

Mitigation and Adaptation

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States are responding to climate change.

Although approaches differ, nearly every state has taken action to mitigate or adapt to climate change. Almost every region has taken some mitigation action, with hotspots of activity in the Northeast, Southwest, Hawaii, and along the West Coast. Between 2018 and 2023, the total number of state-level mitigation activities increased by 83 percent. Additionally, states are adopting adaptation plans, which seek to increase resilience to the anticipated impacts of climate change.

State-Level Mitigation Activities and Adaptation Plans

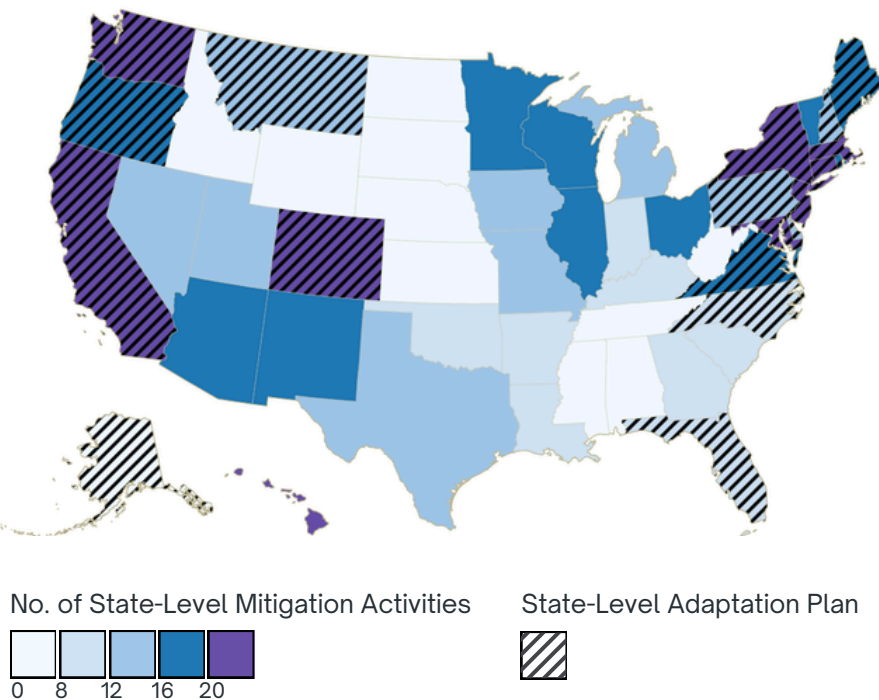


Figure adapted from the Fifth U.S. National Climate Assessment



Mitigation

Addressing the causes of climate change

Mitigation measures attempt to limit greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Often aimed at reducing emissions, these measures range from local to global. Common mitigation actions include energy efficiency improvements, deployment of renewable energy, and efforts to store additional carbon on land and in the ocean.



Adaptation

Responding to climate change

Adaptation measures aim to minimize climate risks by preparing for the impacts of climate change that cannot be avoided. Adaptation usually happens at a local or regional scale. Examples of adaptation activities include opening cooling centers, building sea walls, and even relocation.

SO Why should judges care



Mitigation and adaptation measures have led to litigation related to infrastructure siting, emissions limits, and more.



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Sources

Emily Wasley, et al., *Chapter 31: Adaptation* in Fifth National Climate Assessment, 31-9 (2023), <https://nca5.climate.us/>.

Emily Wasley, et al., Figure 31.1 in *Chapter 31: Adaptation* in Fifth National Climate Assessment, 31-8 (2023), <https://nca5.climate.us/>.

Stephen J. Davis et al., Figure 32.20 in *Chapter 32: Mitigation* in Fifth National Climate Assessment, 32-36 (2023), <https://nca5.climate.us/>.



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