

7TH NATIONAL ADAPTATION FORUM

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
May 12-14, 2026



www.NationalAdaptationForum.org/program/

#NAF2026

 @AdaptationForum

 National Adaptation Forum

ACTION TODAY for
a **BETTER TOMORROW**

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Schedule At-A-Glance

All events are at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center unless noted otherwise.

Pre-Forum Events: Monday, May 11

10:00 am - 5:00 pm	Partner-led events
12:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Registration Desk open
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Negley Run Watershed Tour (pre-registration required)
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Riverlife Walking Tour (pre-registration required)
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	David Lawrence Convention Center Tour (pre-registration required)

Forum Day One: Tuesday, May 12

7:00 am - 8:45 am	Registration and Coffee
8:45 am - 11:00 am	Forum Welcome and Plenary
11:00 am - 11:30 am	Break & Snack <i>Sponsored by NRDC</i>
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Session Block #1
12:30 pm - 1:45 pm	Lunch (provided for all attendees) <i>Sponsored by: CDM Smith</i>
1:45 pm - 3:15 pm	Session Block #2
3:15 pm - 3:45 pm	Break & Snack
3:45 pm - 5:15 pm	Session Block #3
5:15 pm - 7:00 pm	Margaret A. Davidson Networking Reception and Poster Session

Forum Day Two: Wednesday, May 13

8:00 am - 9:00 am	Registration and Coffee
9:00 am - 10:30 am	Session Block #4
10:30 am - 11:00 am	Break & Snack
11:00 am - 12:30 pm	Session Block #5
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Lunch (provided for all attendees) <i>Sponsored by: Climate Resilience Consulting</i>
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Session Block #6
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Break & Snack
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Session Block #7

Forum Day Three: Thursday, May 14

8:00 am - 9:00 am	Registration and Coffee
9:00 am - 10:30 am	Session Block #8
10:30 am - 11:00 am	Break & Snack
11:00 am - 12:30 pm	Session Block #9
12:30 pm - 12:45 pm	Break & Snack
12:45 pm - 1:45 pm	Closing Plenary Town Hall Strategy Session

Welcome to the 7th National Adaptation Forum!

Greetings Adaptationeers,

This is your biennial support group!

It's thrilling to be together for an exciting three-day program with great sessions from start to finish.

While these are challenging times for climate work, I'm sure we will all leave with the resolve that we are the community to keep this work moving forward. But none of us are alone to make it happen. We are all in this together.

Have a great week in Pittsburgh!

Lara Hansen, EcoAdapt



EcoAdapt, founded in 2008, focuses exclusively on climate change adaptation. We've been leading and organizing the National Adaptation Forum since it began in 2013. We are honored to coordinate the broad range of adaptation community partners who serve on committees, share their ideas and learning in presentations, and provide financial support to make this event happen. Did you know that EcoAdapt does more than the National Adaptation Forum?

Check us out at EcoAdapt.org

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A complete, searchable program is available online at: www.NationalAdaptationForum.org

7th National Adaptation Forum Committee Members

KEY: [PC] Planning Committee • [EWG] Equity & Climate Justice Working Group • [RC] Review Committee

Addison Houston, Public Health - Seattle & King County, [PC]

Aimee Delach, Defenders of Wildlife, [PC]

Alex Basaraba, Stanford, [EWG]

Alicia Race, Union of Concerned Scientists, [RC]

Amanda Farris, University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership, [PC]

Anna Yip, Rincon Consultants, [EWG]

Annie Bennett, Georgetown Climate Center, [RC]

Arden Drake, EcoAdapt, [RC]

Ariane Laxo, HGA Architects & Engineers, [PC]

Ashlyn Shore, National Environmental Modeling and Analysis Center, [PC]

Becca (Rebecca) Garman, US EPA, [RC]

Becky Steckler, EConorthwest, [RC]

Bob (Robert) Newman, University of North Dakota, [EWG]

Cameron (Cam) Adams, The Nature Conservancy, [PC]

Carey Schafer, [RC]

Carrie Brown-Lima, Northeast CASC USGS, [PC]

David Rounce, Carnegie Mellon University, [PC]

Deb Rudnick, EcoAdapt, [RC]

Diana Pietri, Eastern Research Group, Inc.: Blue Earth Team, [EWG]

Diane Mas, Fuss & O'Neill, Inc., [RC]

Erica Akemi Goto, University of Arizona, [RC]

Eric Mielbrecht, EcoAdapt, [RC]

Heather Higinbotham, Last Best Planet LLC, [PC]

Jane A. Chukwudebelu, Federal Institute of Industrial Research, Oshodi, Lagos-Nigeria, [RC]

Jeffrey Meek, ICF, [RC]

Jennie Hoffman, [RC]

Jordan West, EPA, [PC]

Julie Ulrich, The Nature Conservancy, [PC]

Karen Wolfgang, CO2 Foundation, [PC]

Karin Rogers, UNC Asheville's NEMAC, [PC]

Kat Sisler, Independent Contributor, [PC]

Kate Skaggs, CDM Smith - Climate Resilience Discipline, [PC]

Kathryn Braddock, EcoAdapt, [RC]

Katia Carranza, Together for Nature, [EWG]

Kelsey Irvine, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, [PC]

Kendra White, Cambridge Office of Sustainability, [PC]

Kimberly Hall, The Nature Conservancy, [PC]

Kristi Sturtz, Sturtz Public Management Group LLC, [RC]

Kyla Bloyer, Consultant, [EWG]

Lara Hansen, EcoAdapt, [RC]

Lauren Miller, CDM Smith, [PC]

Leanne Spaulding, Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC), [RC]

Lela Shepherd, Harris County Flood Control District, [RC]

Luiz Barata, Port of San Francisco, [EWG]

Marc Coudert, City of Austin Office of Resilience, [PC]

Maryellen Hearn, Pathways Climate Institute, [PC]

Megan Susman, Independent Contributor, [RC]

Melissa Deas, ASAP/Cadmus (ASAP board member) Pittsburgh resident, [PC]

Melissa Ocana, University of Massachusetts Amherst Extension, [PC]

Mia T. Wavrek, The Climate Resilience Fund, [PC]

Michael F. Bloom, 5engineering, LLC., [RC]

Michelle Covi, University of Georgia Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant, [PC]

Mike Chang, Cascadia Consulting Group, [EWG]

Mike Hiller, UpstreamPgh, [EWG]

Penny Loeb, [RC]

Pierce Holloway, Resilient Analytics, [RC]

Sam Battersby, Walton Family Foundation, [EWG]

Sascha Petersen, Adaptation International, [PC]

Scott Laursen, Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center, [PC]

Sebastian Malter, CDM Smith, [PC]

Steph Courtney, United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., [EWG]

Susan Asam, ICF, [PC]

Susanne Moser, Susanne Moser Research & Consulting, [PC]

Tamera Breidenbach, Buddy Program Chair, [PC]

Todd Jersey, Todd Jersey Architecture, Inc., [RC]

Vijaylaxmi Kesavan, Jacobs, [PC]

Zoe Gossett, Climateworks Foundation, [EWG]

Field Trips

Monday, May 11

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Negley Run Watershed Tour <i>(pre-registration required)</i>
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Riverlife Walking Tour <i>(pre-registration required)</i>
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	David Lawrence Convention Center Tour <i>(pre-registration required)</i>

Negley Run Watershed Tour

Join UpstreamPgh and Carnegie Mellon University's Center for Engineering Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CERCA) for a guided tour of the Negley Run Watershed. This urban watershed is characterized by flooding, environmental injustice, and underinvested infrastructure. UpstreamPgh convenes the Negley Run Watershed Task Force, which has been active for over a decade, co-developing a climate-resilient vision of the future that prioritizes nature-based solutions for these neighborhoods with residents, city agencies, and partners like CMU. This tour will stop at 3 strategic locations along the watershed to examine design interventions and impact.

Co-organized by UpstreamPgh and CERCA

Location and Transportation:

- Negley Run Watershed spans multiple neighborhoods on the east side of Pittsburgh.
- Transportation will be provided for participants. Participants will meet at the Convention Center and will be transported to and from the various stops within the watershed tour.
- There will be some walking within a slightly hilly urban context.

David Lawrence Convention Center Tour

Learn about how the David Lawrence Convention Center became the first to hold multiple LEED Certifications and led the way for sustainable practices in structures of this scale. The tour will show how the building's design works together with its day-to-day operations to keep the convention center among the most sustainable in the world, even nearly 25 years after it was built. Attendees will learn about technical components of the building and how stakeholder buy-in is fostered for new projects that help maintain its top-tier status.

The group will meet near registration to start the tour. Close-toed shoes are required to view all facilities on the tour.

Riverlife Walking Tour

This is a walking tour covering approximately 3 miles of city and light-trail terrain. Participants can expect to be moving and standing for at least 90 minutes.

Pittsburgh sits at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers and the headwaters of the Ohio River. These waterways are an essential part of the city's identity, economy, and well-being, but for centuries they have been treated as industrial conduits, rather than the rich ecosystems they once were. 26 years ago, city leaders came together to shift this mindset by creating Riverlife, a non-profit that creates, activates, and celebrates Pittsburgh's riverfronts, connecting people through exceptional places and experiences. Since 1999, Riverlife has led a \$150 million investment that has transformed decaying and abandoned spaces along Pittsburgh riverfronts into 15 miles and 1,055 acres of award-winning, nationally recognized parks, trails, and green space. With the progressive restoration of the city's riverfronts, Pittsburgh's rivers are beginning to be a home once again for life of all kinds, including threatened and endangered species, but much work remains to be done.

Riverlife and its partners at the City of Pittsburgh and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have worked over the past few decades to restore and improve existing riverfront parks, shifting focus from armored, vertical edges to natural banks, native species, green stormwater management, and other more resilient solutions. Tour attendees will walk through several completed projects that highlight past approaches to riverfront development and this turn toward initiatives that have ecosystem benefits, including recently restored Allegheny Riverfront Park and Point State Park. Following an exploration of these existing projects, the group will explore the site of the North Shore Ecosystem Restoration project, an Army Corps of Engineers-led effort to provide aquatic and riparian habitat restoration at the headwaters of the Ohio River. This work will soften the riverbank, mitigating the hard-edged vertical bulkhead located throughout the Confluence, which, in recent years, has contributed to increased wake and the elimination of aquatic habitat. It will remove invasive species and introduce native trees, shrubs, and understory plantings. The group will also discuss the environment as an educational opportunity, as the adjacent Kamin Science Center will be able to structure outdoor programming around this new aquatic ecosystem. Attendees will learn about the Corps' Continuing Authorities program as a tool for these types of projects and catalyst for more ecosystem-oriented approaches to riverfront planning, design, and management.

Along the way, Riverlife staff will discuss site histories, project planning and delivery, and adaptive management of these spaces, including a review of UpKeep, a first-of-its-kind program to supplement care and maintenance services and provide permanent resources for habitat restoration. Attendees will come away with an understanding of Pittsburgh's next era of riverfront development, with an eye toward resilient, adaptive spaces that benefit the ecosystem as a whole.



DAY 1:

Tuesday, May 12

Schedule At-A-Glance

7:00 am - 8:45 am	Registration and Coffee
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3:45 pm - 5:15 pm	Session Block #3
5:15 pm - 7:00 pm	Margaret A. Davidson Networking Reception and Poster Session

7:00 AM — 5:30 PM

Registration *East Atrium*

8:45 AM — 11:00 AM

Forum Welcome & Plenary - Migration as Adaptation: The Impact of Climate Mobility on Cities and Ecosystems

Ballroom ABC 3rd level

The 7th National Adaptation Forum kicks off. Join your adaptation peers in a plenary that will move you into a conference frame of mind.

Welcome, Logistics and Insights on Adaptation

Dr. Lara Hansen, EcoAdapt, Chief Scientist & Executive Director

Land Acknowledgement

Miguel Sague Jr., Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center

Welcome to Pittsburgh

Mike Hiller, Upstream Pittsburgh, Executive Director

Staying Steady in the Polycrisis: Risk-Savvy, Hopeful Adaptation Practice

Michael Braithwaite, D.O.N.E. (Department of Nonprofit Efficiency)

Migration as Adaptation: The Impact of Climate Mobility on Cities and Ecosystems

This panel will examine climate mobility as a critical dimension of climate adaptation and why it matters for practitioners working across sectors and geographies. The session will open with a conversation grounding the topic in data, lived realities, and the broader context driving climate migration. It will also explore how climate mobility, including local resilience and safe migration, intersects with adaptation planning at the local, regional, and national levels. Particular examples will highlight city-level, community-based and nature perspectives on climate migration planning, planned relocation, floodplain policy, nature conservation, and community engagement. Together, the speakers will surface practical lessons and transferable insights for adaptation professionals navigating a rapidly evolving and politically complex landscape.

Moderator

- Abrahm Lustgarten, ProPublica

Speakers

- Dr. Adelle Thomas, Natural Resources Defense Council, Senior Director, Climate Adaptation
- Aftab Pureval, City of Cincinnati, Mayor
- Dr. Alison Branco, The Nature Conservancy in New York, Director of Climate Adaptation

Closing. Surprises, assignments and dismissal

Lara (again)

11:00 AM — 11:30 AM

Break & Snack *Ballroom Gallery*

11:30 AM — 12:30 PM Session Block #1

Monitoring, Evaluation & Management

Room 303

Presentations

Where Climate Hits Hardest: Uncovering Birmingham's Vulnerable Zones

- Rachel Meier, Senior Associate II, Team Lead for Local Context and Data Analysis, Lotus Engineering & Sustainability, LLC
- Shelby de Jongh, Associate II, Lotus Engineering & Sustainability, LLC
- Thomas Yuill, Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office of Resilience and Sustainability, City of Birmingham, Alabama

Developing Great Lakes Resilience Indicators and Metrics Towards Common Jurisdictional Understanding of Progress

- Nathan Kroeze, Ecologist, Great Lakes Commission
- Sharon Stephens, Climate Change Adaptation Coordinator, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Samantha Miller, Resilience Project Manager, Great Lakes Commission

Measuring the impact of state resilience programs: how program evaluation can inform practice

- Miyuki Hino, Associate Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Kasen Wally, Coastal Resiliency Specialist, North Carolina Division of Coastal Management
- Mackenzie Todd, Coastal Resiliency Coordinator, North Carolina Division of Coastal Management

Intersection of Adaption & Mitigation

Room 304

Presentations

Identifying Resilient, Sustainable Cooling Strategies for Los Angeles

- Hye Min Park, PhD Candidate/ Assistant Policy Researcher, RAND School of Public Policy/ RAND Corporation

Building Better: Bridging "Sustainability" and "Adaptation" to Implement Resilient Infrastructure

- Jacky Kinson, Mechanical Engineer, CDM Smith Inc
- Kate Skaggs, Climate Resilience Planner, CDM Smith Inc

Bringing adaptation into County Hazard Plan

- Flore Marion, Assistant Director, Sustainability and Resilience Division, City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning

Invasive Species and Climate Change Management: Boundary-Spanning Organizations for an Adapted World

Protecting Ecosystems and Biodiversity (Special Session)

Room 305

Global change threats including invasive species and climate change are requiring innovative and extensive efforts to ensure that limited natural resource management capacity is effective and efficient. The Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change (RISCC) Management Network is working to reduce the combined effects of climate change and invasive species by synthesizing relevant science, sharing the needs and knowledge of practitioners, building stronger scientist-practitioner relationships, and conducting priority research. RISCC

is led in part by the Climate Adaptation Science Centers (CASCs), which provide science and tools in partnership with natural and cultural resource managers to help them navigate the challenges of a changing climate.

