

Climate, Care, and Community: Cross-Sector Approaches to a Resilient Washington

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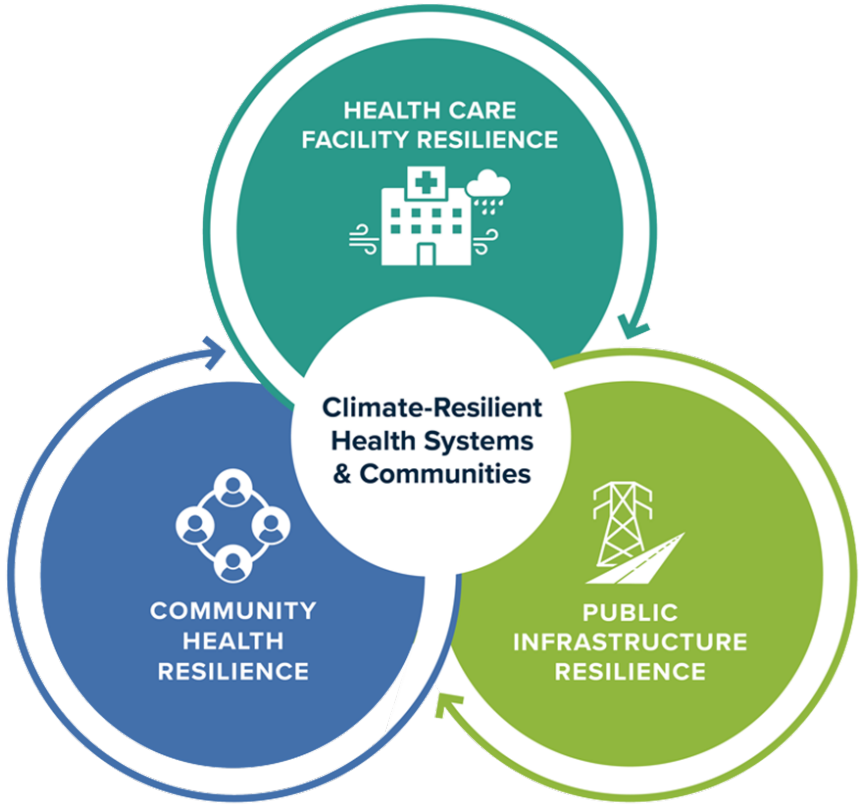
Practice GreenHealth & HealthCare Without Harm



Reimagine health systems as anchor institutions building socially and climate-resilient communities

Advance health care systems change that includes and protects communities most vulnerable to climate impacts

Transform health care into a climate-smart, innovative sector that accelerates the transition to a zero-emissions economy



Stages of climate resilience (draft)

All organizations go through stages of resilience as they develop new ways of working within a changing climate. Based on our work with hospitals and health systems, we have identified five stages that reflect how organizations typically progress in building climate resilience.

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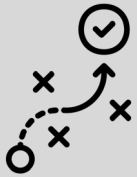
Elementary

Internal casemaking and minimal or grassroots support for piecemeal resilience projects



Engaged

Resilience efforts are limited to a few teams or stakeholders



Strategic

Resilience is considered in operations and strategy; climate resilience plan engages all key stakeholders



Integrated

A cultural shift emerges that integrates and prioritizes resilience across the system and builds synergies with external stakeholders



Transforming

Resilience is fully embedded into organizational mission, strategy, business operations, and external collaborations

PRACTICE Greenhealth®

Start with these three questions:

1 What are we most vulnerable to?

Think about the hazards and disruptions most likely to impact your community and your operations.

2 What absolutely has to keep operating?

Identify the people, services and systems that are critical to patient care and safety.

3 Where can we reduce our dependence on vulnerable resources?

Look for opportunities to become more self-reliant, flexible and efficient.

That could mean:

Prepare for wildfire smoke and extreme heat

Create clean-air spaces, evaluate HVAC filtration and cooling capacity, and protect vulnerable patients and staff.

Strengthen energy resilience

Identify critical energy needs and improve efficiency or backup power (e.g., battery storage, distributed energy resources).

Stress-test supply chains

Ensure access to critical medications, supplies, food, water, and medical gases. Build redundancy and reduce unnecessary resource dependence.

