



“There is no better way to get your group to work together on adaptation efforts from a municipal perspective in the intermountain west.”

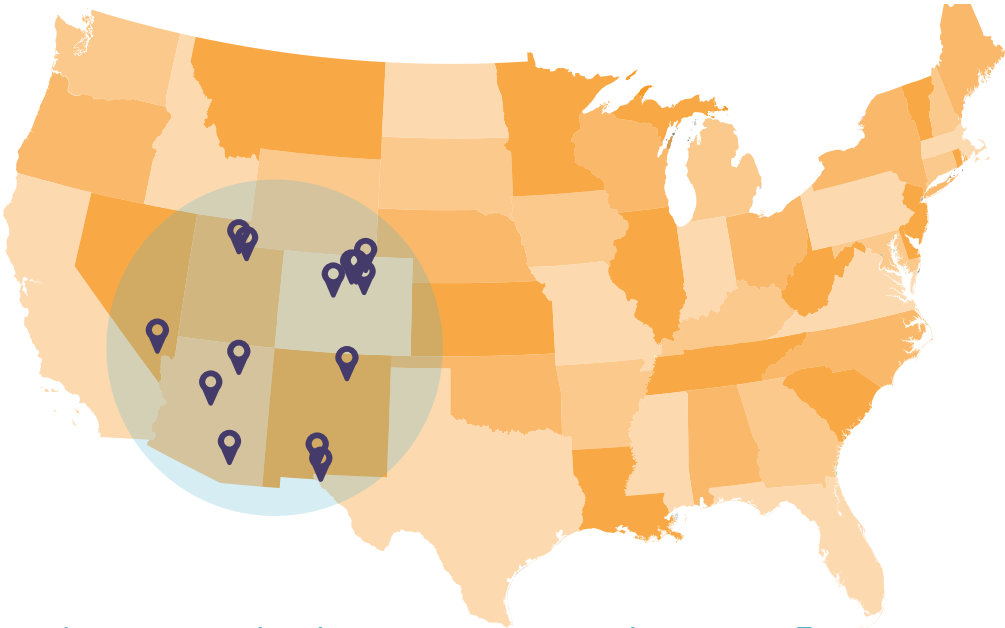
– WAA Community Leader

Photo credit: Garrett,
www.flickr.com/photos/countylemonade/7707287224

Western Adaptation Alliance

Across the American West, increasingly common extreme weather and climate events are challenging communities and the regional environment that sustains them. In recent years, much of North America has suffered through remarkable drought and extreme heat, with drought conditions extending from southern Arizona through Georgia. To address these threats, communities in six states have created the Western Adaptation Alliance, a “learning network” designed to enable the rapid development of best practices in arid region urban adaptation. The network has become a sophisticated and highly collaborative effort between 13 municipalities united around the mission of “building resilient western communities.”

WAA Members



Arizona

Flagstaff
Phoenix
Tucson

Colorado

Aspen
City & County of Boulder
City & County of Denver
Fort Collins
Lakewood

Nevada

Las Vegas

New Mexico

Las Cruces
Santa Fe

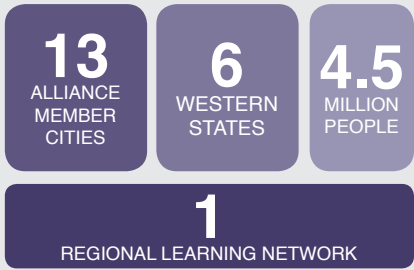
Texas

El Paso

Utah

Park City
Salt Lake City

Project Overview



Areas of Impact

- Regional collaboration
- Climate change adaptation
- Network development
- Water efficiency
- Food systems

Project Objectives

- Identify, replicate and rapidly advance innovations in water conservation, ecosystem services protection and other regional adaptation strategies.
- Leverage the collective experience of each WAA community through Climate Leadership Academies, webinars and trainings.
- Create an active learning network to connect adaptation practitioners from drought-prone areas of the US.





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About ISC

The Institute for Sustainable Communities' mission is to help communities around the world address environmental, economic, and social challenges to build a better future shaped and shared by all. Since our founding in 1991 by former Vermont Governor Madeleine M. Kunin and George Hamilton, ISC has led transformative community-driven projects in 30 countries including the United States, Serbia, China, India and Bangladesh.

www.iscvt.org

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ISC's Role

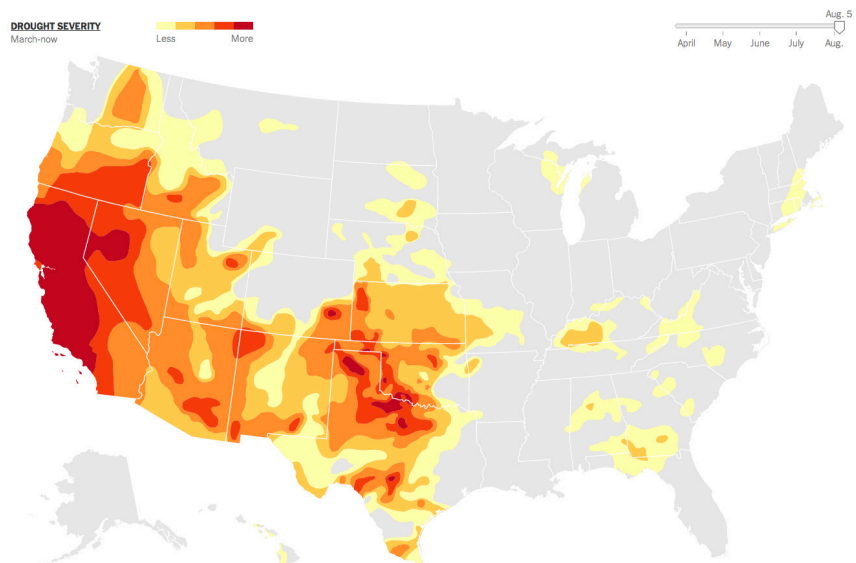
With ISC's guidance, the Western Adaptation Alliance has developed a set of **collaborative planning principles** guiding their efforts to share resources and develop case studies, tools and methods for adapting to the unique climate impacts of American West. As a cutting-edge learning network, the Alliance fosters innovation and diffusion of promising practices, supporting both intra-Alliance interaction and the publication of case studies designed to reach a wider audience.

ISC holds Climate Leadership Academies to gather cross-sector community teams from the Alliance to interact with leading national and regional experts in a curriculum designed to support action when each team returns home. ISC also provides direct technical assistance targeted toward the areas identified by each community, covering issues such as structuring and executing a community adaptation planning process, identifying state and federal funding sources for strategy implementation, and structuring community engagement processes to build public support.

WAA Collaborative Planning Principles

- Recognize and utilize commonalities across the region
- Collaborate regionally when appropriate
- Embrace and understand regional differences
- Respect each other and leverage shared knowledge and collective skills
- Plan locally, consistently applying shared regional understandings
- Utilize a multidisciplinary, integrated approach to solutions
- Plan for multiple time frames and impact scenarios

The Spread of Drought Across the US



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