



Climate change creates new challenges for Washington agriculture, including extreme weather, wildfires, flooding, pests, worker safety risks, and water supply volatility. However, Washington's diverse geographies, cropping systems, state funding, and history of science-based innovations positions it to adapt and remain resilient.

The purpose of the **Climate Resilience Plan for Washington Agriculture** is to support agricultural viability and vitality through ongoing and future climate change. Informed by extensive research and stakeholder engagement, the Resilience Plan proposes strategies to ensure that diverse agricultural stakeholders have the necessary resources for successful climate adaptation and enhanced resilience.

Principles

The principles below guided the development of the goals, strategies, and actions in the Climate Resilience Plan for Washington Agriculture. To the greatest extent possible, all climate actions presented in this plan:

- Safeguard the vitality and viability of Washington's agricultural economy, heritage, culture, and communities in the face of climate change.
- Promote co-benefits including clean air and water, economic resilience, equity and environmental justice, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, soil health, and species and habitat protection.
- Encompass diverse and collaborative approaches including research, funding opportunities, technical assistance, policy support, outreach and education, and multi-benefit projects.
- Ensure that information, support, and resources are available and accessible to farm operators and workers of all regions, demographics, operation size, and primary spoken languages.
- Incentivize voluntary participation in climate-resilience initiatives.

Goals, strategies, and actions

The Resilience Plan describes 6 goals, 14 strategies, and 27 actions to address risks and enhance agricultural resilience, guided by 5 overarching principles. For these actions to successfully enhance agricultural resilience in Washington state, significant funding and staff resources are required.



GOAL 1

Increase agriculture's preparedness for, response to, and recovery from climate-related extreme events

STRATEGY 1.1

Improve data collection, communication, and resource provision for climate-related extreme event preparedness

1.1.1: Enhance the availability and accuracy of weather data and early warning systems

1.1.2: Increase preparedness for livestock sheltering and feeding during climate-related extreme events

STRATEGY 1.2

Mitigate agricultural impacts by enhancing tools, resources, and strategies for collective emergency response

1.2.1: Enhance swift and collective response to climate-related extreme events

1.2.2: Expand and create a dedicated funding source for WSDA's Emergency Food Security Resilience & Relief Program

1.2.3: Establish working groups to develop tools, technology, and strategies for managing flooding and sea level rise

STRATEGY 1.3

Support timely and robust agricultural recovery from climate-related extreme events

1.3.1: Develop animal composting infrastructure that can accommodate offal from routine and catastrophic livestock deaths

Note: For broader agricultural recovery actions related to funding and research, see related content under Goal 2.



GOAL 2

Support the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices

STRATEGY 2.1

Support research into on-farm strategies and actions that increase climate resilience in Washington

2.1.1: Establish a coordinated research agenda and funding pathway for the development of climate resilience data, strategies, and tools

2.1.2: Develop conservation practice monitoring tools

2.1.3: Encourage the development and implementation of climate-resilient technological innovation in Washington's agricultural sector

STRATEGY 2.2

Provide producers and farmworkers with education and technical assistance to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change and leverage opportunities

2.2.1: Increase institutional capacity for the provision of climate resilience research, outreach, and technical assistance across Washington

2.2.2: Develop or enhance a centralized source of information for agricultural climate-resilience in Washington

STRATEGY 2.3

Increase quantity and accessibility of funds for implementing on-farm climate resilience and recovery strategies

2.3.1: Work with stakeholders to reduce barriers in accessing funds for GHG emissions mitigation, climate change adaptation, and post-disaster recovery

2.3.2: Increase funding for producers and farmworkers to implement on-farm climate resilience and recovery actions

STRATEGY 2.4

Preserve agricultural land

2.4.1: Support and enhance strategies to protect agricultural land



GOAL 3

Safeguard a sufficient quantity of high-quality surface and groundwater for people, farms, and aquatic ecosystems

STRATEGY 3.1

WATER SUPPLY: Ensure sufficient quantity of water for farms, people, and aquatic ecosystems

3.1.1: Support water management efforts and ensure agricultural interests are represented

3.1.2: Support the adoption of on-farm water conservation technologies

STRATEGY 3.2

WATER SUPPLY: Ensure water quality programs also work towards climate resilience

3.2.1: Expand the goals of existing water quality programs to include resilience to ongoing climate change and extreme events



GOAL 4

Prepare the agricultural workforce for a changing climate

STRATEGY 4.1

Facilitate comprehensive farmworker protections from climate-related hazards

4.1.1: Support the development of and compliance with farmworker protections through collaborative policy, program, and outreach efforts

4.1.2: Support improved data collection and use of climate-related health impacts to farmers, farmworkers, and rural communities

4.1.3: Support the development of a statewide farmworker safety communication network

STRATEGY 4.2

Train, maintain, and diversify an agricultural workforce equipped with the skills and knowledge to promote resilience practices and technologies

4.2.1: Expand and fund agricultural workforce training programs to include climate-resilience curriculum

4.2.2: Support farmworker engagement in climate resilience by leveraging their expertise and investing in continued professional development



GOAL 5

Minimize impacts from pests, weeds, and disease

STRATEGY 5.1

Increase preparedness for emerging pests, weeds, and disease

5.1.1: Develop and expand resources for the early detection of pests, weeds, and disease

5.1.2: Educate producers and farmworkers on emerging pests, weeds, and diseases

STRATEGY 5.2

Improve and expand the response to emerging pests, weeds, and disease

5.2.1: Develop and expand communications and reporting networks for the rapid response to pests, weeds, and disease threats



GOAL 6

Ensure that laws, policies, and regulations efficiently work towards climate-resilience and agricultural viability

STRATEGY 6.1

Enhance the development of and compliance with environmental and climate-related laws, policies, and regulations

6.1.1: Convene stakeholders to coordinate efficient regulations that reduce administrative burden and enhance climate resilience, worker safety, and other co-benefits

6.1.2: Support producers in achieving and maintaining environmental and climate-related regulatory compliance

For more information:

- Visit our website at agr.wa.gov/ClimateResilienceWaAg
- Scan the QR code
- Email Dani Gelardi at dani.gelardi@agr.wa.gov.

