

American Samoa's Climate Change Initiatives





Approaches to Climate Change

- Both Mitigation & Adaptation Goals:
 - Understanding vulnerabilities to climate hazards
 - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other pollution
 - Preparing to address impending climate impacts



Climate Mitigation Executive Order



Mitigation Executive Order Sections

- 1) Prohibition of Older Motor Vehicle Imports
- 2) Government Vehicle Purchasing Policy for Hybrids
- 3) Energy Star Appliances and Devices
- 4) Prohibition of Incandescent Light Bulbs
- 5) Prohibition of Phosphates in Detergents
- 6) ASG Recycling Programs



Mitigation EO: Environmental Achievements

- Reducing carbon footprint
- Preventing environmental degradation
- Reducing waste that reaches the landfill
- Contributing to the health and conservation of natural resources



Mitigation EO: Achievements in the Community

- Leading in environmental stewardship
- Introducing efficient products into the local marketplace
- Encouraging consumers to consider products and devices that will save money, energy and the environment



Territorial Climate Change Adaptation Framework



Adaptation Framework

- Developed through participation of:
 - Natural resource managers
 - Scientists
 - Experts
- Intended to steer all future management strategies
- Delegates specific tasks to agencies, institutions or community organizations



Mission of the Framework:

- Understand critical climate change adaptation needs;
- Identify and develop strategies to address these needs;
- Increase awareness of the adverse implications of climate change; and
- Continue to build local capacity to actively address climate change impacts



Seven Focused Themes

- Coral Reef and Mangroves
- Human Health
- Forestry, Water and Agriculture
- Education and Outreach
- Coastal Hazards
- Development
- Energy



Priorities within each theme

- Support research
- Enforce local regulations
- Improve collaboration among agencies
- Introduce sustainable practices
- Increase scientific education
- Increase local capacity within scientific fields
- Improve overall resilience



Next Steps



Next Steps: Implementation

- Continue collaboration and advisory actions
- Channel funding to appropriate projects
- Organize and implement projects
- Ensure community participation and support
- Connect with regional and national partners



Conclusion



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- The Mitigation Executive Order and Adaptation Framework serve to:
 - Address needs and goals of communities and ecosystems
 - Serve as practical but effective steps to reduce local pollution and prepare for the effects of climate change
 - Ensure overall climate resilience in American Samoa



Fa'afetai!
Thank you!