



Frequently Asked Questions Updated California Climate Adaptation Strategy

Q1: What is the California Climate Adaptation Strategy?

- The Strategy is California’s overarching framework for building community, economic, and environmental resilience to climate impacts, such as fire, floods, heat, drought, and sea level rise.
- It reflects key pillars of sector or threat-specific efforts, showing how these efforts align and drive us toward progress on California’s six climate resilience priorities:
 - Strengthen Protections for Climate Vulnerable Communities
 - Bolster Public Health and Safety to Protect Against Increasing Climate Risks
 - Build a Climate Resilient Economy
 - Accelerate Nature-Based Climate Solutions and Strengthen Climate Resilience of Natural Systems
 - Make Decisions Based on the Best Available Climate Science
 - Partner and Collaborate to Leverage Resources
- These resilience priorities are California’s climate adaptation “north stars” – they guide our collective efforts, connect the dots between our sector-specific work, and reflect the outcomes we are seeking to achieve.
- The Strategy was called for in Assembly Bill 1482 (Gordon, 2015). It was last updated in 2021.

Q2: What has changed from the 2021 California Climate Adaptation Strategy?

- The 2021 Strategy reflected a major shift from earlier documents, which were often lengthy inventories of sector-specific actions developed by individual agencies.
- Successfully reducing climate risks and building long-term resilience required a more integrated approach focused on breaking down silos, drawing connections between sectors, and enabling flexibility to keep pace with rapid climate change.
- The updated Strategy reflects lessons learned from this shift, such as developing more specific success metrics for all actions to increase transparency and accountability, and consistent timelines to allow for easier implementation reporting.
- The updated Strategy also reflects the addition of new actions and metrics to integrate key items from the state's latest climate adaptation initiatives, including the Extreme Heat Action Plan and California's Water Supply Strategy, and to prioritize climate vulnerable communities and support adaptation action on the ground.

Q3: How did the state engage the public to develop this update to the California Climate Adaptation Strategy?

- The Strategy was developed with substantial input and public engagement from community members, partners, and organizations across California and in consultation with California Native American tribes.
- Early input on the update of the Strategy was gathered during regional workshops in summer and fall 2023, coordinated with outreach on California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment. The draft Strategy was then released for an eight-week public comment period in May 2024.
- In addition to soliciting written input, the state held in-person daytime workshops and evening community meetings in northern, central valley, and southern California to gather verbal feedback, as required by Assembly Bill 1384 (Gabriel, 2022). Input was also solicited through two online workshops, two tribal roundtables, and surveys. Whenever possible, the state joined existing meetings, workshops, or conferences where people were already gathered to get additional feedback on the draft Strategy.
- All told, the Strategy was informed by feedback and recommendations from over 500 Californians during this period.

Q4: Which agencies contributed to this update of the Strategy?

- This update reflects input and feedback from the following 17 agencies and their numerous departments, boards, commissions, conservancies, offices, etc.
 - California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
 - California Environmental Protection Agency

- California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- California State Transportation Agency
- California Governor's Office of Service and Community Engagement
- California Department of Food and Agriculture
- California Public Utilities Commission
- California Natural Resources Agency
- California Health and Human Services
- California Labor and Workforce Development Agency
- California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
- Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
- California Government Operations Agency
- California State Board of Education
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
- California Department of Insurance
- California Department of Finance

Q5: How is the Strategy's progress tracked and reported on?

- Every year, the Administration submits a progress report to the Legislature and posts the report on the Strategy's website.
- As part of that report, progress towards completion of the success metrics is reported on by each agency. Recent progress reports have also included short examples and case studies from agencies on how the state is advancing the Strategy's six priorities.

Q6: How does the Strategy relate to local and regional implementation or action?

- The Strategy's six priorities are intended to set strategic direction for climate adaptation action across California's diverse regions and sectors.
- In addition, the Strategy outlines key takeaways from our state's best available climate science on how climate change is expected to impact different regions across California.

