Priority Rank 5 - Limit access to parks, lakes, and other outdoor recreation areas when natural hazards (e.g., algal blooms, wildfires, floods) pose risks to public safety. | 6 |

Drought & Water Quality

| Action | Number of Respondents |
|---|-----------------------|
| Action 12 - Priority Rank 8 - Develop and implement a comprehensive drought-response strategy that sets action levels for different drought stages. | 11 |
| Action 28 - Priority Rank 7 - Incentivize new commercial construction to include on-site rainwater harvesting facilities. | 9 |
| Action 45 - Priority Rank 7 - Set up a water bank in Thurston County's watersheds to enable water rights trading. | 7 |
| Action 29 - Priority Rank 7 - Implement tiered water pricing. | 6 |
| Action 90 - Priority Rank 7 - Evaluate and secure sustained funding to support long-term monitoring of ground and surface water quality and quantity. | 10 |
| Action 152 - Priority Rank 6 - Increase the number of water rights that are transferred to a trust, temporarily or permanently. | 7 |
| Action 14 - Priority Rank 6 - Increase treatment and reuse of reclaimed water for irrigating plants, supplementing low streamflow, and other purposes. | 10 |
| Action 150 - Priority Rank 6 - Evaluate and offer new incentives for residents to install rain gardens on well-draining soils and plant drought-tolerant landscaping (e.g. xeriscaping) to adapt to changes in seasonal precipitation. | 4 |
| Action 109 - Priority Rank 6 - Downzone parcels and lower limits for impervious surfaces near streams and lakes with nutrient-loading problems so as to reduce the combined impacts of water pollution and warming. | 4 |
| Action 120 - Priority Rank 6 - Construct new water-storage systems (e.g., large cisterns, water towers and reservoirs) to provide back-up water supplies during droughts. | 3 |
| Action 26 - Priority Rank 6 - Implement a water impact fee that reflects each property's water consumption. | 6 |
| Action 95 - Priority Rank 5 - Facilitate new residential water connections to municipal sources, where feasible. | 5 |
| Action 159 - Priority Rank 5 - Conduct benefit-cost analyses (BCAs) of adaptation actions to conserve water resources. | 4 |
| Action 13 - Priority Rank 5 - Increase incentives for water conservation during dry months. | 7 |
| Action 15 - Priority Rank 4 - Expand Thurston County's septic system operation and maintenance education and outreach programs. | 7 |
| Action 93 - Priority Rank 4 - Establish a local non-regulatory entity to provide technical assistance to private well owners regarding conserving water and detecting leaks and pollution. | 3 |
| Action 153 - Priority Rank 4 - Incentivize water metering for all wells. | 5 |

