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
2050s High Emissions Scenario – 72

Extreme precipitation events per decade

Current – 12
2050s Medium Emissions Scenario – 16
2050s 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.*