



RESILIENCY AND CLIMATE CHANGE: BOTH GO HAND-IN-HAND

By Kellie Hale

The world is continuing to see an increase in high temperatures, seasonal weather is shifting, with an increasing impact on weather events (e.g., snowstorms, floods, hurricanes, tornados, drought, etc.). The longer we put aside our need for climate change adaptation, the more difficult and expensive it will be in combating this major issue. What are adaptations? They refer to adjustments within our ecological, social, or economic systems impacted by climate change. These systems processes, practices, and structures will continue to see a growth in damages associated with climate change.

On January 27, 2021, President Joe Biden took Executive actions to tackle the climate crisis, both home and abroad. Biden's Executive Order's goal is to begin the process of "creating good-paying union jobs and equitable clean energy future." He also plans to re-establish the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. Biden is continuing to keep his promise of implementing aggressive action to tackle climate change. On his first day in office, Biden had the United States rejoin the Paris Agreement and did immediate steps on reviewing specific environmental rollbacks that appear harmful when it came to protecting our air, water, and communities.

While our local, state, and federal government can help lead the way in successful adaptations, there needs to be an active and sustained engagement from stakeholders and communities. Everyone can play a role in combating climate change threats. The adaptation process is a cycle.

- Assess impacts, vulnerabilities, and risks: This is when the awareness of the issues is raised.
- Adaptation plan: Providing the space for engagement with stakeholders, political leaders, and community members.
- Implement the measures for adaptation: Sharing information and guidance while strengthening institutions' capacities and technological advances.
- Adaptations need to be monitored and evaluated: Continue to engage with stakeholders and facilitate financial and technical support.

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Why is the climate continuing to change?

The primary factor in the acceleration of climate change in the past century is human activity. Our ability to prepare, recover, and adapt to the climate crisis is called “Climate Resilience.”

In the world of Emergency Management, we see the word ‘resilience’ a lot. Resilience is an essential component in emergency preparedness and recovery. As the climate is a global and hyper-local issue, resilience needs to be viewed as the antidote to combat our climate threats.

What is resilience?

According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the term resilience means “the capability of a strained body to recover its size and shape after deformation caused especially by compressive stress,” and “an ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change.” Being able to excel in resiliency takes time and effort, with a different set of initiatives to form a workable framework to meet the necessary implementation goals. Many institutions have begun to incorporate resilience planning in their business recovery operations from the public to the private sector.

To bounce back from climate change risks, the planning, coordination, and mitigation operations must incorporate climate resilience methods and fully understand the climate risks. Individuals and institutions may prioritize one risk of the other. For example, losing power could be crucial to one person, but to another not so much, mainly if the latter individual lives in a more temperate environment. Then that person’s primary

concern is finding ways to live through a heatwave. That is why it is crucial to identify the climate risks that best suit an individual or institution’s needs. The ability to bounce back through climate resilience will be different for everyone, but it is possible.

When it comes to managing the risks of climate change, it requires the individual or institution to address the threat and the situation’s vulnerability. Some hazards are easy to identify more than others, along with how to manage said threats. Under the “flag of resilience,” the discussion of outcomes is usually centered on investing in initiatives based on resiliency. These initiatives tend to cause arguments about spending costs to adapt infrastructure rebuilding or reanalyzing systems to combat climate change.

There is a path forward to understanding the risks and impacts of climate change. More people are becoming more aware of climate change’s dangerous effects on the world and more willing to change and adapt to lower the setbacks and threats. Business leaders worldwide are beginning to raise awareness and demanding action from government leaders. The need to install climate change policies to combat economic anxiety, environmental hazards and support government-funded investments towards technology can begin the process to create a path towards a sustainable and resilient future for individuals and institutions worldwide.



PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP

In January, we marked the 321st anniversary of the last full-rip 9.0 Cascadia earthquake. In March, we note the 20th anniversary of the Nisqually earthquake. Even though we live in earthquake country, we aren't ready for a significant event. Will we ever be?

Is getting people to prepare an impossible pipe dream or a worthy goal? Why is it so difficult? Are Emergency Managers the right people to carry the preparedness message? If not, why not? If not, who is?

This class will use research from applied behavioral science, the principles of adult education, and findings from marketing efforts to shed light on how emergency managers can better target the time they spend on preparedness, leading to better results. We'll explore ways emergency managers can evaluate their particular situation to determine where/how they can increase the effectiveness of their preparedness programs.

The class examines the key errors in thinking that prevent people from getting prepared, as well as the one element that can be most effectively leveraged to get people to take action. Using brief content delivery modules, followed by interactive small group exercises, the class provides a platform for continuing conversations among class participants on what is working and not working in their preparedness efforts. If desired, students may schedule a one-hour consultation after the class on a preparedness topic chosen by the student.

More information to follow. Proceeds will go to the Jamye Wisecup Scholarship at:

<https://pencol.edu/foundation/give>



DEB MOLLER BIO

Deb Moller is the former public-private partnerships manager at the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. She is a senior fellow at the Center of Excellence, Homeland Security -Emergency Management. As principal of Moller Consulting, Deb has over ten years of experience assisting local, state, federal and tribal governments, as well as private profit and not-for-profit organizations, achieve performance goals. Deb's experience includes twenty years designing and managing adult education and job training programs for marginalized populations. She holds an M.A. in applied behavioral science from Bastyr University. She is the founder of Cascadia Calling, a community based earthquake preparedness organization.





