

Northwest Indiana

What do Northwest Indiana residents think about climate change, how are they preparing, and what resilience policies do they support? Results from the Hoosier Life Survey provide answers.

Future impacts

Climate change is projected to bring more high heat days, more extreme precipitation events, and increased flood risks to Northwest Indiana.

Extreme heat events per year

Current – 22

2050s Medium Emissions Scenario – 59

20502 High Emissions Scenario – 72

Extreme precipitation events per decade

Current – 12

2050s Medium Emissions Scenario – 16

20502 High Emissions Scenario – 17

Source: Hoosier Resilience Index

Beliefs

77% believe climate change is happening.

37% believe climate change is entirely or mostly caused by human activities.

11% don't know if climate change is happening.

63% believe most scientists think climate change is happening.

Information and trust

Thirty-three percent trust Indiana scientists "a lot" about how to prepare for climate change.

Twenty-eight percent feel very informed about the risks of extreme weather.

Sixty-four percent know someone who has suffered property damage from flooding or have experienced it themselves.

Climate change at home

40% of homeowners maintain a rain garden to absorb rainwater.

11% of homeowners use rain barrels to collect rainwater

66% of homeowners use shade trees to cool their home in the summer

49% of homeowners are interested in solar panels to reduce CO₂ emissions

25% of homeowners are interested in planting prairie grasses or wildflowers in their yard to reduce lawn size

Community policies and programs

Northwest Indiana residents support a mix of policies and programs to address the short- and long-term impacts of climate change. The most popular proposals to address heat and precipitation challenges are:

85% Plant more trees on town streets to reduce impacts of flooding and heat waves

85% Adopt a text-based early warning system to reduce risks from heat waves

72% Provide vulnerable populations free health services during heat waves

88% Build stronger and higher flood walls where necessary

81% Replace some paved areas with water-absorbent landscape

69% Construct new transportation routes to reduce the impact of flooding

About the Hoosier Life Survey

Conducted between August and December 2019, the Hoosier Life Survey captures how Indiana residents perceive environmental changes, how residents are being affected in their homes and communities, how Hoosiers are preparing, and what they expect in the future. For more about the survey go to go.iu.edu/31Mf.

Looking for more results? Complete survey responses for Northwest Indiana and other Indiana metro areas are available on the Hoosier Life Survey Metropolitan Report web page (go.iu.edu/3ayX).

The average margin of error for this survey fell within plus or minus 8 percentage points with a confidence level of 95 percent.