



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Central Oklahoma stands at a pivotal moment. With nearly 1.5 million residents across eight counties, the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) faces mounting challenges from extreme weather, aging infrastructure, and rapid population growth. The “Red Dirt Resiliency” Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), led by the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG), provides a coordinated, actionable roadmap to reduce climate risks, strengthen resilience, and promote prosperity for all communities in the region.

Why This Plan?

Authorized under the federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) Program, this plan responds to increasing risks from natural hazards (tornadoes and strong winds, droughts, floods, ice storms, deep freezes, extreme heat, wildfires, and more) that threaten public safety, economic stability, and quality of life. Local governments are stretched thin, facing rising costs and limited resources, while certain populations bear the brunt of these impacts. The CCAP brings together municipalities, counties, tribal nations, technical experts, and community stakeholders to address these challenges through shared vision and collective action.

Planning Process

The CCAP was developed through a deliberate, inclusive, and data-driven process. It began with a review of existing plans and policies, followed by extensive stakeholder engagement (workshops, interviews, and public surveys) to identify regional challenges and opportunities. Data analysis assessed climate hazards, emissions, and evolving risks. The result is a set of prioritized strategies tailored to Central Oklahoma’s unique needs.

Key Findings

Emissions

Buildings and transportation are the largest sources, accounting for over 80% of regional emissions. Without action, emissions will remain high, worsening climate impacts and contributing to air quality issues.

Natural Hazards

Extreme weather events are increasing in frequency and severity, with disproportionate effects on low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Infrastructure & Land Use

The region's combination of densely populated urban centers and expansive rural areas requires flexible, scalable solutions. Aging infrastructure and fragmented planning slow progress.

Funding & Capacity

Limited local revenue and competition for grants hinder long-term investments. Regional coordination, pooled resources, and forward-thinking policies are essential.

Strategic Actions

The Plan prioritizes actions that build institutional capacity, foster collaboration, and remove barriers to implementation. High-impact strategies include:

- Coordinating regional planning, funding, and emergency response.
- Updating codes and development procedures for consistent, regional standards.
- Investing in clean transportation, energy efficiency, and resilient infrastructure.
- Expanding tree canopy, green space, and nature-based solutions.
- Supporting workforce development and economic diversification.

Benefits & Equity

The CCAP emphasizes a distribution of benefits that targets investments in underserved communities to improve health, safety, and economic opportunity. Climate action is framed not as a limit on growth, but as a pathway to prosperity, cleaner air and water, and stronger communities.

Implementation & Monitoring

ACOG will lead regional coordination, technical support, and progress tracking. Municipalities, counties, and partners will implement projects, with ongoing evaluation to ensure transparency and effectiveness. Annual reporting will document emissions reductions, community benefits, and lessons learned. Importantly, achieving lasting and impactful emissions reductions will require leadership and coordinated action from federal and state government, as well as market incentives and broad policy shifts that extend beyond the capacity of ACOG and its regional partners.

Conclusion

By aligning policies, resources, and partnerships, Central Oklahoma can proactively address climate risks, safeguard public health, and build a resilient future. The “Red Dirt Resiliency” plan is a call to collective action - ensuring that every community has the tools, knowledge, and support needed to thrive in the face of change.