



Looking Ahead to 2024

About the Geos Institute

The Geos Institute develops innovative climate service systems to help communities build climate resilience regardless of their location, size, or wealth. We focus on helping under-resourced communities address the causes and impacts of the climate crisis so they can protect what they love. We do this through four initiatives:

Climate Ready America ensures communities get the climate help they need when they need it.

Climate Ready Communities helps local governments with a step-by-step resilience program.

ClimateWise works directly with local governments to help them build climate resilience.

Drinking Water Providers Partnership supports watershed restoration activities in Washington and Oregon.

www.geosinstitute.org

eNews

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Friends,

As I write this message, the Geos team is helping our partners in N. Carolina, S. Carolina, Georgia, and Florida offer climate resilience support to 72 of the most at-risk communities in the nation. That's right - 72 of them. Meanwhile, six Indiana communities are finalizing their climate resilience plans using our Climate Ready Communities program, and we will serve even more communities through the Climate Smart Communities Initiative we are implementing with nonprofit and federal partners.

This is just the beginning. After years of knowing that this time would come, and working hard to be ready when it did, the moment has arrived. Community leaders across the nation are asking for help, and we are waiting for them - shoulder to shoulder with our partners and ready to help them create climate solutions that protect what they love in ways that are good for both people and nature.

That's what we do here at the Geos Institute – it's what we've always done. All from our little office at the corner of 4th and C Streets in Ashland.

By next fall, we will have the launch plan in place for the first Climate Innovation Center in the country and the beginning of the build out of Climate Ready America.

I could not be prouder of our team and what we have accomplished in 2023, nor could I be more excited about what is in store in 2024.

The victories we share in this end of year update are yours. They are here because you, and others like you, have stood by us and shared our vision of a climate ready future. We hope we can count on your continued support.



Warmly,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Tonya Graham".

Tonya Graham,
Executive Director

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*. This guide can be used on its own or to support cohorts of communities that move through the resilience planning process together. In 2024 we will:

Support climate resilience planning in six Indiana communities

This year we helped a cohort of six Indiana communities develop climate projections, host community workshops, and draft their vulnerability assessments. With our assistance through the Environmental Resilience Institute at the University of Indiana, they will soon finalize their climate resilience plans and begin implementation.

Update the *Practical Guide to Building Climate Resilience*

We will update our free guide to integrate developments in the climate resilience field over the past four years so that the program remains relevant and helpful for communities that cannot afford a consultant.

Develop a cohort process to be used by Climate Innovation Centers

As we launch Climate Innovation Centers nationwide, they will need an effective way to support cohorts of communities. We will prepare Climate Ready Communities to address this need so that local leaders can get to work immediately once each Center is launched.



CLIMATE READY AMERICA

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

Climate Ready America is a framework for a nationwide system of climate services that supports community-based climate action. The central pillar of Climate Ready America is the state-focused Climate Innovation Center — a one-stop-shop that helps local leaders take climate action by connecting them to the tools, resources, and experts they need to address the causes and impacts of the climate crisis. In 2024 we will:

Grow the Southeast Navigator Network

We have launched a network of Navigators to assist communities with Community Disaster Resilience Zone designations in Florida, Georgia, N. Carolina, and S. Carolina. And we are leading an effort with federal agencies, local leaders, service providers, and the insurance industry to expand this network across the nation, creating the foundation for the Climate Ready America system.

Launch the Georgia Climate Innovation Center

We are helping the Georgia Conservancy develop the launch plan for the Georgia Climate Innovation Center, the first in the nation. It will build on the momentum of the Southeast Navigator Network to eventually support all communities in Georgia as they develop community-driven climate resilience.

Support the Climate Smart Communities Initiative

We launched the Climate Smart Communities Initiative with our partners this year and will begin working with communities in 2024. This effort, developed by NOAA to support community-driven resilience efforts nationwide, will train new climate resilience practitioners and support at-risk communities.



CLIMATE WISE

ClimateWise® works directly with local governments to help them develop climate resilience.

In 2024, we will complete the resilience element of the comprehensive plan for the city of Sandy, Oregon. Our team will continue to support communities across the U.S. with developing climate resilience plans as it helps us understand and serve communities nationwide through our other initiatives.



DRINKING WATER PROVIDERS PARTNERSHIP

The Drinking Water Providers Partnership supports local watershed restoration efforts that protect drinking water and wildlife habitat.

In 2024, the Partnership will celebrate its eighth year of funding watershed restoration projects in Washington and Oregon. 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.



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