

GEOS
INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



DEAR FRIENDS



Looking back at 2022, I am incredibly proud of what our team has accomplished. We continued to support on-the-ground community efforts to build climate resilience. From the reality of climate threats to island residents to rural mountain communities facing a housing crisis, our Whole Community framework continues to be an effective tool. And these projects help us learn and improve the information and resources we provide through Climate Ready Communities.

2022 was also the year we doubled our focus and energy on building Climate Ready America. This coordinated network of support services is the key to ensuring all communities can build climate resilience, no matter their size, location, or wealth. With the momentum developed over the course of the year, we are hopeful for big movement on this in 2023. I hope you enjoy reading about the progress we have achieved together in 2022 – accomplishments that will set the stage for a successful 2023!

Tonya Graham

ABOUT US

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We believe it is possible to create a world with climate resilient communities, flourishing ecosystems, and equitable societies. That's why we use a holistic approach to prioritize the needs of ecosystems and those on the frontlines of climate change impacts. Our work is focused on helping communities build resilience in the face of climate change using science and local knowledge.

Climate Ready America works to ensure that all communities have access to the help they need to address the causes and impacts of the climate crisis, regardless of wealth, size, or location.

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

ClimateWise® partners with local communities in planning for a changing climate.

Drinking Waters Providers Partnership supports municipal water managers in the Pacific Northwest prepare for a changing climate.



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CLIMATE READY AMERICA

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Communities across the United States are facing multiple and compounding climate impacts. Local leaders want to build greater climate resilience for their communities, but face an overwhelming array of federal programs, offers of support, and conflicting information.

Climate Ready America is a nationwide system of climate support services. This civic infrastructure is designed to meet communities where they are and provide the tools, information, and resources needed to address the causes and impacts of climate change. It is focused on state-level Climate Innovation Centers led by the climate service providers in that state. These centers will be assisted by Regional Support Teams of experts, as well as a National Strategy Team that works to keep the network in alignment.

During 2022 our team continued to strengthen the national collaboration of organizations, practitioners, and government agencies that will build Climate Ready America starting in 2023.

[Learn more about this work](#)

CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES

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Climate Ready Communities continued to gain momentum in 2022. Our team helped develop the initial prototype of a nationwide climate resilience action database, helped a cohort of Oregon communities build resilience, assisted a community-led climate planning process, and continued to refine our free Guide for frontline communities.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE STRATEGY DATABASE

In 2022 we co-led the development of an early prototype of a climate resilience action database. We collected over 2,000 examples of strategies from 32 climate plans developed by communities across the U.S. This dataset is being used in the Steps to Resilience Practitioner Training offered by NOAA and is the foundation for our future efforts to put viable strategies in the hands of communities.

Our team also helped with the structure and standardization of data collected for the Tribal Resilience Action Database, and served on the National Advisory Team for this project. This database is focused on providing strategies developed by and for Tribes, and will complement the larger Climate Resilience Action Database.



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OUR WORK EACH MONTH

CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES

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STATE LEVEL COHORTS

We continued to work with a committed cohort in Oregon over the course of 2022. These communities - Tigard, Mosier, Troutdale, Gresham, and Sandy – gathered monthly to support each other's climate resilience work and learn about developments in the field from the Geos team. This cohort model has proven successful, so we are developing cohorts in other states. We will support seven communities in an Indiana cohort starting in spring of 2023.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ACTION

Our Climate Ready Communities team continued to support the efforts of the Lane Climate Equity and Resilience Task Force in Lane County, Oregon in developing climate resilience strategies. Led by Beyond Toxics, we supported a community-led process to develop climate strategies that address the vulnerabilities identified in 2021. It was a great learning opportunity, and we were inspired by the passion and commitment of Lane County residents.

OUR GUIDEBOOK FOR DO-IT-YOURSELFERS

Interest in the Practical Guide to Building Climate Resilience continued to grow over 2022. Since its publication, it has been downloaded over 1,400 times. The Guide provides step-by-step instructions for local leaders so they can develop climate resilience plans on their own or integrate climate resilience into other planning processes. In 2022, our team reviewed the contents of the Guide, and identified how to make it even more accessible for under-served communities, laying the groundwork for a major revision to come in 2023.

[Learn more about this work](#)



Our ClimateWise team provides direct assistance to communities by leading them through a full climate resilience planning process. Over 2022, pandemic restrictions continued to lift, and local governments sought more help with building climate resilience.

We completed our work with Maui County at the end of 2022 with the development of a climate change vulnerability assessment and strategy recommendations. The community is doing important work to address the threat of climate change and sea level rise, while working to ensure those most vulnerable are protected.

In 2022 we also began working with the City of Sandy, Oregon on the climate resilience element of their comprehensive plan update. Many more communities recognize that climate resilience touches all aspects of life and are incorporating climate planning into their regular efforts.

[Learn more about this work](#)

DRINKING WATER PROVIDERS PARTNERSHIP

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2022 was the seventh year of grantmaking with the Drinking Water Providers Partnership. These grants go to projects that use watershed restoration and conservation to protect drinking water and native fish habitat. The 13 projects recommended for funding in 2022 represent communities across Washington and Oregon that want to protect their drinking water source by improving floodplains, reducing sediment, developing educational tools for residents, and more.

These projects will enhance habitat for native fish, such as Coho, Chinook, Steelhead, Lamprey, Bull trout, and Cutthroat trout, while protecting water quality for hundreds of thousands of people who rely on these streams and rivers for their drinking water.

Geos Institute co-founded the Drinking Water Providers Partnership with the Forest Service nine years ago and it has since grown to include the Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Washington Department of Health, The Freshwater Trust, and Wild Earth Guardians.

[Learn more about this work](#)



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