# Background:

The template is a framework for creating “an assessment of gaps in local and regional climate planning and actions that the local public health department could address through climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience activities.” This assessment includes summarizing activities of a health department, departments within county government, community-based and regional organizations, and vulnerable populations impacted by climate change.

For more information or assistance for using this template, please contact [calbrace@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:calbrace@cdph.ca.gov).

# Instructions:

You can choose the methods to gather information needed to complete this assessment, but the focus should be:

* Review local plans and documents to identify key activities for planning and policy that are relevant to climate change and health planning for the local public health department;
* Interviews with key leadership staff and focus group with public health staff;
* Identify potential and current key partners and initiatives for climate change action, both internal and external to the public health department;
* Identify gaps where climate, public health, health equity and vulnerable populations are not included in current or previous planning efforts/documents/ policy for climate change action planning in the county.
* Provide recommendations for increasing the public health agency’s capacity to address climate change and address the gaps identified in the assessment.

**Methods to gather information for the assessment and generate discussion about climate change planning and activities in a jurisdiction include:**

* **Contacting likely sources**
* **Group discussions**
* **Stakeholder meetings,**
* **Email correspondence, and**
* **Online searches.**

If the county and region have an organization leading on climate change, please approach them and gather background information on local climate change planning efforts and activities to complete Table A.

Discussions with county and partner organizations and staff can help to develop the content for the assessment. Group discussion activities with public health agency staff and partners may reveal that existing public health programs are already engaged in activities linked to climate change. These may include chronic disease prevention, such as active transportation, the built environment, sustainability, emergency preparedness planning, and environmental health.

The appendix has a sample background statement and sample prompts for group discussions with public health staff and partners.

Section I. Climate Planning Activities:Identify the main climate change efforts in assessment, policy and planning in a county, city and region. Please note whether these activities or plans are climate change elements of general plans or other official planning processes. Also note whether the planning is still in progress. Add rows as needed.

**A.** Climate Action Planning Activity: See Table A. Fill in the table to summarize climate change plans. Indicate goals for greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions reductions in column 2. Write “yes” or “no” in columns 3, 4 and 5 to indicate whether the plan includes sections or content on climate change adaptation, health or health equity/ population vulnerability assessment. List significant local regulations or ordinances that focus on climate change also. Add narrative in columns or below table to explain entries in the tables.

**B.** Public Health/ Health Sector Planning Activity: See Table B. Fill in this table to designate plans from a public health department or health sector that address or could be enhanced to address climate adaptation activities. Indicate planning cycle in column 2. In columns 3, 4 and 5 indicate whether plans include sections or content with climate change/GHG reduction goals, climate adaptation, or health equity/ vulnerable populations. Add narrative in columns or below table to explain entries or to include co-benefits, capacity building, or stakeholder engagement.

Section II. County-level and Regional-level Coordination among Cities and Counties: Regional climate change groups or coalitions that focus on planning and coordination may exist in the county, and should be considered key resources. List the names of ongoing collaboratives or networks that bring together cities or districts for climate adaptation/energy related planning and briefly describe their activities.

**Section III – “Spotlights” will identify and document:**

• A minimum of four (4) potential or current external partners for climate change planning activities, and include a brief explanation of their relevance to public health planning and future activities.

• A minimum of two (2) internal local public health stakeholders or partners that could be involved in public health plans for climate change, such as epidemiology division, maternal child health or emergency preparedness. Include the program or division of the local health department that is leading on climate change planning. The examples provided illustrate “Spotlights” of a key potential or current partner identified for climate and health planning and activities.

## Section III. “Spotlights” of Climate Mitigation and Adaptation, and Resilience Activities:

This section describes the main initiatives and partners that are most relevant to climate change planning activities and the BRACE steps. Use the relevant categories in **bold** as subheadings. Local governments, special districts, regional agencies, and non-profit organizations may be implementing these projects. There’s no need to keep every subheading if it is not relevant. A subheading may be used for multiple activities, initiatives or projects.

***Spotlight Example:* The Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative**

The Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative is a membership network to promote greater climate change resilience planning coordination in the six-county Sacramento Region. The purpose of this collaborative network is to create a forum where leaders from government, academia, environmental and community groups, the business community, and labor can come together to exchange information, identify vulnerabilities and data gaps, leverage resources, and advance comprehensive solutions in an effort to create stronger, sustainable, and economically viable communities in the Sacramento Region. Current members include: UC Davis Policy Institute for Energy, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District; Sacramento Area Council of Governments; Sacramento Municipal Utility District; Pacific Gas & Electric Company; and the Local Government Commission.