Flood & Erosion

| Action | Number of Respondents |
|---|-----------------------|
| Action 4 - Priority Rank 8 - Evaluate and secure sustained funding to restore and protect riparian vegetation along freshwater and marine shorelines. | 10 |
| Action 2 - Priority Rank 7 - Require larger setbacks and vegetated buffers for new construction adjacent to shorelines vulnerable to flooding and erosion exacerbated by sea-level rise. | 10 |
| Action 104 - Priority Rank 6 - Design new and replacement stream culverts and other drainage infrastructure to accommodate projected higher peak flows associated with more frequent and intense heavy precipitation events. | 12 |
| Action 137 - Priority Rank 6 - For sites where elevating or relocating a building is not a viable option in response to flood risks, acquire the property, use the land for appropriate uses (e.g., flood storage or agriculture), and help the occupants resettle in the community. | 5 |
| Action 25 - Priority Rank 6 - Implement brownfield clean-up strategies/planned actions for low-lying sites that are most vulnerable to sea-level rise. | 6 |
| Action 20 - Priority Rank 6 - Decouple remaining combined storm and sewer systems, where cost-effective, so as to add capacity and mitigate back-ups and water-borne diseases outbreaks. | 8 |
| Action 19 - Priority Rank 6 - Increase education and enforcement efforts to ensure that commercial and residential building owners properly maintain low-impact development (LID) facilities that treat stormwater runoff on site. | 7 |
| Action 117 - Priority Rank 6 - Protect important historical or cultural sites that are at risk of coastal or inland flooding and erosion. | 3 |
| Action 102 - Priority Rank 6 - Install flood gates and pumps on stormwater outfalls that are connected to Puget Sound so as to mitigate back-ups during high tide/heavy rain events exacerbated by sea-level rise. | 7 |
| Action 103 - Priority Rank 6 - Build floodwalls or other protective structures around critical facilities located in areas vulnerable to flooding as a result of sea-level rise and heavy precipitation. | 7 |
| Action 17 - Priority Rank 6 - Prohibit construction of new buildings and roads in areas where flood and landslide risks are highest. | 8 |
| Action 107 - Priority Rank 6 - Identify where and how the region could support the natural inland transition of coastal lowlands to estuaries as sea levels rise. | 6 |
| Action 142 - Priority Rank 5 - Construct flood-storage facilities (e.g., wetlands or artificial ponds) upstream of concentrated development areas that are at risk of flooding. | 4 |
| Action 101 - Priority Rank 5 - Require that new or renovated buildings utilize flood-protection measures (such as raised finished-floor levels and temporary flood barriers) to accommodate projected sea-level rise over the structures' lifespan. | 8 |
| Action 108 - Priority Rank 5 - Minimize development, disturbance, and vegetation removal on or near steep slopes (>25% gradient) adjacent to waterbodies so as to reduce the risks of landslides and sediment runoff. | 5 |
| Action 118 - Priority Rank 4 - Retrofit or reroute pedestrian/bicycle trails and bridges in areas that are subject to repetitive flooding and/or landslides. | 2 |
| Action 92 - Priority Rank 3 - Assess drinking water wells' vulnerability to saltwater intrusion and inundation from rising sea levels, and develop adaptation measures (e.g., relocating wells). | 4 |

Plants & Animals

| Action | Number of Respondents |
|--|-----------------------|
| Action 106 - Priority Risk 8 - Increase funding, education, and incentives for private landowners to manage lands in ways that enhance ecological and economic resilience (e.g., protecting and restoring forests, prairies, and shoreline/riparian areas). | 11 |
| Action 151 - Priority Risk 7 - Increase organic matter content and water retention in soils within urban and agricultural settings. | 3 |
| Action 145 - Priority Risk 7 - Increase large woody debris in rivers to improve channel conditions and cool water temperatures. | 7 |
| Action 99 - Priority Risk 7 - Protect and enhance marine vegetation, such as eelgrass, so as to help clean water, sequester carbon dioxide, and improve fish habitat and survival. | 9 |
| Action 62 - Priority Risk 7 - Set basin goals for resource and habitat protection, such as no net loss of farmland, forest cover, and prairie habitat. | 9 |
| Action 5 - Priority Risk 7 - Implement monitoring practices that provide early detection of invasive species on land and in water, and expand biological control and manual removal of such plants and insects. | 7 |
| Action 75 - Priority Risk 7 - Increase urban agriculture and biointensive farming methods to maximize crop yields and ecosystem services. | 9 |
| Action 114 - Priority Risk 7 - Evaluate additional assisted migration of vulnerable plant and animal species to suitable habitat. | 4 |
| Action 116 - Priority Risk 6 - Expand efforts to monitor the cause and extent of changes in native and invasive plant distribution. | 3 |
| Action 78 - Priority Risk 5 - Educate waterfront property owners about the benefits of voluntary oyster seeding and other shellfish production, and encourage such practices. | 5 |
| Action 155 - Priority Risk 5 - Support Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) implementation to encourage conservation of agricultural lands and critical areas (e.g., riparian stream buffers) that provide ecosystem services. | 10 |
| Action 154 - Priority Risk 4 - Grow woody perennial crops that help conserve water, store carbon, and provide other ecosystem services. | 3 |

