

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS AND YOUR HOME - HOW TO PREPARE

How might climate change impact your home, and how you can prepare? Below are the top climate impacts projected for Jefferson County that might affect your home, based on the Climate Preparedness Plan for the North Olympic Peninsula (<http://www.nopr.cd.org/about2>), and some resources to help you prepare for these changes (all the projections below are from this plan, see the plan for more details).



PROJECTED CLIMATE IMPACTS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

Hotter, Drier Summers and Reduced Snowpack

Summer high temperatures are projected to increase substantially in the region (5.8°F by the 2050's), and summer precipitation is projected to decrease. Additionally, the snowpack for the Olympics is projected to continue to decline. The resultant impacts and resources to prepare for them include:

- Increased wildfire risk: it is expected that the hotter, drier summers will increase risk of wildfires on the Olympic Peninsula. There are great resources for how you can protect your home from wildfires at <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/firewise>.
- Smoke from wildfires: Learn how wildfire smoke can affect your health and what you can do to protect yourself at <https://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=smoke.index>
- Water supply challenges: with reduced snow pack and drier summers, our local water supplies may be challenged, as was experienced in the summer of 2015. There are many actions homeowners can take to reduce water usage in their homes and gardens, from installing low-flow showerheads to planting native vegetation. See <http://shorestewards.cw.wsu.edu/guidelines/guideline-8/> for a summary of ideas on reducing water usage in your home and garden.



Increased Winter Precipitation and Flooding

Extreme precipitation events in Washington State with more than 1 inch of rain falling in 24 hours are projected to increase 13% by the 2050s. Some of the impacts and opportunities for preparation include:

- **Stormwater Runoff:** heavier winter rains can increase stormwater runoff and cause localized flooding. Rain gardens can reduce runoff, benefiting both your property and our local waterways. Find out more at <http://extension.wsu.edu/raingarden/featured-rain-gardens/>.
- **River Flooding:** Increased precipitation as well as rain on snow events can result in river flooding. For those near rivers, learn more about how you can reduce flood risk at <http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/372/Flood-Damage-Prevention---Floodproofing>



Sea Level Rise

Sea level rise projections for Port Townsend by 2100 range from 1.0 – 5.2'. With those levels added to the historical extreme water levels experienced in the area (due to king tides, etc.), total extreme water levels above the nominal high tide line are projected to range from 2.8 - 7.3' for Port Townsend. Impacts and preparations for shoreline owners include:

- **Coastal flooding and increased erosion:** Shoreline owners can learn about shoreline erosion and what resources are available for Jefferson County homeowners to manage erosion at <http://www.shorefriendly.org/resources/resources-in-your-area/jefferson/>
- The Northwest Straits Foundation has a variety of resources and workshops for shoreline homeowners at http://nwstraitsfoundation.org/project_cat/shoreline-landowner-program/, including information on shoreline design.

And of course, we need to all do our part to reduce the carbon pollution that is driving climate change and causing these detrimental impacts. See jeffersonCAN.org for more information on what you can do to reduce your carbon footprint.

JeffersonCAN.org
Climate Action Now



Prepared by Local 20/20, dedicated to promoting self-reliance, sustainability and resiliency at a community level. L2020.org