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PRESTON KERES, USDA/FPAC / CCO



# Looking Ahead to 2023

# About the Geos Institute

Geos Institute helps communities build resilience in the face of climate change using science and local knowledge. Our holistic approach prioritizes the needs of ecosystems and those on the frontlines of climate change impacts. We are working to bring about a future where communities across the U.S. are actively addressing the causes and impacts of the climate crisis in ways that are good for nature and all people.

**Climate Ready America** seeks to develop a nationwide system of climate services accessible by all communities in the U.S.

**Climate Ready Communities** provides support and guidance for small to mid-sized and under-resourced communities to help them build local climate resilience.

**Drinking Water Providers Partnership** funds watershed projects in Oregon and Washington that protect and restore drinking water and wildlife habitat as the climate changes.

**ClimateWise** leads climate resilience projects in communities.

[www.GeosInstitute.org](http://www.GeosInstitute.org)

eNews

Sign up for our eNews to stay up to date with our progress, get more insight into our work, and receive resources, stories, and information you can use.

Visit our website [www.GeosInstitute.org/newsletter](http://www.GeosInstitute.org/newsletter)

Friends,

This past year, Congress made the largest climate investments in history. While these investments will not fully address climate change, they put us within striking distance of our national climate targets.

Here at the Geos Institute, we are working on an effort that will take our nation the rest of the way across the finish line by 2030: Climate Ready America. This nationwide system of climate support services brings together the federal government and partners across the US so that every community that wants to take climate action can find the help they need no matter their size, location, or wealth.

The Climate Ready America initiative has generated excitement among local leaders, state level organizations, academic institutions, and the federal government. Recently we received an inquiry from an organization in Illinois that wants to host a Climate Innovation Center. for their state. That brings the number of states we are engaged with to 32!

Our team has just returned from Washington DC where we led talks with agencies and other organizations about how to get Climate Ready America underway. They are excited and we are too.

We would not be in the position to affect changes like this without our funding partners and local supporters. Thank you for all you do. Together, we are making a difference at the scale of the climate challenge. We hope we can count on your continued support.



Warmly,

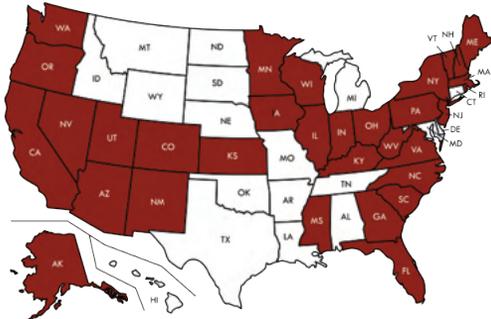
A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Tonya Graham". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue rectangular background.

Tonya Graham,  
*Executive Director*

# CLIMATE READY AMERICA



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States interested in Climate Ready America

Climate Ready America will ensure that all U.S. communities can access the climate services they need regardless of location, size, or wealth.

Climate Ready America is a nationwide system of climate services that supports local governments by strengthening existing climate efforts within each state, connecting those resources, and filling in the gaps.

The central pillar of Climate Ready America is the state-focused Climate Innovation Center (CIC). Each CIC will help communities across its state to develop climate resilience by serving as a one-stop shop connecting communities to the tools, information, resources, and experts they need to build climate resilience.

## Pilot Program

In 2022, we selected five state governments or statewide organizations to pilot Climate Innovation Centers. Rapid nationwide expansion of the Climate Ready America system involves immediately applying what is learned in this first pilot phase to the next round of CICs and beyond until there is a CIC in every state, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands.

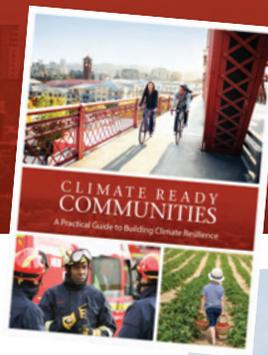
**Looking Ahead** In 2023, we aim to:

- ▶ Launch Climate Innovation Centers in the five pilot states
- ▶ Expand to 10 more states
- ▶ Develop the National Strategy Team and Regional Support Teams to support the CICs



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# CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES



Climate Ready Communities helps local leaders in small, mid-sized, and under-resourced communities develop nature-based and socially equitable climate resilience strategies.

The core of Climate Ready Communities is our free, comprehensive *Practical Guide to Building Climate Resilience*. Communities can use this guide on its own or purchase affordable support services from us. This year we helped Beyond Toxics with a community-led climate resilience process for Lane County.

Working with other climate resilience leaders, we have created a database of 2,360 strategies to build climate resilience that will soon be used on NOAA's Climate Toolkit website.

**Looking Ahead** In 2023, we aim to:

- ▶ Bring Climate Ready Communities to NOAA's Climate Smart Communities Initiative, which will help 300 communities build climate resilience over 4 years
- ▶ Work with the University of Indiana to support a cohort of communities using this program
- ▶ Prepare the program to be used by states in their Climate Innovation Centers
- ▶ Launch a more comprehensive national Climate Resilience Strategies Database



LANCE CHEUNG, USDA / CCO



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# CLIMATE WISE®



T. GRAHAM / USED WITH PERMISSION



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ClimateWise® leads climate resilience planning processes in communities across the U.S. helping us improve our process and inform our Climate Ready America and Climate Ready Communities programs.