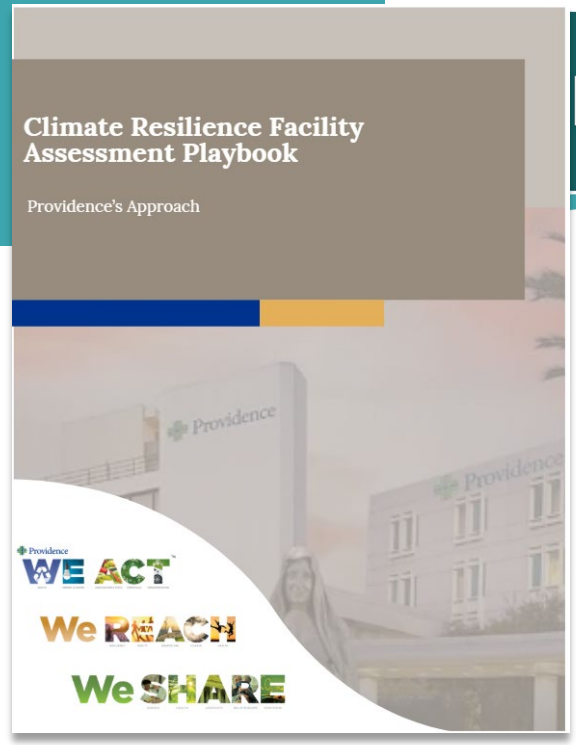
Reduce high-emission clinical practices

Address anesthetic gases, nitrous oxide and other opportunities to cut emissions while also reducing costs, resource use and operational risk.

Build strong partnerships

Work with emergency management, public health, utilities and community organizations to strengthen regional and community resilience.

The bigger picture:
Reduce emissions. Lower costs. Improve efficiency. Keep care going.



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Scan the QR code below to visit **the Providence Center for Environmental Stewardship** for more information and resources.

Network Overview

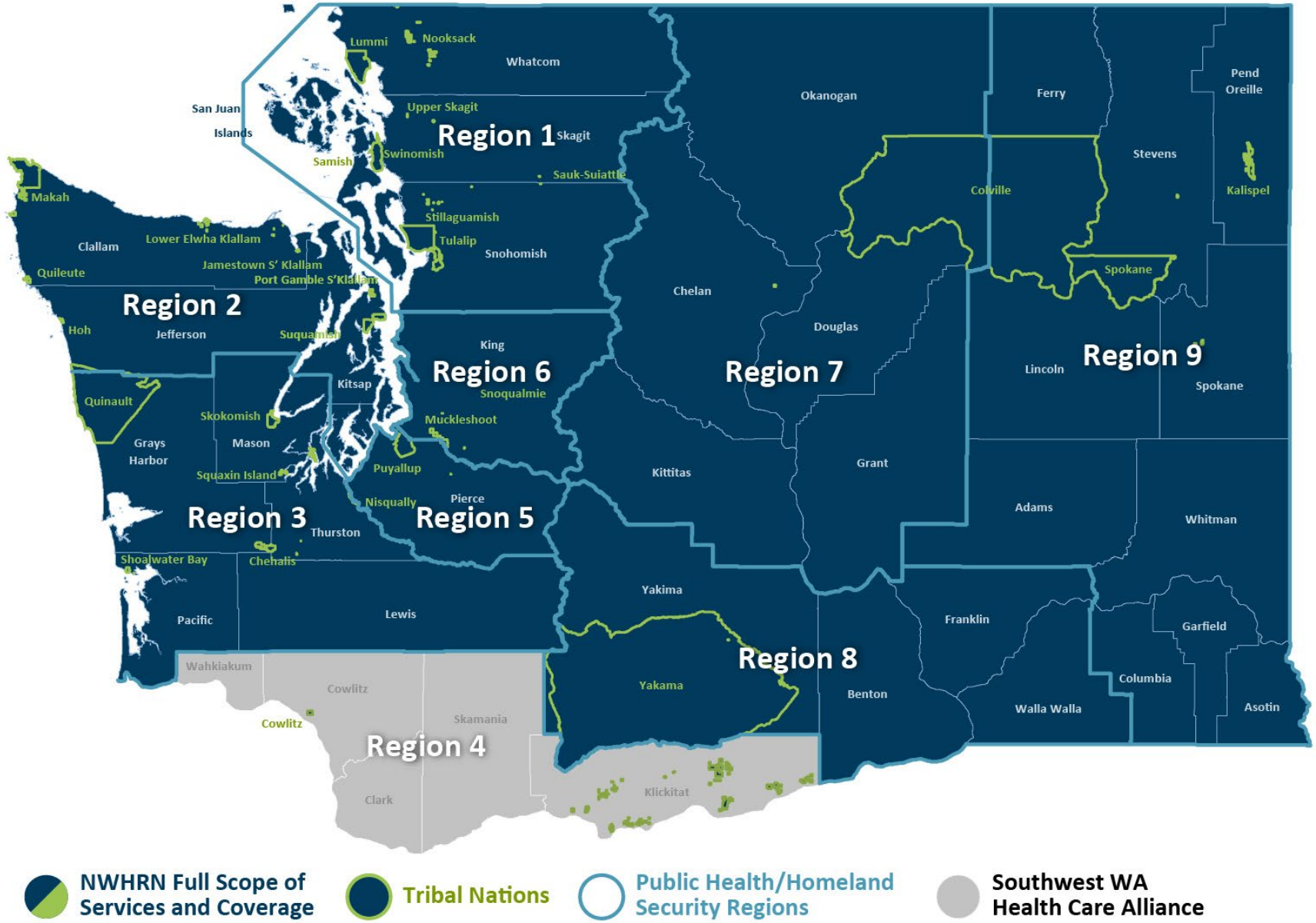
Mission: We lead cross-sector, solution-oriented coordination to build healthcare ecosystem resilience to face emergencies, disasters, disease outbreaks, and other disruptive events.