This World Café session will bring together scientists, partners, and practitioners from across the country to discuss challenges, successes, lessons learned, and opportunities for advancing adaptation that safeguards ecosystems and biodiversity in the face of invasive species. Participants will rotate among three facilitated discussion tables, each centered on a key aspect of how boundary spanners are supporting effective invasive species management in a changing climate: Running a Boundary-Spanning Organization, Communications, and Finding Answers to Management Questions.

At each table, facilitators will guide a focused conversation around questions such as:

- What does it take to run a "boundary-spanning organization" like the RISCC?
- What are the keys to good communication for effective climate adaptation?
- Where can practitioners find useful information to address their invasive species management challenges?
- What are the major highlights and success stories from invasive species management in the face of climate change?

This interactive format invites participants to engage with diverse perspectives, identify shared themes across regions, and contribute their own insights and experiences. The session will conclude with a synthesis discussion that draws connections across tables, highlights opportunities for new collaborations, and emphasizes the RISCCs' vital role in tackling invasive species challenges in the context of climate change.

Speakers

- Toni Lyn Morelli, Research Ecologist, USGS, NE CASC
- Molly Cross, Regional Administrator, USGS, NC CASC
- Carrie Brown-Lima, Regional Administrator, USGS, NE CASC
- Sarah Love, USGS
- Kristine Metzger, USGS

Social Resilience & Transformation

Room 307

Presentations

From Theory to Practice: Building Knowledge, Skills, and Capacity for Transformational Resilience

- Jessica Brunacini, Director, Training and Engagement, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Liv Lenfestey, Resilience Training Coordinator, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Chris Feurt, Coastal Resilience Scientist, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

Getting Ready for Transformation: Transformational Change Readiness Levels (TCRLs) for Climate Adaptation

- Benjamin Preston, Senior Policy Researcher, RAND Corporation

Capacity Building — What does it really mean?

- Renee Collini, Director, Community Resilience Center, The Water Institute

11:30 AM — 12:30 PM

Adaptation From the Land to the Sea: Addressing Unique Challenges for Rural & Island Communities (Special Session)

Room 308

What are some of the successes and challenges of adaptation in rural and island communities?

With much of the attention for adaptation diverted to urban communities, adaptation in rural and island communities often receives less attention. This session will highlight innovative (can include new or ancestral/cultural practices) and context-specific adaptation efforts led by rural and island communities and examine some of the unique challenges these communities face. Presentations will explore successful adaptation strategies, community-led initiatives, and place-based solutions in rural and island communities, and provide lessons learned that can be translated to broader adaptation planning and practice.

Presentations

Nature's Blueprint: Adapting Island and Rural Communities to Climate Risk

- Chris Levitz, Coastal and Riverine Resilience Practice Lead, AECOM

Moving the Needle: Evaluating Adaptation Outcomes in the Northeast using the Climate Change Response Framework

- Samantha Myers, Forest adaptation specialist, University of Vermont / Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science / USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub
- Danielle Shannon, Climate adaptation specialist, Michigan Technological University / USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub / Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science

Climate Initiative Program at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium: Stronger Together

- Kevin Heller, Climate Adaptation Project Manager II, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- Jackie Qatalina Schaeffer, Director of Climate Initiatives, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Building Climate-Resilient Health Systems Through Adaptation (Special Session)

Rooms 310/311

What innovations have been made in the field to improve the integration of climate adaptation into public health and other healthcare efforts and planning? How is adaptation being used to address a growing mental health crisis?

With climate change increasingly disrupting public and other healthcare systems, health professionals are increasingly addressing the linkages between climate change and the health and safety of communities. Legacies of systemic injustice and marginalization means that climate change further exacerbates existing inequities in healthcare delivery and outcomes. Sessions will highlight the intersection between the health sector and adaptation strategies. Presentations will feature innovative strides towards climate adaptation in the health sector and explore how adaptation is being integrated into public and other health systems, planning processes,

and infrastructure, particularly through tools, frameworks, or cross-sectoral approaches. Presentations will also consider how climate-related disruptions are impacting health systems, and how health professionals are responding to them. Strategies that prioritize and center the voices and leadership of vulnerable communities in the health sector will be highlighted.

Presentations

Interactive Training on Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE): A Framework for Public Health

- Gillian Capper, Program manager, American Public Health Association
- Ben Fulgencio-Turner, Director, Climate for Health, ecoAmerica
- Heather Joseph, Commander, U.S. Public Health Service Health Scientist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Evan Mallen, Health Scientist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Paul Schramm, Activity Chief, Climate and Health Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Heatwaves' strain on emergency medical systems is likely underestimated: a literature review and conceptual framework

- Avery Krovetz, PhD Candidate, RAND School of Public Policy
- Aaron Clark-Ginsberg, Behavioral and Social Scientist, RAND

Moving Forward on Climate Migration: Incorporating Climate Induced Migration into Your Local-Level Resilience Work

Politics and People of Managed Retreat (Special Session)

Room 315

In this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to hear from leaders in the growing "U.S. climate migration and communities" field, and to start planning for future action on this topic.

The session will start with a discussion — facilitated by climate migration practitioner and researcher Anna Marandi - featuring three climate resilience practitioners with differing roles and approaches on climate migration. Speakers will include:

David Lubell: ICLEI-USA will provide a quick overview of the state of the local-level climate migration field in the U.S., including specific opportunities for engagement. Oliver Kroner: City of Cincinnati will discuss the multi-sector climate migration planning work that has been underway in Cincinnati, one of the first of its kind in the U.S. Debra Campbell: A Community Voice, New Orleans, will discuss the grassroots, community-driven effort she has helped lead, in which some New Orleans residents are making plans to leave New Orleans behind, and strategically identify a less climate vulnerable and more affordable city in which to live.

After the panel, participants will join small groups to develop brief "community-focused climate migration project proposals" that incorporate learnings from the panel participants, and center equity and justice.

Speakers

- David Lubell, Senior Climate Mobility and Cities Fellow, ICLEI USA
- Oliver Kroner, Director of the Office of Environment & Sustainability, City of Cincinnati
- Anna Marandi, Senior Resilience Planner, HDR
- Debra Campbell, Community Leader, A Community Voice - New Orleans

Communication & Art

Room 316

Presentations

Creativity for Climate Resilience: Action-oriented Art, Design, and Communication

- Emily Mills, Dewberry

Innovations for a Changing World: Co-Creating Immersive Narratives for Climate Resilience

- Juliano Calil, CEO and Chief Scientist, Virtual Planet
- Tiffany Wise-West, Sustainability and Resiliency Officer, City of Santa Cruz, CA

Addressing Climate Risks for People Who Live in Affordable Housing

Policy Solutions for Adaptation

Rooms 317/318

The US is in a housing crisis that most acutely impacts families with low incomes. Simultaneously, the climate crisis is increasing the frequency and severity of extreme weather such as heat and flooding, which will worsen as heat-trapping emissions rise. This exposes many individuals and families with low incomes who are living in affordable housing to increasingly unhealthy—even dangerous—conditions. As policymakers grapple with addressing the affordable housing shortfall, it's crucial to ensure that investments in upgrading and expanding the housing stock are also geared toward making it more resilient to climate extremes.

Speakers

- Juan Declet-Barreto, Senior Social Scientist for Climate Vulnerability, Union of Concerned Scientists
- Eva Olivas, Executive Director, Phoenix Revitalization Corporation
- Zoe Middleton, Associate Director, Policy, Climate and Energy, Union of Concerned Scientists
- Andrew Rumbach, Senior Fellow Co-Lead, Climate and Communities Program, Urban Institute

Network Building

Rooms 319/320

Presentations

Catalyzing Regional, Cross-Sector Action: Insights from Climate Resilient Communities Accelerators in Colorado, Washington, Texas

- Hanna Payne, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES)

Climate Resilient Monterey Bay: A \$71 million dollar coordinated, multi-organization, regional approach to climate adaptation

- Jesse Traller Ojeda

Navigating Climate Uncertainty: A Resilience Tool for Small Water Systems

- Amber Runyon, Climate & Water Solutions Scientist, Virga Labs
- Anne Ruthstrom, Senior Water Planner, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission

12:30 PM — 1:45 PM

Lunch *Ballroom ABC*

12:30 PM — 1:45 PM

Buddy Program Networking Lunch

Room 321

The National Adaptation Forum Buddy Program aims to facilitate a welcoming environment, foster conversation, build affinity across shared experiences or identities, create relationship-building with lasting collaborations, and encourage shared expertise and guidance among Forum participants, regardless of career stage.

This networking lunch will be a dedicated space for anyone participating in and who has been matched with a buddy to meet in person with their Buddy and other program participants. Participants will grab their lunch and convene in Room 321. The time together will consist of some facilitated conversation and open time to engage and network with their Buddy and others!

1:45 PM — 3:15 PM Session Block # 2

Navigating the Muddy Waters of a Federal Maelstrom (Special Session)

Room 303

With significant changes at one level of government, the entire adaptation field is experiencing the cascading effects of a withdrawal of leadership and direct attacks on climate professionals. How will adaptation professionals navigate the changing currents and ensure that adaptation efforts move forward not backwards? Presentations will explore:

- How adaptation professionals are adapting to this new reality and how they are challenging the current systems at play that are adamantly trying to set us back decades in our work.
- How direct attacks on databases, important tools, and bodies of information leave many practitioners and communities in the dark.
- How to support and prevent the loss of information and how to ensure communities can access important climate data to assist them in making informed decisions.

Presentations

Pivoting from EPA Funding to the Collective Vision

- Sharon Sand, California Public Grants Program Senior Manager, Trust for Public Land

Climate Adaptation in the United States: Federal Policy, Politics, and Governance Challenges

- Bethany Tietjen, PhD Candidate, Predoctoral Research Fellow, The Fletcher School, Tufts University

Undermining Resilience: The Dismantling of America's Disaster Safety Net

- Joel Scata, Senior Attorney, NRDC

How Trump administration attacks on climate science and resilience policies are harming communities facing disasters

- Shana Udvardy, Senior Climate Resilience Policy Analyst, Union of Concerned Scientists

Recent Updates in Federal Adaptation and FEMA Policy and Your Voice as a Practitioner

- Cameron Adams, Policy Advisor, Climate Adaptation, The Nature Conservancy

Rust Belt Futures: Preparing Post-Industrial Cities for Climate Migration and Equitable Growth

Politics and People of Managed Retreat (Special Session)

Room 304

As climate change intensifies, millions of Americans may be forced to leave wildfire-prone, flood-damaged, and heat-stressed regions. Many will relocate to inland cities with freshwater, affordable land, and lower climate risk. Rust Belt communities—including Pittsburgh, where this Forum will convene—are emerging as prime destinations. Once marked by disinvestment, population loss, and aging infrastructure, these places now sit at the frontlines of a new era of climate migration.

This symposium will convene leading national and Rust Belt regional experts in climate adaptation and migration, from Chicago to Toledo, and Buffalo to Cincinnati. Together they will explore how post-industrial cities can proactively prepare for climate in-migration while ensuring equity and resilience. Panelists will highlight practical strategies for scaling housing supply, modernizing infrastructure, and reusing underutilized land. Examples will include zoning and financing tools that expand affordable housing, embed resilience in redevelopment, and prevent displacement of long-time residents.

Equity will be at the center of the dialogue. Rust Belt cities are often highly segregated, with frontline neighborhoods disproportionately exposed to flood, air pollution, and landslide risks. The session will conclude with a facilitated exchange identifying replicable policy, finance, and governance models that participants can adapt in their own communities.

Speakers

- **Joe Lampe**, Founder and Director, Resilient Future Consulting
- **Patrick Marchman**, Principal, KM Sustainability
- **Joyce Coffee**, Founder and President, Climate Resilience Consulting
- **Van Sullivan**, Interim Executive Director, Green Umbrella
- **Gerard Nadeau**, Associate Professor, Bowling Green State University
- **Hannah Glosser**, Director, HR&A Advisors

A People-First Approach to Watershed Restoration

Nature Based Solutions

Room 305

The Nine Mile Run Watershed is a small urban watershed in Pittsburgh where UpstreamPgh is pioneering the intersection of clean water and climate justice. We will look back at 25 years of projects and programming successes aimed at reconnecting people to the natural environment. This includes the Nine Mile Run Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration—a nationally acclaimed stream restoration completed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, coalition advocacy work aimed at replacing lead service lines, the Environmental Justice Table, and community-rooted nature-based solution projects.

Our core principles include:

- Strive for all things UpstreamPgh to be regenerative.
- Act with urgency to address the environmental and climate injustice in our region.

- Think from a greatest potential perspective, recognizing possibilities rather than just solving problems.
- Institutionalize systems thinking across all of our programs.

We will then engage participants in a game that will prompt them to think of their local place and how they can utilize the frameworks and successes of UpstreamPgh back home. The goal is for you to leave with ideas and examples that could address climate equity.

Speakers

- **Michael Hiller**, Executive Director, UpstreamPgh
- **Chavaysha Chaney**, Water Equity Director, UpstreamPgh
- **Aaron Birdy**, Plan/Build Director, UpstreamPgh

Insurance Innovation for Climate Adaptation in the Northeast

Insurance and Risk Management

Room 307

This panel session addresses a critical and timely challenge: the intersection of climate adaptation and insurability. As communities nationwide grapple with skyrocketing insurance premiums and coverage withdrawals, this conversation will offer practical next steps from local leaders. The session will focus on communities in the northeast region that are actively grappling with how to use insurance to drive more resilience and also invest in resilience for greater insurability. The discussion will cover novel financing mechanisms that align adaptation investments with insurance benefits, inclusive insurance models, and the future of flood insurance. The session will provide ideas and frameworks that attendees can implement in their own jurisdictions.

Organized by Insurance for Good, a non-profit designed to be the hub for a growing community of practice of people and institutions in the United States working to harness risk transfer in support of social and environmental goals, this panel session will position attendees to not only learn from solutions being posed by panelists in the northeast, but offer clear next steps for how attendees can plug into this network.

Moderator

- **Helen Wiley**, Director of Programs, Insurance for Good

Speakers

- **Chris Osgood**, Director of the Office of Climate Resilience, City of Boston
- **Korin Tangtrakul**, Senior Manager of Place-based Initiatives, Office of Sustainability, City of Philadelphia
- **Michael Gaughan**, Executive Director, Vermont Bond Bank
- **Caroline Hays**, Senior Advisor, NYC Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice

What Does Rural Resilience Look Like? Stories of Advancing Rural Resilience from Across the Country

Adaptation From the Land to the Sea: Addressing Unique Challenges for Rural & Island Communities (Special Session)

Room 308

Rural communities face unique challenges to climate change, yet they are often overlooked or homogenized by the climate services community. This often means that they have fewer tools, assessments,

and resources available to address climate impacts compared to urban regions. Despite these limitations, many rural communities have been working locally to advance their community resilience. This session brings together leaders from American Farmland Trust, Cascadia Consulting, Capital RC&D, the North Olympic Development Council, and others who work in rural communities across the country including the Pacific Northwest, Southeast, California, and the Midwest, to share unique rural challenges and resilience solutions. Through storytelling and panel discussion, practitioners and community organizations will share their experiences developing and delivering community tailored programs and resources to underserved rural communities. Session attendees will gain insight into climate impacts and their associated ripple effects that rural communities are facing across the country and examples of how those communities are building rural resilience through collaborations, resource development and sharing, and addressing needs of those who have been chronically underserved. This session highlights broader needs that the climate services community can support for advancing rural resilience across the country so that communities do not get left behind.