Q7: How does the Climate Adaptation Strategy relate to other relevant plans?

- The Strategy reflects key components of numerous State plans and strategies that generally fall into four types:
 1. Statewide climate action plans are centrally focused on delivering climate change action across California. Examples include:
 - [Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure](#) (2025)
 - [State of California Sea Level Rise Guidance](#) (2024)
 - [State Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) (2023)
 - [Climate Smart Lands Strategy](#) (2022)
 - [Extreme Heat Action Plan](#) (2022)
 2. Sector-based strategies address many of California's most pressing challenges and include, but are not exclusively focused on, climate change-centered actions. Examples include:
 - [Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#) (2021)
 - [California's Strategic Plan for Expanding the Use of Beneficial Fire](#) (2022)
 - [Water Supply Strategy](#) (2022)
 - [Pathways to 30x30: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature](#) (2022)
 3. Regionally focused strategies are developed by State entities to address climate change and other critical challenges in line with regional conditions and priorities. Examples include:
 - [Central Valley Flood Protection Plan](#) (2022)
 - [Salton Sea Management Program](#) (2024)
 - [Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan](#) (2024)
 - [Delta Adapts: Adaptation Plan](#) (2025)
 4. State stewardship plans guide approaches to State operations and stewardship that advance climate action and our broader policy agenda. Examples include:
 - [State Parks Sea Level Rise Strategy](#) (2020)
 - [State Agency Sustainability Roadmaps](#) (2023)

- [CalSTRS' Net Zero Implementation Framework](#) (2021)

Q8: How was public comment considered?

- Through the public engagement process, we received feedback that largely fell into the following categories:

Uplifting community voices

- The importance of working in partnership with communities, especially focusing on vulnerable communities, and ensuring there are sufficient methods for community engagement and participation throughout climate adaptation work emerged as a key theme throughout the development of this Strategy.
- As a result, community engagement and participation is woven throughout the updated Strategy, including working more closely with local and regional partners.

Identifying specific and time-bound metrics

- Metrics should be designed to easily track, monitor, and report progress. The Strategy's success metrics must be specific, actionable, and timebound.
- The new Strategy has updated metrics with refined and specific deadlines to achieve each action. Additionally, agencies worked to adjust timelines to be more consistent across the Strategy.

Emphasizing the urgency of extreme heat

- Extreme heat emerged as a pressing issue throughout the public comment process. The updated Strategy reflects public priorities for state agency action on extreme heat, as well as key efforts to deliver on California's Extreme Heat Action Plan.

Q9: Assembly Bill 1384 calls for the prioritization of climate vulnerable communities. How does California's updated Climate Adaptation Strategy center equity and prioritize these communities?

- Strengthening protections for climate vulnerable communities is one of six "north stars" guiding California's resilience agenda. This priority is further broken down into three key goals:
 - Increase engagement and capacity of climate vulnerable communities;
 - Improve understanding of climate impacts on communities;
 - Build resilience within climate vulnerable communities.
- There are now more equity-centered success metrics in the 2024 Strategy that highlight the state's shift to more ongoing, regular, and embedded equitable processes and practices. The

additions include but are not limited to:

- Early engagement and consultation;
 - Establishing meaningful partnerships;
 - Prioritizing language access;
 - Creating set-aside funding;
 - Providing technical assistance for climate vulnerable communities and tribes.
- The Strategy also reflects California's increased focus on climate adaptation in partnership with California Native American tribes, including new and updated actions to increase shared decision-making, support ancestral land return projects, and advance opportunities for co-management of lands and waters.

Q10: The 2021 Strategy increased transparency and accountability by including time-bound success metrics. How many were achieved?

- After reviewing the progress reported between 2022-2024, we found that 92 percent of all success metrics are well underway, nearing completion, or complete. Eight percent of the success metrics are incomplete. Two-thirds of all metrics with an end date between 2021-2024 were completed.