

Responding to Climate Change: USG Initiatives



Climate and Global Changes: Impact on the U.S.



- **Changes**-- high temperatures, heavy rain, wildfires, droughts, permafrost thawing, ocean acidification, and sea-level rise
- **Impact**--affecting communities, natural resources, ecosystems, economies, and public health



Federal Government Response



Support American communities by:

- establishing policies and prioritizing investments that promote preparedness
- protecting critical infrastructure/natural resources
- advancing climate change science and research
- ensuring Federal operations and facilities continue to protect and serve citizens in a changing climate.



Establishing U.S. Climate Change Policies



- Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force
- *The President's Climate Action Plan (CAP)* (EOP 2013a)

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/image/president27climateactionplan.pdf>

- *Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change* (EOP 2013b)

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/11/01/executive-order-preparing-united-states-impacts-climate-change>



Task Force



- Interagency Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience
- Advised by--State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force
 - Frontline decision makers involved in sharing approaches and advising the federal government.



Climate Action Plan (EOP 2013a)



Three Pillars:

1. Cut carbon pollution
2. Prepare for the impacts of climate change
3. Lead international efforts to address global climate change



Carbon Pollution Action Plan



- Establish carbon pollution standards for power plants
- Open up \$8 billion in loan guarantees for energy efficiency projects
- Allow renewable projects on public lands
- Cut building waste and increase efficiency 20% by 2020
- Reduce carbon pollution by 3 billion metric tons by 2030 in federal buildings and appliances
- Develop fuel standards for heavy-duty vehicles
- Create comprehensive methane strategy



Preparing for the Impacts of Climate Change (EOP 2013b)



1. Modernize programs/policies to support resilient investments
2. Identify policies, programs, and regulations to strengthen resilience of watersheds and ecosystems
3. Provide climate change information, data, and tools for state, local, and private sector decision makers
4. Build on agency adaptation plans to address climate change-related risks



Adaptation plans



Federal Agency Adaptation planning

➤ The U.S. Department of Transportation's plan describes how increased flooding would affect the transportation sector. DOT is developing guidance on planning and design of projects in coastal areas.



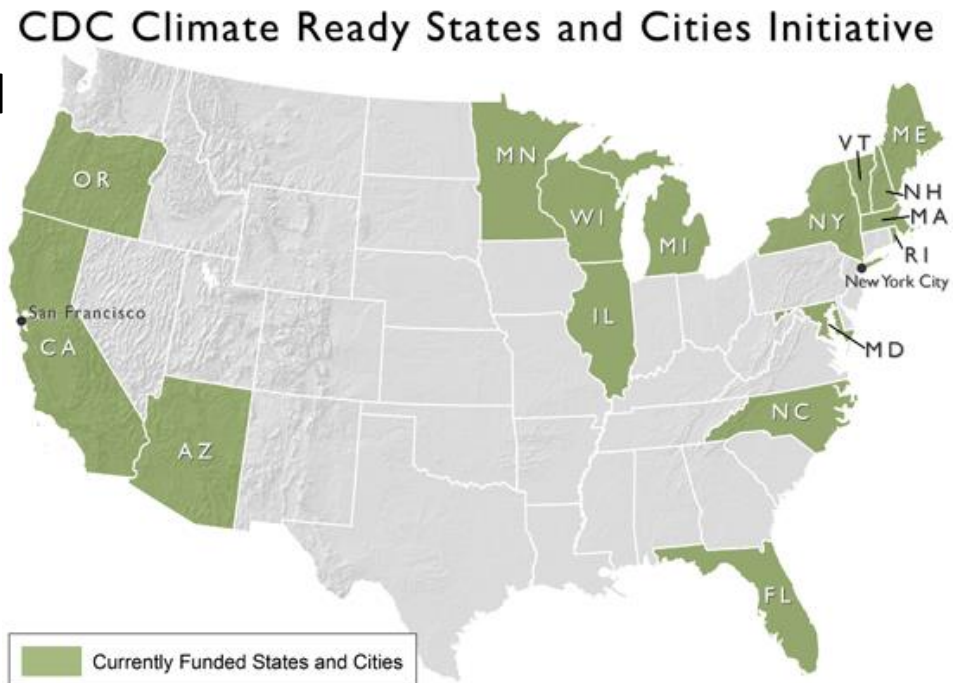
Interagency coordination



Federal gov't helps agencies address common challenges identified by adaptation plans.