Speakers

- Mary Ann Rozance, Senior Associate, Cascadia Consulting Group
- Gabrielle McNally, Social Science Director and Women for the Land Advisor, American Farmland Trust
- Karen Affeld, Executive Director, North Olympic Development Council
- Ann Basehore, Executive Director, Capital RC&D
- Laura Baetscher, Senior Associate, Cascadia Consulting Group

Why We Need an Evidence Base For Adaptation Is Adaptation Delivering? Monitoring & Evaluation to Advance the Field (Special Session)

Room 315

The first step to finding a solution is recognizing you have a problem. This session establishes a common understanding that adaptation and resilience efforts, across multiple disciplines, lack an evidence base; then acknowledging this, explores the benefits that such evidence would provide. The session will include presentations followed by a discussion.

Presentations

What is an evidence-base for adaptation and do we have it?

- Lara Hansen, EcoAdapt

Why do we need adaptation monitoring & evaluation?

- Peter Schultz, ICF

How would we use an evidence base to get better outcomes?

Three perspectives

- Ariana Sutton-Grier, Ecosystems Land Change Science Program, USGS
- Heidi Roop, University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership
- Erin Seakamp, North Carolina State Coastal Resilience & Sustainability Initiative

This session is the first of a three-part series. The second session "How To Build The Evidence Base For Adaptation" is on Wednesday, and the third session is a working group "Collaborating To Build The Evidence Base" is on Thursday.

Speakers

- Lara Hansen, Chief Scientist & Executive Director, EcoAdapt
- Heidi Roop, University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership
- Erin Seakamp, North Carolina State Coastal Resilience & Sustainability Initiative
- Peter Schultz, Vice President Climate Risk and Resilience, ICF
- Ariana Sutton-Grier, Ecosystems Land Change Science Program, USGS

From Risk to Possibility: Creative, Hope-Based Tools for Climate Adaptation Navigating the Muddy Waters of a Federal Maelstrom (Special Session)

Room 316

Climate adaptation is as much a social and cultural challenge as it is a technical one. Across regions, adaptation leaders are navigating scientific uncertainty, political pressure, funding volatility, and community fatigue. All this while working to build trust and momentum in places already experiencing the impacts of climate change.

This interactive workshop supports practitioners in translating complex climate data, local risk, and long-term uncertainty into forms that communities can engage with, understand, and act on. Drawing on adaptation case examples, creative placemaking, and hope-based framing, the session explores how narrative, arts, and participatory practices can strengthen planning, public engagement, and local ownership of solutions.

Participants will work with real-world scenarios drawn from small towns, public agencies, research initiatives, and community-led efforts. Through guided small-group exercises and collective design, they will practice reframing climate risks as design constraints that inform communication, participation, and place-based solutions. Creative methods such as visual mapping, storytelling, and collaborative ideation are used as practical tools for sensemaking, trust-building, and shared problem-solving.

Rather than treating creativity as an add-on, the workshop positions it as a core adaptation skill that supports clearer communication, stronger community buy-in, and more resilient decision-making under uncertainty. Participants leave with adaptable ideas, practical frameworks, and renewed confidence in their ability to engage communities in ways that feel grounded, human, and possible.

Speakers

- Sarah Westlake, Co-Founder, D.O.N.E. - Dept. of Nonprofit Efficiency
- Michael Braithwaite, Co-Founder, D.O.N.E. - Dept. of Nonprofit Efficiency

Widen the Table: Building Youth-Adult Power and Partnership for Climate Justice Climate Justice & Equity

Rooms 317/318

"Power is not a thing but rather a capacity composed of active and changing relationships" - Ruth Wilson Gilmore.

There is no shortage of visions and wisdoms that might disrupt climate catastrophe and reimagine futures — there are, however, real challenges to building power. Mycelium Youth Network prepares

frontline youth for hopeful and imaginative leadership in climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience. Our session will explore learnings and practices in building youth-adult power and partnership towards climate justice. Participants will explore different approaches to cultivating agency and youth power towards shared ownership and engage with the tensions and obstacles that emerge when adults try to co-create climate solutions with youth — from internalized to structural. We will share strategies that have succeeded and stumbled and invite participants into group practice that move us from tokenism towards stewardship.

Youth are facing the climate crisis and our catastrophic present alongside us, though even further removed from institutional levers of power that already seem distant for adults. Working alongside youth engages in the “active and changing relationships” that produce power, an invitation to imagine other forms of power-building that widen the table, broaden our wisdoms, sharpen our demands, and seed radical imaginations.

Speakers

- **Andrew Yeung**, Educational Director, Mycelium Youth Network

The Greatest Story Never Told: Adaptation's Communications Gap

Communications & Stakeholder Engagement

Rooms 319/320

Too many successful adaptation projects vanish without leaving a broader impact because communications is treated as optional. This panel will argue that communications is not garnish, but core adaptation infrastructure. We will explore how to integrate communications from the start of a project—structuring grant proposals to include meaningful funding for storytelling, building comms plans alongside technical deliverables, and identifying the right audiences early.

Panelists will highlight “silent successes”—adaptation and resilience projects that made real progress but disappeared without wider influence due to underfunded communications. They will also share examples of projects that broke through by investing in strong, creative outreach. A key theme will be the importance of defining success in communications terms, not just technical outputs. Did the story spread? Did it influence policy? Did it inspire replication? These questions are as critical as metrics like acres restored or homes elevated.

Finally, we will consider what a national adaptation communications strategy might look like in the absence of federal leadership, and who could convene and guide such an effort. Attendees will leave with practical ideas for embedding communications into their projects so that adaptation success stories reach the audiences who need to hear them.

Speakers

- **Doug Parsons**, Host/Director, America Adapts Media
- **Karen Wolfgang**, Executive Director, CO2 Foundation
- **Olga Loginova**, Producer/Reporter, Audiation, Inc.
- **Shaun Martin**, Vice President, Adaptation and Resilience Deputy Lead, Climate Change, World Wildlife Fund

- **Beth Gibbons**, Director Resiliency Office, Washtenaw County
- **Dr. Deb L. Morrison**, Learning Scientist, UW - ISME
- **Pearl Marvel**, Editora de YCC en español, Yale Climate Connections

3:15 PM — 3:45 PM

Break & Snack *Ballroom Gallery*

3:45 PM — 5:15 PM Session Block #3

Climate Justice & Equity

Room 303

Presentations

Collaborating across sectors to solve interrelated climate, housing, and health challenges

- **Jared Ulmer**, Climate & Health Program Manager, Vermont Department of Health

Basement Wetness, Air Quality, and Mold in Vulnerable Pittsburgh Homes: Improving Adaptations to Changing Climate

- **Jemima Ohwobete**, PhD Candidate in Environmental Engineering, University of Pittsburgh

- **Linnea Warren May**, Policy researcher, RAND

Indoor Air Quality and Fungal Exposure in Low-Income Elderly Housing: Implications for Climate Resilience

- **Jemima Ohwobete**, PhD Candidate in Environmental Engineering, University of Pittsburgh

The Justice Barrier: Translating Moral Concern into Resilient Food Choices

- **Lan Tran**, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Lincoln University of Missouri
- **Ye Su**, Associate Professor, Lincoln University of Missouri

Advancing Adaptation by Addressing Social Determinants of Health Data Integration Barriers in Nueces County, Texas

- **Kateryna Wowk**, Senior Social Scientist, The Water Institute

Is Adaptation Delivering? Monitoring & Evaluation to Advance the Field

(Special Session)

Room 304

How is monitoring and evaluation being integrated into adaptation projects to map the success and failures of our efforts? How can we build upon each other's knowledge in the field to improve future adaptation efforts?

How will we move forward unless we know what's working and what's not? To ensure that climate adaptation efforts are effective, the field must strengthen its use of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to track progress, assess outcomes, and guide future action. Presentations will explore how M&E is being integrated into adaptation projects to evaluate both successes and failures, and to support evidence-based decision-making in the adaptation field. Presentations were selected that showcase robust examples of M&E in practice, including insights on methods, implementation challenges and opportunities, and outcomes. Presentations will also consider how to monitor equity metrics to ensure that we are advancing accountability. These sessions will help answer the question: Is adaptation delivering, how do we know, and how do we share what we have learned with others?

Presentations

Innovative Methods to Measure the Social and Economic Impacts of Flood Resilience Projects in Texas

- Kimberly Miller, Gulf Regional Resilience Planning Lead, Black & Veatch

Towards Integrative, Community-Based Assessments of Site-Scale Heat Interventions

- Eliza Amstutz, Program Manager, CAPA Strategies

From Insight to Impact: Evaluating Coastal Resilience through Community Engagement

- Victoria Salgado, Coastal Scientist and Planner, AECOM

Maryland's Next Generation Adaptation Plan and the Challenge of Tracking Resilience

- Ryland Taylor, Coastal Climate Coordinator, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Telling the story of resilience building: Progress and next steps for the statewide ResilientMass Metrics

- Mia Mansfield, Assistant Secretary for Resilience, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
- Jackie Willwerth, Senior Associate, Industrial Economics (IEc)
- Susanne Moser, Director, Susanne Moser Research & Consulting

Research and Science of Adaptation

Room 307

Presentations

Understanding the Role of Regional Climate Networks in Climate Adaptation: Insights from CariCOF

- Erica Goto, Research Scientist, University of Arizona

Informing Coastal Adaptation: Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis of Coastal Squeeze Solutions

- Anamaria Bukvic, Associate Professor, Indiana University - Bloomington
- Patrick Biber, Associate Professor, University of Southern Mississippi
- Tomas R. Allen, Professor, Old Dominion University

Integrating Community Insights: Rethinking Nonstructural Flood Risk Reduction for Resilient Coastal Protection in Louisiana

- Allison (Allie) Olsonoski, Project Manager, Environmental Defense Fund & Restore the Mississippi River Delta

From Data to Action: Using Shade Mapping to Advance Heat Equity Across U.S. Regions

- Alison Frazzini, Policy Director, LA County Chief Sustainability Office
- Marc Coudert, Climate Resilience & Adaptation Manager, City of Austin

Surveying the public and policymakers reveals collaborative pathways for coastal policy in Hawai'i

- Ketty Loeb, Assistant Professor, Institute for Sustainability, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- Zena Grecni, Sustained Climate Assessment Strategic Lead, Arizona State University

Policy Solutions for Adaptation

Room 308

Presentations

From the Ground Up: Local Barriers and Opportunities for Shoreline Adaptation along Lake Ontario

- Rewa Phansalkar, Research and Outreach Specialist, New York State Water Resources Institute at Cornell University

Building a More Just, Equitable, and Climate-Resilient Brunswick, GA

- Beth Remmes, Coastal Outreach and Resiliency Coordinator, Georgia Interfaith Power & Light

- Rachael Thompson, Executive Director, Glynn Environmental Coalition
- Dominique Mack, Founder/CEO, Community Rx
- Brandi Lyde-Whitfield, Member, A Better Glynn
- Helen Rachel Ladson, Climate Ambassador, Golden Isles Coastal Resiliency Network

Demonstrating Economic and Social Return on Investment as a Tool for Encouraging Community Adaptation

- Daniel Rossi-Keen, Executive Director, RiverWise
- Christopher Briem, Regional Economist, University of Pittsburgh, University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR)
- Jmar Bey, President, Hilltop Rising
- Scott Wolovich, RiverWise

FEATURED SESSION:



**DORIS DUKE
FOUNDATION**

The Forest Innovation Platform: Powering Data-Driven Decisions to Support Forest Protecting the Future of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Through Adaptation (Special Session)

Room 305

As climate change accelerates the threats of wildfire, insects, and disease on U.S. forests, land managers need timely, reliable data to make informed decisions in a rapidly changing environment. The Forest Innovation Platform (FIP) — a free, open-source suite of integrated data and tools developed by American Forests in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, and the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science — is designed to accelerate climate-informed forest vulnerability assessments and translate them into on-the-ground planning and management decisions.

This workshop offers participants an advance preview of the FIP ahead of its August launch, with hands-on time exploring the Forest Vulnerability Assessment Tool, Data Hub, and Tool Library. Attendees will leave with a working understanding of the platform's functionality and a direct opportunity to shape its final development — participants will be invited to serve as site testers for the FIP's second phase of user testing in May. This discussion will directly inform which tools are prioritized in the Tool Library and how the FIP develops in its next phase. Participants working on related initiatives will also be invited to explore how their work might leverage or connect to the FIP going forward.

Speakers:

- Charlie Truettner, Director, Climate Science, American Forests
- Chris Swanston, Director of Science, Save the Redwoods League

Our Heritage, Our Future: Frontline Communities Share Stories of Heritage-based Strategies for Locally-Led Adaptation

Adaptation From the Land to the Sea: Addressing Unique Challenges for Rural & Island Communities (Special Session)

Rooms 310/311

Even in communities that have lost much, culture and heritage remain as an enduring source of strength. The IPCC 6th Assessment Report found that inclusive planning initiatives informed by cultural values are key to helping prevent maladaptation but also that climate change is driving cultural losses. Despite this close culture-adaptation nexus, culture and heritage are often missing from adaptation planning and policy. This may begin to change with the inclusion of cultural heritage as one of only 7 thematic targets of the UN's 2023 Global Goal on Adaptation Framework (GGA). This session will introduce participants to 5 frontline U.S. communities working to take the GGA cultural heritage target forward. Presentations by community leaders from American Samoa, the Gullah/Geechee coast, Hawaii, the Tijuana estuary, and the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo will demonstrate what locally-led, culture-based adaptation work in the US context looks like while a mini-Tools Café will give participants a chance to explore with these leaders avenues for further incorporating cultural heritage into their own adaptation work. The session will also present the new Heritage Adapts! 3000 x 2030 campaign which aims to support adaptation action for heritage sites and cultural practices in every community.

Speakers

- **Andrew Potts**, Director of Policy and Practice, Preserving Legacies
- **Andrea (Andie) Everett**, Director, T'ai'u Hlioran Hurini (Tiwa Women's Circle)/ MatriARC PROJECTION LLC
- **Kristen Goodrich**, Director of Training and Engagement, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve
- **Empress Holliday**, Coastal Training Program Associate/Research Assistant, Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association at the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve
- **Brenda Lima**, Hui Mālama Loko l'a (HMLI) Coordinator, Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, Kāne'ohe, HI
- **Queen Quet Marquette L. Goodwine**, Chiefess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation, Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition

Adapting to Climate Change in the Electric Power Sector

Adaptation & Mitigation Intersection

Room 315

Ensuring a reliable and resilient power system in the future brings a host of challenges as technologies, customer demands, and climate conditions evolve. Given the criticality of the power system in maintaining lives, livelihoods, and economic stability, it is important that investments are made to adapt appropriately to safeguard future operations. These adaptations can come in many forms, including physical hardening, diversification of assets, changes in technology types, relocation of key assets, and operational strategies.

Determining which adaptation options make sense and are cost-effective depends on a range of factors. Efforts to improve the representation of such factors within planning studies require novel modeling approaches, additional data integration, and targeted decision-support frameworks to handle the uncertainties and complexities present. Done correctly, such methods can aid companies in confidently justifying and prioritizing adaptation investments. This session will explore power system adaptation through case study examples, methodological approaches, and real-world challenges facing companies. We will structure it as a panel discussion, with each presenter sharing introductory remarks related to their work, followed by moderated discussion using both prepared questions and audience engagement.

