

Greater Indianapolis

What do Indianapolis area 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 Indianapolis metro area.

Extreme heat events per year

Current – 32

2050s Medium Emissions Scenario – 76

20502 High Emissions Scenario – 89

Extreme precipitation events per decade

Current – 13

2050s Medium Emissions Scenario – 16

20502 High Emissions Scenario – 17

Source: Hoosier Resilience Index

Beliefs

75% 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.

53% believe most scientists think climate change is happening.

Information and trust

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

Thirty percent feel very informed about the risks of extreme weather.

Fifty-three percent know someone who has suffered health impacts from heat waves, such as dehydration or heat stroke, or have experienced it themselves.

Climate change at home

61% of homeowners use shade trees to cool their home in the summer

67% of homeowners currently maintain or are interested in planting a rain garden

25% of homeowners plant prairie grasses or wildflowers in their yard to reduce lawn size.

55% of homeowners are interested in solar panels to reduce CO₂ emissions

43% of homeowners are interested in using rain barrels to collect rainwater

Community policies and programs

Indianapolis area 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:

88% Plant more trees on town streets to reduce impacts of flooding and heat waves

81% Adopt a text-based early warning system to reduce risks from heat waves

79% Provide vulnerable populations free health services during heat waves

82% Build stronger and higher flood walls where necessary

82% Replace some paved areas with water-absorbent landscape

65% 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 the Indianapolis 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 6 percentage points with a confidence level of 95 percent.