

Understanding and Assessing Climate Change: Implications for Nebraska

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NAS Making Climate Assessments Work
August 2018

Process Overview

- University-sponsored report in response to legislation passed in 2013
- Interdisciplinary team
- Focus on climate change science, observed changes, projections and potential impacts in key sectors
- State wide assessment
- Science-based assessment, not policy oriented
- Released through a public forum, 2014
 - Conference call with Congressional delegation

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Implications for Nebraska



**The report is
available at**

**[http://go.unl.edu/
climatechange](http://go.unl.edu/climatechange)**

2014

Climate Assessment Report Outline

- Introduction
- Observed Changes in Climate
- Understanding Causes of Observed Changes in Climate
- Projections of Future Changes in Climate
 - Drawn heavily from NCA3
- Understanding Climate Projections
- Impacts of Climate Change in Nebraska
 - Sector-based commentaries
- The Scientific Consensus and Debate
- Summary/References/Further Reading

Nebraska's Experts Identified Climate Change Impacts on Multiple Sectors

Warmer World



Water
Resources



Crops



Livestock



Energy



Health



Forestry



Ecosystems



Urban Systems



Rural
Communities



Insurance



Invasive Species

The Implications of Climate Change for Nebraska: Summary Report of Sector-Based Roundtable Discussions

(September-October 2015)



**The roundtable
report is
available at:**

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2015

Sector-based Roundtable Discussions on Climate Change

- **Roundtable Format:** Public Lecture, stakeholder session and breakouts around adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- **Sector-based Roundtables**
 - Climate Change and the Faith Community
 - Urban & Rural Communities
 - College/University Campuses
 - Wildlife, Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services
 - Public Health
 - Forests and Fire
 - Agriculture, Food and Water
 - Energy Availability, Use and Management
- **Stakeholder participation ~ 350**
- **Climate change website**
 - <http://go.unl.edu/climatechange>

Outcomes and the Path Ahead

- University report served as a catalyst for many NGOs/environmental groups
- Rural Nebraska poll, 61% of those surveyed support development of climate action plan
- Mobilized the print media
- Series of Youth Summits on climate change—2015, 2016 and 2018
- Led to the formation of the Nebraska Elder Climate Legacy Initiative
- Nebraska Climate Consortium?
- Climate change legislation/Action Plan
- CHALLENGES:
 - To establish and maintain political momentum
 - To garner support from ag community and Nebraska's Natural Resource Districts

Best Practices

- Science based, content driven by audience
- Active stakeholder engagement
- Follow on educational outreach efforts
 - Engaged University Extension, created climate resiliency program
 - Invited presentations to stakeholder groups
- Funding, short-term
- Outcome oriented → Targeted building momentum for action by stakeholder groups and state agencies, grass roots movement
- Engaging/educating state senators

Thanks for your attention!

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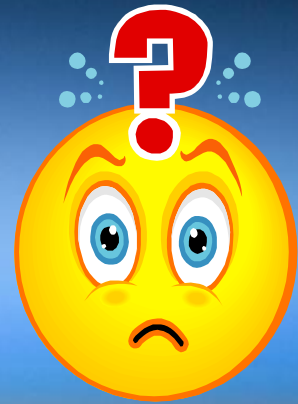
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Questions?



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