

# **EPA'S CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROGRAM**

## **Tribal Government Listening Session**

**Cohosted by  
Vicki Arroyo, Associate Administrator  
Office of Policy**

**and**

**JoAnn Chase, Director and Senior Advisor  
American Indian Environmental Office**

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**October 26, 2021**

# Today's Discussion

- Tribal Welcome - Governor Chavarria, Santa Clara Pueblo
- Welcome and Introductions
  - JoAnn Chase, Director, American Indian Environmental Office, and Sr. Advisor
  - Victoria Arroyo, Associate Administrator, Office of Policy
- EPA's Climate Adaptation Plan Overview
- Tribal Response - Governor Chavarria, Santa Clara Pueblo
- Open Discussion
- Next Steps and Action Items
- Closing Remarks

# **EPA CLIMATE ADAPTATION ACTION PLAN**

## **Tribal Government Listening Session**

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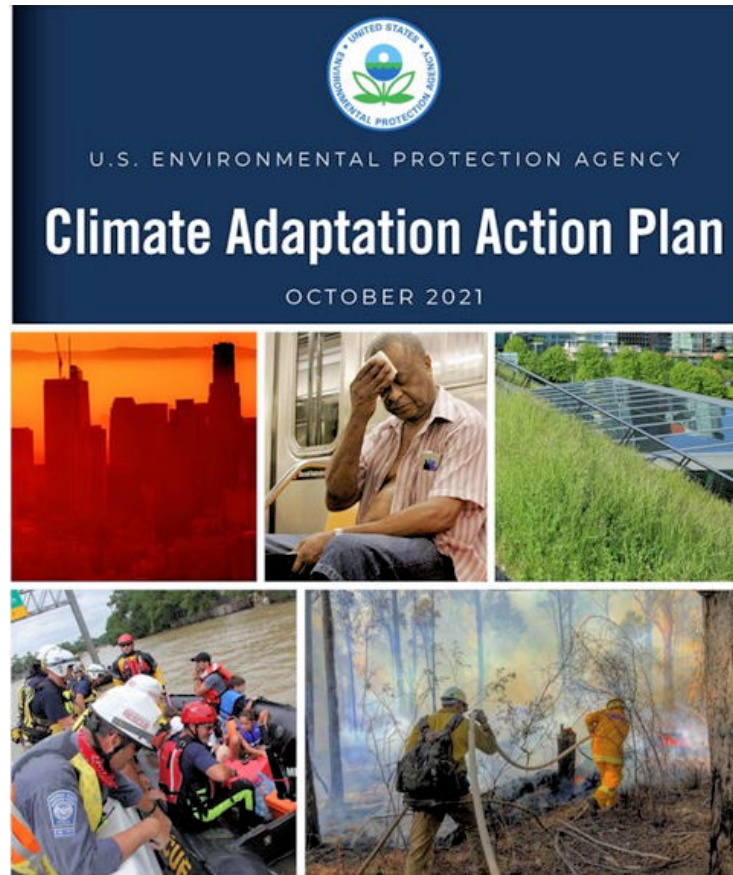
**Joel D. Scheraga, PhD  
Senior Advisor for Climate Adaptation  
Office of Policy**

**October 26, 2021**

# Tackling the Climate Crisis: A Whole-of-Government Approach

- President Biden issued Executive Order 14008 on *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*
- Additional requirements for agencies:
  - ✓ **Policy Statement on Climate Change Adaptation**
  - ✓ **Climate Adaptation Action Plan**
- Major focus: Securing Environmental Justice
  - “Agencies shall make achieving environmental justice part of their missions by developing programs, policies, and activities to address the disproportionately high and adverse human health, environmental, climate-related and other cumulative impacts on disadvantaged communities, as well as the accompanying economic challenges of such impacts.”*

# EPA's Climate Adaptation Action Plan Released on October 7<sup>th</sup>!



**[New EPA Climate Adaptation Website: www.epa.gov/climate-adaptation](http://www.epa.gov/climate-adaptation)**

# 2021 EPA Policy Statement on Climate Adaptation

## Key Directives for all EPA offices

*“Integrate climate adaptation planning into EPA programs, policies and rulemaking processes”*

*“Consult and partner with states, **tribes**, territories, local governments, environmental justice organizations, community groups, businesses, and other federal agencies to strengthen adaptive capacity and increase the resilience of the nation, with a particular focus on advancing environmental justice.”*

## Key Commitment

*“The EPA will actively engage with organizations representing overburdened and underserved communities that are more vulnerable to climate impacts to ensure the EPA’s adaptation plans reflect the principles of environmental justice and equity.”*

**Signed by Administrator Michael Regan in May 2021 & released  
with EPA’s 2021 Climate Adaptation Action Plan**

# EPA Climate Adaptation Action Plan Priorities

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Integrate climate adaptation into EPA programs, policies, rulemaking processes, and enforcement activities.

