

Project Overview

# **SMART GROWTH AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE WASHINGTON REGION**

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Maia A. Davis

COG Department of Environmental Programs

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# CLIMATE RISKS

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- ✘ Coastal risks related to sea level rise and storm surge
- ✘ Increased temperature, more frequent heat waves
- ✘ Increased extreme weather events and precipitation

# ADDRESSING CLIMATE RISKS

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- ✘ **Mitigation** = implement cost effective strategies to reduce emissions
  - + Ex. Implementing building efficiency strategies/programs
- ✘ **Adaptation** = prepare for unavoidable impacts of climate change
  - + Ex. Reduce vulnerability to extreme heat events by opening cooling centers during heat waves
- ✘ **“Win-Win” Strategies** = adaptation steps that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy.
  - + Ex. Increasing urban forest canopy can provide shade to decrease the urban heat island effect (adaptation) and reduce energy demand to cool buildings (mitigation).

# SECTOR AND COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT

- ✘ *Academic – Expert Panel of University/College Professors*
- ✘ *Building - Intergovernmental Green Building Group, Housing Directors Committee*
- ✘ *Transportation - one of TPB technical committees*
- ✘ *Health - Health Officials Committee*
- ✘ *Emergency management - Emergency Managers Committee*
- ✘ *Water – Water Resources Technical Committee*
- ✘ *Land use – Planning Directors Committee*

# PROJECT TIMELINE

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- ✘ *Fall 2010 – Awarded technical assistance grant from EPA Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program*
- ✘ *Winter 2010 - Expert Panel assists identify regional climate risks*
- ✘ *Spring 2011 – NOAA Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Training and consultants on board*
- ✘ *Summer 2011 – Sector-based meetings to identify risks and vulnerabilities*
- ✘ *Fall/Winter 2011 – Publish regional adaptation plan/guidebook and host adaptation workshop*

# QUESTIONS?

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**Contact:**

Maia A. Davis

[mdavis@mwkog.org](mailto:mdavis@mwkog.org)

202-962-3227