

Understanding and Assessing Climate Change: Implications for Nebraska

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you consider the key challenges in getting Nebraskans to actively engage in serious discussions about climate change and its implications for the state? How can we change the focus from a political to a science-based discussion?
2. Has your community incorporated projected changes in climate into future planning efforts regarding water and energy supply and demand reduction, impacts on infrastructure, human health and related services, etc.? If not, working collectively with other concerned citizens, how can you influence those discussions in the near future?
3. Nebraska is about to elect a new governor. What is the position of each of the candidates on climate change and have they stated this position publicly? If elected, how might they incorporate this issue in future policy discussions and decisions? Can you identify a mechanism to communicate these suggestions to the staff of the newly elected governor?
4. What are your most important concerns regarding the impacts of climate change for Nebraska on the principal sectors addressed in the report? What about other sectors not addressed in the report?
5. How can the University of Nebraska assist the state in addressing the impacts of climate change in the near and longer term?
6. Climate change likely will limit the availability of water in the future through more variable precipitation, higher temperatures, reduced snowpack in the mountains to the west, and reduced recharge to our aquifers. How do we balance the needs of agriculture with the other important uses of water? What is the role of Natural Resource Districts, state agencies, and others in addressing these challenges?