

# The Challenge of Adapting to Climate Change: King County Brings Local Action to a Global Threat

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**Adaptation and Mitigation**  
THE VARIOUS WAYS AND TECHNIQUES USED TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

**ADAPTATION**  
ADAPTATION IS THE PROCESS OF ADJUSTING TO CURRENT OR EXPECTED CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS. IT INCLUDES A RANGE OF ACTIONS THAT REDUCE VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND IMPROVE RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

**MITIGATION**  
MITIGATION IS THE PROCESS OF REDUCING OR PREVENTING CLIMATE CHANGE. IT INCLUDES A RANGE OF ACTIONS THAT REDUCE THE CONCENTRATION OF GREENHOUSE GASES IN THE ATMOSPHERE.

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**Climate Change**  
ALSO CALLED GLOBAL WARMING, REFERS TO THE RISE IN AVERAGE SURFACE TEMPERATURES ON EARTH. AN OVERWHELMING SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS MAINTAINS THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS DUE PRIMARILY TO THE HUMAN USE OF FOSSIL FUELS, WHICH RELEASES CARBON DIOXIDE AND OTHER GREENHOUSE GASES INTO THE AIR.



Adaptation and mitigation are complementary to each other. For example, if mitigation measures are undertaken effectively, lesser will be the impacts to which we will need to adapt. Similarly, if adaptation measures (or the degree of preparedness) are strong, lesser might be the impacts associated with any given degree of climate change.

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**ADAPTATION**  
ADAPTATION IS THE PROCESS OF ADJUSTING TO CURRENT OR EXPECTED CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS. IT INCLUDES PLANNING AND TAKING ACTION TO REDUCE HARMFUL EFFECTS AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES.

**MITIGATION**  
MITIGATION IS THE PROCESS OF REDUCING OR PREVENTING THE EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES AND AIR POLLUTANTS THAT CAUSE CLIMATE CHANGE.

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## Climate Change

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# Adaptation and Mitigation

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## ADAPTATION

'ADJUSTMENT IN NATURAL OR HUMAN SYSTEMS TO A NEW OR CHANGING ENVIRONMENT. ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE REFERS TO ADJUSTMENT IN NATURAL OR HUMAN SYSTEMS IN RESPONSE TO ACTUAL OR EXPECTED CLIMATIC STIMULI OR THEIR EFFECTS, WHICH MODERATES HARM OR EXPLOITS BENEFICIAL OPPORTUNITIES'.



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## MITIGATION

'TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE AND SUBSTITUTION THAT REDUCE RESOURCE INPUTS AND EMISSIONS PER UNIT OF OUTPUT WITH RESPECT TO CLIMATE CHANGE. MITIGATION MEANS IMPLEMENTING POLICIES TO REDUCE GHG EMISSIONS AND ENHANCE SINKS'.



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# ADAPTATION

'ADJUSTMENT IN NATURAL OR HUMAN SYSTEMS TO A NEW OR CHANGING ENVIRONMENT. ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE REFERS TO ADJUSTMENT IN NATURAL OR HUMAN SYSTEMS IN RESPONSE TO ACTUAL OR EXPECTED CLIMATIC STIMULI OR THEIR EFFECTS, WHICH MODERATES HARM OR EXPLOITS BENEFICIAL OPPORTUNITIES'.

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Adaptation occurs in physical, ecological, and human systems. It involves the following.

1. Physical adaptation  
2. Ecological adaptation  
3. Human adaptation

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# MITIGATION

' TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE AND SUBSTITUTION THAT REDUCE RESOURCE INPUTS AND EMISSIONS PER UNIT OF OUTPUT WITH RESPECT TO CLIMATE CHANGE, MITIGATION MEANS IMPLEMENTING POLICIES TO REDUCE GHG EMISSIONS AND ENHANCE SINKS ' .

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Mitigation refers to any strategy or action taken to remove the GHGs released into the atmosphere, or to reduce their amount.

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- Changes in social and environmental processes
- Perceptions of climate risk
- Practices and functions to reduce risk
- Exploration of new opportunities to cope with the changed environment

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