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Implement measures to protect the agency's workforce, facilities, critical infrastructure, supply chains and procurement processes from the risks posed by climate change.

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Measure and evaluate performance.

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Identify and address climate adaptation science needs.

# EPA Climate Adaptation Action Plan Priorities

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Measure and evaluate performance.

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Identify and address climate adaptation science needs.

Includes co-benefits such as GHG reductions

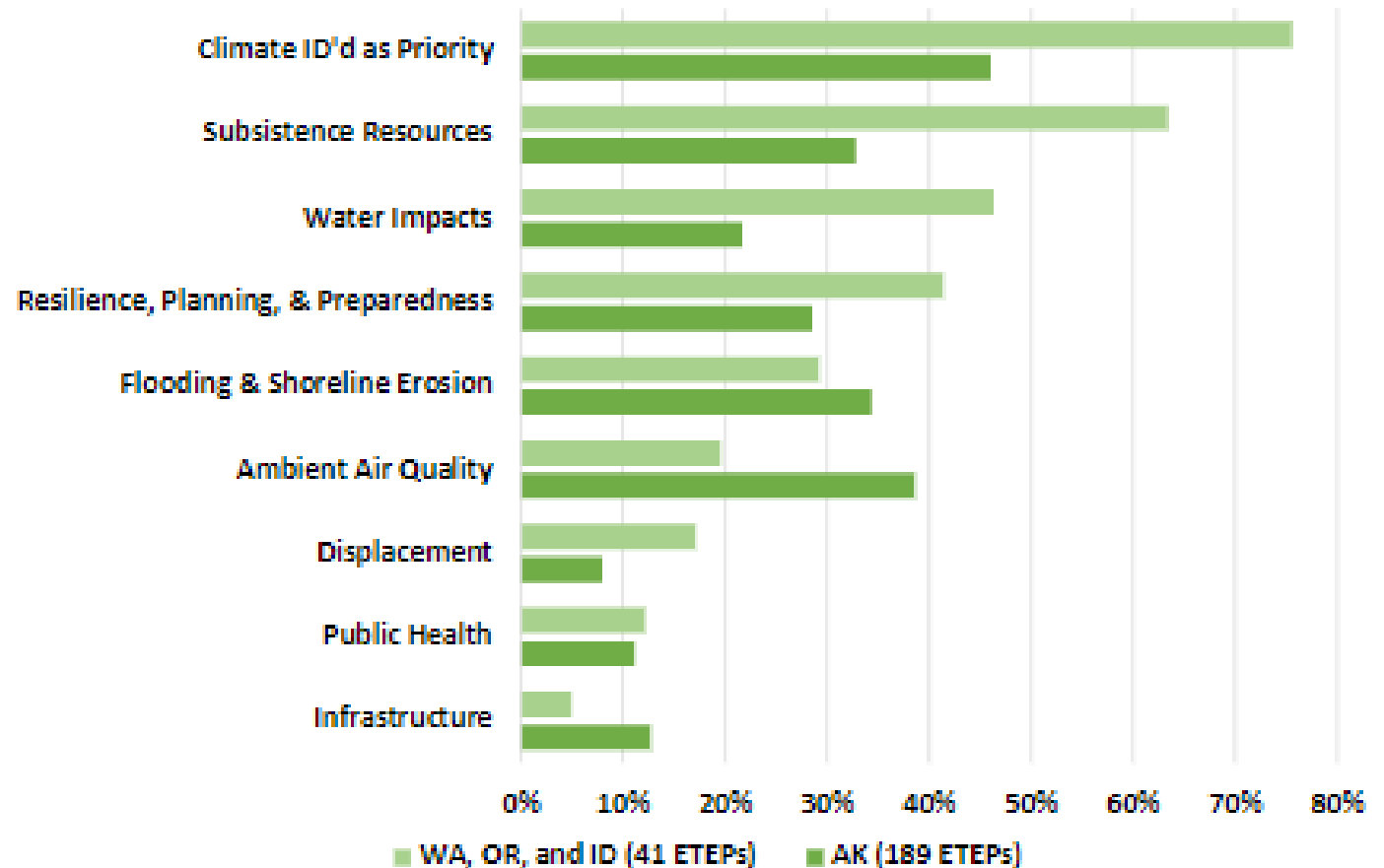


# Tribal Vulnerabilities identified in EPA Tribal Environmental Plans

In review of all Region 10 ETEPs:

- Every Tribe, Nation, and Confederacy identified at least **one** climate priority
- The average number of climate adaptation priorities identified in an ETEP has increased from about **three (3)** to about **seven (7)** since 2014
- **76%** of Tribes, Nations, and Confederacies in WA, OR, and ID specifically identified **climate change** as a priority
- Top climate adaptation priorities **vary** between **WA/OR/ID** and **AK**

## Tribal Climate Adaptation Priorities Identified 2014 - 2020



# Climate Adaptation Action Plan is aligned with the EPA Strategic Plan

**Objective 1.2:** Accelerate Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts—Deliver targeted assistance to increase the resilience of Tribes, states, territories, and communities to the impacts of climate change.

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, implement all priority actions in EPA’s Climate Adaptation Action Plan and the 19 National Program and Regional Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans to account for the impacts of the changing climate on human health and the environment.

- (PM XX) Number of priority actions completed in EPA’s Climate Adaptation Action Plan and Program and Regional Implementation Plans. 19 (FY22) 114 (FY23)
- (PM XX) Number of EPA national program offices that have developed climate adaptation training for programs and staff. 4(FY22) 10(FY23)

**Long-Term Performance Goal:** By September 30, 2026, assist XXX federally recognized Tribes to take action to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change.

- (PM XX) Number of federally recognized Tribes supported by EPA to take action to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change. TBD

