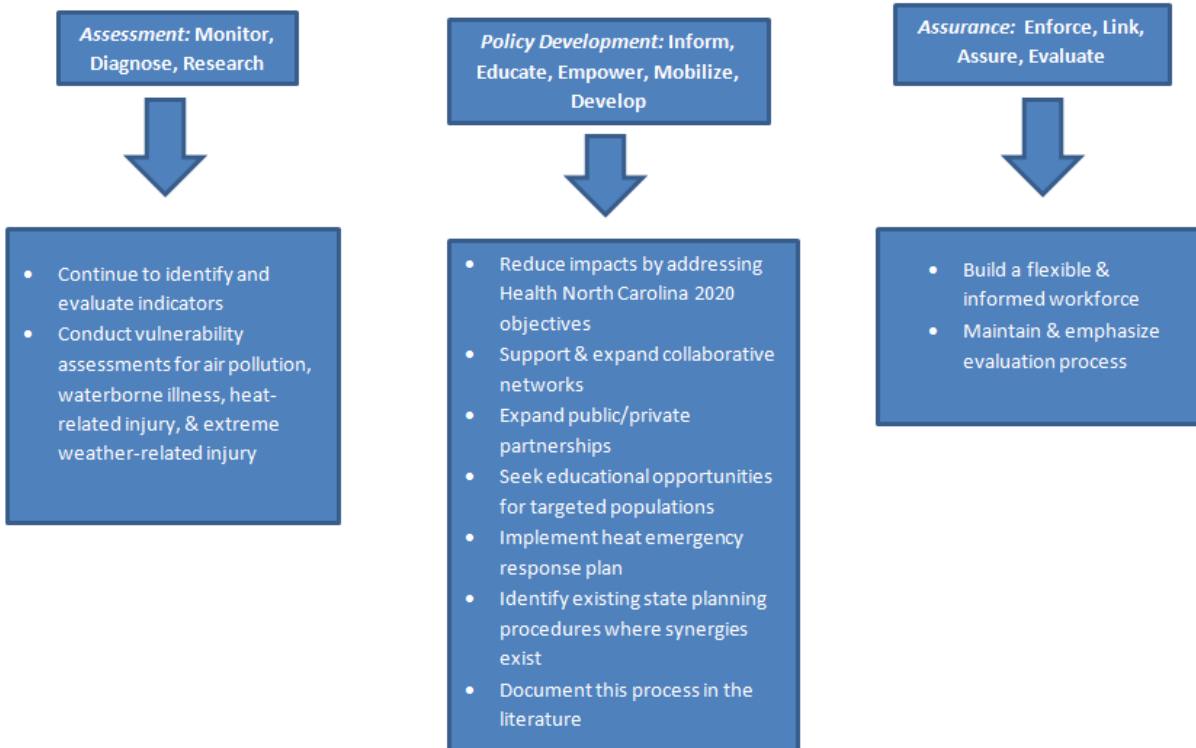


Strategic Plan for Addressing Health Impacts of Climate Change in North Carolina

Mission: To incorporate global climate change interventions and adaptations in strategic planning and the programs of the North Carolina Division of Public Health.

Strategic plan objectives using the Ten Essential Public Health Services:



Full strategic objectives with activities:

- Continue to identify and evaluate the set of indicators used to track long and short term health outcomes related to climate change in North Carolina.
 - Expand catchment for heat-related illness surveillance where possible.
 - Add indicators for housing vulnerability and allergens.
 - Examine feasibility of including web and social media indicators such as Google Analytics.
- Conduct vulnerability assessments for the health impact areas affected by changes in air, water, heat, and extreme weather in which there is (a) strong scientific evidence that climate change will increase exposure and (b) a current threat and problem to the health of North Carolinians.
 - Link public health outcomes and environmental conditions with modeling of future climate change.

- b. Utilize community needs assessments, such as CASPERS or other rapid assessments or tools to understand vulnerability and impact of disasters as they occur. Identify key driver questions that could be added to other assessments.
- 3. Reduce the public health impacts of climate change on North Carolinians by making public health interventions, performing outreach and education, and creating partnerships that address the following Healthy North Carolina 2020 objectives:
 - a. Increase percentage of population being served by community water systems with no maximum contaminant level violations.
 - b. Reduce the mortality rate from work-related injuries.
 - c. Reduce the cardiovascular disease mortality rate.
- 4. Continue to support and expand collaborative networks.
 - a. Expand program collaborations with researchers, health educators, policy decision makers, and health care providers.
 - b. Support efforts to integrate and share climate and health data.
 - c. Communicate with and provide resources to local health departments.
 - d. Bring a public health presence to the table in appropriate venues, such as the Urban Water Consortium.
- 5. Continue to collaborate with Westcots and expand public/private partnerships.
- 6. Seek educational opportunities for targeted populations through existing mechanisms.
 - a. Ensure messaging is available in other languages and formats (i.e. pictorial).
 - b. Partner with NC Department of Labor, non-governmental organizations, and industry to develop appropriate messaging for farmers and other workers exposed to heat.
 - c. Partner with Operation Fan/Heat Relief to educate local areas about dangers of heat.
- 7. Implement the heat emergency response plan.
- 8. Identify existing state planning procedures where synergies exist or where health can be brought to the table. Look for health impact assessment opportunities.
- 9. Document this strategic plan process in peer-reviewed literature so that other states can benefit from our experience. Explore documentation of the process beyond peer-reviewed literature to reach a broader audience.
- 10. Build a flexible and informed workforce.
 - a. Reach out to public health, social work, and medical programs to present on climate change and health, utilizing climate scientists' expertise.
 - b. Contact local health directors about educational opportunities.
 - c. Increase geographic skill sets, such as GIS proficiency, in public health professionals.
- 11. Maintain and emphasize the strategic plan evaluation process.
 - a. Follow up analysis after development and implementation of the strategic plan, to assess changes among indicators.
 - b. Perform an evaluation of grant goals and progress.
 - c. Create quantitative indicators for evaluation.
 - d. Revisit the plan with the advisory group annually.