Source - <http://www.arccacalifornia.org/about/crcrc/> *(End of Example)*

***Spotlight Example:*  OutsideIn SLO Project (SLO County Public Health)**

San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department (PHD) is the lead coordinator for the partners participating in OutsideIn SLO. San Luis Obispo County is already engaged in climate protection efforts, many of which have health benefits for the community as well. This pilot project is designed to strengthen the connection between climate protection and health promotion, and increase engagement in healthy community activities currently underway in San Luis Obispo County. This effort is based in the Chronic Disease Prevention Division and leverages the Healthy Communities workgroup of the HEAL-SLO Coalition that includes representation from local government sectors, residents and community based organizations. Source <http://www.healslo.com/outsidein-slo/> *(End of Example)*

## Section IV. Resources and Assistance Needed to Address Gaps and Accelerate Action

Drawing from the tables and information in the previous completed sections, write a summary of the most notable resources and gaps in climate change planning efforts. Focus on areas with gaps and resources for public health, health equity, adaptation, and vulnerable populations. Describe how and where BRACE tools or methods could fill gaps or be included. Is public health being addressed in local climate change planning efforts? Are representatives from public health or vulnerable populations participating in local climate change planning efforts? This narrative should frame the gaps and opportunities in the local climate planning processes to identify and frame the potential roles for public health expertise, tools and other resources.

Section V. Participants and Contributors:Provide a list of internal and external stakeholders or groups that contributed to completing this document.

Section VI. Follow-up Contact(This is added so readers, who may be staff, public, partners or policy makers can follow-up after reading this report if they wish to contact the public health agency with comments, interest in partnering, resources, or questions.)

Acknowledgement:This template draws from the Bay Area Climate & Energy Resilience Project (BACERP) *The Full Report:* <http://www.abag.ca.gov/jointpolicy/pdfs/Full%20Report.pdf>

*Summary of Findings:*<http://www.abag.ca.gov/jointpolicy/pdfs/Summary%20of%20Findings.pdf>

**TEMPLATE**

**Assessment of Climate Mitigation, Adaptation, and Resilience Initiatives**

**County Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Introduction: *(Write a brief introduction about the county and its population, and key climate exposures and health risks-– See the* [*CalBRACE Climate and Health Profile Report*](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OHE/Pages/ClimateHealthProfileReports.aspx) *for your county)*

# Overview:

*(Summarize the purpose of the assessment as well as your findings)*

## I. Climate Change Planning Activities

A. Climate Action Planning: The organizations in the table have completed or are in the process of creating Climate Action Plans (CAPs), adaptation plans, ordinances or regulations. While city, county and regional climate action plans focus primarily on greenhouse gas emissions reduction, they may also include adaptation activities, health sections, or vulnerability assessments.

**Table A. County/Regional Climate Action Planning**

| County/City/ District Entity  Plan Title | GHG Reduction Goal | Health Section/ Content | Climate Adaptation Section/Content | Health Equity/ Vulnerable Populations |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Jacks Canyon  Climate Action Plan (in draft form) | Community-wide target for energy-related GHG emissions - 15% below 2005 baseline by 2020 | yes | no | no |
| Hopperville City Climate Mitigation Plan | 15% below 2005 levels by 2020 | no | References state agencies efforts on adaptation | no |

B. Public Health/ Health Sector Planning: These plans based in the public health department or health sector focus on areas that address or enhance greenhouse gas emissions reduction, climate adaptation activities, health equity /vulnerable populations, co-benefits, capacity building, or stakeholder engagement.

**Table B. County Public Health/ Health Sector Planning Activity**

| **Division/ program &**  **Plan Title** | **Planning Cycle** | **Climate Change/ GHG Reduction Goal** | **Climate Adaptation Section/Content** | **Health Equity/ Vulnerable Populations** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Public Health EPO/Hazard Plan 2014 | Every 5 years/ Annual updates | no | no | Yes – vulnerable populations |
| Heat Plan  (Is part of Hazard Plan) | Intermittent | no | yes | Yes – vulnerable populations |
| Hopperville General Hospital Community Health Plan | 3 years/ Updated annually (Required by ACA) | no | Yes / ED surges for heat and resilience strategies | no |
| Public Health Agency Community Health Improvement Plan | 3 years (PH Accreditation Planning Activity) | no | no | Yes – HE and Vulnerable Populations/  Participatory Planning |

## II. County-level and Regional-level Coordination among Cities and Counties

## III. “Spotlights” of Climate Mitigation and Adaptation, and Resilience Activities

**Flooding** (Sea Level Rise, Extreme Storms)

These initiatives are developing locally-specific solutions and approaches to prepare for sea level rise and/or riverine flooding.

