

# Climate Resilient Menu for Wisconsin Communities: Built and Natural Environment

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## Summary:

The Resilient Wisconsin Menu (RWM) project is an interactive and comprehensive framework for Wisconsin communities to utilize in order to enhance resilience to the impacts associated with disruptions from climate change and other systemic shocks.

The project aims to help communities identify critical elements within multiple themes, that when implemented, will increase their capacity to adapt to shocks and changes while being cost-effective and sustainable. This section focuses on the Built and Natural Environment subtheme.

Resources from around the state and nation helped create an assessment and compile a menu of possible strategies and supporting materials. The subtheme is structured around temperature and precipitation conditions, highlighting the corresponding impacts that will occur with their fluctuations that effect the diverse livelihoods and ecosystems of the surrounding built and natural environments.

## How it Works:

The project is divided into two parts, the assessment portion and the menu portion.

The assessment acts as a precursor to the menu and is used as a checklist of strategies and topics to be addressed. It may also guide a community regarding what sections of the menu they may need to pay specific attention to.

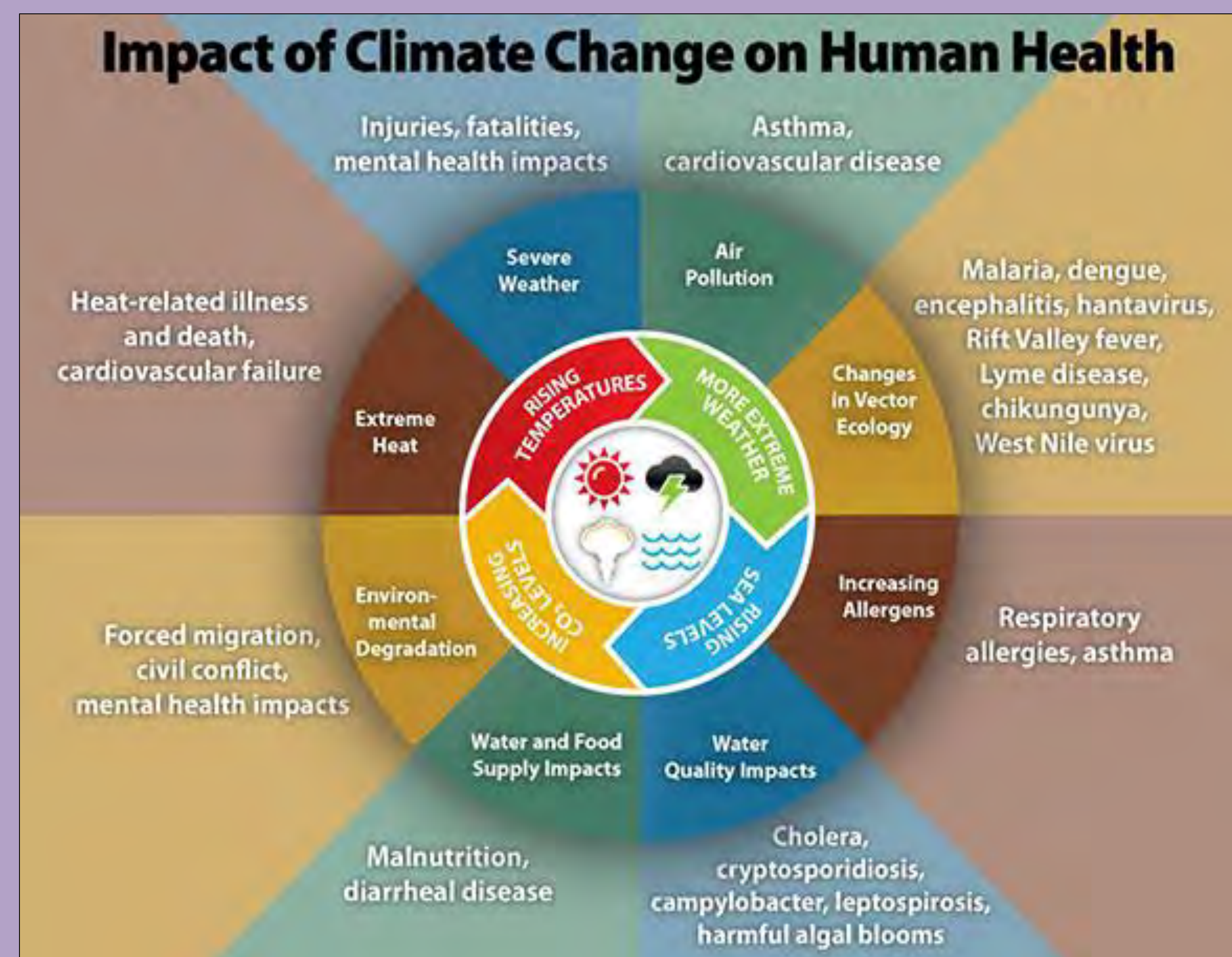
The menu portion suggests management practices and is broken down into categories based on how demanding each practice might be. For ease of use the menu has adopted the structure of a literal restaurant menu, opting to name each of the categories to a corresponding course of a meal (I.E. appetizers, lighter fare, entrees, etc.).

