



WSU

Washington Climate Steward Certificate Program

Washington Climate Steward (WA-CS)

The nine-session course:
in-person and online instruction, self-paced online learning,
field trips, guest presenters, and stewardship project



Interested?

<https://extension.wsu.edu/skagit/skagit-climate-stewards>
sarah.bergquist@wsu.edu or heather.teegarden@wsu.edu

Yale Climate Communications Survey

Climate Change in the American Mind: Beliefs and Attitudes, May 2025

- 64% of Americans are at least somewhat worried about climate change
- 30% are very worried
- 64% of Americans think global warming is affecting weather in the US
- Over 10% are considering moving to a different area to avoid impacts of GW
- Between 55 and 78% worry about local harm such as air pollution, extreme heat, water shortages, and sea level rise.



[Climate
Change in
the American
Mind: Beliefs
and Attitudes
Spring 2025](#)



What is WA CS?

Big Picture

- WSU Extension has adopted/adapted UC-Davis Climate Steward curriculum
- Two counties – Island and Skagit –pilot program Fall 2025

Program Delivery: Hybrid Flexible Learning Model

- 9-session course is a mixed delivery model
 - In-person and online instruction
 - Self-paced online learning
 - Field trips
 - Guest presenters
 - Capstone project
 - Community partner meetings



WA CS Certification Schedule

Course content provides skill-building in effective communication

- Climate Impacts – state and local
- Mitigation and Adaptation
- Solutions
- Policies
- Actions

7-week course: September - October 2025.

Field Learning: Saturdays, typically lasting 4-6 hours.

Week 1. Introduction/Orientation

Week 2. Community Connections

Week 3. Interpretation, Communication, and Education

Week 4. Climate and Earth Systems

Week 5. Ecosystems and Anthropogenic Systems

Week 6. off week

Week 7. Stewardship Projects



Field Trips

Field Learning - TBD

- Skagit Dyke System
- Padilla Bay
- Deception Pass
- Mt Vernon Green Library Bldg
- Skagit Soils
- Whidbey Compost Collective
- Local Solar Installations
- Biosolid Facilities
- Green Buildings
- Sea level rise locations

Partners

Partners

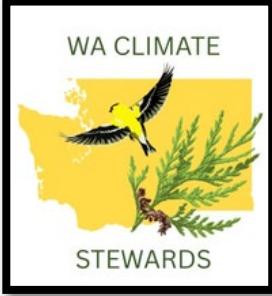
- WSU Climate Action Team
- WSU Module Faculty
- WA Office of Climatology
- University of Washington

Future Partners

- Our local county climate team
- Local organizations focused on areas impacted by climate change
- Public school districts

CERTIFICATE

Washington Climate Steward



- Combination of classroom, online, and field experiences over 9 weeks
- Complete six **science-based** subject matter Canvas modules with quizzes and reflection activities
- Complete stewardship service project
- **Earn Certificate of Completion**
- Certified Climate Stewards are encouraged to volunteer in community service opportunities

Interested?

sarah.bergquist@wsu.edu or
heather.teegarden@wsu.edu

WSU Island
Climate
Stewards



The WSU Washington Climate Steward Program strives to improve climate change literacy and civic engagement for community and ecosystem resilience.



ISLAND COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTION HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN



ISLAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

JULY 9, 2025 | BOARD OF ISLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHAT IS HAZARD MITIGATION?

- **SIMPLY PUT:** TAKING ACTION BEFORE A DISASTER STRIKES TO REDUCE ITS IMPACT.
- **GOAL:** LESSEN THE LONG-TERM RISK TO LIVES, PROPERTY, AND THE ECONOMY FROM NATURAL HAZARDS LIKE EARTHQUAKES, FLOODING, AND SEVERE STORMS.
- **WHY IT MATTERS:** IT'S ABOUT PROACTIVE PLANNING, NOT JUST REACTIVE RESPONSE.



WHAT IS A MULTI-JURISDICTION PLAN?