Transportation & Energy

| Action | Number of Respondents |
|--|-----------------------|
| Action 98 - Priority Rank 7 - Offer rebates or utility bill credits to induce residential rate-payers to weatherize their home, install renewable energy systems, and purchase energy-efficient appliances (including air conditioners) that provide a hedge against power outages and price increases. | 13 |
| Action 141 - Priority Rank 7 - Elevate, reinforce or relocate important electrical equipment that is within critical areas at risk of flooding and/or landslides | 11 |
| Action 22 - Priority Rank 6 - Explore "on-bill" financing of on-site renewable energy generation systems (e.g., building- and district-scale solar power) that spread out capital costs over time and provide a hedge against power outages and price increases. | 7 |
| Action 23 - Priority Rank 6 - Expand and retrofit the region's energy distribution, monitoring, and storage infrastructure to support on-site renewable energy generation. | 11 |
| Action 24 - Priority Rank 6 - Increase the energy efficiency of the region's water infrastructure. | 5 |
| Action 6 - Priority Rank 6 - Relocate or retrofit low-lying roads vulnerable to coastal or inland flooding. | 7 |
| Action 37 - Priority Rank 6 - Explore additional incentives that support the installation of small-scale renewable energy systems in buildings, which could provide a hedge against utility power outages and price increases. | 10 |
| Action 38 - Priority Rank 6 - Build additional large-scale renewable energy projects (e.g., utility-scale solar arrays and wind farms) in Thurston County. | 8 |
| Action 16 - Priority Rank 6 - Map transportation infrastructure that is vulnerable to repeated floods and/or landslides, and designate alternative travel routes for critical transportation corridors when roads must be closed because of natural hazards. | 13 |
| Action 41 - Priority Rank 5 - Establish local government energy goals/benchmarks (e.g., LEED) for new buildings, and adopt permitting practices and building code and/or design guidelines that support clean and efficient energy practices and technologies (e.g., passive design, rooftop solar panels, electric vehicle charging stations). | 7 |
| Action 54 - Priority Rank 5 - Expand outreach to and education of commercial and residential power customers about the benefits of clean and efficient energy technologies and practices. | 4 |
| Action 57 - Priority Rank 5 - Adopt policies that require residential and commercial properties to undertake an energy audit at the time of sale or during a substantial remodel. | 6 |
| Action 73 - Priority Rank 4 - Increase resources to monitor air quality, and enforce regulations to reduce the health risks of air pollution (e.g., surface ozone and particulate matter) exacerbated by warmer temperatures and automobile emissions. | 2 |
| Action 40 - Priority Rank 4 - Generate additional energy from waste products (e.g., woody biomass and sewage) in Thurston County to provide a hedge against utility power disruptions and price increases. | 5 |

Wildfire & Extreme Heat

| Action | Number of Respondents |
|--|-----------------------|
| Action 9 - Priority Rank 7 - Provide private forestland owners and residents living in Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas information about fire prevention/Firewise practices, and encourage application of such practices. | 9 |
| Action 18 - Priority Rank 6 - Plant drought- and pest-resistant trees, shrubs and grasses in parks, landscaping strips and other urban areas. | 10 |
| Action 140 - Priority Rank 6 - Adopt wildfire hazard overlay districts with development regulations (for new structures) based on factors such as slope, structure, and fuel hazards. | 8 |
| Action 8 - Priority Rank 6 - Downzone areas with highest risk of wildfire. | 7 |
| Action 46 - Priority Rank 5 - Create and maintain a map of the region's high-risk wildland urban interface communities and locations of wildfires. | 9 |
| Action 7 - Priority Rank 5 - Extend and enforce the rural burn ban when wildfire risks are high. | 8 |
| Action 60 - Priority Rank 5 - Modify building codes, where necessary, to require fire sprinkler systems and enable emergency access/egress in all new residential and commercial construction. | 4 |
| Action 111 - Priority Rank 4 - Account for the inclusion of defensible spaces into future developments (e.g., designing roads, pathways, sidewalks, and landscaping to create firebreaks) in areas where there is high wildfire risk. | 4 |
| Action 139 - Priority Rank 3 - Require new developments in high-risk wildfire areas to submit a fire-protection plan during site plan review. | 10 |
| Action 11 - Priority Rank 3 - Enhance training and financial support for wildfire response. | 4 |