

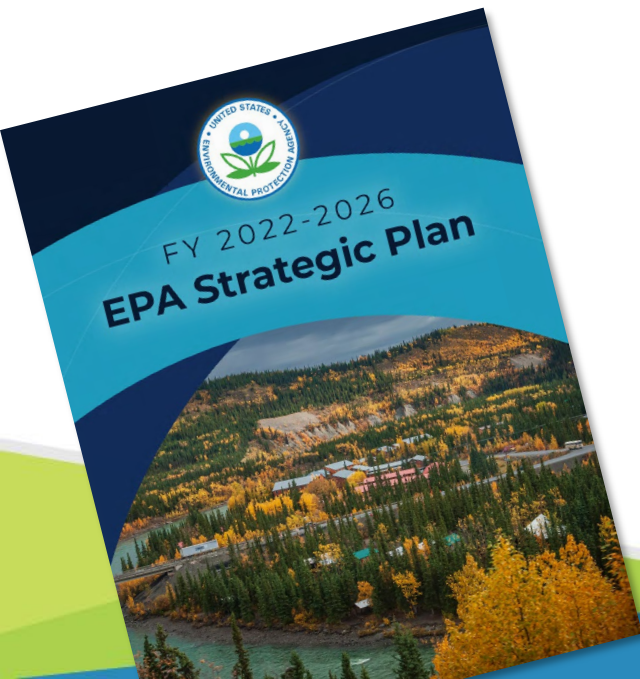


Climate Adaptation at EPA: Update

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Vision

EPA continues to fulfill its mission of protecting human health and the environment even as the climate changes



EPA's Adaptation Goals



Integrate adaptation into internal Agency policies and activities



Enhance external partners' ability to adapt

20 Program and Regional offices have Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans



A Quick Look at Progress So Far....

<https://www.epa.gov/climate-adaptation/climate-adaptation-plans>

Climate Adaptation and Children's Health: Example Activities



Schools as Cleaner Air and Cooling Centers Tips for Parents and Caregivers

Communities are facing the impacts of climate change, including severe health consequences from heat waves and wildfires. EPA launched a pilot project in 2021 called Schools as Community Cleaner Air and Cooling Centers to address the combined hazards of extreme heat and wildfire smoke with a focus on spaces that serve children. The goals of this project are to support practical strategies for safeguarding children in schools during heat and smoke events. Parents and caregivers can be champions for facility improvements and other steps to keep kids safe during the school day and during heat and smoke events. This fact sheet can help you keep your children safe at home or at school.

DOES YOUR SCHOOL HAVE A PLAN?

As each local municipality may have a different action plan for heat and smoke events, check in with school leadership to find out if the school follows any local, city, or state level plans. For example plans for smoke and heat safety in schools, please refer to the following resources: [Washington's Smoke from Wildfires - Toolkit](#) and [Arizona's Heat Safety - School Toolkit](#).

Parents and caregivers can work with school administrators, principals, and even teachers to find out answers to some of the following questions:

Does your child's classroom and other learning spaces have cooling capability? If not, what other measures are in place during extreme heat events?

Does your child's classroom have ventilation and filtration, and is this adjusted during wildfire smoke events? If not, would a letter of support or other action from parents and caregivers be helpful?

It is important to also check plans for transportation to and from school so that your child can be shielded from the heat or smoke during the ride to and from school. If your home has better air conditioning and air cleaning provisions than the classroom environment, a virtual alternative could be discussed with teachers and principals. Having fewer students in the classroom may help reduce the stress of the air conditioning units, thereby providing better relief for the students who rely on the classroom space as their main source of air conditioning and clean air.

HOW TO TALK TO YOUR KIDS

As schools prepare physical buildings to be safe during extreme heat and wildfire smoke events, it is important for families and students to understand the risks and ways to stay safe, both in school and at home.

The following sources are available for caretakers to help understand and talk to their children about the dangers of heat and wildfire smoke. Information is constantly being updated and translated into more languages. Some key websites to check for the latest information include www.heat.gov and <https://www.airnow.gov/wildfires/>. Parents may also want to have [quick reference guides](#) to recognize signs and symptoms of heat-related illness.

FOR CHILDREN: EXTREME HEAT

[CDC: Ready Wrigley Books](#)
Available in English and Spanish
Children's books on preparing for wildfires and smoke and one on extreme heat with dog Ready Wrigley

[Ready.gov Ready Kids | En español](#)
Tools, games, and information on preparing for disasters for kids, teens, parents, and people who work with kids.



Tribal Climate Adaptation

2022-2026 EPA Strategic
Plan Goal:

Assist at least 400 federally
recognized Tribes to take
action to anticipate,
prepare for, adapt to, or
recover from the impacts of
climate change.



Announcing the Launch of the Climate Adaptation and Sustainability Office

The new **Office of Climate Adaptation and Sustainability** within OP will focus broadly on the impacts of climate change on the environment and the sustainability of communities, Tribes and businesses.



The New Office of Climate Adaptation and Sustainability -- Major Functions



Integrate consideration of climate adaptation into internal Agency programs, policies, and activities. Foster a whole-of-government approach to adapting to a changing climate.



Enhance external partners' ability to adapt to a changing climate. Look for opportunities to reduce GHG emissions through climate-sustainable practices.