Further, diversity inclusion and environmental justice is to be considered with each item of the resilience menu, as people are not equally impacted by the effects of a changing climate.

## Key Problems:

The issues focused on in the menu included those related to warmer summers, higher precipitation events, potential for droughts, warmer winter trends, as well as polar vortexes. Some of these issues addressed include:

- Flooding and Stormwater Management
- Invasive Species and Increased Insect-Borne Disease
- Wildlife-dependent Recreation
- Decreased Air Quality and Urban Heat Island Effect
- Icier Winters and Episodic Cold Snaps



[https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/images/climate\\_change\\_health\\_impacts600w.jpg](https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/images/climate_change_health_impacts600w.jpg)

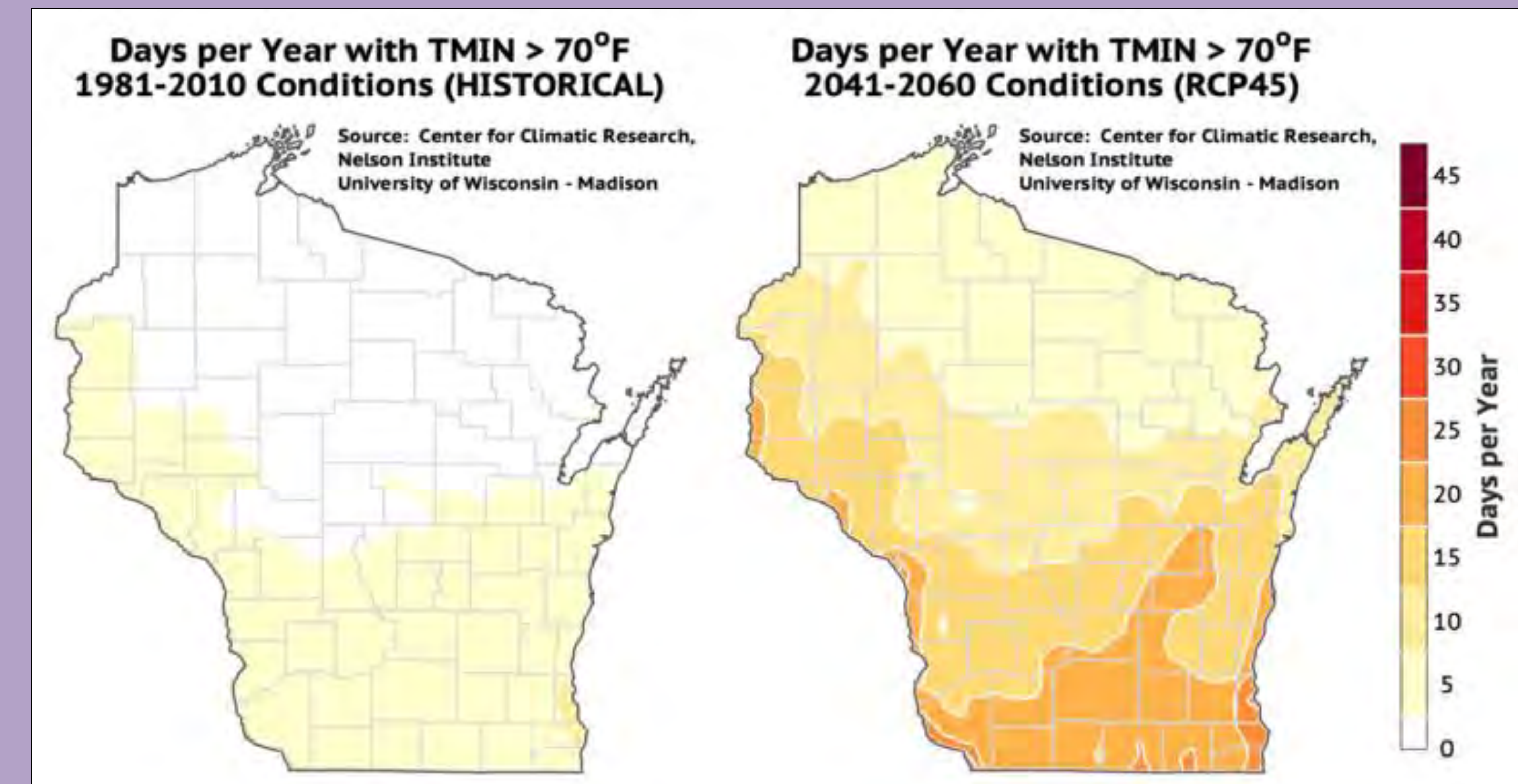
## Resources:

This menu will compile information regarding climate change from several sources, including the CDC, the Wisconsin DNR, WICCI, the EPA, and numerous other state and federal programs.