Speakers

- **Andrea Staid**, Principal Technical Leader, EPRI
- **Jesse Bukenberger**, Operations Research Specialist, EPRI
- **M. Granger Morgan**, Carnegie Mellon University
- **Sabrina Nguyen**, Duquesne Light Company

The Resilience Advantage: Helping Small Cities Strengthen Local Economies Against Climate Disasters Workshop and Roving Idea-Storm Equipping Ourselves For the Path Ahead Through Practical Training and Workforce Development (Special Session)

Room 316

Small businesses are among the most exposed to climate disruptions—floods, heatwaves, wildfires, storms, and power outages—yet they are also essential to the resilience of small cities and towns. When local businesses close, communities lose jobs, services, and economic stability. Despite this, many small municipalities lack the staff capacity, technical tools, and partnerships needed to systematically support business resilience.

This interactive working group builds on insights from The Resilience Advantage: A Small Business Guide to Preparing for Floods, Heatwaves, Wildfires, and Other Climate Disasters and expands the conversation to the role small cities can play in protecting their local economies.

Designed as a "roving idea-storm" (World Café format), the session engages participants in small-group conversations around three practical questions:

1. How can small cities better identify climate risks affecting local businesses and commercial districts?
2. What actions can local governments take—within existing authority and resources—to help businesses prepare for climate disruptions?
3. What partnerships, tools, and support systems could help small cities scale resilience planning despite limited staff and budgets?

Groups will rotate through each discussion topic, generating ideas and building on one another's perspectives. A final report-out will synthesize key themes and highlight opportunities for action.

Participants will leave with practical approaches for integrating small-business resilience into local adaptation strategies, along with new ideas for strengthening economic stability, protecting workers, and supporting community recovery in the face of climate disruption.

Speakers

- Joyce Coffee, Founder and President, Climate Resilience Consulting
- Justine Shapiro-Kline, ONE Architecture

Tools Café: Tools to Support Local Adaptation Efforts Communication & Stakeholder Engagement

Rooms 317/318

Presentations

Coastal Resilience in Your Hands: Interactive Tools for Immersive Climate Engagement

- Juliano Calil, CEO and Chief Scientist, Virtual Planet
- Tiffany Wise-West, Sustainability and Resiliency Officer, City of Santa Cruz, CA

Bay Adapt Currents: Metrics that Move with the Tides

- Cory Copeland, Environmental Climate Scientist, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

High Tide Flood Viewer: From Nuisance to Disaster around the San Francisco Bay Shoreline

- Sierra Ramer, Coastal Resilience Scientist, Pathways Climate Institute
- Meagan Brown, Environmental Data Scientist, Pathways Climate Institute

Using Urban Heat Island Data to Advance Climate Resilience in Coastal and Inland Communities

- Taj Schottland, Director of Climate Resilience, Trust for Public Land
- Sarah Walwema, Climate Project Manager, Trust for Public Land
- Dale Watt, GIS Project Manager, Trust for Public Land
- Brendan Shane, Climate Director, Trust for Public Land

Connecting Communities with Climate Adaptation Expertise through the Registry of Adaptation Practitioners

- Arden Drake, Senior Scientist, EcoAdapt

Decision Making Under Deep Uncertainty Frameworks for Climate Adaptation

Decision Making Tools & Technology

Rooms 319/320

Climate adaptation professionals face an unprecedented challenge: making robust long-term decisions when we can't predict future conditions or agree on how to balance competing priorities. As climate impacts intensify across diverse communities and sectors, Decision Making Under Deep Uncertainty (DMDU) frameworks provide methodical, evidence-based approaches to navigate these complex challenges and strengthen adaptation practice.

This hands-on training equips participants with practical DMDU tools applicable across sectors, from water resources and coastal resilience to infrastructure planning and ecosystem management. Through accessible explanations and diverse case studies, we'll demonstrate how the XLRM framework (Uncertainties, Policy Levers, Relationships, and Metrics) transforms paralysis into action by systematically mapping decision challenges.

Participants will apply these concepts immediately through structured worksheets tailored to their own work. With facilitated check-ins throughout, you'll identify key uncertainties, explore policy options, map system relationships, and define success metrics for your specific adaptation challenge, building capacity to advance the field.

Following the session, we'll synthesize inputs across all participants and provide a workshop analyses summary showing how DMDU applies to your challenge, visualized

Speaker

- Derek Nguyen, Partnerships Manager, Virga Labs

5:15 — 7:00 pm: Margaret A. Davidson Networking Reception and Poster Session *West Atrium*



Networking is the added value of any in-person meeting, and few people knew how to network better than Margaret A. Davidson. Not only was Margaret a leader in the field of adaptation, but also a consummate networker. In 2017, when we heard Margaret would be unable to attend the Forum, we wanted to make sure she was here in spirit, so we named the Tuesday Night Networking Reception in her honor — The Margaret A. Davidson Networking Reception. We continue to cherish her leadership, friendship, and vision, and encourage every Forum participant to honor her memory by moving climate adaptation forward.

This honor for Margaret is even more fitting as she is one of the founders of the Forum. She joined the first planning call to create the Forum, signed on to the Steering Committee and helped guide the process forward, helping to make the event what it is today. Thank you, Margaret. Tuesday night we will network in your honor and hopefully live up to your example.

Poster Session:

- **P1. Connecting Past and Present: Supporting Indigenous Food Sovereignty through Archaeological Education**, Caty DuDevoir, Graduate Student, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- **P2. Climate Change Impacts on Agricultural Best Management Practices in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed**, Maya Struzak, PhD Student, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University
- **P3. Novel Core/Shell Nanoparticles for Climate-related Disease Management in Citrus**, Kenedy Sánchez, PhD Student, Carnegie Mellon University
- **P4. Climate impacts and solutions across the food-water- land nexus in island communities**, Subhashni Raj, Assistant Professor, University of Hawaii, at Manoa
- **P.5 Backcasting Climate Futures: Collaborative Storytelling for Adaptation Planning**, Emily Goniea, Climate Adaptation and Resilience Fellow, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
- **P6. Submerge NY: A Creative Toolkit for Flood Awareness and Community Engagement**, Rewa Phansalkar, Research and Outreach Specialist, New York State Water Resources Institute at Cornell University
- **P7. Visual Communication as a Climate Adaptation Tool for Comprehension and Action**, Brooke Mehney, Planning Associate, The Water Institute
- **P8. Adapting Through Lived Experience: Centering Equity in Climate Work**, Idalia Cabrales, Planner, Brendle Group
- **P10. Incorporating sea level rise planning into the Washington Department of Natural Resources' aquatic land management practices**, Katalin Plummer, Sea Level Rise Planner, Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- **P11. Climate Adaptation in State Fish and Wildlife Agencies**, Aviv Karasov-Olson, Climate Adaptation Program Manager, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- **P12. Voices from the Field and Forest: Enabling Environment for Adaptation in Natural Resource Management**, Eliisa Carter, Research Associate, Public Lands Policy Group, Colorado State University
- **P13. Who is driving demand for housing development in North Carolina coastal floodplains?**, Isabel Kwass-Mason, Research Analyst, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- **P14. Teeing up for climate change: Understanding how the golf can fit into community and landscape adaptation**, Arden Drake, Senior Scientist, EcoAdapt
- **P15. Leveraging Wearable Technology for Monitoring Heat Stress in Occupational Settings**, Najma Akpanoko, Graduate Student Researcher, Vanderbilt University
- **P16. Tools for mainstreaming climate adaptation in city financial planning and budgeting**, Adrienne I Greve, Professor, CRO, Cal Poly - SLO, Climate Solutions International
- **P17. How climate-related anxiety can protect households from some of the climate change related health hazards**, Kelsi Perttula, Assistant Professor, California State University East Bay
- **P18. Equitable Pathways to Home Decarbonization: Examining How Socioeconomic Factors Shape Residents' Agency and Action**, Carlie Trott, Associate Professor, University of Cincinnati
- **P19. Bottom-Up Heat Adaptation: A Case Study from Stuttgart, Germany**, Yilin Giltinan, Management Team Member, Community Adaptation Learning Exchange
- **P20. Equitable design, implementation, and maintenance of nature-based solutions: Perspectives from greenspace development organizations**, Linnea Warren May, Policy researcher, RAND
- **P21. Expanding and Building Stewardship in Pittsburgh's Greenways**, Isabella Gross, Principal Environmental Planner, City of Pittsburgh
- **P22. FloodVision in Action: Visualizing Flood Risks to Support Communities and Resilience Planning**, Dan Rizza, Director, Program on Sea Level Rise, Climate Central
- **P23. Where Do We Start? A Rapid Adaptation Gap Analysis for Under-Resourced Municipalities**, Alan Bush, Principal, Kairon
- **P24. Puget Sound Climate Preparedness Collaborative Community Needs Survey Results and Analysis**, Emma Van Orsow, NOAA Coastal Resilience Fellow, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks & Adriana Apintiloaiei, NOAA Coastal Resilience Fellow, King County
- **P25. The FloodWise Communities Experience: Boosting Local Capacity through Stormwater Vulnerability Assessments**, Tori Field, Sustained Engagement Specialist, GLISA - The Great Lakes CAP/RISA Team
- **P26. Flooded Tracks, Tough Calls: Modeling Dispatcher's Risk-Taking in Subway Flood Scenarios**, Jinfeng Lou, Carnegie Mellon University
- **P27. Developing and Sustaining Regionally Responsive Tools and Resources for a More Resilient Region**, A-bel Gong, Resilience Program Manager, San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative
- **P28. Projected IDF Curves for Climate-Resilient Stormwater Infrastructure**, Emily Zuetell, Ph.D. Researcher, Carnegie Mellon University
- **P29. Participatory GIS Urban Development Tool (PIVOT): Helping Great Lakes Communities Plan for Climate In-migration**, Jenna Jorns, GLISA Director, Great Lakes CAP/RISA (GLISA), UM
- **P30. Vulnerability Assessments 101: Developing Practical Climate Vulnerability Assessments for Resilience Planning - Pittsburgh Edition**, Michelle Miro Senior Information Scientist, RAND Corporation

- **P31. Improving Actionable Information for Climate Planning and Hazard Mitigation in Illinois**, Trent Ford, Illinois State Climatologist, Illinois State Water Survey, University of Illinois
- **P32. Evaluating Drinking Water System Resilience to Severe Weather Events Using Boil Water Notices and Bottled Water Sales**, Marlee Shaffer, Postdoctoral Scholar, Carnegie Mellon University
- **P33. Using Scenario Planning to Build Resilience in the Great Lakes and Southeast Regions**, Kim Channell, Senior Climatologist, GLISA, University of Michigan
- **P35. Moving Beyond Design Events: Quantifying Biases in Design-Based Flood Maps Using Integrated Statistical-Hydrodynamic Response-Based Flood Hazard Assessment**, Sadaf Mahmoudi, Postdoctoral Researcher, Carnegie Mellon University
- **P36. Building Resilient Coasts through Synthetic Compound Flood Hazard Scenarios**, Sadaf Mahmoudi, Postdoctoral Researcher, Carnegie Mellon University
- **P38. Hidden Hazards: Wildfire Risk and preparedness in Coastal Communities**, Molly Chamberlain, Environmental Planner, SWCA Environmental Consultants
- **P39. Neighborhood-level Heat Vulnerability Mapping to Inform Equitable Adaptation in Jodhpur City, India**, Rachit Sharma, Postdoctoral Scholar, University of California, Berkeley
- **P40. A National Survey on the Effectiveness of Climate Resilience Measures for Extreme Events**, Peter Schultz, Vice President, Climate Risk and Resilience, ICF
- **P41. U.S. Billion-dollar Weather and Climate Disasters - 2025 in Review and Future Research**, Adam Smith, Senior Climate Impacts Scientist, Climate Central
- **P42. Building Community Resilience Through Co-Design: Developing North Carolina's Landslide Early Warning System**, Karin Rogers, Director, UNC Asheville's NEMAC
- **P43. Breaking Point: Extreme Temperatures and Their Impact on Infrastructure and Social Vulnerability**, Indrani Ghosh, Resiliency Practice Leader, Weston & Sampson
- **P44. Hot Environments**, Cool Collaboratives: Regional Approaches to Extreme Heat Resilience, Sasha Shyduroff-Gutman, Principal Planner, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and Metro Mayors Climate Taskforce
- **P45. Alternative Currencies to Fund Climate Adaptation**, Nahal Ipakchi, Senior Climate Lead, BluePoint Planning & Phoenix Armenta, Sr. Manager for Climate Equity and Community Engagement, SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- **P46. Accounting for Exposure: Lessons for the 2029 Louisiana Coastal Master Plan**, Patrick Kane, Policy Researcher, The Water Institute of the Gulf
- **P47. Residential Pollution Relocations: The Original Anthropogenic Environmental Hazard Remedy**, Coryn Wolk, PhD Candidate in Geography, University of Delaware
- **P48. Evaluating adaptation investment at scale: a hindcast of coastal Louisiana without post-Katrina infrastructure improvements**, Jordan Fischbach, Vice President of Applied Research, The Water Institute
- **P49. Moving Beyond Vulnerability: Implementing resilience and adaptation strategies through community planning in coastal communities**, Cristina Bejarano, Adaptation Planner, Senior Associate, WRT, Kristen Zeiber, Senior Associate, WRT, and Chris Whitney, Chief Planner, City of Norfolk
- **P50. Protecting People, Place, and Environment through Honolulu's One Water Climate Change Adaptation Framework**, Teresa Sprague, Water Resources Climate & Resilience Lead, Planning and Policy, Brown and Caldwell
- **P53. Rooted in Resilience: A Community Plan for The City of Brunswick, Georgia's Urban Forest**, Ashby Nix Worley, Coastal Climate Adaptation Director, The Nature Conservancy - Georgia Chapter
- **P55. The State of Resilience — A Peer Exchange on State Resilience Programs**, Cassandra Bhat, Director, Climate Resilience, ICF
- **P57. Missionscape: Resilience Dashboards for Global U.S. Military Facilities**, Trevor Even, Climate/Extreme Event SME, Colorado State University - CEMML
- **P58. Community Development Approaches to Supporting Nature-Based Strategies: How Do We Show Up as Practitioners?**, Emma Polhemus, Shore Corps Steward, Maine Conservation Corps
- **P59. Connecting Nature-Based Solutions and Health Outcomes to Support Benefit-Cost Analysis**, Diane Mas, Ph.D., REHS/RS, Chief Resilience & Sustainability Officer, Fuss & O'Neill
- **P60. Barriers and Enablers to Living Shorelines as Perceived by Waterfront Property Owners in Virginia**, Trang Le, Assistant Research Professor, Institute for Coastal Adaptation & Resilience - Old Dominion University
- **P61. Roots for Resilience**, Jackie Specht, Resilient Systems Officer, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- **P62. Healing in the Rustbelt: Phytoremediation for Land, Community, and Climate Resilience**, Tait Ferguson, Climate Project Manager, Trust for Public Land
- **P63. Parks and Green Schoolyards: Nature-Based Solutions for Heat, Flooding, and Equity**, Taj Schottland, Director of Climate Resilience, Trust for Public Land
- **P64. What and how are we learning from each other in the adaptation field?**, Deborah Rudnick, Senior Scientist, EcoAdapt
- **P65. People and Place: How Building a Network of Resilience Hubs Expands Services and Supports Communities**, Sascha Petersen, Director, Adaptation International
- **P66. Durable Networks for Regional Climate Adaptation: Stories of Impact**, Melissa Ocana, Climate Adaptation Coordinator, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Sean Bath, CAP/RISA Program Manager, NOAA, Julia Kim, Partnerships Lead, Farallon Strategies, Annie Bennett, Associate Director, Adaptation Program, Georgetown Climate Center, Amanda Leinberger, Adaptation Program Manager and PhD Candidate, Center for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions, University of Arizona, Jes Szetela, Climate Program Associate, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- **P67. The Climate Resilience Field at a Crossroads: From Growth to Systemic Change**, Joyce Coffee, Founder and President, Climate Resilience Consulting
- **P68. Overcoming Legal and Policy Barriers to Support Community-led Migration**, Allison Haertling, Planner/Research Scientist, The Water Institute
- **P69. Heat Action in Central Texas: From Playbooks to Implementation-Accelerating Action in Austin and San Antonio**, Paul Nelson, Founding Principal, Resilient Cities Catalyst
- **P70. Policy Coherence for Flood Resilience and Climate Adaptation**, Bayode Tade Omoyeni, Graduate Researcher, Brandenburg University of Technology, Germany
- **P73. Compound Coastal Flood Adaptation: From Research to Practice**, Sadaf Mahmoudi, Postdoctoral Researcher, Carnegie Mellon University
- **P74. Community-informed adaptation and ensemble-based flood modeling for coastal resilience**, Matthew Weathers, Graduate Student, Carnegie Mellon University
- **P75. GLISA's Great Lakes Ensemble: Climate Projections for the Great Lakes Region**, Rachel Kelly, Climatologist, GLISA - University of Michigan
- **P76. Experiencing Heat: As a Chronic, Normalized Hazard or a Silent, Unevenly Felt Concern**, Mary Munoz Encinas & Kendra Rentz, Arizona State University
- **P77. From Theory to Impact - The Power of Applied Research for Climate Adaptation**, David Rounce, CMU CEE
- **P78. Cultivating Heat Readiness in the Southwest**, Mary Munoz Encinas, Arizona State University
- **P80. Building Coastal Resilience with the Coastal Inundation Community of Practice**, Lauren Bissonnette, Resilience Engagement Specialist & Community of Practice Coordinator, Lynker in support of NOAA Office for Coastal Management, Katy Hintzen, Hawai'i Sea Grant & Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center

