

Climate4Cities: Planning Documents Tool

- The Planning Documents Tool was developed so that you can explore how cities and counties are planning with climate and climate change in mind. Plans included in the tool are primarily from Missouri River Basin states, however, plans from other locations across the country are also available.
- Plans can be accessed in one of two ways:
 1. By topic: All plans have been indexed by topic. This will help you quickly find examples of how other locations are addressing climate-related issues.
 2. By location: If you already know what plan you would like to explore, you can simply select from any plan included in the database.
- In this tutorial, you will see step-by-step instructions for using the Climate4Cities' Planning Documents Tool, which can be accessed here: <https://hprcc.unl.edu/climate4cities/planning.php>.

Project Partners:

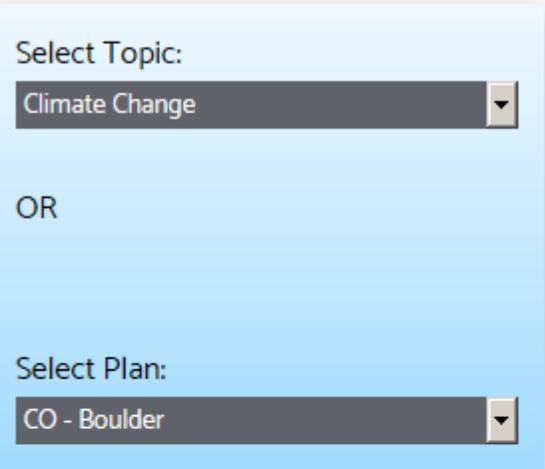


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Climate4Cities: Planning Documents Tool Tutorial

On the left hand side of the screen, you will select a topic or a plan.



Select Topic:
Climate Change

OR

Select Plan:
CO - Boulder

The image shows a light blue rectangular panel with a drop-down menu for 'Select Topic' containing 'Climate Change' and another drop-down menu for 'Select Plan' containing 'CO - Boulder'. The word 'OR' is centered between the two menus.

Climate4Cities: Planning Documents Tool Tutorial

If you choose a topic, plans that address that topic will appear to the right of the menu.

Select Topic:
Climate Change

OR

Select Plan:
CO - Boulder

Climate Change

Report	Section	Pages
Austin, TX	Background Information	10-13 (8-11)
Missoula, MT	City of Missoula Conservation & Climate Change Milestones	11-12 (10-11)
Chicago, IL	Climate Action Plan - Climate Change	6-9 (4-7)
Chicago, IL	Climate Action Plan - Strategy 5: Adaptation	41-45 (39-43)
Minneapolis, MN	Climate Change - Background and Impacts	10-14 (2-6)
King County, WA	Climate Change in King County	5
Boulder, CO	Climate Commitment - Climate Change Challenge	7
Cedar Rapids, IA	GreenCR - Goal 3: Lead in energy conservation and innovation	107-109
Omaha, NE (Environment)	Natural Environment - Air and Climate	38-39 (Sec 3:35-36)
King County, WA	Preparing for Climate Change Impacts	97-124
Omaha, NE (Environment)	Resource Conservation - Air and Climate	104-106 (Sec 3:101-103)
Burlington, VT	Why we care?	4-6

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When you find the plan you would like to read, click on the link.

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A new tab will open with the plan of your choice and you will be taken directly to the section that addresses your chosen topic!

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WHY WE CARE?

WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE ?

The greenhouse effect is the process by which the atmosphere traps some of the sun's energy, warming the Earth and moderating our climate. A human-driven increase in 'greenhouse gases' has enhanced this effect artificially. These greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, produced by burning fossil fuels and through deforestation, methane, released from agriculture, animals and landfill sites, and nitrous oxide, resulting from agricultural production plus a variety of industrial chemicals.

VERMONT'S CHANGING CLIMATE

From the Lake Champlain shore to the Connecticut River Valley, the climate of Vermont is changing. Records show that spring is arriving earlier, summers are growing hotter, and winters are becoming warmer and less snowy. These changes are consistent with global warming, an increasingly urgent phenomenon driven by heat-trapping emissions from human activities.

New state-of-the-art research shows that if global warming emissions continue to grow unabated, Vermont can expect dramatic changes in climate over the course of this century, with substantial impacts on vital aspects of the state's economy and character. If the rate of emissions is lowered, however, projections show that many of the changes will be far less dramatic. Emissions choices we make today—in Vermont, the Northeast, and worldwide—will help determine the climate our children and grandchildren inherit, and shape the consequences for their economy, environment, and quality of life.

Temperature.

Average temperatures across the Northeast have risen more than 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) since 1970, with winters warming most rapidly—4°F between 1970 and 2000. If higher emissions prevail, seasonal average temperatures across Vermont are projected to rise 9°F to 13°F above historic levels in winter and 7°F to 14°F in summer by late-century, while lower emissions would cause roughly half this warming.

Migrating State Climate

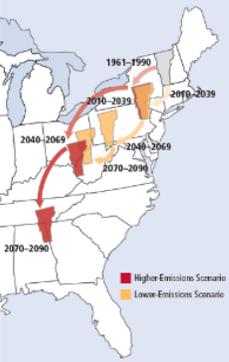
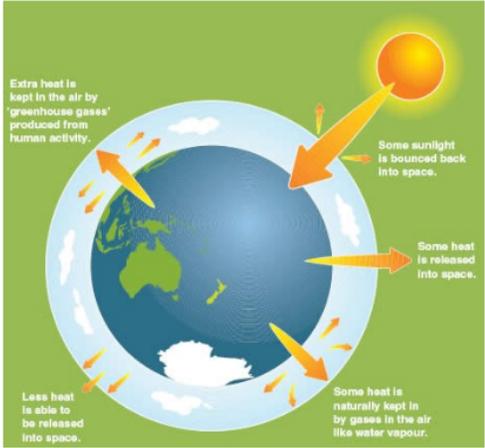
Changes in average summer heat index—a measure of how hot it actually feels, given temperature and humidity—could strongly affect quality of life in the future for residents of Vermont. Red arrows track what summers in Vermont could feel like over the course of the century under the higher-emissions scenario. Yellow arrows track what summers in the state could feel like under the lower-emissions scenario.

Precipitation and winter snow.

The Northeast region is projected to see an increase in winter precipitation on the order of 20 to 30 percent. Slightly greater increases are projected under the higher-emissions scenario, which would also feature less winter precipitation falling as snow and more as rain. Heavy, damaging rainfall events have already increased measurably across the Northeast in recent decades. Intense rains struck the region in 2011 during Irene, for example, causing widespread flooding. The frequency and severity of heavy rainfall events is expected to rise further under either emissions scenario.

Drought.

In this historically water-rich state, rising summer temperatures coupled with little change in summer rainfall are projected to increase the frequency of short-term (one- to three month) droughts, particularly if higher emissions prevail. By late-century, for example, short-term droughts are projected to occur annually under the higher emissions scenario (compared with once every two years, on average, historically), increasing stress on both natural and managed ecosystems.



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Please let us know if you have any questions about using this tool or simply have suggestions about ways it can be improved.

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