## Next Steps:

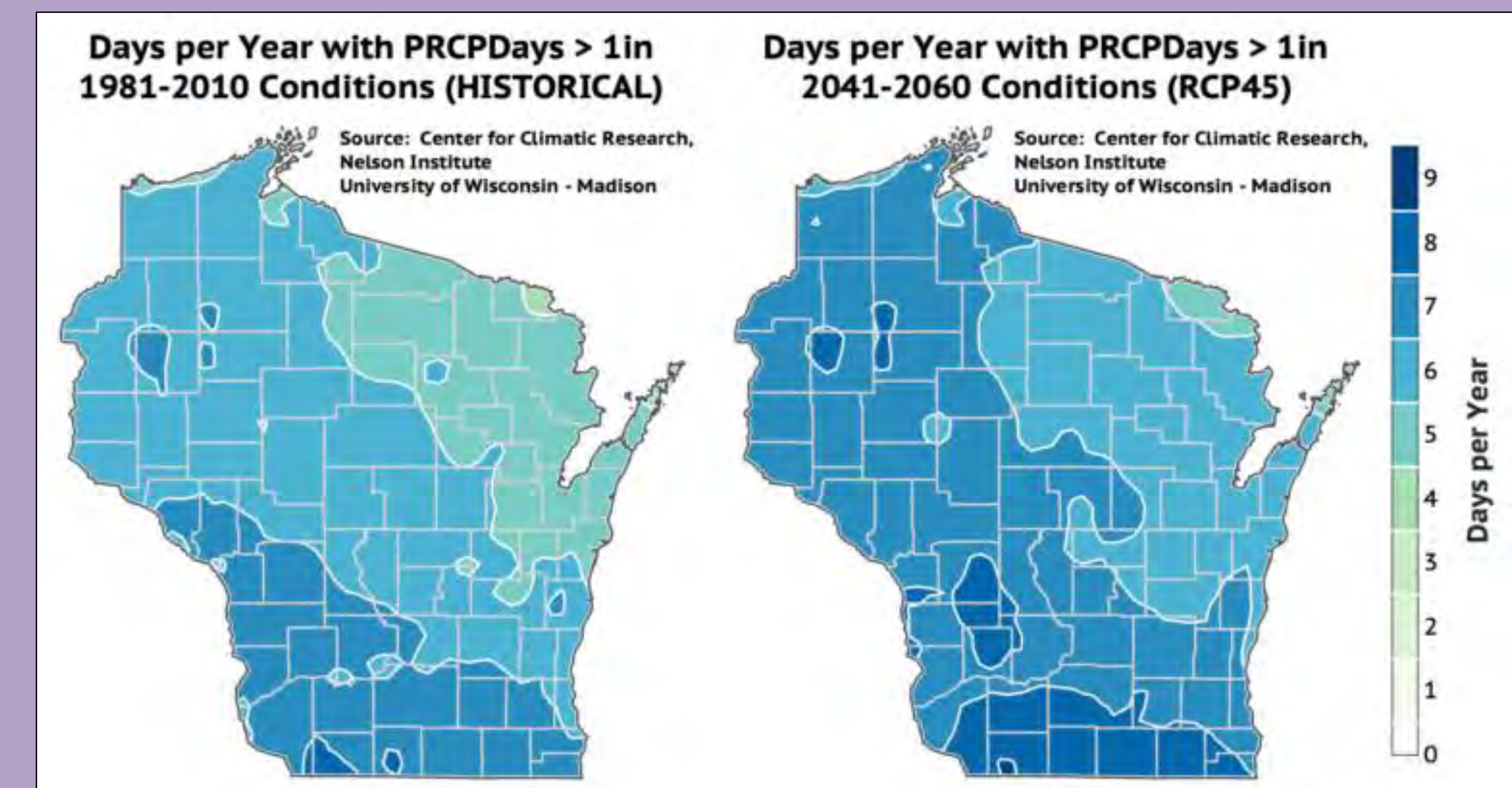
The menu is designed to be a usable climate decision-making resource intended for use of local governments. It is slated to be complete this spring, with it to be fully available to communities through UW Extension, both print and web versions. Potentially, a panel of UW-Extension staff may travel and present the menu to local governments and explain its purpose and how to be used. Future students may examine and investigate how this menu is being used by communities, and make changes and updates as needed.

<https://wicci.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/projected-min-temp-70-768x419.png>



The figure above shows historical and future projections of days per year where the minimum temperature is greater than 70°F. Future projections show an increase in number of days where the temperature exceeds 70°F.

<https://wicci.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/projected-precip-1in-768x418.png>



The figure above shows historical and future projections of days per year where precipitation is greater than 1 inch of accumulation. Future projections show an increase in the number of days where precipitation is greater than 1 inch.