

CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE

HOW DOES A CHANGING CLIMATE AFFECT OUR REGION?



CHANGES ARE ALREADY AFFECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY, AND HUMAN HEALTH. THE CHOICES WE MAKE TODAY ABOUT REDUCING GREENHOUSE GASES WILL AFFECT THE SEVERITY OF FUTURE IMPACTS.

INCREASED HEAT

Average annual air temperature in the Puget Sound region is increasing (+1.3°F, 1895-2014), and is projected to be 5.5°F warmer in the 2050s.



PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS DUE TO HEAT



MORE ILLNESSES



MORE HOSPITALIZATIONS AND DEATHS

INCREASED WILDFIRE THREAT



4-fold increase in annual area burned projected for Washington's forests by the 2040s.

LESS SNOW

AVERAGE CASCADE SNOWPACK

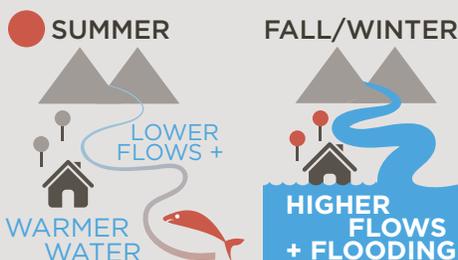


HEAVY RAIN EVENTS ARE INCREASING

By the 2080s, our heaviest rain events are expected to be 22% heavier.

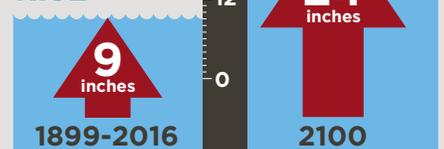


EXTREME RIVER CONDITIONS



RISING SEA LEVEL

SEATTLE SEA LEVEL RISE



MORE FREQUENT COASTAL FLOODING



INCREASED COSTS TO SHELLFISH GROWERS



RECENT YEARS OFFER A PREVIEW OF FUTURE CONDITIONS IF NO ACTION IS TAKEN.

FLOODING



JANUARY 2015:
Warm storms bring torrential rain and flooding.

RECORD LOW SNOWPACK

SPRING 2015: Record low snowpack in the Central Cascades.



RECORD TEMPERATURES

2015: Hottest year on record for Washington State.

SUMMER 2017: Hottest and driest summer on record for Seattle.



LANDSLIDE RISKS

WINTER 2017:
Wettest winter on record creates flooding and landslide hazards throughout the Puget Sound region.



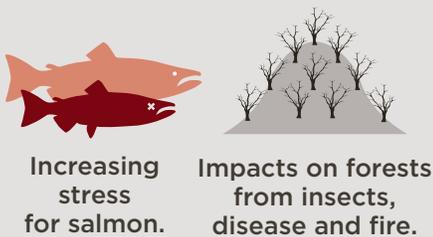
POOR AIR QUALITY

SUMMER 2017:
Northwest forest fires create unprecedented summer air quality problems in the Puget Sound region.



IF WE DON'T ACT NOW, THE COSTS AND CONSEQUENCES WILL GROW.

ENVIRONMENT



Increasing stress for salmon.

Impacts on forests from insects, disease and fire.



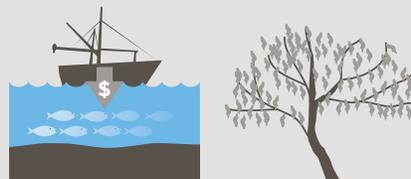
Changes in habitat important to local species.

More harmful algal blooms in lakes and Puget Sound.

ECONOMY



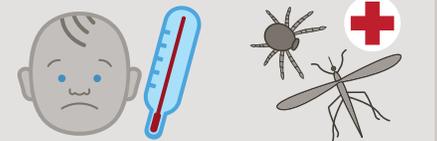
Greater risks to homes, businesses, and infrastructure from increased coastal and river flooding.



Marine-based economies suffer as fish and shellfish diminish.

Increased summer drought stress.

HEALTH



Health impacts from heat exposure.

Changes in illnesses carried by ticks and mosquitos.



Increased risks for people with asthma and heart illness due to more summer air pollution.

Greater risk of injury and property damage from more extreme weather events.