

Understanding and Assessing Climate Change: Preparing for Nebraska's Future

2024 Climate Change Impact Assessment Report

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Understanding and Assessing Climate Change: Preparing for Nebraska's Future was produced by a multi-disciplinary team from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Creighton University, the Nebraska Indian Community College, the USGS Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and Pale Blue Dot, LLC. This report, authorized by the Nebraska Legislature through Legislative Bill (LB) 1255, contributes to the scientific foundation for understanding climate-related vulnerability in Nebraska and is intended to support decision-making and inform State policies, plans, and programs to promote action and build resilience to climate impacts.

Note: This report and additional supporting resources will be available to the public on the Nebraska State Climate Office website at <https://nsco.unl.edu>.

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As required by LB1255, the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources contracted with third-party, science-based organizations to identify and recommend science-based, prescriptive measures for the State of Nebraska to take regarding the climate hazards, impacts, and risks identified in this report.

Pale Blue Dot

Pale Blue Dot, located in Minnesota, is a sustainability, climate action, carbon management, and renewable energy consultancy firm established in 2014. Their mission is to support the transition to a low-carbon economy through an array of sustainability assessment, consultancy, and planning services, as well as through education that increases awareness and enhances public dialogue.

Pale Blue Dot has extensive climate, carbon, and renewable energy planning experience from the scale of individual sites to community-wide efforts. They have completed over 60 relevant community planning efforts, including sustainability plans, climate vulnerability studies, vulnerable population assessments, climate action and adaptation plans, renewable energy potential studies and master plans, heat island mitigation plans, and tree canopy and green infrastructure carbon sequestration master plans.



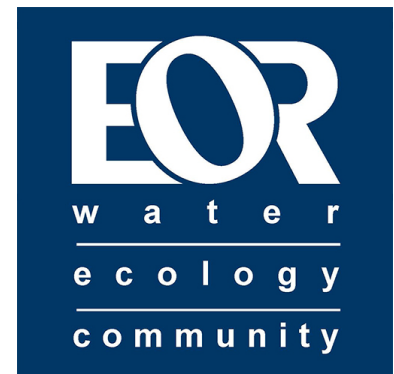
About their Name

It all started with the words of Carl Sagan. After seeing the 1990 photo, known as the Pale Blue Dot, taken by the Voyager I spacecraft, Sagan penned his thoughts, both poignant and profound, which capture the essence of our seemingly vast and indestructible planet for us. In his memorable and moving words, Sagan tells us that while we may feel omnipotent and universally superior, in the cosmic scheme of things, we are but “a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.” These words, though, also give us hope and remind us how, even though our planet may be small and lost among the billions of other galaxies, it is still our home, our “pale blue dot.”

Sagan’s words continue to inspire those at Pale Blue Dot each day. They recognize that our planet is both immensely fragile and infinitely precious. They work to provide effective and practical ways for each of us to make a meaningful positive impact on our precious world. Carl Sagan called us all to “preserve and cherish that pale blue dot,” and they believe, through the efforts of us all, we can do just that.

Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc.

Emmons & Olivier Resources Inc. (EOR), headquartered in Minnesota, is a water resource engineering and environmental consulting firm established in 1997. EOR is a leader in stormwater management and watershed planning, passionate about protecting waters, restoring healthy ecosystems, and enhancing communities’ unique sense of place. Their multidisciplinary engineers, scientists, and landscape architects share a common purpose for providing alternative and sustainable approaches to resource management that provide long-term, holistic solutions.



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