- **COLLABORATION IS KEY:** OUR PLAN ISN'T JUST FOR ISLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT. IT INCLUDES OUR CITIES, TOWNS, SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICTS (LIKE THE PORTS, HOSPITAL, AND ISLAND TRANSIT)
- **SHARED VULNERABILITY, SHARED SOLUTIONS:** WE RECOGNIZE THAT NATURAL HAZARDS DON'T STOP AT JURISDICTIONAL LINES. WORKING TOGETHER MEANS MORE EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES AND A STRONGER, MORE RESILIENT REGION.
- **UNIFIED APPROACH:** THIS PLAN PROVIDES A COORDINATED FRAMEWORK FOR ALL PARTICIPATING ENTITIES TO ADDRESS COMMON RISKS.



WHY DOES ISLAND COUNTY NEED THIS PLAN?

- **MANDATED BY FEDERAL LAW:** THE DISASTER MITIGATION ACT OF 2000 (DMA 2000) REQUIRES LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO HAVE AN APPROVED HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CERTAIN FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND MITIGATION GRANTS.
- **ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING:** THIS PLAN IS OUR TICKET TO UNLOCK CRUCIAL FEMA GRANTS (LIKE HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM OR HMGP) THAT HELP FUND PROJECTS TO REDUCE DISASTER RISKS.
- **LOCAL HAZARDS ARE REAL:** ISLAND COUNTY FACES SPECIFIC THREATS, INCLUDING:
 - EARTHQUAKES (ON MULTIPLE FAULT LINES)
 - TSUNAMIS (A POTENTIAL SECONDARY IMPACT OF EARTHQUAKES)
 - HIGH WINDS & WINTER STORMS (ANNUAL OCCURRENCES)
 - FLOODING
 - LANDSLIDES
 - WILDFIRES
 - EXTREME HEAT



OUR CURRENT PLAN UPDATE

ISLAND COUNTY IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF UPDATING ITS
MULTI-JURISDICTION HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.

- THIS IS A CRUCIAL OPPORTUNITY TO:
 - REVIEW PAST HAZARDS AND MITIGATION EFFORTS.
 - INCORPORATE NEW DATA AND BEST PRACTICES.
 - ENGAGE THE PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDERS FOR THEIR VALUABLE INPUT.
- **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS VITAL!** WE ENCOURAGE ALL RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS TO GET INVOLVED.



KEY COMPONENTS OF OUR PLAN

1. RISK ASSESSMENT:

- IDENTIFIES AND ANALYZES THE NATURAL HAZARDS MOST LIKELY TO IMPACT ISLAND COUNTY.
- DETERMINES WHICH AREAS, CRITICAL FACILITIES, AND POPULATIONS ARE MOST VULNERABLE.
- USES HISTORICAL DATA AND SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS TO UNDERSTAND POTENTIAL IMPACTS.

2. MITIGATION GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

- BROAD STATEMENTS OUTLINING OUR DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS (E.G., "REDUCE THE RISK OF DAMAGE TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FROM SEISMIC EVENTS").
- SPECIFIC, MEASURABLE STEPS TO ACHIEVE THOSE GOALS.



KEY COMPONENTS OF OUR PLAN

3. MITIGATION ACTIONS & STRATEGIES:

- CONCRETE PROJECTS AND POLICIES TO REDUCE IDENTIFIED RISKS.
- EXAMPLES INCLUDE: UPDATING BUILDING CODES TO BE MORE RESILIENT.
- PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS ON PREPAREDNESS.
- PROTECTING NATURAL AREAS THAT ACT AS BUFFERS.
- IMPROVING EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEMS.
- RETROFITTING CRITICAL FACILITIES FOR EARTHQUAKES.

4. PLAN MAINTENANCE & IMPLEMENTATION:

- HOW WE WILL KEEP THE PLAN CURRENT (IT'S UPDATED EVERY FIVE YEARS).
- HOW WE WILL INTEGRATE MITIGATION INTO DAILY OPERATIONS AND OTHER COUNTY PLANNING PROCESSES (E.G., LAND USE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS).
- WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT.



