

Learn Talk Do

A Western Lake Superior Climate Resilience Forum

February 9, 2022 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Your work is complex, and climate change seems to multiply the complexity. This virtual, interactive forum will help western Lake Superior local and Tribal governments with the challenges of climate resilience. Presentations and discussions at the Western Lake Superior Regional Resilience Forum focus on refreshing our knowledge of the facts, reviewing observed and projected impacts for the region, providing inspiration from others' progress, giving you tools and practices to address these issues, and sharing our stories, obstacles and ideas. Your active participation in this Forum will inform future planning and regional technical assistance for our ever-changing world.



Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions

- Justin Otsea, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission
- Jason Laumann, Northwest Regional Planning Commission
- Julie McDonnell, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Bradley Harrington, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

10:20 Regional Climate Update

Knowledge Refresh: Local experts will bring you the latest climate observations, trends and projections. You will get a summary of how these changes are impacting communities in the Great Lakes and western Lake Superior region, and what to plan for in the future. Ask questions in real-time to support your government operations.

Presentations:

- **Climate Change: Drivers, Impacts and the Case for Urgent Action** - Heidi Roop, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Director of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership, University of Minnesota Department of Soil, Water, and Climate
- **Climate Change Trends in the Great Lakes Region** - Kim Channell, Climatologist, Great Lakes Integrated Sciences + Assessments
- **Minnesota Observations, Trends, and Projections** - Heidi Roop, University of Minnesota
- **Highlights of western Lake Superior community impacts** - Meghan Salmon-Tumas, Assistant Professor of Climate Science, Northland College

11:20

Break

11:25

A Tour of Climate Change Impacts in our Region

Climate impacts, mitigation and adaptation strategies can be found throughout the western Lake Superior region. In this session, we will explore observed challenges and ways communities are building resilience.

12:00

Lunch Break

12:30

Community Stories: Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

Climate action is underway in the western Lake Superior region. Hear what is already being done to create resilience to the changing climate. Panelists will share experiences and lessons learned on topics related to infrastructure, buildings, energy, water quality and quantity, natural resources, and tourism and economies.

Panel Presentations:

- **Ganawenimang Gimaamaaminaan awe Aki (“Taking Care of Our Mother Earth”)** - Bruno Zagar, Environmental Specialist, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Natural Resources Management Division
- **Climate Mitigation: Green Buildings in St. Louis County, MN** - Pete Miller, Capital Planning Manager, St. Louis County, Minnesota
- **Climate Adaptation: Approaches to coastal resilience work in Duluth, MN** - Jim Filby-Williams, Director of Property, Parks, and Libraries, City of Duluth

1:15

Breakout Sessions

Attendees will choose a small group topic and then participate in discussing next steps toward climate action and greater resilience.

- **Getting started:** climate action goals and planning
Facilitator: Shane Steele, City of Grand Marais
- **Making progress:** building climate action into your organization
Facilitator: Mindy Granley, City of Duluth
- **Climate change and adaptation:** planning tools for local communities
Facilitator: Jennifer Davis, State Hazard Mitigation Officer

1:40

Break

1:45

Tools to Expedite Climate Action

Find inspiration and ideas in this fast-paced session: lightning talks to ignite resilience.

- **Increase climate action in your government operations today. Stories of success and inspiration.** Kristin Mroz, Program Co-Director, Minnesota GreenStep Cities and Tribal Nations Program
- **Watershed planning participation leads to partnerships and projects** - Carol Andrews, P.E., Environmental Engineer, St. Louis County Public Works Department
- **Improving your adaptation funding and finance success** - Abby Finis, Senior Energy Planner, Communities, Great Plains Institute
- **Five actions you can do now to incorporate clean energy solutions** - Peter Lindstrom, Manager of Public Affairs and Community Engagement, Minnesota Clean Energy Resource Teams

2:15

Building Our Climate Resilience

During this interactive session, you can tell us about your needs, capacity, and priorities to advance regional climate change resilience:

- List priorities for climate action
- Share specific next steps your government will take on climate action
- Highlight the biggest challenges to implementing climate action among your government operations
- Brainstorm potential areas for shared, collaborative regional climate action
- Match capacity, tools, or resources with local government needs
- Identify key positions from your entity to include in ongoing regional resilience collaboration

2:30

Adjourn

Forum Partners

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Minnesota’s Lake Superior Coastal Program
- City of Duluth
- Minnesota Department of Public Safety – Homeland Security Emergency Management
- Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Wisconsin Coastal Management Program
- Wisconsin Sea Grant
- Minnesota Sea Grant
- Great Plains Institute
- Arrowhead Regional Development Commission
- Northwest Regional Planning Commission

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