

# Prepare Louisville

RECORD RAIN. MAJOR FLOODS. INTENSE HEATWAVES.  
IT'S TIME TO PREPARE.



**Prepare Louisville is Louisville Metro's campaign to increase our community's resilience to extreme weather and improve the quality of life in our community at the same time.**

In Louisville, we're getting more rain than in the past and major floods. The number of hot summer days is rising. Winter temperatures swing between record warm and cold days and winter storms are intensifying. Extreme weather puts people at risk, disrupts daily life, damages roads and buildings, and is costing us more than ever.

That's why Louisville Metro launched *Prepare Louisville* and is developing a plan to reduce current and future risks. **Everyone who lives in Louisville has a role to play in shaping** the Prepare Louisville plan and taking action in our neighborhoods, homes and businesses.

## WHAT'S UP WITH THE WEATHER?

**Extreme weather events aren't new for Louisville, but they are getting more intense due to climate change. Here's what we're facing:**



**HOTTER SUMMERS:** There are more life-threatening heatwaves and they are lasting longer. Heatwaves make the effects of air pollution worse and it difficult and expensive to keep cool. In 30 years, today's 95-degree day will become an unbearable 103 degrees. We'll have drier soils, lower streams and rivers, and more droughts.



**MORE RAIN:** The three biggest rain events in Louisville happened in the last decade and 2018 broke all records. It's going to get even wetter in the future. The big events known as 100-year floods will come every 20-30 years damaging Kentucky's infrastructure with \$170 million or more each year to repair.



**WARMER, WETTER WINTERS:** Winters are warming and will continue to. This may sound good but we're going to have extremes - record high and low temperatures and big storms that dump a lot of rain or snow. Warm, wet winters breed mold and insects and threaten some trees, like sugar maple.



**TORNADOES:** While tornado events in the U.S. are on the decline, there is an increase in the number in Kentucky. Tornadoes will likely become more extreme due to more heat and energy in the atmosphere.



**NOT EVERYONE IS IMPACTED EQUALLY:** Those without air conditioning or a car, outdoor workers, the elderly, and those that lack housing are more at risk. If no action is taken, climate change will worsen poverty and chronic health problems.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### ● **Make Sure Louisville Metro Hears from You**

Help shape the focus of and priorities in the *Prepare Louisville* plan. Share your concerns about extreme weather and ideas for solutions in a short, confidential survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/preparelouisville>. Join the conversation on social media:

 [@SustainLou](https://twitter.com/SustainLou)  <https://www.facebook.com/Sustain-Louisville-371596559605367/>

### ● **Sign Up for Sustainability News**

Subscribe to the Office of Sustainability's email newsletter to get updates about Prepare Louisville, receive event invitations, and other sustainability news. <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/sustainability/subscribe-follow>

### ● **Start Preparing Now**

Be ready for extreme weather. Create an emergency plan and kit. <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>

Bring together your neighbors, colleagues and/or classmates to prepare. Louisville Metro can help with group workshops. <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/outreach-education>

Sign up to receive air quality alerts. <http://www.enviroflash.info/signup.cfm>

### ● **Plant Trees, Grasses, and Plants**

Trees and greenspaces reduce heat and flood risks. Louisville Metro has tree planting programs to get you started. <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/division-community-forestry>

### ● **Cool Buildings**

Weather proofing, adding insulation, and taking other steps to conserve energy makes buildings more comfortable and saves money. Louisville Metro offers efficiency programs including for low-income community members. <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/sustainability/energy-efficiency>

Choosing light-colored roof shingles or putting in a green roof helps keep buildings cool and reduces the urban heat island effect. <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/sustainability/urban-heat-island-project>

### ● **Cut Carbon Pollution**

Reducing risks and increasing resilience in Louisville means adapting to change but also cutting the carbon emissions that drive climate extremes. Cooling buildings reduces emissions. So does switching to solar, limiting waste, and choosing walking, biking and public transit. <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/sustainability/resources>