

Washington State Climate Resilience Strategy 2025 Progress Report

One year ago, the Department of Ecology and our agency partners published the [Washington State Climate Resilience Strategy](#) to help communities, infrastructure, and natural and working lands prepare for the impacts of climate change. In the past year, we have shifted from planning to action: implementing new initiatives and ongoing work, strengthening collaboration across agencies, and navigating challenges from budget constraints and federal uncertainty.

What actions are underway?

Agencies developed 44 funding requests to support new actions proposed in the Climate Resilience Strategy. Following Legislative Session, 27 of those received funding. However, due to a historic budget shortfall, many were funded at levels below what was requested. Because this funding only became available at the start of the new fiscal year on July 1, many of these new efforts are in their early stages.

Select examples include:



Infrastructure

Agencies are working to make state infrastructure investments more climate resilient. Ecology is leading interagency efforts to integrate climate resilience into infrastructure funding programs (Action 7D), while the Department of Transportation is developing a Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan to protect the state's transportation network from flooding, coastal erosion, and other impacts (Action 7F).



Communities

Protecting public health and safety from climate impacts is a top priority. To strengthen the state's response, the Department of Health received funding to improve cross-agency coordination on wildfire smoke and extreme heat events (Actions 2A and 2B). Similarly, the Department of Agriculture received over \$93 million to expand food security support for communities, including those impacted by fire, floods, and other climate emergencies.





Natural lands

The Department of Fish and Wildlife, in partnership with the Department of Transportation, released the [Washington Habitat Connectivity Action Plan](#), a shared framework to support wildlife movement across landscapes and reduce vehicle collisions. Connectivity is an essential part of resilient ecosystems, enabling wildlife to access food, migrate, and adapt to climate change (Action 8J).



Working lands

Washington's agricultural and forestry sectors are especially vulnerable to flooding, extreme heat, and wildfires. The Department of Agriculture and State Conservation Commission (SCC) are building climate resilience by supporting animal composting (Action 2G) and incorporating resilience into voluntary conservation programs with landowners (Actions 4B and 4C). Additional work focuses on wildfire resilience, including the Department of Natural Resources' coordination of post-wildfire recovery (Action 2E) and SCC's work to improve wildfire resilience on private forest lands (Action 3D).

Navigating uncertainty

State budget challenges for fiscal years 2025-2027 meant that many newly proposed actions were ultimately funded below agency requests. Multiple agencies also saw budget reductions that reduced or eliminated ongoing resilience work. Several agencies will seek to restore funding levels during the upcoming legislative session in early 2026, particularly for programs that address wildfire risks.

The Trump administration's dramatic reversal on climate policy compounded state budget challenges. Federal funding, regulations, and scientific information are critical to state agency work. Unlawfully revoked grants, deleted datasets, and staff firings have affected our resilience work and federal partnerships. Tribes, local governments, and community organizations have also been affected, further straining our collective climate resilience efforts.

Strengthening our collaboration

Given these challenges, leadership and collaboration across agencies is more important now than ever. In response, agencies proposed forming an interagency council, which launched in September 2025. Comprised of the Directors and Secretaries of the ten partner agencies, the Council will establish shared priorities, support implementation, and guide adaptive management, including future required updates to the strategy every four years.

By strengthening coordination, we can more efficiently and effectively serve our communities, responsibly steward public resources, and deliver a more climate resilient Washington. 🌱

Learn more

To learn more about our progress over the past year, view the [2025 Progress Report](#). The full Washington State Climate Resilience Strategy can be found on [our website](#).

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