



Needs Assessment Data Summary – Climate Training Topics

Coastal Training Program – Cathy Angell, Coordinator

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A needs assessment survey was sent to shoreline planners and other coastal resource managers in Washington State in August 2008. The goal of the survey was to find out which climate-related training topics were of the most interest to them in the context of their jobs. The results of this survey helped to inform development of the “Planning for Climate Change” workshop which was held in March 2009.

The survey was sent to those who have signed up for the “class email announcement list” for the Washington State Coastal Training Program. Approximately 1,000 people received the survey request. 221 professionals started the survey, and 209 completed it.

Link to Actual Survey results:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=1Ojr0TH7ZyTcrekrECDkWrykP4ETjgHL6uOuMo_2fssFE_3d

Respondents:

Planners	52.8% (104)
Biologists	24.4% (48)
Resource Manager	10.2% (20)
Engineer	6.6% (13)
Permit Reviewer	6.1% (12)

Job affiliation

Local	44.8%
State	21.3%
Private	20.8%
Federal	4.5%
Non-profit	3.6%
Tribal	2.7%
University	2.3%

Level of awareness about climate issues

Medium	59.3%
High	35.7%
Low	5.0%

Climate Impacts of Concern – Prioritized

(These percentages represent all of the respondents who marked the topic as an area of concern for their region.)

1. Sea Level Rise (risk to infrastructure, property loss, habitat loss) – 74.4%
2. Pressures on salmon and other marine species – 69.9%
3. Decreasing snow pack and impacts to water supply – 65.8%
4. Erosion of shoreline/coast – 62.1%
5. River flooding – 62.6%
6. Flooding of shoreline/coast – 62.1%
7. Changes in extreme weather events – 60.3%
8. Change in water quality – 59.8%
9. Spread of new or existing invasive species – 50.7%
10. Precipitation – 45.2%
11. Drought – 38.4%
12. Asset management (protection of property, bridges, roads) – 35.6%
13. Ocean acidification – 27.4%
14. Human Health – 27.4%
15. Changes in coastal upwelling – 25.1%
16. Heat – 24.2%

Impacts to Management – Topics prioritized

(These percentages reflect those who were “interested” to “extremely interested” on a Likert rating scale.)

1. Potential impacts of climate change – regionally – 98.1%
2. Ecosystem management – 93.3%
3. Land use planning and zoning – 92%
4. Water resources management – 91.4%
5. The science of climate change and sea level rise (causes, evidence) – 86.5%
6. Potential impacts of climate change – nationally – 86.1%
7. Coastal Zone management – 84.4%
8. Potential impacts of climate change – globally – 82.4%
9. Fiscal responsibility and risk management – 80.5%
10. Economic Development – 74.9%
11. Transportation infrastructure – 72.9%
12. Public Health – 72.8%
13. Emergency Response – 68.1%
14. Capital investments – 60.1%
15. Port management – 56.6%

Planning for Climate Change – Topics Prioritized

(These percentages reflect those who were “interested” to “extremely interested” on a Likert rating scale.)

1. Scoping climate change impacts to your major areas of responsibility or interest (e.g. water resources, fisheries, public health, transportation, flood control, stormwater management) – 96.6%
2. Fundamental concepts in planning for climate change – 94.2%

3. Identifying priority planning areas relevant to climate change impacts – 93.8%
4. Information/data sources for climate change assessment and planning – 94.3%
5. How local communities are preparing for climate change (case studies) – 88.5%
6. Establishing a vision and goals for adaptation planning – 87.1%
7. Building support among stakeholders for adaptation planning – 85.5%
8. Developing, selecting, prioritizing, and implementing possible preparedness actions - 83.6%
9. Dealing with uncertainty in decision-making – 81.2%
10. Funding sources for adaptation planning/activities – 81.2%
11. How global communities are preparing for climate change (case studies) – 80.7%
12. Developing measures of resilience and using them to track results of actions over time – 80.2%
13. Building a preparedness team – 69.8%

Likelihood of Attending

Very likely	47.8% (98)
Somewhat likely	42.5% (85)
Not likely	6.3% (13)
Don't know yet	4.4% (9)

Time Commitment Preferences

One-day class	98.1%
Two-day class	68.4%

Location Preferences

1. Seattle 72.5%
2. Olympia 64.4%
3. Tacoma 61.9%
4. Everett 44%
5. Mount Vernon 36.9%
6. Vancouver 22.1%
7. Port Angeles 18.2%
8. Aberdeen 18.6%
9. Ellensburg 8.5%
10. (Four people requested Spokane or a more eastern location in the written comments)