



Preparing for a Changing Climate: Washington State's Climate Change Response Strategy

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Foundation for the Response Strategy

Leading the Way:
Preparing for the Impacts
of Climate Change in
Washington

Recommendations of the
Preparation and Adaptation
Working Groups



The Washington Climate Change Impacts Assessment

*Evaluating Washington's Future
in a Changing Climate*

Executive Summary



A report by
The Climate Impacts Group
University of Washington
June 2009

Legal Framework

2008 Greenhouse Gas
Reductions Goals and
Green Economy

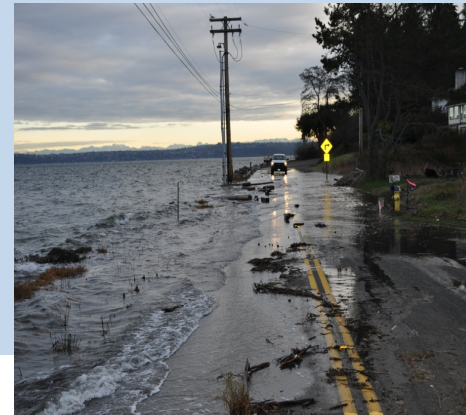
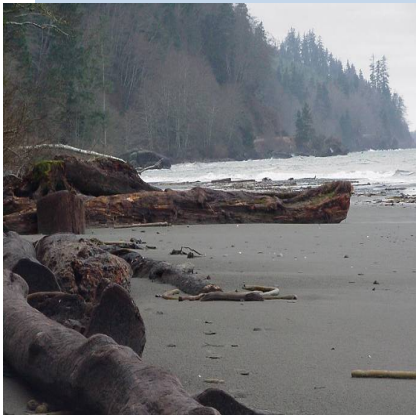
2009 State Agency Climate
Leadership – Integrated
Response Strategy

2007 and 2009 Executive
Orders 07-02 and 09-05

**Collaboration between State Agencies
Engagement of stakeholders**

Coastal Ecosystems

- Profoundly impacted by combined effects of:
 - Multiple human-caused stresses (i.e., sediments, organic matter, nutrients, pollutants, loss of habitat, etc.);
 - Climate change and extreme weather events (i.e., temperature, sea level rise, flooding, harmful algal bloom, beach erosion, etc.); and
 - OA



Priority Goals and Strategies

- Integrate adaptation with other goals, such as environmental protection, sustainable development and economic growth.
- Make adaptation response a standard part of agency planning and decision making.
- Strengthen existing efforts to help local, tribal, private, and public organizations reduce existing stresses and vulnerability to climate change.
- Make scientific information about climate change impacts accessible to decision makers and public.
- Improve public understanding and participation.

Key Strategies related to Ocean Acidification

- Reduce GHG emissions
- Reduce and address many existing stressors that exacerbate acidification conditions:
 - Using existing laws and legal tools to protect coastal waters and address impacts of development and urbanization, examples: CZMA, CWA, SMA, SEPA, GMA
 - Implementing programs and initiatives , such as Puget Sound Action Agenda, shellfish initiative (underway), stormwater, habitat protection and restoration.
- Implement actions that help the State better prepare for and manage climate-related risks.
- Build resilience to climate change in local communities.
- Advance monitoring and research.