BENEFITS FOR ISLAND COUNTY & ITS CITIZENS

- **SAVES LIVES & PROPERTY:** THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO PROTECT OUR RESIDENTS AND THEIR ASSETS.
- **REDUCES DISASTER COSTS:** PROACTIVE INVESTMENTS SAVE MONEY IN FUTURE DISASTER RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION.
- **FASTER RECOVERY:** A RESILIENT COMMUNITY BOUNCES BACK QUICKER AFTER AN EVENT.
- **ENHANCED ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL GRANTS:** DIRECT ACCESS TO FUNDING FOR MITIGATION PROJECTS.
- **IMPROVED COORDINATION:** STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN COUNTY DEPARTMENTS, LOCAL JURISDICTIONS, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS.
- **INFORMED DECISION-MAKING:** PROVIDES A DATA-DRIVEN BASIS FOR ALLOCATING RESOURCES TO ADDRESS OUR GREATEST RISKS.
- **INCREASED PUBLIC AWARENESS:** EDUCATES RESIDENTS ON LOCAL HAZARDS AND HOW TO PREPARE.



SCHEDULE

- ORGANIZE RESOURCES, PARTNER ROLES, PLAN & POLICY REVIEW, STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION
 - JUNE 2025-MARCH 2026
- RISK & VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT, CRITICAL FACILITY & KEY RESOURCE UPDATE, DEVELOP DATA AND MAPS
 - JUNE 2025-FEBRUARY 2026
- PUBLIC OUTREACH AND INPUT
 - JUNE 2025-MARCH 2026
- REFINE GOALS, OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES, AND TASKS
 - NOVEMBER 2025-FEBRUARY 2026
- DEVELOP HAZARD MITIGATION INITIATIVES AND PRIORITIZED SCHEDULE
 - DECEMBER 2025-MARCH 2026
- DRAFT COMPLETE, TECHNICAL REVIEW, CROSSWALK COMPLETE
 - MARCH 2026
- WA STATE AND FEMA REVIEW
 - APRIL 2026



SCHEDULE

- QUARTERLY REPORT DUE TO WA STATE EMD ON PROJECT PROGRESS
 - OCTOBER 15, 2025
 - JANUARY 15, 2026
 - APRIL 15, 2026
 - JULY 15, 2026
- AT A MINIMUM, WOULD LIKE TO BRIEF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ON THE SAME CYCLE
 - OCTOBER 15, 2025
 - JANUARY 14, 2026
 - MARCH 18, 2026 (FOR CROSSWALK REVIEW)
 - TBD: PRESENT STATE AND FEMA REVIEW (SCHEDULE PLAN ADOPTION)



FUNDING

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM D25-051

- GRANT END DATE: MAY 30, 2028
- GRANT AMOUNT: \$192,570.00
 - FEDERAL: \$137,550.00
 - STATE: \$22,925.00
 - LOCAL: \$22,925.00 (IN-KIND)
 - SUBMC (GRANT MANAGEMENT): \$9,170.00
- ALLOCATION
 - LOCAL (IN-KIND): \$22,925.00
 - CONSULTANT: \$110,135.00
 - SALARY & BENEFITS: \$59,510.00



CONCLUSION: INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

- THE MULTI-JURISDICTION HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN IS MORE THAN A DOCUMENT; IT'S A COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES.
- BY INVESTING IN MITIGATION NOW, WE REDUCE FUTURE LOSSES, STRENGTHEN OUR RESILIENCE, AND ENSURE ISLAND COUNTY REMAINS A SAFE AND VIBRANT PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK.



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WEBSITE:

[HTTPS://WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYWA.GOV/539/ISLAND-COUNTY-MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL-HAZAR](https://www.islandcountywa.gov/539/ISLAND-COUNTY-MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL-HAZAR)