

Nevada County Resource Resiliency Roadmap Community Workshops 1-2 Summary

Introduction

The purpose of community workshops 1 and 2 is to solicit input from the community on the findings from the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory and the climate change vulnerability assessment. The two identical workshops were held in-person in East County on August 13th and West County on August 14th. A presentation by the project team was followed by an open house activity where attendees could provide feedback and ask questions. There were about 20 attendees, mostly at workshop 2 in Nevada City. Additionally, an [online survey](#) was also opened following the workshops as another method to collect feedback on these topics.

Agenda

6:00 - 6:10 pm	Resource Resilience Roadmap Overview
6:10 – 6:25 pm	Overview of GHG Inventory
6:25 - 6:45 pm	Review of Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment
6:45 – 7:30 pm	Climate Hazard Open House

Key Take-aways

1. General support for the County to take action to reduce GHG emissions.
2. Main barriers to reducing emissions are the cost of taking action and a lack of financial incentives and rebates.
3. Most attendees had been directly and indirectly impacted by the six climate hazards including intense precipitation and flooding, severe storms, extreme heat, wildfire, reduced snowpack, and drought.
4. Attendees focused most on wildfire as a priority hazard.

Summary of Open House Feedback

GHG Inventory, Forecast, and Target Setting

1. *How actively should the County work to reduce GHG emissions?*
 - 10 out of 14 respondents (71%) stated that the County should take bold action
 - 4 out of 14 respondents (29%) stated that the County should take moderate or limited action
2. *What are the main challenges you face in reducing GHG emissions?*
 - The top three barriers to reducing GHG emissions are 1) financial cost of upgrades, 2) access to financial incentives and rebates, 3) resistance to change or preference for the status quo

- Additional barriers included availability of contractors and lack of information or understanding about the benefits
 - Some noted that limits to climate knowledge are becoming less of an issue, especially in East County
- Other challenges that were mentioned:
 - Risks of lithium-ion batteries including causing fires
 - Lack of availability of zero emission or cleaner heavy-duty vehicles and equipment
 - Tourism can overwhelm our local transportation systems
 - Shuttles to ski resorts are working and more heavily utilized than ever

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

1. *Intense Precipitation and Flooding*

- How have you been impacted?
 - Road damage and closures
 - Overwhelmed and plugged drainage systems
 - Disruption to water service resulting in no irrigation water
- Have you utilized specific resources or services to help prepare for or respond to this hazard? If not, what would be helpful?
 - Back-up batteries and food supplies, generator, storing water
 - Utilize the library to charge devices during power outages
 - Covered parking to allow safer access/travel
- Are there any community assets/resources that need protection from this hazard?
 - Police and fire stations
 - Cell towers and service
 - bridges

2. *Severe Storms*

- How have you been impacted?
 - Disruption of services including power outages
 - Slow-down and closure of businesses and stores
 - Downed trees blocking access routes
 - Overwhelmed irrigation ditches
 - Flooding of flumes, ditches, rivers
 - Hesitant to go all electric for fear of losing power especially in the wintertime
- Have you utilized specific resources or services to help prepare for or respond to this hazard? If not, what would be helpful?
 - PG&E charging stations
 - Back-up battery installations (plus solar)
- Are there any community assets/resources that need protection from this hazard?
 - Library
 - In-town parking

3. *Extreme Heat*

- How have you been impacted?
 - Heat exhaustion
 - Stuck inside in the AC
 - Cardiac symptoms
 - Higher heat leads to drier vegetation and impacts on trees, which leads to increased wildfire risk
 - Seniors and people with disabilities are at higher risk of impacts
 - Participate in PG&E demand management program “smart events” where they control the thermostat temperature to manage energy consumption
- Have you utilized specific resources or services to help prepare for or respond to this hazard? If not, what would be helpful?
 - Use a small heat exchange cooling unit to avoid using the AC to cool spaces that aren’t being used
 - Added insulation to home and blinds to the windows
 - Added solar to help reduce the cost of energy to run AC
- Are there any community assets/resources that need protection from this hazard?
 - Gathering spaces such as the library and fire stations to use as cooling centers
 - Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital

4. *Wildfire*

- How have you been impacted?
 - Threatened property and homes, evacuations
 - Homeowners insurance is expensive or unavailable
 - Balance the cost of insurance with the cost of maintaining property and creating defensible space
 - Impacting decisions to stay or leave Nevada County
 - Fire anxiety and constant alertness – prepared with go bags
 - Wildfire smoke worsens asthma symptoms
 - Neighbors not wanting to thin trees due to concerns over aesthetics, privacy, etc
- Have you utilized specific resources or services to help prepare for or respond to this hazard? If not, what would be helpful?
 - When the power goes out for public safety power shut off event, FREED provides small generators for medical devices
 - Charging center at Sierra College when power is out
 - Home hardening - installed Class A roof and ember proof vents on home
 - Maintained property – removed ladder fuels and thinned tree density
 - Need financial support (e.g. grants) to help people plan for fuel thinning
 - Sign up for Red Alert or Nixel to receive notifications during emergencies
 - Community education - support the Firewise Council and Firewise Communities
 - Truckee Fire defensible space program and Measure T grants
 - Grants are complicated to apply for and competitive with limited funding
- Are there any community assets/resources that need protection from this hazard?

- Need to address evacuation route bottlenecks
 - Bridges, train crossings
- Major highways including I-80, 50, 267
- Need to maintain access to fire stations, roadways, cell service
- CalFire Chinook helicopter at Truckee Tahoe Airport
- Truckee High School
- Alder Creek Middle School
- Local and regional parks

5. *Reduced Snowpack*

- How have you been impacted?
 - Less revenue from water sports and tourists
 - Reduced grass/lawn plantings
 - Well drawdown and extreme impact on agriculture and recreation
 - Boil water notices for Hirshdale water system
 - Economic impacts to ski industry
 - Expensive investment in snowmaking equipment
- Have you utilized specific resources or services to help prepare for or respond to this hazard? If not, what would be helpful?
 - Need extra water storage
- Are there any community assets/resources that need protection from this hazard?
 - All rivers and streams
 - Nevada Irrigation District

6. *Drought*

- How have you been impacted?
 - Increased fire hazard if not able to water landscaping – irrigation is the first use to be cut during drought
 - Increase in tree mortality, drier fuels for wildfire
 - Drier air makes asthma symptoms worse
 - Can impact rivers and reservoir infrastructure
 - Creates competition for water resources
- Have you utilized specific resources or services to help prepare for or respond to this hazard? If not, what would be helpful?
 - Need education around appropriate landscaping
- Are there any community assets/resources that need protection from this hazard?
 - Forests and rangeland
 - Prioritize native species
 - Micro and macro levels of landscapes