



Building Resiliency Through Collaboration in the Puget Sound

This headline was among a flurry of news stories that followed a report predicting the impact climate change would have on the Puget Sound in 2015. Located among a complex system of waterways in the Pacific Northwest, the Puget Sound is home to nearly 4 million people living in shoreline communities.

Rising sea temperatures, glacial melt in the nearby Cascade Mountains, and uncommonly heavy periods of rain are among a myriad of climate-related changes impacting the region, all of which are projected to accelerate in the coming decades with disproportionate impact on low-income communities, communities of color, and tribal communities.

Climate Preparedness Collaborative

The Puget Sound Climate Preparedness Collaborative was created in 2017 to prepare for the projected increase in natural hazards such as drought, wildfire, flooding, seismic events, and extreme weather. Comprised of local and tribal governments, regional agencies, and concerned organizations, the Collaborative is working to ensure economic, environmental, and societal resilience to the impacts of climate change.

THE VISION:

A Puget Sound region that is adequately prepared for the impacts of climate change in order to secure prosperity and well-being for all.



INSTITUTE FOR
**Sustainable
Communities**

**“Climate Change Won’t
Be Kind to Puget Sound.”**

– Tacoma News Tribune

Collaborative Members

Counties: King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish

Tribes: Tulalip

Cities: Issaquah, Seattle, Shoreline, Tacoma

Conservation Districts: Pierce, Snohomish

Regional: Emerald Alliance, Puget Sound Regional Council, Sound Transit, Thurston Regional Planning Council, Puget Sound Partnership

Ports: Northwest Seaport Alliance, Port of Seattle

Academia: University of Washington Climate Impacts Group

Funding Partner

THE
KRESGE
FOUNDATION

BULLITT
FOUNDATION



About ISC

The Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) serves as the Collaborative's secretariat and provides direct assistance and capacity-building support, leverages additional resources, and builds the comity needed to institutionalize the Collaborative for the long term.

Dedicated to driving innovative sustainability and climate, the ISC leads transformative, community-driven projects around the globe, and recognizes that investments in climate preparedness provide opportunities to address broader inequities in health, mobility, and access to economic opportunity.

sustain.org

For more information:

Russell Paez

Senior Program Officer
rpaez@sustain.org

Steve Adams

Director of Urban Resilience
sadams@sustain.org



With support from the Institute for Sustainable Communities, the Puget Sound Climate Preparedness Collaborative is moving toward that goal by creating a forum for exchanging information and ideas among peers. This model leverages limited resources, reduces duplication of effort, facilitates institutional learning, and increases the effectiveness of individual community and organization adaptation efforts. Specifically, the Collaborative is working to:

- **Share Knowledge** and build common understanding of the impacts of climate change, facilitate access to climate preparedness tools and research, and share best practices among practitioners and member organizations.
- **Empower Regional Practitioners** through peer-to-peer climate preparedness programming, such as workshops, events and webinars.
- **Engage Local Communities** to better understand how climate change will affect the health, safety, and economic opportunities of residents, and how these impacts may worsen existing disparities.
- **Communicate** reliable information on climate impacts and risks to all residents.
- **Coordinate Research and Assessment** efforts among practitioners and member organizations.
- **Improve Social and Racial Equity** and ensure that efforts to address the impact of climate change do not entrench existing inequities.

Regional Voice and Impact

The Collaborative develops and hosts workshops throughout the region, procuring national and local experts to help build the knowledge base and increase capacity among local government and other critical stakeholders.

Additionally, the Collaborative has played a critical role in shaping statewide climate preparedness initiatives by bringing a unified regional voice to state agency initiatives, including collaborations with the Departments of Ecology and Natural Resources.

It's important to note that the investments being made in climate preparedness, will also provide opportunities to address broader inequities in health, mobility, and access to economic opportunity in the region.