- **P81. Lessons Learned in Partnerships for Community-Led Action AKA How to *Bleep* Up and Do Better**, Kathryn Sweet Keating, Social Scientist, The Water Institute, The Water Institute
- **P82. Complicated but Possible: Catalyzing Transformative Climate Adaptation Through Equitable Municipal Climate Planning in Massachusetts**, Cheryl Holley, Chief, Hassanamisco Nipmuc Band, Peyton Siler Jones, Founding Principal, Siler Climate Consulting
- **P83. THEORY x PRACTICE: Integrating Data-Driven Climate Tools with Lived Experience for Resilient Community Decision-making**, Meghna Roy, Climate+Sustainability Project Manager, evolveEA, Valeria Duque-Villegas
- **P84. Grounded Resilience: Community-Driven Strategies for Reducing Heat Health Risk**, Susan Paulukonis, Deputy Director, Tracking California
- **P85. Resilience to Rising Tides: Partnerships to Adapt San Francisco's Southeast**, Adam Varat, Deputy Program Manager - Planning, Waterfront Resilience Program, Port of San Francisco, Luiz Barata, Senior Planner/ Urban Designer, Waterfront Resilience Program, Port of San Francisco
- **P86. The Health Lens: Reimagining the Built Environment for a Changing Climate**, Chanel Jackson, Senior Water Resources Engineer, Nitsch Engineering
- **P87. Buy-In's Better Buyouts Café: Co-Creating Safer Futures with Community Partners**, Kelly Main, Executive Director, Buy-In Community Planning, Jennifer Crosslin, Project Manager, Buy-In Community Planning
- **P88. Together We Thrive: Collective land and housing solutions to our shared climate crisis**, Maggie Osthues, Program Manager, Climigration Network
- **P89. Washington's Shoreline Management Act Rulemaking: Adapting to Sea Level Rise**, Charlotte Dohrn, Climate Resilience Planner, Washington State Department of Ecology
- **P90. Bridging Governance**, Building Resilience: Roads, Marsh, and Military Readiness, Annie Cox, Watershed Resilience Manager, Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership
- **P91. Local Focus**, Outsized Impact: Accelerating the adaptation of biodiversity and human communities through local conservation, Zachary Cannizzo, Conservation Ecology Manager, McHenry County Conservation District
- **P92. Green, Grey, and Everything Between: Santa Cruz's Coastal Resilience in Action**, Kris May, CEO and Founder, Pathways Climate Institute
- **P94. Toward Safer, More Equitable, and Climate-Resilient Freight Transportation with Physics-Informed AI**, Ava Jahanbiglari, Ph.D. Student, Carnegie Mellon University
- **P96. Evaluating Wastewater Reuse Potential for Managed Aquifer Recharge in the U.S.**, Fiza Jalees, PhD Student, Carnegie Mellon University
- **P97. Building Water Secure Communities in Colorado**, Emily Adrid, Water Planning and Climate Impacts Specialist, Colorado Water Conservation Board
- **P98. Building Water Utility Capacity: A Decision-Support Tool for Stormwater and Drinking Water Climate Adaptation**, Lisa O'Fiesh, Climate Resilience Project Manager, Corvias Infrastructure Solutions
- **P99. Climate Change Education for Action: How NOAA Planet Stewards Position Learners as Agents of Change**, Carlie Trott, Associate Professor, University of Cincinnati
- **P100. Mapping the Scope of Climate Higher Education Programs: a Review of Goals, Missions, and Courses**, Jennifer Brousseau, Assistant Professor, University of New England
- **P101. Measuring Changing Climate Conditions In Urban Harbors: The Stone Living Lab's Collaborative Climate Change Observatory**, Joe Christo, Chief Resilience Officer and Co-Director, Boston Harbor Now and Stone Living Lab
- **P102. Advancing sea-level rise projections in the Gulf to inform coastal adaptation strategies**, Matthew Weathers, Graduate Student, Carnegie Mellon University
- **P103. Translating compound flood modeling for coastal decision makers**, Ali Rellinger, Mississippi State University and Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant
- **P104. Building Resilient Coasts through Synthetic Compound Flood Hazard Scenarios**, Sadaf Mahmoudi, Postdoctoral Researcher, Carnegie Mellon University
- **P105. Mind the Gap: CBCI as a Bridge Between Community Risk, Recovery, and Resilience**, Charles Wallace, Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Community Resilience Center at The Water Institute
- **P106. Climate and Health: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Evidence Building Insights from National Grant Programs**, Evan Mallen, Health Scientist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- **P107. Building National-to-Local Networks for Adaptation: Advancing Regional Resilience Innovation and Incubation through Collaboration and Innovation**, Amanda Farris, Managing Director, University of Minnesota, Research Development Office and R2I2 National Office
- **P108. Resilience Innovation Incubator for Cascadia Coastal Hazards**, Alessandra Burgos, Project Manager, Oregon State University
- **P109. Developing Subseasonal to Seasonal Weather Prediction Tools to Meet Agricultural Needs in the Midwest United States**, Trent Ford, Illinois State Climatologist, Illinois State Water Survey, University of Illinois
- **P110. Co-Developing Mountains-to-Coast Climate Solutions through Integrated Science and Practice**, Georgina Sanchez, Director of Research Engagement, NC State's Center for Geospatial Analytics
- **P111. Adaptive Water Resilience and Climate Operations in the Southwest Incubator (AWRCOS Incubator)**, Amy Quandt, Associate Professor of Environmental Geography, San Diego State University USA
- **P112. From maps to action: AI-enabled detection of invasive Caribbean pine and low-intensity fires to support climate adaptation in Puerto Rico**, He Yin, Associate Professor, Kent State University
- **P113. Bridging Science and Community: Advancing Green Infrastructure for a Resilient Future**, Sarah States
- **P114. Coastal Resilience through Effective Versatile Adaptation and Sediment Strategies for Sea-Level Rise Engagement (CREVASSE)**, Christopher Esposito, Research Scientist, The Water Institute
- **P115. The Northern Great Plains Regional Incubator for Drought Resiliency**, Kyle Bocinsky, Director of Climate Extension, Montana Climate Office, U. of Montana
- **P117. Identifying Community Need Based Adaptation and Resilience Priorities in the Northeast**, Jim O'Donnell
- **P18. Microbes as Activators of Abundance for Food Security and Community Resilience**, Joerg Graf
- **P119. Maximizing Resilience to Winter Weather in Future Electrical Power Systems**, Ana Dyreson
- **P120 Assessing and Accelerating Living Shoreline in the US Gulf Coast for Resilience and Habitat Restoration**, Warda Ashraf, Associate Professor, University of Texas at Arlington
- **P121. Agility in a Time of Uncertainty: Cultivating Next Practices for Adaptation**, Christine Mondor, Principal and Co-Founder, evolveEA, Brian Wolovich, Director, Triboro Ecodistrict, Pete Munoz, Biohabitats, Ariane Laxo, Director Of Sustainability, HGA Architects and Engineers, Aaron Birdy, Plan/Build Director, UpstreamPgh
- **P122. From Accountability to Impact: An Evaluative Framework for Transformative Capacity for Climate Adaptation**, Urusha Lamsal, Graduate Research Assistant, University of Wyoming

8:00 AM — 5:30 PM

Registration *East Atrium*

9:00 AM — 10:30 AM Session Block #4

Reztoration: Mad Dog Reservation - An Indigenous Community Resilience Boardgame Climate Justice & Equity

Room 303

This session will showcase a new boardgame called Reztoration developed by the College of Menominee Nation - Sustainable Development Institute in collaboration with GLISA. The session will include a presentation and demonstration of the boardgame followed by hands-on exercises for participants to deepen their understanding of the topic. The setting of the game is the Mad Dog Reservation which is facing the beginning of a climate crisis. The seasons shift and weather patterns once known across generations are becoming unfamiliar to all beings—people, plants, and animals alike. Your goal is to carry the Tribe's/Team's values forward and help the Reservation as a whole continue to thrive in a changing world with an uncertain future. To do this, you will play as one of six characters in a cooperative team setting.

Speakers

- Omar Gates, GLISA Climate Integration Associate, GLISA
- Sara Smith, GLISA

Lessons from Pittsburgh on Scaling Equitable Tree Canopy through Catalytic Investments and Regional Collaboration

Nature Based Solutions

Room 304

Catalytic investments accelerate local resilience by funding innovation, deep partnerships, and collaboration at scales rarely possible through small-dollar grants. This session highlights how a \$1 million Action Fund investment from Google.org brought together partners, including the City of Pittsburgh, Tree Pittsburgh, the Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT), and Resilient Cities Catalyst (RCC), to explore ways to manage and grow the urban tree canopy to maximize climate resilience benefits for the communities with the greatest need. The grant allowed the team to leverage the benefits of trees across scales—from individual parcels, to neighborhoods, to the wider region—while forging durable partnerships to sustain investments long-term.

Presenters will share how Pittsburgh reframed trees as vital climate resilience infrastructure, built support to resource them accordingly, and used innovative data analysis techniques to prioritize climate-vulnerable neighborhoods for planting projects. Community partner Tree Pittsburgh will highlight effective community engagement strategies, and regional partner CONNECT will share how lessons learned are being scaled across Allegheny County. RCC will close with transferable lessons for other cities pursuing similar work.

DAY 2: Wednesday, May 13

Schedule At-A-Glance

8:00 am - 9:00 am	Registration and Coffee
9:00 am - 10:30 am	Session Block #4
10:30 am - 11:00 am	Break & Snack
11:00 am - 12:30 pm	Session Block #5
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Lunch (provided for all attendees)
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Session Block #6
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Break & Snack
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Session Block #7

Participants will leave with strategies for reframing nature-based solutions as resilience infrastructure, practical approaches to regional scaling and community engagement, and insights into how catalytic funding unlocks collaboration.

Speakers

- Angelica Greco, Resilience Program Manager, ICLEI USA
- Clara Kitongo, Tree Equity Manager, Tree Pittsburgh
- Michael Kelley, Utility Arborist, City of Pittsburgh
- Mbacke Faye, Associate Director, Resilient Cities Catalyst
- Rebecca Kiernan, Director of Collaborative Funding, Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT)
- Morgan Florsheim, Program Associate, Resilient Cities Catalyst

Climate Services for Adaptation: Challenges, Successes, and Opportunities

Research & Science of Adaptation

Room 305

Climate services — the provision and use of climate data, information, and knowledge to assist decision making — is a crucial component of successful climate adaptation. However, the field currently faces numerous challenges, including a dwindling funding environment, differing community capacity, and rapid technological changes such as the use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. This working group session seeks to provide a structured format for discussion about the current state of climate services, the challenges and opportunities being faced, and how climate service providers and practitioners can better actualize adaptation and support the communities we serve. The session seeks to follow the aims of the National Adaptation Forum and find an alternative to “death by PowerPoint” by providing two structured but highly interactive activities. The first is designed to stimulate short, one-on-one discussions on a variety of climate service areas, and the second provides an opportunity for attendees to discuss a particular climate service topic in depth within a small group. The session ends with high level report-outs to the group and discussion of next steps before closing.

Speakers

- Lena Easton-Calabria, Policy Analyst; Managing Director and Co-Investigator, RAND; MARISA - Mid-Atlantic NOAA CAP/RISA
- Sarah Helmer, Program Manager, COLEARN - Central Midwest NOAA CAP/RISA, University of Iowa
- Benét Duncan, Managing Director, Western Water Assessment - Intermountain West NOAA CAP/RISA, University of Colorado Boulder
- Stacie Reece, Program Manager, Climate Assessment for the Southwest (CLIMAS) - Southwest NOAA CAP/RISA, University of Arizona

From the Assessment to Reality: Helene's Lessons for Community-Centered Resilience

Extreme Events

Room 307

In this symposium, Asheville-based climate practitioners from Fernleaf, UNC Asheville's NEMAC, Siler Climate Consulting (SCC), and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) share lessons learned before, during, and after Hurricane Helene to illustrate how strong neighborhood networks strengthen community resilience and

recovery. Reflecting on the City's 2018 climate resilience assessment, presenters will highlight how the report and regional assessments accurately identified multi-hazard vulnerabilities, while Helene exceeded 500-year flood projections and revealed critical gaps in regional interdependence, recovery timelines, and community preparedness.

The session weaves storytelling and technical insight to explore how social resilience interacts with the built environment and hazard mitigation systems. Presenters will discuss post-Helene initiatives and how emergent neighborhood “resilience hubs” and community-led coordination filled vital gaps when traditional systems were overwhelmed. Participants will then take part in an interactive Community Resilience Mapping exercise, learning and practicing a relational framework for building trust with residents, then mapping neighborhood assets such as skills, gathering spaces, and vulnerable populations to identify opportunities for collaboration. Together, we'll discuss how adaptation practitioners, from planners to emergency managers, can integrate social infrastructure into climate planning, hazard mitigation, and recovery frameworks, ensuring community networks are seen as critical components of climate resilience.

Speakers

- Amber Weaver, VP Capacity Building, USDN
- Matt Hutchins, CEO and Senior Resilience Advisor, Fernleaf
- Karin Rogers, Director, UNC Asheville's NEMAC
- Peyton Siler Jones, Founding Principal, Siler Climate Consulting

Harvests of Sovereignty: Indigenous Food Systems in a Time of Climate Change

Agriculture & Food Security

Room 308

Indigenous communities have long sustained their well-being through subsistence economies and food sovereignty that honor relationships among people, place, and ecosystems. As climate change disrupts salmon runs, alters wildlife migrations, shifts plant seasons, and intensifies wildfires, these subsistence systems and the cultural knowledge they carry face increasing threats.