Long-Term Performance Goal: By September 30, 2026, assist to XX states, territories, local governments, and communities with environmental justice concerns to take action to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change.

- (PM XX) Number of states, territories, local governments, and communities with environmental justice concerns assisted by EPA to take action to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change. TBD
- (PM XX) Number of state, regional, Tribal, and/or territorial versions of the Climate Change Adaptation Resource Center (ARC-X), or similar, systems developed by universities with EPA support. 3 (FY22) 6 (FY23)
- (PM XX) Number of appropriate subject-matter experts or Sustainability Advisors deployed by EPA to help communities adapt to climate impacts, build long-term resilience, and support the most underserved and vulnerable communities after federally declared disasters. TBD

## DRAFT EPA 2022-2026 Strategic Plan Measures

**Goal 1: TACKLE THE CLIMATE CRISIS—**Cut pollution that causes climate change and increase the adaptive capacity of **Tribes**, states, territories, and communities.

# Ways to Engage

- 2021 EPA Climate Adaptation Plan  
<https://www.epa.gov/climate-adaptation>
- 2022-2026 Strategic Plan  
[Comments due by November 12th, 2021](#)
- Climate Adaptation Implementation Plan Development
  - Tribal engagement through Regions.

## Schedule for development of Implementation Plans

Date	Activity
Dec 2021	<b>DRAFT</b> Priority Goals Due
Dec/Jan	Collaboration between programs and regions Preliminary Engagement
Jan 24, 2022	Draft Plans Due
Feb-June 2022	Plan Review Further Engagement Plan Revisions
Summer 2022	Final Plans Due
By Sept 30, 2022	Plans Available on EPA Website

**We look  
forward to  
working  
with you!**

**OP's Climate Adaptation Program Team**

**Joel Scheraga**

EPA Senior Advisor on Climate Adaptation

**Vicky Salazar**

Region 10/On Detail to OP

**Ken Munis**

Office of Policy (OP)

## Please share your thoughts

- What questions do you have about EPA's Climate Adaptation Action Plan?
- What types of tools would help support tribes as they build adaptive capacity?
- What barriers exist to accessing EPA resources (funding, tools, technical assistance)?
- What else do you want us to know?

# TRIBAL RESPONSE

GOVERNOR MICHAEL CHAVARRIA

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The Pueblo of Santa Clara