

July Change-Maker Tips: Climate Preparedness

### **Friday July 7<sup>th</sup> Climate Preparedness Changemaker Tip**

[Lincoln's Vision for a Climate-Smart Future](#) identifies several climate impacts for Lincoln. They include: more extreme hot days, snowier winters, more extreme rain events, higher wind events, more frequent and more intense floods, increased risks of fire, and climate health risks.

It is important that individuals, households, businesses and institutions give thought to the climate risks that might impact them. To learn about an assessment of flooding, fire, heat and wind risks for your address please access this [Climate Risk Calculator](#).

Once climate risks are identified it is important to develop plans to prepare and respond to those risks. Each weekly July Climate Changemaker tip will focus on preparedness for specific climate risks.

### **Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup> Climate Preparedness Changemaker Tip**

Flooding from extreme rain events is perhaps the single largest climate impact for Lincoln. Forty percent of the flood insurance claims filed with the National Flood Insurance program occur with properties outside the floodplain. In 2014 Northwest Lincoln neighborhoods had sewage back-up into their homes due to heavy rains that overwhelmed the areas wastewater treatment system. Here are some preparedness tips related to heavy rain events and flooding:

- If you live near the floodplain consider buying flood insurance
- If you get water in your basement in heavy rain events:
  - Ensure that your sump pump is working or installing drain tile and sump pump if you don't have one.
  - Enlarge your gutters and downspouts to handle increase flows of rain water.
  - Install a check valve or back-flow preventer on your sewer line to ensure that you don't get sewer back-ups in your basement during heavy rain events

### **Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup> Climate Preparedness Changemaker Tip**

There are increased chances of derecho winds across the great plains resulting in down trees, damage to houses and power outages due to downed power lines. Here are some tips for power outages and damage to trees and homes from strong winds.

- Prepare a home [emergency kit](#) for power outages.
- Talk to neighbors to identify resources (i.e. owners of chain saws; locations with generators) and develop a [neighborhood disaster preparedness plan](#).
- Review your home insurance policy to ensure damages due to weather events are covered.

### **Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup> Climate Preparedness Changemaker Tip**

July and August generally bring the hottest temperatures to Lincoln. As well as the highest energy demand for Lincoln Electric Systems. This power demand applies to all electric utilities that are part of the Southwest Power Pool (which LES is). If energy demand exceeds the

capacity of the energy network, it leads to blackouts and power outages in multiple areas, including Lincoln.

What would you do if your air conditioning went out when temperatures and humidity are high? Here are some tips to consider.

- If your air conditioner is over 25 years old consider replacing it with an air source heat pump before it goes out. Rebates from LES, and the Inflation Reduction Act helps to offset any costs. Due to supply chain challenges and increased demand for heat pumps there could be significant delays in equipment delivery and installation.
- Identify neighborhood and community resources that could serve as a cooling center during hot weather periods.
- Acquire battery-powered fans as part of your home emergency kit.
- Consider home solar installation to provide a degree of independence from daytime power outages while reducing your electric bill. Tax credits under the IRA may help reduce the cost of installation.

### **July Changemaker Church Announcement Tips**

Sunday July 9<sup>th</sup>: Weekly Climate Changemaker Tip: Be prepared for climate impacts to you and your home.

Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup>: Weekly Climate Changemaker Tip: Take steps to ensure that water and sewage does not get into your basement.

Sunday July 23<sup>rd</sup>: Weekly Climate Changemaker Tip: Prepare a home emergency kit for power outages.

Sunday July 30<sup>th</sup>: Weekly Climate Changemaker Tip: Identify neighborhood and community resources that can be used when adverse climate impacts occur.