JAPAN INSIGHTS ON PREPAREDNESS

By Nancy Aird

March 3, 2011, marks the tenth anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake, Tsunami, and Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster. Japan faced this experience with “BOSAI,” a science that can save your life. Nationally this cultural idea of preparedness/resiliency evolved from the EDO period experiences of running urban fires. Today, the nation is faced yearly with emergency response activation from earthquakes, tsunamis, typhoons, floods, landslides, snow, and volcano eruption. Disaster preparedness is exercised for and handled by all levels of society - national, community, personal, and schools. Check out Japanese insights and lessons for handling emergencies on NHK WORLD NEWS – news and video on demand site.

The site is in English and 16 other languages. You can check the site by going to the On-Demand/Category /Disaster Preparedness for documentaries, clips on crafting survival items, and Audio presentations for foreign language speakers. Some of the video topics covered include: Fostering leaders, Creating Bosai Communities, Staying Connected during Disaster, Flooding, Earthquake, Tsunami, and Urban Windstorm lessons.

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/ondemand/category/29/?type=tvEpisode&>

THE NEWS AND VIDEOS SHOW JAPAN HAS EMBRACED A CULTURE TO FOSTER THE FOLLOWING:

Seven Skills of Resilience

- Principle 1: Cultivate a Belief in Your Ability to Cope.
- Principle 2: Stay Connected With Sources of Support.
- Principle 3: Talk About What You’re Going Through.
- Principle 4: Be Helpful to Others.
- Principle 5: Activate Positive Emotion.

- Principle 6: Cultivate an Attitude of Survivorship.
- Principle 7: Seek Meaning.

Source: Seven Skills of Resilience Practical ways to enhance well-being in these trying times.

psychologytoday.com/us/blog/lifespac-perspectives/202003/seven-skills-resilience

WASHINGTON DISASTER RESILIENCY WORK GROUP



“Resilience is the ability to prepare, mitigate and plan for, withstand and recover from, to more successfully adapt to adverse events and changing conditions, and reorganize in an equitable manner that results in a new and better condition.”

Washington Disaster Resiliency Work Group

Final Report

November 30, 2020

Mike Kreidler, Insurance Commissioner
www.insurance.wa.gov

In the 2019 legislative session Insurance Commissioner, Mike Kreidler proposed legislation to help our state prepare for and mitigate climate disasters. The [Senate Bill 5106](#) was signed into law by Gov. Jay Inslee and created a workgroup represented by 27 organizations including legislators, state agencies, insurance companies, Tribal leaders, municipal groups, and other key parties to review and make recommendations on how to best coordinate and improve disaster resilience work in Washington state. The law took effect on July 28, and a final report, [Disaster Resiliency Work Group Final Report - November 2020](#), was delivered to the state legislature on December 1, 2020.

The Work Group recommended that a resiliency program engages in activities that:

- Develop, administer, track, and communicate the state resiliency strategy's progress.
- Conduct and coordinate research, data collection, and analysis.
- Coordinate funding and economic research tools.
- Develop, coordinate, and communicate resilience initiatives/projects.
- Serve public-private sectors as a resource and enhance collaboration, education, and outreach programs.

The Work Group strongly recommended the program reside in the Governor's office and have the Advisory Board include memberships from tribal governments, state legislature, private entities, state agencies, local authorities, academia, special purpose districts. It must also include community members who represent policymakers, agency heads, subject matter experts, historically marginalized groups, communities of color, people with disabilities, people who can improve language access, and people from economically and geographically diverse backgrounds.



INSLEE ANNOUNCES BOLD CLIMATE PACKAGE FOR 2021-2023 BIENNIUM



“Climate change is a health issue, an economic issue, and an equity issue. We must address these genuine threats to our state, and we cannot wait. The time to act is now. These proposals would reduce nearly 30 million metric tons of emissions by 2030 — a 35% reduction from current projections. And these standards and investments — with justice at their core — will grow clean energy jobs in Washington,” said Governor Inslee while outlining his Washington State Climate Commitment Act 2021-22 and climate policy package for the 2021–2023 biennium.

The Governor’s legislative and budget proposals would establish a comprehensive program to implement the state’s climate commitment and convene a Climate Commitment Task Force. The program will provide accountability and authority for achieving the statewide emissions limits, establish a coordinated and strategic statewide approach to climate resilience, and build an equitable and inclusive clean energy economy.

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/tags/energy-climate>

- Requires the Governor to establish a comprehensive program to implement the state’s climate commitment.
- Establishes cap and investment plans for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to be implemented by the Department of Ecology (Ecology).
- Directs distribution of auction revenues for specified purposes, including clean transportation, natural climate resiliency, clean energy transition and assistance, and energy efficiency projects.

- Convenes an Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Panel to provide recommendations on developing and implementing the cap and invest program.
- Authorizes Ecology to require persons (who produce or distribute fossil fuels or other products that emit GHG in Washington) to comply with air quality standards, emission standards, or GHG emission limitations.
- Defines emission, emission standard, and emission limitation as applied to GHG emissions that include indirect emissions from the production or distribution of petroleum products or natural gas.

Climate change poses an existential threat to all communities, but the impacts fall [disproportionately on those most marginalized](#). The Governor’s climate package centers on environmental justice by reducing emissions in the most impacted communities, requiring that the benefits of the clean energy transition be distributed equitably, and ensuring that overburdened communities have a formal role in climate governance.

The Governor’s proposal would create a permanent Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Panel, which would recommend plans and proposals for funds in the climate investment account. Any investments from the newly created climate investment account would also need to undergo an environmental justice analysis to ensure that they are directed towards eliminating environmental harm and economic and health disparities for vulnerable populations.

[Environmental Justice Task Force recommendations](#)