

Do perceptions of climate change influence private precautionary measures against floods

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The need to adapt to the effects of climate change requires the sharing of responsibility between the authorities and the public. It is expected that flood risk will continue to rise in response to a combination of a changing climate and an increase in exposure, e.g. due to increasing flood plain occupancy, and changes in the terrestrial system, e.g. land cover changes, and river regulation. Decreasing the impact of floods can only be achieved with significantly improved risk management, to which also private households need to contribute their share. It has been shown before, that private building precautionary measures are able to significantly mitigate flood losses to residential buildings and contents. However, the links between perceptions of climate change and the motivation of households to undertake precautionary measures are unclear. Therefore, 605 households in the city of Dresden, Germany have been interviewed about their perceptions towards climate change and precautionary measures they might have undertaken. Results show an influence of the perception towards climate change on the motivation to undertake flood precautionary measures. However, other socio-economic factors like the size of the household or the ownership of the residential building also have their share. Implications for campaigns to promote measures to adapt to the effects of climate change will be described.