This session brings together Indigenous leaders and community partners from the Gullah/Geechee Nation, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Kake Climate Partnership (Tlingit, Southeast Alaska), and the Gwich'in Nation to share how they are advancing food sovereignty, resilience, and intergenerational knowledge transfer. Queen Quet will discuss how the Gullah/Geechee Nation integrates cultural heritage traditions into adaptation planning. Leech Lake representatives will highlight the central role of wild rice, traditional plants, and youth in sustaining Ojibwe lifeways. Dr. Figus will share how Kake centers a traditional foods economy and Indigenous Guardianship in local adaptation projects. Gwich'in perspectives will reflect teachings from the caribou and efforts to protect their calving grounds for future generations.

Through storytelling and dialogue, participants will gain insight into Indigenous-led approaches that uphold sovereignty, community resilience, and cultural continuity. This session encourages the integration of Indigenous food sovereignty principles into broader climate adaptation and policy efforts.

Speakers

- **Willow Jackson**, NOAA Coastal Resilience Fellow / Tribal Climate Resilience Specialist, Adaptation International(AI) and NOAA Coastal Resilience Specialist
- **Dr. Elizabeth Figus**, Environmental Consultant, Figus Consulting Services, LLC and Kake Climate Partnership
- **Queen Quet Marquette L. Goodwine**, Chiefess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation, Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition
- **Kate Hagsten**, Plants Program Director, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- **Crystal Frank-Welker**, Engagement specialist, University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment & Preparedness
- **Auralia Bellecourt**, Climate Project Coordinator of the Division of Resource Management, Forestry Department Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Coordinating Climate Services in a Changing Landscape

Public/Private Partnerships

Rooms 310/311

This session will engage participants to strategize coordination among existing and new climate service initiatives in today's changing landscape. These initiatives include a wide range of actions from providing data and information to supporting communities and collaborative knowledge building. Participants will first learn about the results of a pre-NAF strategy workshop and then participate in small group discussions with the goals to:

1. Develop a shared vision for continuity - and progress - across the climate services ecosystem;
2. Help groups to understand and articulate how their own work contributes to the ecosystem;
3. Establish mechanisms to improve coordination and collaboration;
4. Identify persistent gaps and opportunities to collaboratively remedy them.

The outcomes of the working group session will help identify redundancies and complementarity among existing and planned efforts, maximize coordination, and ensure that we are collectively moving towards more inclusive and effective climate services.

Speakers

- **Glynis Lough**, Director, ClimateLoop
- **Fred Lipschultz**, Independent researcher
- **Ned Gardiner**, Program Manager, NOAA
- **John Nordgren**, Managing Director, Climate Resilience Fund

Climate and Sustainability Planning for Tribal Communities in Washington State

Built Environment

Room 316

Indigenous knowledge systems are deeply interconnected with the natural environment and possess critical perspectives and solutions that can help to address the climate crises our communities face. Utilizing cultural knowledge and perspectives can offer invaluable insights and inform place-based planning decisions that are tailored to the impacted communities.

FEATURED SESSION:



The Future Forests: A look at the recent updated Reforestation Hub tool with interactive case studies for building the forests of the future Protecting the Future of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Through Adaptation (Special Session)

Room 315

This session will explore the new Reforestation Hub. This interactive session is made for foresters, landowners, conservationists, legislators, natural resource agency staff and anyone who is interested in planting our future forests in the U.S. From longleaf pines in the southeast to bottomland hardwoods in the Mississippi Delta to ponderosa pines in the west, Americans of indigenous and non-indigenous descent have relied on forests for centuries. Now, people like you are working to restore forests across the country where they are needed most. The Reforestation Hub Steering Committee is a partnerships founded on collating the latest reforestation science and data into a tool to advance collaborations, policy, funding and communications to support this critical effort—and we need your help and expertise.

Speaker

- **Jason Milks**, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Freshwater, The Nature Conservancy

In this interactive session, Seva Workshop will showcase three innovative climate and sustainability planning projects co-created with Tribal Nations in Washington State: the Tacoma Tidelands Subarea Plan, the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe's Housing Relocation Plan, and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians' Strategic Sustainability Plan. Each planning initiative explores the unique impacts and pressures faced by each community, efforts to adapt to sustainable lifestyles, and identifies actions to address these issues. Using a World Café format, the session will encourage participants to reflect on utilizing holistic approaches in climate adaptation and mitigation strategy development, and learn more about how indigenous knowledge and cultural systems can steer effective climate adaptation and mitigation strategies that center community priorities, aspirations, and cultural longevity.

Speakers

- **Radhika Nair**, Founder, Principal Urban Planner, Seva Workshop
- **Maraea O'Connor**, Associate Urban Planner, Seva Workshop
- **Mary Xiao**, Senior Urban Planner, Seva Workshop

Local Funding for Water Resilience and Circularity Addressing the Money Problem (Special Session)

Rooms 317/318

Climate change necessitates both water reuse and conservation, as well as a comprehensive “One Water” approach, integrating water, wastewater, and stormwater management to build resilient infrastructure. Yet securing sustainable local funding for these critical adaptations remains a pervasive challenge. This session, drawing upon Raftelis’s extensive consulting expertise in public finance and utility management, will delve into innovative local funding mechanisms empowering communities to strengthen the Circular Water Economy and deploy adaptive methods to address extreme precipitation, drought, and sea-level rise.

This moderated panel will convene leaders from water utilities and cities actively implementing integrated water management strategies and innovative funding solutions. Panelists will share their real-world experiences in establishing sustainable stormwater utilities and user fees, crafting integrated long-term financial plans, and designing equitable rate structures that secure vital capital for essential infrastructure upgrades. The discussion will cover strategies to ensure financial sufficiency, fund comprehensive capital improvement programs, address affordability concerns, build essential infrastructure, and foster critical community buy-in. Attendees will gain practical, actionable insights into navigating the financial, policy, and community engagement hurdles required to achieve a truly climate-resilient and circular “One Water” future.

Speakers

- Eugenia Manwelyan, Raftelis
- Rocky Craley, Raftelis
- Patricia Rogalski, Philadelphia Water Department
- Patrick Gaetjens, Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans
- John Ikeda, Water Environment Federation
- Will Pickering, Pittsburgh Water

Adaptivity Lab: Can you navigate your way through a climate challenge?

Communication & Stakeholder Engagement

Rooms 319/320

Pick a card, any card — actually, each group will pick a few cards in this interactive game that challenges groups to think about resilience holistically. In a choose-your-own-adventure format, cards will be drawn to determine community context, available resources, and eligible projects to withstand climate shocks and stressors. Using these cards, you will work together to create a climate adaptation strategy.

Decisions made and approaches taken will guide participants to various outcomes: short- mid-, and long-term adaptation, resilience, and floodplain management strategies; new partnerships; and financial implications.

Speakers

- Elaine Montes, Planner, Dewberry
- Julia Bontempo, Planner, Dewberry

10:30 AM — 11:00 AM

Break & Snack *Ballroom Gallery*

11:00 AM — 12:30 PM Session Block #5

Climate Justice & Equity

Room 303

Presentations

Implementing and Evaluating Health Equity in U.S. Climate Adaptation: Insights from Diverse Professionals

- Kristi Henricksen, PhD Candidate, University of California Davis - Davis, CA

Collaborative Solutions for Outdoor Workers Extreme Heat Relief

- Kendall Washington, Master’s of Public Health Student, Yale School of Public Health

Unfairly exposed but not especially worried: Climate change attitudes in U.S. frontline communities

- Jennifer Carman, Director of Survey Strategy, Yale Program on Climate Change Communication

Hyperlocal Air Quality Monitoring in Environmental Justice Communities Using Low-Cost Real-Time Sensors

- Vivek Ravichandran, Director of Research and Policy, Center for Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health INpowering Communities (CEEJH INC)

Tools Café: Research & Science of Adaptation

Room 305

Presentations

cOOl rOOftOOls

- Julia Nassar, Senior Climate and Energy Planner, Metropolitan Area Planning Council
- Rachel Bowers, Sr Data Analyst, Climate Specialty, Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Exploring the State Climate Summaries: Tools to Inform State-Specific Climate Adaptation

- Laura Stevens, Research Scientist, North Carolina State University
- Liz Cox, Engagement Producer, North Carolina Institute for Climate Studies
- Mark Essig, Science Writer, North Carolina State University, North Carolina Institute for Climate Studies

A Piece of CAKE: Advancing Climate Adaptation Through Knowledge Sharing

- Kathryn Braddock, Lead Scientist, EcoAdapt

ClimateInsight: Using AI to Find Climate Resilience Strategies Hidden in Municipal Plans

- Christina Mills, Deputy Director, Geos Institute
- Yen Kilday, Executive Director, Local Lift Lab

Nature Based Solutions

Room 307

Presentations

Adaptation Starts Offshore: Understanding the Role of Marine Conservation in Coastal Resilience

- Jillian Neuberger, Associate, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation/NOAA National Marine Protected Areas Center (Affiliate)

Transforming the Scale & Equity of Living Shorelines and NBS in South Carolina

- Susanna Hopkins, Resilience Program Manager, The Nature Conservancy

FEATURED SESSION:

Chief Resilience Officers as Policy Bridges: Connecting Climate Resources Across All Levels of Government

Bridging Governance (Special Session)

Room 304

As climate impacts intensify, state governments increasingly recognize that effective adaptation requires governance structures transcending traditional agency boundaries. In recent years, numerous states have established Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) positions to coordinate climate resilience, manage federal funding, and bridge state-local adaptation gaps.

This plenary session brings together three serving state Chief Resilience Officers representing different organizational models and regional contexts. Georgetown Climate Center's Joshua Saks will moderate, bringing relevant state experience with CROs from his role as Virginia's former Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources.

Grounded in Georgetown Climate Center's analysis of CRO positions across twelve states, the session explores how organizational placement, statutory authority, and resource access affect CRO effectiveness. Panelists will address practical coordination challenges across agencies with different missions; strategies for productive federal partnerships while serving state-local needs; balancing immediate disaster response with long-term planning; and ensuring resilience investments reach historically underserved communities.

Participants gain actionable insights into different organizational models—from networked approaches to centralized offices and leadership—and hear effective engagement strategies for building productive CRO partnerships regardless of their organizational affiliation.

Speakers

- **Joshua Saks**, Adaptation Program Director, Georgetown Climate Center
- **Nick Angarone**, NJ Chief Resilience Officer, NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Climate Resilience
- **Melissa Hoffer**, Climate Chief, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- **Anne Miller**, Colorado Resiliency Office Director, Colorado Department of Local Affairs

It's not Black and White, It's Greenish-Gray: the Havre de Grace Deep-Water Living Shoreline

- **Kate Vogel**, Senior Manager, Coastal Resilience, National Wildlife Federation

ENACTS: Overview, Insights, and Applications

- **Na Choih**, Graduate Research Assistant, Antioch University New England

The Boyd Living Shoreline: A Largescale Living Shoreline Project in South Carolina

- **Elizabeth Fly**, Director of Resilience & Ocean Conservation, The Nature Conservancy

Here Comes the Sun: A Holistic Look at Heat Mapping, Mitigation, and Evaluation Infrastructure

Room 308

This session will address how heat resilience can be strengthened through innovative built-environment strategies; grassroots community engagement and empowerment; and methodological evaluation. Speakers in this session will explore solar-reflective "cool" building envelopes and surfaces as key strategies for bolstering resilience to extreme heat and tools for comparing and selecting products; describe new initiatives in San Antonio, TX that combine multiple heat mitigation strategies with targeted implementation in response to heat mapping data; and discuss the results of Louisville, KY's 2015 heat mapping study, the interventions completed over the past decade, and the findings of a new study to evaluate their effectiveness. Attendees will walk away with knowledge of key heat

mitigation tools and resources, a blueprint for an innovative cool neighborhood approach that leverages community capacity building and public support to enhance heat resilience, and exclusive insight into how one of the first U.S. cities to embrace heat mapping and mitigation has evolved 10 years later.

Speakers

- **Audrey McGarrell**, Communications Manager, Cool Roof Rating Council
- **Maria Koetter**, Climate and Sustainability Specialist, CoolSeal LLC (formerly of Louisville Metro Government)
- **Kate Jaceldo**, Climate Adaptation Manager, City of San Antonio

How do you Prepare Colder Places for Hotter Weather? Building Resilient Health Systems (Special session)

Room 315

In traditionally temperate climates, extreme heat represents a novel hazard with significant health impacts and unique challenges: (1) buildings, including homes and public facilities, are largely unadapted, (2) community organizations have limited experience supporting residents during extreme heat events, and (3) public agencies have difficulty prioritizing extreme heat initiatives when heat waves may only happen a few times a year. In these regions, how do you build the interdepartmental and cross-sectoral capacity necessary to build resilience to rising temperatures?

In this session, three CDC Climate Resilient States and Cities Initiative (CRSCI) health department grantees will work with attendees to

investigate strategies to design, communicate, implement, and evaluate heat adaptation actions in regions where extreme heat preparedness represents a new public health capability. The Santa Clara County Department of Public Health, San Francisco Department of Public Health, and Oregon Health Authority will present both state and local perspectives and then lead attendees in small groups exercises to brainstorm how health departments can build capacity through (1) expanding networks, (2) leveraging data, (3) changing behaviors, and (4) identifying interventions with health co-benefits. By the end of this session, attendees will have new strategies to adapt and respond to new hazards.

Speakers

- **Matt Wolff**, Climate and Health Manager, San Francisco Department of Public Health
- **Alex Morrison**, Resilience GIS Analyst, San Francisco Office of Resilience and Capital Planning
- **Tonya Veitch**, Climate and Health Manager, County of Santa Clara, Public Health Department
- **Daaniya Iyaz**, King County

Applying the Flood Adaptation Hierarchy: A Framework for Equitable and Resilient Decision-Making

Decision Making Tools & Technology

Room 316

Sea level rise and extreme rainfall are intensifying, yet development continues in vulnerable areas—exacerbating risks to both people and ecosystems. In response, The Nature Conservancy introduced the Flood Adaptation Hierarchy in 2022: a practical framework that helps decision-makers explore the full spectrum of flood solutions and weigh their tradeoffs — from protection and restoration of natural buffers to defense using engineered structures.

This interactive session will introduce the flood adaptation hierarchy and demonstrate its practical application through a range of examples — from localized projects to regional planning and implementation initiatives. Participants will engage in hands-on exercises to evaluate adaptation strategies across different tiers of the hierarchy, considering ecological, economic, and social tradeoffs. The session will emphasize how the hierarchy supports equitable decision-making by encouraging nature-based solutions, community-led planning, and long-term viability.

Attendees will leave with tools to apply the hierarchy in diverse contexts and to facilitate inclusive conversations around flood risk. The session will incorporate breakout discussions, visual aids, and group problem-solving to support different learning styles and ensure accessibility. Presenters will highlight how DEIJ principles — such as evaluating the distribution of benefits and burdens — are embedded in the framework's use.

Speakers

- **Stevie Adams**, Senior Climate Adaptation Specialist, The Nature Conservancy in New York
- **Alyssa Mann**, Climate Resilience Project Director, The Nature Conservancy

- **Kyle Magyera**, Local Government Outreach Specialist, Wisconsin Wetlands Association
- **Suzanna Randall**, Chief Resiliency Officer, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- **Carolyn Fraioli**, Office of Climate Change Assistant Director, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- **Rewa Phansalkar**, Research and Outreach Specialist, New York State Water Resources Institute at Cornell University

How To Build The Evidence Base For Adaptation Is Adaptation Delivering? Monitoring & Evaluation to Advance the Field (Special Session)

Rooms 317/318

Undertaking the research to develop an evidence base is not an easy lift. This session will highlight some building blocks we can work from, such as learning to date and methodological approaches to answering the question “is adaptation working?” The session will include short presentations followed by a discussion.