Vision: We envision a future where healthcare stands strong—a resilient and responsive ecosystem powered by collaboration, ensuring every person receives effective care when it matters most.



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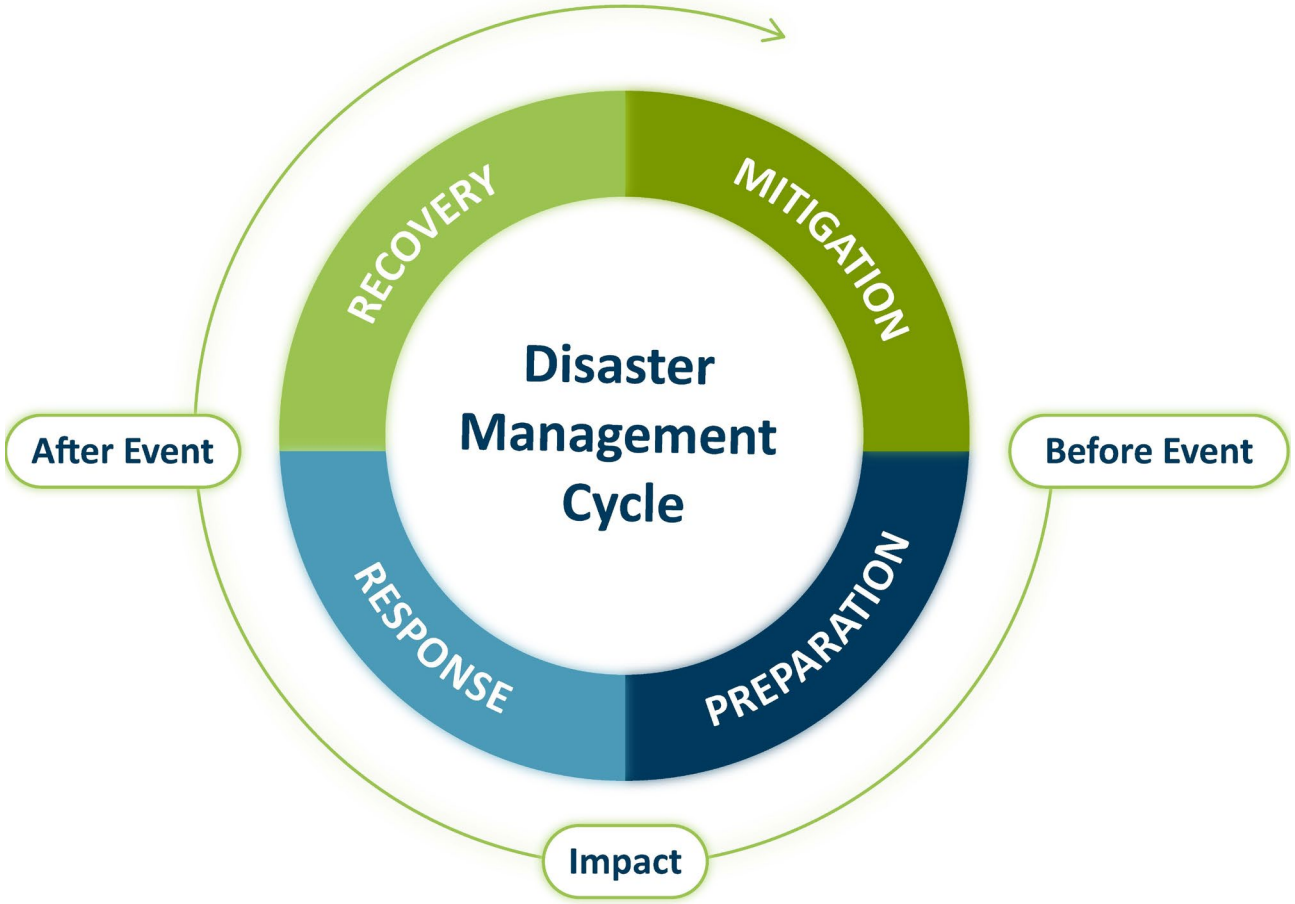
Geographic Service Area



