



Infrastructure

Local government infrastructure is foundational to the region's economy and its residents' quality of life. The reservoirs, pipes, pumps, treatment plants, roads, power lines, dikes, and other built infrastructure provide essential services such as drinking water, sewage treatment, stormwater drainage, solid waste disposal, transportation, and energy to residents and businesses. The region's water, wastewater and drainage infrastructure is vulnerable to anticipated climate change impacts such as more frequent extreme precipitation events that will increase localized flooding and may overwhelm sewer systems, and heat and drought that will challenge the drinking water system.

Incorporating climate change into local government infrastructure planning, design and operation can help maintain these essential services in the face of climate impacts. By considering climate change, local governments can invest in actions that improve infrastructure and contribute to the overall resilience of the region. By jointly considering climate risks and other physical risks such as seismic events, local governments are able to find cost efficiencies and more effective approaches to infrastructure upgrades, and sustain long-term levels of service.

The construction, maintenance and operation of infrastructure all contribute to greenhouse gas emissions in the region. Innovation in infrastructure design, upgrades, and operations can significantly reduce associated greenhouse gas emissions.

WATER

Climate change will affect the quantity and quality of water in the region, which has implications for many of the Issue Areas. It will increase the likelihood that there is too much or too little water (see section on Climate Impacts). Water-related actions will be central to our climate change response and be included under a number of Issue Areas. Managing water demand, protecting and restoring streams, lakes, bogs, and coastal estuaries, and protecting communities against sea level rise and flooding will be important components of creating a region resilient to the impacts of climate change.

