

questions about BLR cap

- are there any risks associated with microgrids?
- are the microgrids only enabled during power outages, or is BLR constantly powered by solar energy?
- could the solar energy microgrid system be implemented in other local tribes or communities (how effective has it been so far)?
- how much are BLR and other local tribes involved with the offshore wind energy project, since that's something that will affect all of Humboldt County and the West Coast in general?

area of interest: energy & infrastructure

Blue Lake Rancheria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan focuses the most on energy and infrastructure compared to the EPA CAP or any of the other tribal CAPs I found. While it makes sense that tribes would choose to prioritize environmental and health issues, I assumed that the Environmental Protection Agency would include more about sustainable energy initiatives and efficient infrastructure since energy is one of the largest contributors of greenhouse gasses, as stated in the BLR CAP. However, there was more information on energy adaptation on the EPA's website. Instead the EPA CAP centered heavily on improving "adaptive capacity," or resilience to climate change, within states, local governments, and tribes. Essentially the EPA's goal is to support communities' own adaptation plans through funding, research, resources, or technical assistance. This method could be more effective than attempting to implement specific plans onto the entire country at once, since the needs of each community vary greatly. Climate adaptation plans should be place-specific and individualized even if everyone's goals are similar, especially when it comes to infrastructure and energy sources.

The BLR, Karuk, and Navajo's CAPs all outlined plans to increase energy resiliency and sovereignty through improvements to electrical infrastructure and the creation of renewable energy sources (such as solar panels and wind turbines). The BLR CAP reports a combination of policy changes and community outreach techniques in addition to physical infrastructure alterations; this seems like the best approach to updating energy systems, as it allows the entire community to understand and adapt to the changes. All of the CAPs prioritized water quality and quantity, outlining potential upgrades to water infrastructure.

suggestions

Nonrenewable energy systems are the largest contributors to climate change due to greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. For the upcoming building projects in Arcata, as well as any future projects in Humboldt, what can students or community members do to ensure energy efficiency is kept in mind? How can we get involved with the planning and development of our communities?

Students and community members should strive for awareness about the energy systems and infrastructure powering their communities and raise support for clean energy projects, such as the wind farm currently being planned. We should also raise awareness about our increasing need for resilient energy systems because of extreme weather events (fires, storms, etc) caused by climate change.