

# Climate Change

## The Role of Public Environmental Health

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# Objectives

- Show that many activities are occurring at the local level
- Show examples of EH role in Sonoma County
- Express need for State CDPH leadership
- Parting thoughts

# Potential Health Effects of Climate Change

## Climate change:

- Temperature rise
- Sea level rise
- Hydrologic extremes



HEAT



Heat stress, cardiovascular failure

SEVERE WEATHER



Injuries, fatalities

AIR POLLUTION



Asthma, cardiovascular disease

ALLERGIES



Resp allergies, poison ivy

VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES



Malaria, dengue, hantavirus, encephalitis, Rift Valley fever

WATER-BORNE DISEASES



Cholera, cryptosporidiosis, campylobacter, leptospirosis

WATER AND FOOD SUPPLY



Malnutrition, diarrhea, harmful algal blooms

MENTAL HEALTH



Anxiety, post-traumatic stress, depression, despair

ENVIRONMENTAL REFUGEES



Forced migration, civil conflict

# Sonoma County Activities

- 2002 – By resolutions all 9 cities and the County agreed to participate in climate protection.
- 2003 –Inventories of internal municipal operations completed for all jurisdictions

# Sonoma County Activities

- 2005 - Community-wide emissions inventory.
  - All Cities and County set targets for 25% below 1990 levels by 2015.
- 2008 – Plans for community and all jurisdictions due.

# EH Activities

- Assessing vulnerabilities of PWS to floods with CDPH
- Training staff and participating in Flood Response Plans (GIS mapping)
- Extreme Heat Illness Task Force
- Member of County Climate Protection Task Force (DHS greening efforts)

## EH Activities (cont.)

- Utilizing outlying offices
- Alternate work schedule
- Food composting demo Project (Son. State)
- Surveyed restaurants for potential grease supply for biodiesel
- Greening your restaurant
- Zero Waste Farmers Markets

# Need

## State CDPH Leadership

- Science (e.g.. Toilet to Tap, recycling, etc.)
- Life Cycle Analysis
- Eval of unintended consequences
- Partnership with locals  
(share,guide,messaging)

# Parting Thoughts

(cut through the rhetoric)

- Lots of work to do
  - ✓ Supportive positive messaging

I have a nightmare



# Parting Thoughts

(cut through the rhetoric)

- Lots of work to do
  - ✓ Supportive positive messaging
  - ✓ Involvement (leadership and encouragement)

**People who  
protect the climate  
are very, very cool.**

**Climate protection:**

**It's not a job**

**for the weak.**



You are the one.

Sonoma County

[www.climateprotectioncampaign.org](http://www.climateprotectioncampaign.org)