Unfair Share Report

An Unfair Share
Exploring the Disproportionate Risks from Climate Change Facing Washington State Communities

Vulnerability
Lower Income
People of color
Health
Language

Exposure
Where you live
Where you work

Risk

Hazards
Fire
Floods
Heat
Drought

The bottom line: People of color, indigenous peoples, and people with lower incomes frequently face greater risks from climate change.
Community listening sessions took place in geographically diverse areas throughout the state.

Figure 1. Locations of the eleven community listening sessions with 178 participants in Washington from July to November 2017.
Listening Session Findings

It doesn't seem like it's affecting us right now, but in a few years or decades or generations we will see big changes. We will lose our forests in Washington and sea-level rise, the coast will be gone. We will lose our resources like Antarctica. We need to find a solution to stop global warming.  

Ellensburg

Rising sea levels displace people and with the water table dropping, there is less water available to use for daily purposes.  

Vancouver

The algae from warming waters is impacting the fishing industry and fishing jobs.  

Westport
## Summary of Listening Sessions

### Climate Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Algae blooms</th>
<th>Warming water</th>
<th>Extreme heat</th>
<th>Rising cost of energy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>Drought</td>
<td>Decline of fisheries</td>
<td>Flooding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing condition</td>
<td>Heat related illness</td>
<td>Mental health</td>
<td>Harvest time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoke/pollutants from wildfires</td>
<td>Loss of natural habitats</td>
<td>Loss of biodiversity</td>
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The **risk** you face from climate-related events is determined by your **exposure** and **vulnerability**.

**EXPOSURE** is your likelihood to encounter climate-related hazards. Living near floodplains, at the wildland-urban interface or in a city exposes you to different climate impacts. Your place of employment can also increase your exposure to different climate-related hazards.

**VULNERABILITY** is your ability to withstand and recover from climate-related hazards. For instance, if you are low-income, have poor health or lack insurance it can be harder to recover from hazards like flooding, heat waves, or wildfire.
What are some of the climate hazards?

**Warming temperatures** alter growing seasons and increase the chances for heat waves.

**Water stress** that arises from changes in water quantity and quality.

**More intense rainfall events** (and sea level rise) that raise flood risks.

**Wildfire and smoke;** fire conditions are exacerbated by hotter, drier summers.
### Exposure & Vulnerabilities Explored

#### Exposure based on Where People Live (Chapter 4)
- Floodplains
- Wildland-Urban Interface
- Urban areas

#### Exposure based on Livelihood (Chapter 5)
- Agriculture
- Fisheries
- Construction

#### Factors that Affect Vulnerability (Chapters 4 & 5)
- Race and Ethnicity
- Wealth & Income
- Linguistic Isolation
- Social Cohesion
- Age and Health Status
- Perception of Risk
- Community Infrastructure
- Cultural Value/Importance
- Education and Job Mobility
- Existing Environmental Stressors
- Immigration Status
- Water Rights