

Focus on: Storage Tanks and Climate Change



Service station flooded during extreme weather event.

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Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-7285 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

For a quick climate primer

[No Time to Waste](#) is a 10-page report by University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group made to help you understand our changing climate. Available at http://bit.ly/cig_notimetowaste.

How can you protect your business?

One of the easiest things you can do to protect your business is learn more about climate impacts that could threaten it. You might not need to take any immediate steps to protect your investment, but you may want to find ways to safeguard your tanks and business over the next few decades. The following links provide information about potential threats and resources to help protect your investment.

Where you can learn more

1) Learn about climate threats to tanks

Department of Ecology, *Adaptation Strategies for Resilient Cleanup Remedies: A Guide for Cleanup Project Managers to Increase the Resilience of Toxic Cleanup Sites to the Impacts from Climate Change* (November 2017). Available at <https://bit.ly/2G7YSpd>.

This document examines potential vulnerabilities of cleanup sites to climate change impacts. Chapter 7 has information on underground storage tank management and advice on protecting your tanks to minimize potential liability.

2) Find grants and loans to protect your business

Washington State Pollution Liability Insurance Agency (PLIA), *Loan and Grant Program*. Available at <https://plia.wa.gov/ust-loan-and-grant-program/>.

This website provides information about PLIA's Underground Storage Tank Loan and Grant Program. Up to \$10 million per year is available to owners and operators to replace or upgrade aging fuel systems, clean up historical contamination, and install

What does extreme weather look like?



Debris flow, including large boulders, after an extreme weather storm event causes flooding after a fire. Debris flow is common after an intense wildfire because soil and rock are no longer held in place by plants and are easily washed away by rain (photo from video by Pierre Zufferey).



Tank that popped its support strap due to flooding. Climate change means that flooding may be more intense in areas that are already prone to flooding, and shifting weather patterns could cause flooding in locations that have not flooded before.



View from space of smoke from the 2017 wildfires. Warmer, drier air makes it easier for fires to start and harder to contain them once started (photo from NASA).

alternative fuel infrastructure. These resources can help you protect your investment and access new customers.

3) See threats to your business on a map

Applied Climate Science Lab at University of Idaho, *The Northwest Climate Toolbox* (Last updated January 2019). Available at <https://climatetoolbox.org/>.

This website contains links to various maps that can help you visualize projected changes in climate including current and future estimates of flood, drought, and fire risk. These maps come with tutorials. Seeing the threat to your station can help you understand your potential liability from climate impacts.

4) Hear what insurers think about climate risk

Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner, *Climate change and your insurance*. Available at <https://bit.ly/2UJnRbQ>.

This website contains information from the state agency that regulates the insurance industry in Washington State. It includes information about how climate change affects the insurance market and links to recent reports that examine how climate risk might impact your insurers.

5) See successful community adaptation

Association of State Floodplain Managers, Flood Science Center, *Success Stories*. Available at <https://bit.ly/2ImmTvg>.

This website has success stories from communities that have used the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community Rating System to protect their communities from flood risk while lowering their insurance burdens. You will also find advice and other resources about this system. To learn even more about this opportunity directly from FEMA, also visit <https://bit.ly/1QLjwdg>.

6) Learn more and ask climate change experts

University of Washington, Climate Impacts Group. Available at <https://cig.uw.edu/>.

This website contains links to reports, publications, graphs, and contact information for resources and people who help the state prepare for climate impacts. There are mailing lists, an active Twitter feed, and workshops around the state and online for people who aren't scientists. You don't need to be a climate expert to stay informed because the experts are here to help.

In particular, check out the Special Reports page under the "Resources" tabs for some short reports that break down climate change science and the impacts you can expect.