



ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Figure 3: Examples of Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies that Health Departments (HD) could Lead or Support

The table lists examples of strategies and initiatives that health departments could lead or partner with other agencies in a supporting role. The examples come from several sources, such as the BRACE Expert Panel, anecdotal information, Annual Progress Reports, and Performance Measures from CDC’s Climate and Health Program grant recipients, and the peer review literature. Inclusion in this table is not a CDC endorsement.

***Focus level or group refers to the population addressed or the level of the strategy in terms of geographical area that may be involved*

Category	Strategy	Focus Level or Group **	Example Sub-strategies and Actions
Health Department Capacity Building	Conduct health department climate and health planning	Health department /communities	Develop climate and health plan for health department
			Develop planning, surveillance, and decision support tools for climate and health topics
	Create subgrant program for local health department or other local partners	Local health department /partners	Build capacity through training, funding, and technical assistance
			Provide training and technical assistance to support priority community-level actions
Forecasting and Data	Develop forecasting, early warning, alerts, and/or monitoring systems for health practitioners and the public	Health department /community	Develop forecasting, early warning, and monitoring systems for health practitioners and the public
			Develop and maintain alert systems for health practitioners and the public
			Conduct, expand or enhance monitoring for waterborne, foodborne, and vector borne illness
	Develop climate and health data collection and surveillance system	Health department /practitioners	Collect and disseminate climate and health data for decision making and awareness
			Conduct, expand or enhance syndromic surveillance to monitor climate-sensitive health outcomes
			Collect occupational data on climate-related exposures or hazards



ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Category	Strategy	Focus Level or Group **	Example Sub-strategies and Actions
Planning	Bring health perspective to jurisdiction-level planning	Jurisdiction /community	Develop/contribute health perspective to comprehensive jurisdictional climate and health plans Develop jurisdictional hazard and emergency response plans
		Health services /health needs population	Enhance access to health services in disasters and emergencies, especially for populations with existing health needs
	Develop institutional emergency response plans	Specific institutions	Develop institutional or organizational response plans, such as heat, wildfire, flooding, and extreme precipitation response plans for places such as hospitals, schools, workplaces, small businesses, and incarceration centers
Program /Policy Implementation	Advance building decarbonization	Community	Educate public about rebates and health benefits of indoor appliance electrification Provide information about the health benefits of indoor appliance electrification, especially for indoor air quality
		Decisionmakers	Provide information about the health benefits of green building codes and standards



ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Category	Strategy	Focus Level or Group **	Example Sub-strategies and Actions
Program /Policy Implementation	Protect community and vulnerable groups from extreme heat and other extreme weather events	Employers of outdoor workers	Provide information about the health benefits of workplace policies that protect outdoor workers from weather extremes, such as employers providing shade and hydration, adjusting work/rest schedules during temperature extremes, or providing personal protective equipment for cooling
		Workplace and schools	Advise and support policies that regulate safe indoor temperatures and air quality for schools, offices, and congregate settings
		Community /community organizations	Increase access to in-home cooling and heating
			Increase access to indoor air purification to protect individuals from poor air quality
			Encourage individuals and householders to create an emergency plan to protect themselves during extreme events
			Promote social connectedness and cohesion to help foster community climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and readiness for action
			Maintain and promote cooling centers to reduce morbidity and mortality from heat-related illnesses and deaths
			Promote neighbor wellness and check-in programs to ensure that populations who are most at-risk can avoid harm in extreme weather events
			Facilitate weatherization for older adults and other populations at risk for negative respiratory health outcomes
			Establish weatherization standards in building codes
Conduct community education about dangers of/proper use of generators			



ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Category	Strategy	Focus Level or Group **	Example Sub-strategies and Actions
Program /Policy Implementation	Support transition to clean renewable power	Jurisdiction /community /utilities	Conduct community education about health benefits of renewables compared to fossil fuel power
			Provide information about the health benefits of clean renewable energy
			Provide information about the health benefits of transitioning away from coal, natural gas, and other fossil fuel power plants
			Provide information about the health benefits zoning and permitting codes that facilitate solar and wind power
	Advance waste reduction /circular economy /extended producer responsibility	Jurisdiction /community	Educate decision makers on benefits of reducing single-use plastics
			Assist programs that facilitate local food production, distribution, and purchasing to reduce distance between consumption and production (e.g., community gardens)
			Provide information about the health benefits of reuse and recycling of produced materials
			Assist programs focused on sustainable agricultural practices (production, processing and packaging)
			Engage in health-focused education and facilitation of city composting programs
	Support community greening /urban greening /nature-based solutions	Jurisdiction	Provide information about the health benefits of green spaces, blue spaces, and trees to reduce heat islands
			Provide information about the health benefits and trade-offs of climate-resilience initiatives regarding trees and bushes
		Community /community organizations	Assist programs that seek to expand the health benefits of community gardening
Jurisdiction /contractors		Provide information about the health benefits of smart surfaces, such as light colored reflective pavement or roofs, to reduce ambient temperatures	



ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Category	Strategy	Focus Level or Group **	Example Sub-strategies and Actions
Program /Policy Implementation	Support resilience and decarbonization in select sectors	Workforce	Provide technical assistance and training on special climate and health topics to improve skills and capacity
		School based partners	Promote climate action in schools, including food procurement, solar panels, curriculum, resilience, and active transportation, etc.
	Reduce emissions from transportation and land use	Transportation agencies	Provide information about the health benefits of options that shift from vehicular-based highways to active transportation infrastructure
		Children and youth	Provide information about the health benefits of Safe Routes to School programs for elementary, middle, and high schools
			Provide information about the health benefits of expanding access to public transportation
		Community /jurisdiction	Provide information about the health benefits of zoning and street design standards to encourage more density and walkable communities
		Community	Provide information about the health benefits of vehicle electrification
	Jurisdiction	Provide information about the health benefits high-quality vehicle charging in zoning and building standards for multifamily housing	
	Support green and climate resilient healthcare	Healthcare	Evaluate and enhance healthcare facilities to ensure they can withstand extreme weather events
			Provide information about the safety and health benefits of telemedicine to reduce travel associated with carbon emissions
			Support emergency planning to ensure generators are located in areas not vulnerable to floodwaters, especially in relation to health care facilities
			Assist in efforts to decarbonize healthcare, with attention to efficiency, power, anesthetic practices, and transportation
Reduce emissions from food	Jurisdiction /staff	Work with agency staff and other interest holders to update food procurement and food service guidelines to increase climate friendly food, including plant based diets, local produce, etc.	
	Community	Educate the public on health and climate benefits of a plant-based diet	