➤ DHHS & CDC's: Climate-Ready States and Cities Initiative

- helps state and city health departments prepare for potential health effects of climate change.
- Looks at: vulnerability assessment, projection of disease burden, identification of adaptation options, implementation, and evaluation



Investing in Climate Resilience

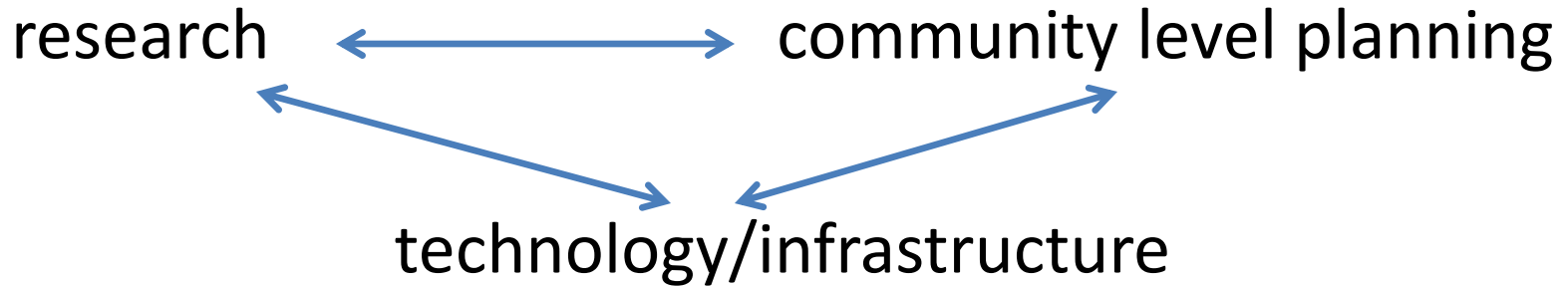


- Base Funding from budget
 - Identify and analyze critical infrastructure vulnerabilities
 - Grants to support research and State and local level resilience planning

- \$1 billion Climate Resilience Fund.
 - Invest in research and unlock data and information on climate change
 - Help communities plan and prepare
 - Fund breakthrough technologies and resilient infrastructure



Resilience Fund Breakdown



- Pre-disaster mitigation program
 - Includes \$150 million National Flood Insurance Program
- Protecting resources on federal and tribal lands
 - Drought mitigation and sustainable water management
- Ocean acidification research



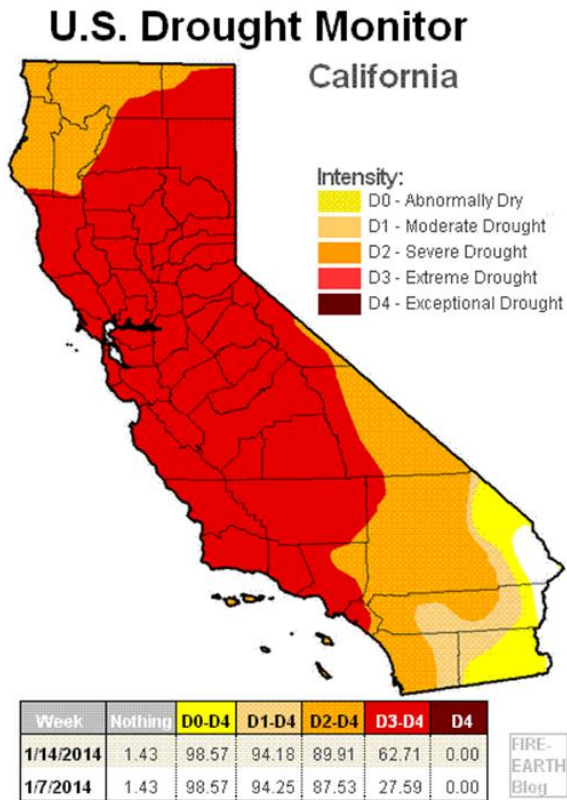
Federal Climate Change Research



- U.S. Global Change Research Program (1990)
 - interagency program
 - coordinates government's \$2.5 billion annual investment in global change research
 - one of the largest such investments in the world
 - National Climate Assessment Report
 - climate impacts and response activities across the United States



California Drought- 2014



Lake Oroville on July 16, 2011 and Jan. 16, 2014



Federal Response- California Drought



USDA and Dept of Interior implementing \$170+ million for programs on:

- water delivery infrastructure
- water management
- conservation
- emergency food assistance
- agricultural loans



Global Climate Change Initiative (GCCCI)



2015 budget - \$839 million for global engagement

- reduce emissions from deforestation
- expand clean energy
- promote energy efficiency
- Reduce ozone-depleting chemicals
- support vulnerable communities cope with climate change events