Gathering evidence:

- Efficacy testing for progress in the field of climate adaptation. Deb Rudnick, EcoAdapt
- Validating community resilience indicators and indices. Michael Gerst, NIST
- Safeguarding assets (managing the unavoidable), Ann Kosmal, HOK
- Closing the loop between action and evidence: advancing public health through the Climate Ready States and Cities Initiative. Heather Joseph, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Monitoring, Evaluation & Innovation through the Climate Smart Communities Initiative. Arden Drake, EcoAdapt
- Lessons learned in an evolving federal landscape. Ned Gardiner, NOAA.

This session is the second of a three-part series. The first session, “Why We Need an Evidence Base For Adaptation,” is on Tuesday. The third, a working group entitled “Collaborating to Build the Evidence Base for Adaptation,” will take place on Thursday.

Moderator

- **Ned Gardiner**, Program Manager, NOAA Climate Program Office

Speakers

- **Heather Joseph**, Commander, U.S. Public Health Service Health Scientist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- **Arden Drake**, Senior Scientist, EcoAdapt
- **Deborah Rudnick**, Senior Scientist, EcoAdapt
- **Michael Gerst**, NIST Community Resilience Program
- **Ann Kosmal**, Firmwide Resilience Lead, HOK

The Future of Adaptation Policy: Building from Local Solutions to Develop Policy Priorities

Policy Solutions for Adaptation

Rooms 319/320

What policies are working where you live and work to advance climate adaptation? What can be learned—from the design of those policies, the stakeholders involved, or the funding attached—to inform policy

development in other communities or at the state or federal level? This working group session, coordinated by the American Society of Adaptation Professionals Policy Practice Group (PPG), will explore these questions to identify adaptation policy priorities that will help guide PPG's work for the years ahead.

During the session, participants will compare notes on policy processes and implementation in their own backyard, with a particular emphasis on the intersection of adaptation and mitigation (e.g., grid resilience, using mitigation to fund adaptation, building sector energy efficiency and adaptation). Participants will envision what adaptation policy could look like across the United States by 2030 and contribute specific ideas for how adaptation practitioners that come together through PPG and similar forums can advance this work in the intervening years.

Speakers

- **Anna McGinn**, Policy Director, Environmental and Energy Study Institute
- **Amy Rapp**, Co-PI and Co-Program Manager CREST FMIA/Co Leader Policy Practice Group (PPG) ASAP, Flood Mitigation Industry Association (FMIA) CREST Workforce Development Training Program
- **John Phillips**, ASAP Board President, Parametrix
- **Josh Foster**, Board Member & Affiliate, AdaptationLeader.org
- **Joel Smith**, Semi-retired consultant and researcher

Beyond Grants — Innovating Finance for Adaptation and Resilience

Addressing the Money Problem: Funding Adaptation (Special Session)

Rooms 310/311

The need for adaptation investments far outweighs the financial resources that most local governments have available. In the San Francisco Bay Area, for instance, an estimated \$110B is needed, while only \$5B is accessible through current programs. To address this shortfall, communities must innovate to secure sustainable sources to finance critical resilience projects. This symposium will spotlight creative approaches that diverse actors are leveraging to bridge resource gaps and take control of their resilience planning. Highlighting both successes and challenges, the discussion will center on application of public-private partnerships, blended finance, and other novel funding streams, aimed at empowering practitioners for funding a resilient future.

Speakers

- **Cassandra Bhat**, Director, Climate Resilience, ICF
- **Laura Mondragon**, Senior Director of Climate Resilience and Adaptation, Montgomery County Green Bank
- **Jessica Fain**, Director of Planning, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- **Peter Schultz**, Vice President, Climate Risk and Resilience, ICF

12:30 PM — 2:00 PM

Lunch *Ballroom ABC*

2:00 PM — 3:30 PM Session Block #6

Equipping Ourselves For the Path Ahead Through Practical Training and Workforce Development (Special Session)

Room 304

What kinds of training and tools will best equip adaptation practitioners with skills necessary to improve their skills? What will be the building blocks for workforce development in the adaptation field?

As the field of climate adaptation evolves, continuous learning and skills development are essential for practitioners to remain effective in addressing emerging challenges. This session focuses on showcasing practical training opportunities for adaptation professionals. Presentations will highlight training programs, tools, and other workplace development strategies that are enhancing the work of adaptation professionals and building the next generation of adaptation leaders.

Presentations

The Power of People: Strengthening Canada's Workforce for a Resilient Future

- **Dominique Auger**, Program Manager - Climate Change Adaptation Program, Natural Resources Canada

Undergraduate Pathways for Climate Resilience: A First-Year Model for Community Based Experiential Learning

- **Faith Litchock-Morellato**, EdD, Assistant Professor, Wentworth Institute of Technology

Building Workforce Development in rural Alaska Communities to Respond and Adapt to Climate Change

- **Adelheid Herrmann**, Senior Research Professional, Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Preparedness

- **Caroline Erickson**, Research Assistant, Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Preparedness

Assessing Climate Adaptation Workforce Needs: Case study of Los Angeles County

- **Sara Hughes**, Senior policy researcher, RAND

How youth will adapt Denver's (and eventually the American West's) built environment at scale

- **Brad Revare**, Founder and Executive Director

Wetlands for Climate: Breaking barriers, building partnerships, advancing resilience

Protecting the Future of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Through Adaptation (Special Session)

Room 305

Wetlands are essential to climate resilience, biodiversity, and community well-being. They buffer against flooding, store carbon, filter water, and provide critical habitat. Yet wetlands face mounting pressures from development, climate change, erosion, and sea-level rise. Despite increased investment in wetland restoration, progress has not kept pace with the urgency and scale of need.

The Wetlands for Climate Partnership (W4C), led by The Nature Conservancy, is a collaborative effort that brings together scientists,

policy advocates, and practitioners to break down barriers and accelerate progress towards climate-focused wetlands restoration, conservation, and management. The W4C is leading a series of multi-partner convenings in California, designed to identify solutions to accelerate the pace and scale of wetland restoration. In this interactive session, participants will step into the work of W4C through a mix of short presentations and collaborative exercises.

Panelists will highlight lessons learned from wetland projects around the country, and participants will engage in facilitated breakout groups to explore solutions to common wetland project challenges, such as permitting, funding, and long-term stewardship. The working group will offer an opportunity for participants to learn from each other and co-develop solutions and strategies for scaling wetland conservation as a climate adaptation solution.

Speakers

- Piper Wallingford, Climate Resilience Scientist, The Nature Conservancy
- Diana Pietri, Senior Social Scientist, ERG
- Alyssa Mann, Climate Resilience Project Director, The Nature Conservancy
- Sydney Chamberlain, Climate and Nature-Based Solutions Project Director, The Nature Conservancy

Climate Adaptation through School-Community Hubs Youth Engagement & Education

Room 307

We identify schools as promising sites for building community capacity for climate adaptation in historically under-served communities. Public schools are neighborhood institutions that are trusted by communities and have been used successfully to deliver community food and health services. However, schools have not been systematically mobilized to support community climate adaptation. Focusing on the 10,000 public schools serving Kindergarten through Grade 12 in California, our symposium highlights the potential pathways to schools supporting community climate adaptation and introduces a digital tool, the California Schools Climate Hazards Dashboard.

Research demonstrates that schools contribute to climate adaptation in three ways. School buildings and grounds are used to test adaptation technologies/strategies. Schools are key sites for learning about climate adaptation, and schools can facilitate community climate adaptation. Our project seeks to integrate these three roles

FEATURED SESSION:



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Extracting Actionable Intelligence from Data to Support Adaptation

Room 303

Climate adaptation and resilience planning requires practitioners to locate, interpret, and apply complex and disparate datasets. It's often challenging to find data that are relevant to local assets, specific hazards, and planning goals like assessing vulnerability and risk to underserved communities. This interactive special session will explore how to transform selected federal and non-federal datasets into actionable intelligence that supports climate resilience. In the first half, a panel of data scientists and applied researchers will introduce key datasets, platforms, and tools currently available to support adaptation planning. They will offer practical insights into the types of decision-relevant information these sources provide—such as projections, thresholds, and risk indicators—as well as candid discussion of their limitations and appropriate uses.

The second half will shift to an interactive, facilitated session exploring tools that are web-based and require no technical expertise so bring your laptop for a hands-on experience.

Facilitators will document input to develop a synthesized summary of recommendations for improving the accessibility, utility, and relevance of climate-related data services. By surfacing real-world practitioner needs, this session aims to shape future data tools that better support on-the-ground adaptation.

After this session, participants will have practical workflows for creating resilience and adaptation plans using freely available data resources, which are easy to use even for those with limited technical skills. These resources utilize the same open data formats and technologies as your GIS departments, helping to speed up resilience and adaptation planning for actionable and impactful climate solutions.

Key objectives of this session are to:

1. Raise awareness of the variety of free and open climate data and tools available on-line to assist with resilience planning
2. Gain an understanding of how to apply workflows with existing tools to help create resilience and adaptation tools based on scientific data
3. Learn how to integrate local data with authoritative federal sources
4. Build confidence in utilizing GIS maps and analysis tools and create a baseline of

Speakers

- Dan Pisut, Sr. Principal Engineer, Esri
- Ned Gardiner, Program Manager, NOAA

by creating pathways for California public schools to better prepare for the climate risks they face, to integrate this knowledge into their curricula, and to build adaptive capacity in both the schools and surrounding communities. The California Schools Climate Hazards Dashboard (<https://schoolclimatehazards.grit.ucsb.edu/>) can be used in classrooms as a first step in a school-led, community-engaged climate adaptation initiative.

Speakers

- **Simone Pulver**, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies, UC Santa Barbara
- **Kaylee Laub**, PhD Student, Gevirtz School of Education, UC Santa Barbara

From Grief to Adaptive Action: Emotional Resilience as Climate Adaptation

Climate Grief & Anxiety

Room 308

Climate change adaptation requires not only technical solutions but also the emotional and relational capacity to face grief, anxiety, and uncertainty. The Good Grief Network (GGN) offers a 10-Step Program that helps individuals and communities metabolize eco-distress into resilience, connection, and action. In this session, participants will experience a condensed version of GGN's approach through guided practices and group dialogue. Together, we will process overwhelming feelings in a brave and safe space, exploring how grief can be reframed as a teacher for adaptation to build the resilience needed to sustain long-term responses to climate disruption.

This session blends experiential facilitation with reflective discourse. Participants will engage in grounding practices, small-group exercises, and collective discussion that model the power of relational support in adaptation contexts. They will leave with practical tools for navigating climate emotions, fostering solidarity, and applying emotional resilience to their professional and community adaptation efforts. By centering the psychosocial dimensions of adaptation, this session demonstrates that addressing grief and eco-anxiety is not separate from adaptation work but essential to its success.

This integral work will help adaptation professionals reduce burnout, build community, and envision new paradigms to face these unprecedented social and ecological crises.

Speakers

- **Kirk Shepard**, GGN FLOW Facilitator and Board Member, The Good Grief Network
- **Heather Higinbotham**, GGN FLOW Facilitator, Good Grief Network

Strengthening Small Business Climate Resilience: Opportunities to Enhance Community Resilience in Cities

Local Capacity Building

Rooms 310/311

Small businesses are vital to urban resilience, driving local economies and community cohesion. However, they are often excluded from city-wide decisions, increasing their vulnerability to climate change due to a lack of resources for adaptation.

This session shares insights from the Small Business Climate Resilience Program (SBCRP), which partnered with 215 small businesses in underserved neighborhoods across Tampa, New York City, and Mexico City. Presenters will explain how coalitions were formed with local stakeholders to prioritize these businesses in community resilience efforts. This was achieved through co-design processes that developed business-focused adaptation measures tailored to local needs.

Examples include pilot projects in two NYC commercial corridors that leveraged public installations to improve heat awareness and preparedness. Strategies for green infrastructure and public activation of Tampa's alleyways will be discussed, and drawing on experiences in Mexico City, the session will highlight the co-design process for flood, heat, and rain adaptation for street vendors.

Participants will learn about common challenges faced by small businesses in the U.S. and Mexico. The discussion will also cover opportunities for collaboration with local government agencies, NGOs and CBOs to create innovative climate solutions that consider the daily operational and economic needs of these businesses.

Speakers

- **Corinne LeTourneau**, Founding Principal, Resilient Cities Catalyst
- **Dasia Jenkins**, District Planner, Pitkin Avenue Business Improvement District
- **Kayla Caselli**, Chief Sustainability and Resilience Officer, City of Tampa
- **Elena Tudela**, Founder, Oficina de Resiliencia Urbana (ORU)
- **Julia Eiferman**, Senior Advisor, NYC Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice

Home Buyouts Without Federal Support

Where do We Go From Here? The Politics and People of Managed Retreat (Special Session)

Room 315

Home buyout programs have provided relief for over 40,000 people whose homes have been destroyed by flood, wind, or fire. Historically, the funding for this relief has come primarily from the federal government, even as the programs are generally administered at the state or local government scale. With climate change, the need for buyouts is increasing at the same time the funding to support them is diminishing. But even when federal funding for these programs was more plentiful, most local and state buyout programs were working to reduce their dependence on federal sources so they could be more nimble, effective, and fair. Years of work with practitioners in these programs and buyout recipients themselves have shown that there is a great deal of work to be done now to move in that direction. In this session, we will share what dozens of buyout practitioners and a group of buyout recipients in the Better Buyouts Work Group (BBWG) have said about diversifying their funding streams.

Speakers

- **Carri Hulet**, Principal, CH Consulting
- **Linda Shi**, Professor, Cornell University

Advancing Drought Early Warning and Adaptation through the U.S. Drought Portal

Extreme Events

Room 316

Drought is an incredibly costly natural hazard that causes a myriad of impacts to economic sectors and ecosystems. NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) was established by public law in 2006 with a mandate to create a national drought early warning system. NIDIS is a multi-agency partnership that coordinates drought monitoring, forecasting, planning, and information at federal, tribal, state, and local levels. One way NIDIS does this is by communicating timely drought data and information through the U.S. Drought Portal, drought.gov. The U.S. Drought Portal provides a centralized location for drought information, supporting the nation's capacity to proactively manage drought-related risks. In recent years, NIDIS has enhanced the U.S. Drought Portal through the addition of interactive and customizable maps, localized drought information, and a user-friendly design.

This session will explore key features of drought.gov through hands-on, interactive exercises. Exercises will include specific examples of interest to adaptation professionals and Tribal Nations. At the end of the session, participants should have an improved understanding of how drought.gov can be used for drought monitoring, communications, planning, and decision-making. Participants should bring their own device (e.g., laptop, tablet) to optimize their experience during this session.

Speakers

- **Crystal Stiles**, Tribal Engagement Coordinator, Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder
- **Kelsey Eigsti**, Digital Communications Coordinator, Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder

Equity Doesn't Live in a Document: Reclaiming Time, Trust, and Collaboration in Government Planning

Climate Justice & Equity

Rooms 317/318

True equity is built through relationships, not reports. Yet most government planning processes still expect communities, especially those most impacted by inequities, to adapt to complex, time-intensive, and document-heavy systems. This interactive session invites planners, agency staff, and community partners to reimagine what equitable planning looks like when it honors community time, knowledge, and capacity.

