Climate Adaptation Efforts in Washington

- November 2007 – Climate Change & Human Health
  - University of Washington and Washington State Department of Health
- 2009 State Agency Climate Leadership Act (SB5560)
  - Agriculture
  - Commerce
  - Ecology
  - Fish & Wildlife
  - Health
  - Natural Resources
  - Transportation
A Topic of High Interest & Engagement

- SB5560 – Topic Advisory Group on Human Health & Security
  - University of Washington; Washington State Department of Health
  - Ecology
  - Washington Emergency Management
  - Local Health
  - League of Women Voters
  - Physicians for Social Responsibility
  - NW Center for Public Health Practice
  - American Lung Association in Washington
Climate Issues & Trends

- Warming Temperatures
  - Puget Sound average annual temperatures increased 2.3F during the 20th century
  - All models predict continued warming in the NW
    - 2.0F by 2020s
    - 3.2F by 2040s
    - 5.3F by 2080s
Climate Issues & Trends

- Drier summers & wetter winters (less snow)
  - Annual precipitation in NW increased 12.9% 1920-2000
  - Average snowpack has reduced 25% in much of the Cascades since 1950s
  - Projections for:
    - Decreased summer precipitation
    - Increased winter precipitation (avg. 9% by 2080s)
    - Continued decreases in snowpack (53-65% by 2080s)
Health Implications of Climate Change

- Health effects of excessive heat
- Health effects of air pollution
- Health effects associated with infectious diseases
- Health effects of extreme weather events & rising sea levels
- Psychological & social disruption
Current Activities in Washington

- University of Washington – projections on impacts of excessive heat
- Public Health Seattle & King County
  - Countywide climate change team (adaptation & mitigation)
  - Healthy community planning/Transportation planning
- Clark County Public Health
  - County comprehensive plan update – health element (inclusive of climate change issues)
Washington Integrated Climate Change Response Strategy (draft out later in 2012)

- Observed Trends & Future Projections
- Human Health
- Ecosystems, Species and Habitats
- Coasts and Oceans
- Water
- Agriculture
- Forests
- Infrastructure
Reshaping Public Health – Agenda for Change

- Communicable disease and other health threats
- Healthy communities and environments
- Public health partnering with the healthcare system
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<tr>
<th>Essential / Categorical Program Funding</th>
<th>Maternal and Child Health</th>
<th>Injury Control</th>
<th>Communicable Disease Control</th>
<th>Chronic Disease Prevention</th>
<th>Environmental Health</th>
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<td><strong>Fundamental Capabilities for 21st Century Public Health</strong></td>
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<td>• Information Systems and Resources, including surveillance and epidemiology</td>
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<td>• Health planning (including community health improvement planning)</td>
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<td>• Partnership development, community mobilization</td>
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<td>• Policy development, analysis, decision support</td>
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<td>• Communications (including health literacy/cultural competency)</td>
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<td>• Public health research, evaluation, and quality improvement</td>
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<td>• Emergency Preparedness and Response</td>
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Actions for Washington Department of Health

• Define & articulate the core capacity of public health
• Pursue long-term sustainable funding strategy
• Build climate change awareness and understanding into the system