

South Bend-Mishawaka, IN

What do South Bend-Mishawaka 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 the South Bend-Mishawaka metro area.

Extreme heat events per year

Current – 22

2050s Medium Emissions Scenario – 57

20502 High Emissions Scenario – 70

Extreme precipitation events per decade

Current – 9

2050s Medium Emissions Scenario – 12

20502 High Emissions Scenario – 13

Source: Hoosier Resilience Index

Beliefs

63% believe climate change is happening.

27% believe climate change is entirely or mostly caused by human activities.

20% don't know if climate change is happening.

57% believe most scientists think climate change is happening.

Information and trust

Thirty-seven percent trust family, friends, and neighbors “a lot” about how to prepare for climate change.

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

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

Climate change at home

69% of homeowners use shade trees to cool their home in the summer

31% of homeowners currently maintain a rain garden.

22% of homeowners plant prairie grasses or wildflowers in their yard to reduce lawn size

19% of homeowners use rain barrels to collect rainwater

26% of home owners have removed trees to reduce their home's risks from high winds and tornadoes

Community policies and programs

South Bend-Mishawaka 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:

82% Plant more trees on town streets to reduce impacts of flooding and heat waves

69% Adopt a text-based early warning system to reduce risks from heat waves

70% Use funding to help residents plant shade trees around their homes

71% Build stronger and higher flood walls where necessary

70% Replace some paved areas with water-absorbent landscape

51% Use funding to help residents place water-absorbent landscaping around homes

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 the South Bend-Mishawaka metro area 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 8.6 percentage points with a confidence level of 95 percent.