

Climate Change Adaptation Planning Checklist

Getting Started

- Initial scoping/decisions (focus, who to involve, technical assistance needs, budget, etc.)
- Build and maintain support with tribal leadership and community (outreach/ education)
- Seek tribal council approval of resolution supporting the climate change adaptation initiative
- Create climate change planning team and select team leader (point person)
- Hold workshop for planning team to get everyone on board
- Establish vision and guiding principles
- Develop tribe's adaptation planning guide that outlines the goals, process, schedule, responsibilities, and products of the climate change adaptation initiative
- Form partnerships (within tribes and with other organizations/agencies)
- Seek funding to support the climate change initiative

Impact and Vulnerability Assessments

- Gather relevant data, reach out to experts re: observed and projected changes in climate (develop climate change scenarios based on available information)
- Identify/characterize current and projected impacts on sectors/planning areas of interest
- Assess vulnerabilities of those sectors/planning areas to climate change impacts

Risks and priorities

- Assess risks to those sectors/planning areas
- Prioritize sectors/planning areas for development of adaptation strategies

Adaptation Strategies: Goals and Actions

- Develop goals for adaptation for the higher priority sectors and planning areas
- Develop, assess, and select adaptation actions to achieve those goals

Write and Integrate Adaptation Plan

- Write adaptation plan, provide draft for review by others, finalize plan
- Seek tribal council approval of climate change adaptation plan
- Integrate the plan ("mainstream") into other management/planning activities and documents

Implement Plan

- ___ Identify feasible first steps
- ___ Build leadership and community support
- ___ Build partnerships for implementing adaptation actions
- ___ Secure funding; be ready for “windows of opportunity”
- ___ Ensure you have the right implementation tools
- ___ Implement adaptation actions

Measure your progress and update your plan

- ___ Track progress in implementing adaptation actions and attaining goals; evaluate effectiveness of adaptation actions (such as annually)
- ___ Continue monitoring changes in climate and its impacts and regularly review basic assumptions (such as annually)
- ___ Update adaptation plan as circumstances change and/or as new data or information becomes available (such as every 5 years)