Our ClimateWise team continues to support communities across the U.S. with developing climate resilience plans that support social equity and natural systems. With every project we gain additional insights to inform our other programs. This year we completed a climate resilience planning process with the County of Maui, Hawaii.

**Looking Ahead** In 2023 we will:

- ▶ Work with the City of Sandy, Oregon to complete the climate resilience element of their comprehensive plan
- ▶ Pursue new projects that align with our framework
- ▶ Integrate learnings from this on-the-ground work into our other programs



# DRINKING WATER PROVIDERS PARTNERSHIP



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The climate crisis is straining drinking water supplies across the West. The Drinking Water Providers Partnership helps communities protect their water supplies and wildlife habitat by supporting local efforts to restore watersheds.

Each year the Partnership awards roughly \$500,000 to support projects in Washington and Oregon that are working to protect drinking water using the power of restoration and conservation. Since 2016, the program has supported 89 projects across Oregon and Washington.

These projects are led by communities, water utilities, and watershed organizations that understand the link between healthy watersheds, healthy fish and wildlife, and healthy people.



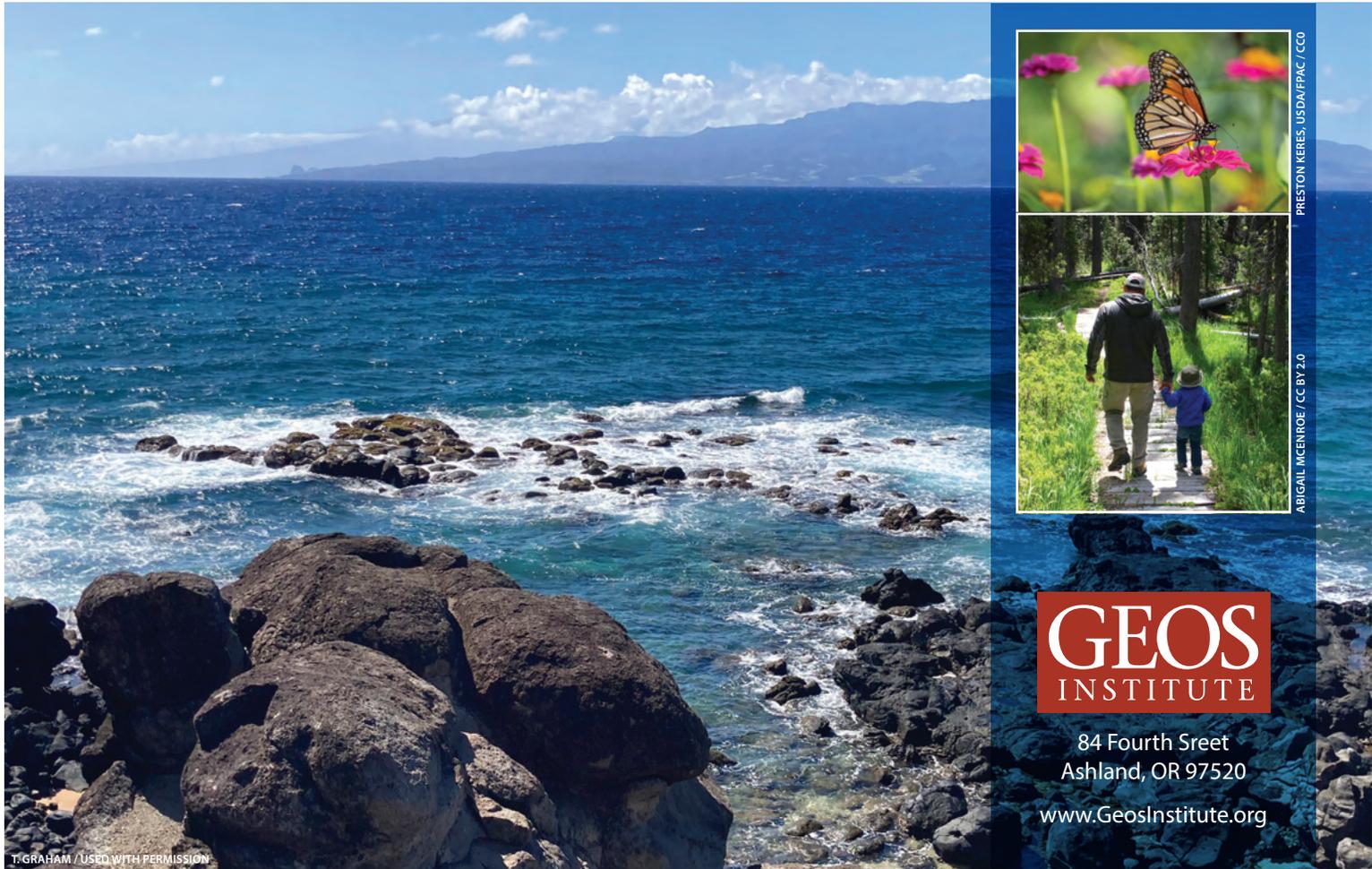
**Looking Ahead** In 2023 we will:

- ▶ Work to expand the communities applying for funding with a focus on particularly vulnerable communities identified in the Justice40 initiative
- ▶ Continue to support the Partnership with outreach and education

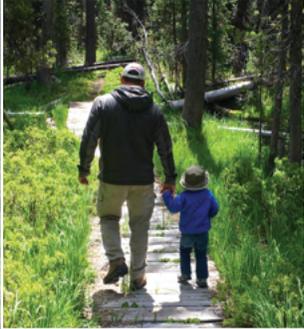


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