# Climate Concerns and Priorities by Geographic Area

***A Summary of Responses to Registration Questions for “A Western Lake Superior Climate Resilience Forum”***

As part of the registration process, the planning team asked forum attendees two questions:

* What are your top concerns about the changing climate as it pertains to your job?
* What do you see as the top priorities for climate resilience in your community?

The tables below summarizes the responses the planning team received. Forty-one local and Tribal officials and staff answered the questions.

## North Shore of Minnesota

| Municipality (Responses) | Concerns | Priorities |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Cook County, including City of Grand Marais (5) | * Water levels and quality
* Species loss
* Decreasing biodiversity
* Increased cost of damages from climatic event
* Public health and safety
* Adaptation and mitigation
 | * Increase stormwater infrastructure and water treatment capacities
* Extreme weather
* Flood
* Drought
* Wildfires
* Creating sustainable systems
* Funding for small cities and counties
* Climate affecting Lake Superior, our wilderness and individual contributions
 |
| Lake County, including City of Beaver Bay and Town of Silver Creek (5) | * Increasing severity of weather
* Changing precipitation rates
* Culvert sizing
* Erosion from flooding and storm events
* Coastal erosion
* Severe weather conditions
 | * Preparedness
* Water quality and quantity
* Increased fuel reduction to reduce wildfires
* Predictable weather
 |
| St. Louis County (6) | * Mitigation of tree species and forest ecosystems
* Difficulty enacting changes needed to draw down transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions due to rural nature of the area
* Attitudes
* Forest harvest operability
* How to adapt
* Facility design for sustainability, resilience and energy efficiency
 | * Water quality
* Trees
* Water protection
* Renewable energy
* Moving homes and other structures out of flood risk areas
* Diversifying of ecosystems
* Invasive species management
* Preparedness
* County operations, including what measures we need to assure they are uninterrupted
 |
| City of Duluth (6) | * Stormwater management
* Extreme storm events
* Adaptation of native plant communities
* Infrastructure needs
* Mitigating community emissions
* Lack of funding to implement projects intended to increase sustainability
* Getting the support/ funding needed to implement change; demonstrating that upfront costs will be much less than cost of inaction
* Impacts to infrastructure and development
 | * Upgrading older housing stock
* Resilient housing and infrastructure, especially in low income neighborhoods
* Environmental justice challenges
* Thermal energy transition
* Failing and/or severely dilapidated infrastructures that are not ready for the effects of a changing climate
* Wetland inventory and stormwater plan that identifies and prioritizes green infrastructure projects
* Need for alternate energy
* Public welfare and safety
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## St. Louis River Corridor in Minnesota

| Municipality (Responses) | Concerns | Priorities |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Carlton County, including the City of Cloquet (3) | * Extreme rain events
* Drought and mitigating their impacts
* Impacts on future generations
* Impacts on county business operations
* Planning for changing infrastructure
 | * Finding nature based solutions to mitigate impacts
* Alternative energy
* Efficient use of resources
* Stormwater infrastructure
 |
| Fond du Lac Reservation (2) | * Educating the public about the changes expected
* The future of clean water, clean air and local clean food
 | * Lifestyle changes in regard to energy use
* Readiness for climate change
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## South Shore of Wisconsin

| Municipality (Responses) | Concerns | Priorities |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Iron County (1) | * Invasive species
* Ecosystem changes
 | * Maintaining native ecosystems
* Forest management
 |
| Ashland County, including the City of Ashland (3) | * Increased shoreline erosion from increased storm action
* Implications of climate change for food security
* Food sovereignty
* Water quality
* Culvert resilience
 | * Development of local and regional food production, storage and distribution networks and infrastructures
* Flood resilience
* Green infrastructure implementation
 |
| Red Cliff Reservation (5) | * Disaster debris management
* Increase waste disposal
* Severe storms
* Animal/phenology shifts with regard to cultural practices
* Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
* Effects of climate change on wetlands
* Effects of changing wetland functions
* Increased precipitation events
* Flooding
* Erosion
* Stormwater/ infrastructure updates
* Water quality
 | * Water quality
 |
| Bayfield County, including Towns of Bayfield and Lincoln (3) | * Sustainable municipal practices
* Fossil fuel usage in municipal vehicles
* More people moving into our area putting stress on infrastructure
* Impact of climate change on Lake Superior
* Impact on orchards
* Preparing for and recovering from storm events damaging infrastructure
 | * Municipal level planning
* Transportation infrastructure, including culverts, roads and bridges
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| City of Superior and Town of Summit (2)(Douglas County) | * Water/ rainfall events
* Intense storm events
* Overwhelmed stormwater infrastructure and flooding
* Erosion
 | * Green space
* Flood control
* Erosion control
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