**Water**

These agencies are assessing climate risks to their infrastructure and water supplies, and are implementing strategies to address supply, quality and demand, and may be addressing water borne illnesses or algae blooms:

**Energy/ Energy Efficiency**

These energy initiatives include protection of critical infrastructure and power generation from storms, heat, and sea level rise, as well as energy efficiency, renewable power efforts that boost resilience to energy shortages and price spikes, and efforts to address reducing fossil fuel dependence:

**Land** (Civic Planning, Natural Systems and Agriculture)

These projects or entities are working to better understand and address the climate risks to urban infrastructure and natural systems as well as to identify how these assets can sequester or reduce carbon or reduce climate impacts. *These may also address land use policy, food security and resilience.*

**Public Health & the Health Sector**

These are county health department (programs or activities in the department), medical facilities and health advocates that are addressing or implementing GHG reduction or climate change impact reduction strategies, with a focus on human health and vulnerable populations. *These might include work on active transportation, local food production, chronic disease, emergency preparedness, health in all policies, and other activities that have climate co-benefits.*

**Health Equity & Environmental Justice**

These entities have organized around environmental justice, and/or health equity initiatives that contribute to climate change adaptation and resilience development.

**Multiple Impacts and Sectors**

These cities, organizations, or groups have organized or mobilized adaptation and resilience initiatives that cut across impacts and sectors.

## VI. Resources and Assistance Needed to Address Gaps and Accelerate Action

## V. Participants and Contributors

We thank the following \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County stakeholders who provided their valuable time and contributions:

## VI. Follow-up Contact

Do you have questions, comments, additions, corrections or would like to contact us about Climate and Health? Please Contact \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_County Health Department Staff:

***(End of Template)***

**Appendix I: SAMPLE Background Statement and Prompts**

**Background for Discussion on Climate Action**

The Public Health Agency is looking for input from key climate stakeholders in the county and region. We want to better understand the key projects, future plans and top-priority needs for both climate adaptation and GHG reduction in our county. We don’t need to know *everything* about our county, but we need guidance on the most important projects, plans and needs. This information will help us in a number of ways. The immediate use will be to help design a response to address climate and health in the county, and align our work and enhance and leverage existing projects and processes.

We want to accelerate and strengthen climate action and ensure that health and wellness, and health equity are included and understood as essential elements in developing resilience to climate change. We want to be proactive partners to the extent possible in (a) providing consultation and technical assistance to major projects and initiatives, (b) helping to align climate stakeholders around common regional targets that include or influence health and health equity, and (c) working together with climate and health leaders for joint action on specific high-value issues. Assessing the local climate change landscape and setting the initial agenda for local Public Health planning and partnerships is an important first step in planning.

**Discussion Prompts:**

1. Currently, what are the most important climate-related projects or initiatives in our county?

* Climate and Health
* What are your LHD and other local efforts? (i.e. CalBRACE, co-benefits, active transportation, heat plans)
* Other efforts, (CDC Tracking Cooperative Agreements, border health initiatives, or local plans)?
* Climate Adaptation (fire, heat, sea level rise, rain/snow, flooding, etc.)
  + What are the key projects that are underway?
  + What is being planned and by who?
  + Are health equity and vulnerable populations included?
* GHG Reduction
  + What are the key projects that are underway?
  + What is being planned and by who?
* Climate Planning
  + Where climate considerations (either GHG reduction or adaptation) are included in current official county or city plans? (e.g., climate action plans, general plans, hazard mitigation plans)

1. What are the top-priority future directions or concepts that our county is exploring? Where do we want to go (in public health)?
2. Which of the following capabilities or services from public health would be most helpful to accelerate and strengthen local climate change and resilience efforts?

* Building support for policies for climate and health action in the county and region.
* Identifying and helping to secure funding for local and regional climate and health projects and/or developing or articulating partnerships to make more efficient use of existing multi-sector resources.
* Ensuring health equity awareness and objectives are embedded in plans
* Providing consultation, technical assistance, data and information on climate and health, and best practices.
* Providing support to stakeholder networks and initiatives that are working on specific topics (e.g. vulnerable communities, public health accreditation, ACA hospital preparedness requirements, resilient communities, Health in All Policies).
* Educating diverse constituencies about climate and health goals, needs and activities for preparedness and resilience.
* Educating health staff, medical providers and health sector leadership.
* Other activities?

1. What other needs would you like public health to address in relation to expanding capacity for climate change and health work in our county?
2. What are the resources needed and assets available for public health to address some of the needs and interests discussed?