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Our Focus Areas

- **Create a Common Operating Picture** | We provide up-to-date insights into the status and capability of Washington State's healthcare ecosystem.
- **Develop Innovative Solutions** | We create novel plans, tools, and resources to maintain healthcare services and meet increased care demands.
- **Develop Innovative Solutions** | We innovate to build capabilities and community to sustain healthcare services during disruptive events.
- **Deliver Real-Time Support** | We directly support healthcare organizations during critical moments.
- **Advocate for Resilience** | We promote better policies and strategies to strengthen disaster preparedness and build long-term resilience.



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Upcoming Event-Nov. 3rd virtually



Resources

- Bree Collaborative Health Impacts of Extreme Heat & Wildfire Smoke Report
- Bree Collaborative Heat & Wildfire Smoke Toolkit for Healthcare Professionals
- Northwest Healthcare Response Network: Our Tools

Resources for Action:

- Climate Resilience Toolkit for Health Clinics | Download Now
- Partnering for climate resilience: A practical guide to community-based disaster planning for health care
- Climate Resilience for Health Care (CR4HC)
- Resilience resources | Practice Greenhealth
- Practice Greenhealth Climate Resilience Planning



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Start with risk. Identify vulnerability. Find the opportunity. Act together.

Don’t lead with carbon.

Lead with the problem you’re helping them solve—and show them that decarbonization is part of the solution.



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START WITH THE PROBLEM

Don’t introduce sustainability as a separate initiative. Start with what the hospital already cares about — the challenges they’re trying to solve.

SHOW HOW DECARBONIZATION HELPS

Show how reducing emissions also improves efficiency, lowers costs, reduces risk, and strengthens operations.

THE RESULT

Greater buy-in, because it’s not just about carbon—it’s about solving real problems and creating multiple value streams.

We’re working with hospitals on key areas

ENERGY

Increase efficiency, transition to cleaner energy, and strengthen resilience.

Lower emissions, lower costs, less dependence.

CLINICAL DECARBONIZATION

Reduce high-emission practices like nitrous oxide and anesthetic gases.

Lower emissions, reduce costs, improve patient safety.

WASTE

Improve segregation and reduce unnecessary use.

Lower emissions, reduce treatment costs.

PROCUREMENT

Choose lower-carbon, more sustainable suppliers and products.

Reduce risk, control costs, meet goals.

RESILIENCE

Strengthen supply chains, infrastructure, and emergency preparedness.

Maintain operations, protect patients, serve the community.

IT MATTERS TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE FOR DIFFERENT REASONS

Speak to their priorities, not just the climate.

CFO

“Cost savings and financial stewardship.”

Facilities Leader

“Reliability and operational performance.”

Clinician

“Patient safety and quality of care.”

Supply chain Leader

“Continuity and cost.”

THE SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOME IS THE COMMON THREAD.

The reason people engage? It helps them solve a problem they already own.