

**WHATCOM COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**JON HUTCHINGS**  
Director



**NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council  
The Honorable Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu

**THROUGH:** Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director *JH*  
Gary S. Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager *GSS*

**FROM:** Chris Elder, Senior Watershed Management Planner

**RE:** 2020 Climate Science Summary

**DATE:** January 11, 2021

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**Requested Action**

Public Works respectfully requests that the Whatcom County Council and County Executive receive and review the attached Summary of Observed Trends and Projected Climate Change Impacts as prepared by the consultant, Cascadia Consulting Group, in coordination with the Whatcom County Climate Impact Advisory Committee.

**Background and Purpose**

The Climate Impact Advisory Committee was created by Ordinance 2017-080 with the purpose of providing review and recommendations to the Whatcom County Council and Executive on issues related to the preparation and adaptation for, and the prevention and mitigation of, impacts of climate change. One of the key functions of the committee is to support update of the County's Climate Action Plan.

Council authorized \$50,000 in funds to support climate action planning efforts in 2019/2020 and the County contracted with Cascadia Consulting Group to develop a summary of observed trends and projected climate change impacts, in addition to other climate related planning documents. Therefore, in preparation for an update to the Climate Action Plan and in support of other identified committee functions, the Climate Impact Advisory Committee will present the Summary of Observed Trends and Projected Climate Change Impacts, also referred to as the Climate Science Summary.

The Climate Science Summary was developed based on international, national, regional, and local scientific data sources and is intended to represent the best science available at the time of publication. Climate science and the projected climate impacts are constantly evolving and will therefore need to be updated accordingly. This 2020 summary of climate trends and projected impacts will help inform climate action planning efforts in Whatcom County. The Climate Impact Advisory committee and staff look forward to discussing this work product with you and engaging Council on climate action planning efforts in Whatcom County.

Please contact Chris Elder at extension 6225, if you have any questions.