The session will open with a brief "fireside chat" featuring government planners, a community-based "hood" planner, and a climate equity consultant. Three of the four speakers are women of color, and their informal conversation will ground the session in lived experience, highlighting where systems can evolve and how power, trust, and timing shape authentic collaboration in practice.

Participants will then engage in a guided tabletop scenario role-play, with scenarios crowd-sourced in real time through Mentimeter. Together, participants will co-create and play out planning challenges

that mirror the complexities of equity in practice, experimenting with approaches that reduce process fatigue, build shared governance, and strengthen trust. Participants will leave with tangible strategies to make equity something we do, not something we document.

Speakers

- **Nahal Ipakchi**, Senior Climate Lead, BluePoint Planning
- **Phoenix Armenta**, Sr. Manager for Climate Equity and Community Engagement, SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- **Natalie Kuffel**, Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
- **Marquita Price**, Principal Planner, Hood Planning Group

The Power of Storytelling for the Co-creation of Climate Research and Planning

Art, Storytelling & Movement

Rooms 319/320

First-person narrative storytelling can influence attitudes, beliefs, and even make people more open to new points of view. This workshop will demonstrate research and planning methodologies that recognize the essential place-based wisdom of community members in the co-creation of climate strategies. Throughout the session, presenters will explain how these techniques have been used to engage and co-create solutions with historically underrepresented and disinvested communities. This session includes interactive elements for attendees to create and share their own climate stories. Of interest to policymakers, researchers, science communicators, and anyone who wants to effectively communicate their work.

Speakers

- **Marcella Corona**, Founding Principal, MK Corona
- **Johtsna Harris**, Founder, Change Narrative LLC

3:30 PM — 4:00 PM

Break & Snack *Ballroom Gallery*

4:00 PM — 5:30 PM Session Block #7

Conserving Coastal and Marine Areas in a Changing Climate: Core Principles and Case Studies

Nature Based Solutions

Room 303

Networks of marine and coastal protected and conserved areas must be climate-adaptive if they are to successfully deliver long-term biodiversity, social and economic benefits. To support managers' needs, the IUCN's Protected Areas and Climate Change Specialist Group — with science and policy experts working on the intersection of climate change, protected areas and spatial planning in coastal and marine environments — developed technical guidance on Establishing Marine Protected Areas in a Changing Climate. The guidance aims to inform the planning, design, and implementation of marine protected and conserved areas, including areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples, with a focus on how these areas can be

established and managed in ways that improve climate resilience, adaptation, and mitigation outcomes. The guidance describes four core principles that provide a solid foundation for creating climate-informed protected and conserved areas: understand change; strengthen adaptation and resilience; ensure equity and inclusivity; and generate holistic co-benefits.

This interactive symposium will focus on peer learning from presenters and participants, sharing a brief overview of the technical guidance and experiences of marine and coastal managers in fostering climate adaptation, followed by facilitated roundtable discussions about successes and challenges in applying these principles.

Speakers

- Sarah Hutto, California Marine Sanctuary Foundation
- Zachary Cannizzo, Conservation Ecology Manager, McHenry County Conservation District

Bridging Governance for Climate Adaptation: Tribal, State, and Local Collaboration in a Changing Political Climate (Special Session)

Room 304

How are different levels of governance planning to continue adaptation in the current political climate? How are collaborations between the different levels of government enhancing adaptation efforts?

Safeguarding communities in the face of accelerating climate risks requires coordinated adaptation planning and policy implementation across tribal, state, and local levels of government. Sessions will address policy innovation that advances climate resilience and reflects context-specific needs and capacities. Presentations will examine how better cooperation between these different levels of government can amplify the reach, equity, and effectiveness of adaptation efforts, especially in a fragmented or politically complex policy landscape. Presentations that reflect on the challenges and opportunities of continuing adaptation amidst shifting political priorities are emphasized.

Presentations

Intersecting Challenges and Opportunities: Comparative Analysis of the Food-Energy-Water Nexus in Hawai'i and Puerto Rico

- Fernando I. Rivera, Professor of Sociology & Director of the Puerto Rico Research Hub, University of Central Florida

Preventing harm to people and critical infrastructure from coastal flooding in Boston Harbor

- Nasser Brahim, Director of Climate Resilience, Mystic River Watershed Association
- Indrani Ghosh, Resiliency Practice Leader, Weston & Sampson
- Kendra White, Climate Resilience Manager, City of Cambridge

Rooted Resilience: Community-Led Climate Adaptation and Justice-Centered Design in Ivy City, Washington, D.C.

- Christina Hughes, Climate Adaptation Lead, Ramboll
- Sebrena Rhodes, Community Organizer and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, Empower DC
- Erin Garnaas-Holmes, Lead Resilience Planner, District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment

Future shorelines: integrated coastal and riverine planning for rising waters

- Rachel Johnson, Water Resources Engineer, Herrera Environmental Consultants
- Lauren Clemens, Climate Action Manager, Whatcom County, WA

Climate Collaboratives - Evolution in a Time of Change

- Michael McCormick, President and BayCAN Network Manager, Farallon Strategies and the Bay Area Climate Adaptation Network
- Jasneet Sharma, Chairperson and Director of Sustainability, Bay Area Climate Adaptation Network and the County of San Mateo, CA
- Julia Kim, Partnerships Lead, Farallon Strategies
- Kristen Wraithwall, Sustainability Director, County of Yolo, CA
- Hoi-Fei Mok PhD, Deputy Director, California Strategic Growth Council

Play the Mauka (Mountains) to Makai (Sea) Game! Enhancing Resilience on an Ahupua'a-Scale in Hawai'i Unique Rural & Island Challenges (Special Session)

Room 305

This session will share about a holistic, Indigenous approach to natural resource management and how it informs adaptive, nature-based strategies to address climate challenges in a rural, disadvantaged community located on the island of Kaua'i. Practitioners will share a framework that applies traditional-Hawaiian and western-based strategies on an ahupua'a scale (traditional land division, typically from the mountain to the sea) in Waipā, Kaua'i. The audience will be asked to play a fun, interactive group game that demonstrates how this framework guides best practices in climate and community resilience.

Waipā is no stranger to adverse climate challenges. In 2018, a "rain bomb" storm occurred on the North Shore of Kaua'i, setting the national record for 24-hour rainfall (49.69") and causing intense flooding, landslides, and infrastructure damage. While Waipā showed resilience compared to other impacted areas, the ocean shoreline has been destabilized and is experiencing accelerated erosion.

Waipā Foundation, a non-profit stewarding Waipā Ahupua'a, partnered with the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program to assess nature-based solutions that enhance coastal resilience through a project funded by The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Come to learn and play as we test how effectively a game can communicate holistic approaches to climate adaptation.

Speakers

- Ruby Pap, Coastal Land-Use Extension Specialist, University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program
- Lehua (Faith) Blalock, Director of Biocultural and Strategic Initiatives, The Waipā Foundation

Wicked Cool Mystic: Cooling Solutions for a Heating World - Designing Equitably Under Constraints

Built Environment

Room 307

As summers grow hotter, bus stops and other public gathering spaces across Greater Boston are becoming ground zero for climate inequity. Wicked Cool Mystic is beating the heat. Funded by Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) and led by the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) — with design and technical leadership from BSC Group - this multi-municipal effort (spanning Arlington, Chelsea, Everett, and Malden) translates climate data into action. Using hyperlocal heat maps from the Wicked Hot Mystic study and years of community engagement, the team identified priority bus stops and corridors where residents face the highest exposure to heat and the fewest options for shade or relief.

Participants will work in groups to redesign a real municipal site, balancing the same constraints faced by the team: tight budgets, transit clearances, minimal green space, etc. Attendees will explore what it takes to “wedge cooling” into complicated urban environments — especially considering safety, accessibility, and equity. Presenters from MyRWA and BSC Group will share lessons learned from the now-advancing construction phase.

Attendees will walk away with practical tools to replicate small-scale, high-impact climate interventions in their communities—and a deeper appreciation of what it takes to create cool pockets in complex built environments.

Speakers

- **Catarina Martinez**, Senior Climate Resilience Planner; Project Manager, BSC Group
- **Marissa Zampino**, Climate Organizing Manager, Mystic River Watershed Association
- **Caseylee Bastien**, Senior Landscape Architect, BSC Group

From Data to Decisions: Adaptation Tools for Practitioners and Communities

Decision Making Tools & Technology

Room 308

As communities face increasing exposure to hazards such as floods, hurricanes, and wildfires, protecting lives, infrastructure, and ecosystems requires proactive, data-informed solutions. Practitioners need tools that estimate and visualize hazard impacts for developing appropriate and defensible adaptation policies and investments. The symposium will feature speakers from academia, nonprofit organizations, the private sector, and local government. It will examine two platforms, ClimRR and IN-CORE, alongside initiatives such as AT&T’s Resilience Program and Climate Ready America, highlighting their role in empowering communities to plan towards resilience and adaptation. ClimRR is a publicly accessible platform that provides localized projections and risk assessments for key natural hazards, including precipitation, extreme heat, drought, and wildfire, across the United States. IN-CORE is an open source platform that integrates

engineering, social, and economic data to simulate multi-hazard impacts on infrastructure and community, enabling “what-if” comparisons of adaptation strategies. Presenters will introduce each platform, outline access pathways, and share community case studies showing how these tools informed plans, strengthened grant proposals, and advanced capital projects.

Participants will leave with clarity on when to use each tool, how to communicate assumptions, and practical steps to translate results into policy and investment decisions.

Speakers

- **Melina Matos**, (1) Assistant Professor and (2) Community Engagement Specialist, (1) Florida Atlantic University and (2) Project IN-CORE/ResiCore
- **John W. van de Lindt**, Colorado State University
- **Jeon Hwayoung**, Senior Scientist, KeyLogic
- **Tonya Graham**, Executive Director, The Geos Institute

Implementing Sea Level Rise Solutions: Lessons from the Field

Infrastructure

Rooms 310/311

As more communities move from planning to practice, the realities of implementing climate adaptation actions are becoming increasingly evident. This session will explore some of the practical realities of implementing local sea level rise projects and how communities are adjusting their approaches in response. Through case studies and discussion, climate adaptation practitioners from Seattle, Washington; Charleston, South Carolina; the Port of San Francisco; and Olympia, Washington will share how they are working with communities and elected officials on implementing sea level rise solutions, lessons learned to date, and how they are positioning their work going forward. Session participants will learn how:

- Seattle is prioritizing water resilience in neighborhoods most vulnerable to sea level rise-related flooding and beginning to implement solutions in partnership with these communities;
- Charleston is accelerating the implementation of water management strategies identified in the Charleston Water Plan to address multiple and increasing flood challenges in the wake of sea level rise;
- The Port of San Francisco is completing the San Francisco Waterfront Flood Study and advancing projects to increase the resilience of its waterfront; and
- Olympia is exploring options for financing sea level rise projects outlined in the Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Plan that are designed to alleviate coastal flooding in Washington State’s capital.

Speakers

- **Lara Whitely Binder**, Climate Preparedness Manager, King County, WA
- **Natalie Weiss**, Climate Resilience Coordinator, City of Olympia, WA
- **Kaylan Koszela**, Director of Resilience, City of Charleston, SC
- **Ann Grodnik-Nagle**, Senior Advisor, Climate Adaptation and Built Environment, City of Seattle / Seattle Public Utilities
- **Luiz Barata**, Senior Planner/ Urban Designer, Waterfront Resilience Program, Port of San Francisco

FEATURED SESSION:**DORIS DUKE
FOUNDATION****Forest Certification to Incentivize Forest Adaptation**
Protecting Ecosystems & Biodiversity (Special Session)
Room 315

Forest certification serves as a voluntary mechanism to verify forest management adheres to rigorous ecological, social, and economic standards. As forests increasingly contend with changing climate conditions, certification standards need to adopt recent advances in adaptation science while simultaneously, managers must distill complex climate science concepts such as climate change projections and ecosystem vulnerability assessments into forest adaptation planning and actions. To bridge this 'science-practice' gap, this talk will highlight the role of an academic-industry partnership that seeks to incentivize forest adaptation actions through knowledge synthesis, decision-making tools, and the development of operational indicators to support region-wide climate-smart forestry initiatives.

Speaker

- Chad Papa, Director, Forest Carbon and Climate Program, Department of Forestry, Michigan State University

Addressing the Money Problem: Funding Adaptation
(Special Session)*Room 316*

How will adaptation practitioners respond to the gap in current funding?
How can collaboration within networks improve financial stability?

One of the greatest challenges facing adaptation practitioners is securing adequate and sustained financing for critical adaptation projects. The ongoing withdrawal or reduction of funding sources has left many practitioners without the resources they need to implement and advance their work. Presentations highlight creative, innovative, and effective methods for financing adaptation projects, and explore real-world examples of creative or novel mechanisms supporting the financing of adaptation projects. Presentations will include collaborative financing models between the public and private sectors, and address the historical and ongoing barriers faced by underserved and underrepresented communities in accessing funding for adaptation efforts.

Adapting to Climate Starts with Adapting the Budget

- Hannah Glosser, Director, HR&A Advisors
- Kyla Prendergast, Senior Environmental Planner, City of Pittsburgh

Comprehensive Planning as Financial Infrastructure for Adaptation: A Pittsburgh Case Study

- Jose Serrano-McClain, Partner, HR&A Advisors
- Sharonda Whatley, Assistant Director, Strategic Planning Division, City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning
- Lydia Gaby, Principal, HR&A Advisors
- Isaac Smith, Associate - Advisory, Buro Happold
- Flore Marion, Assistant Director, Sustainability and Resilience Division, City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning

Massachusetts' Resilience Finance Roadmap: A Model for Long Term Investment

- Mia Mansfield, Assistant Secretary for Resilience, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Mobilizing Private Capital for Adaptation and Resilience

- Jess Grannis, Director of Programs, ICLEI USA
- Matt Posner, Head of Public Finance, The Resiliency Company
- Ravi Bhalla
- Victoria Salinas, ICLEI USA Board Member, Duke University Climate Leader in Residence, Former FEMA Deputy Administrator for Resilience, ICLEI USA

What Makes Local Adaptation Effective?
Evaluating Learning and Outcomes from
Place-Based Climate Adaptation Workshops
Is Adaptation Delivering? Monitoring & Evaluation
to Advance the Field (Special Session)*Rooms 317/318*

Over the past two decades, local adaptation planning has rapidly accelerated. We can all benefit from learning from these efforts to improve our own work and build the field of adaptation practice. In this session, we will share learning from research to assess workshop effectiveness through building and implementing effective workshop processes, participant and practitioner surveys, post-workshop participant mobility, and evaluation of accessibility of adaptation tools.

Presentations**Idealized workshop design & workshop implementation**

- Deborah Rudnick, EcoAdapt—Learn about workshop development and applications.

What can climate adaptation workshops achieve? What are the key catalysts and constraints?

- Marc Stern, Virginia Tech—Adaptation workshop processes and outcomes analyzed to assess their impact.

The impacts of staff and political turnover on advancing adaptation post workshops.

- Jenn Brousseau, University of New England—What are the impacts of staff and political turnover after adaptation workshops? Can turnover enable the diffusion of ideas and enhance innovation?

Endurance of adaptation tool accessibility

- Ari Mielbrecht-Hansen, University of British Columbia (Student Presenter)

Local adaptation planning processes depend on external data sources. Can those resources be relied upon to maintain function and be updated, or do they disappear?

Speakers

- Jennifer Brousseau, Assistant Professor, University of New England
- Deborah Rudnick, Senior Scientist, EcoAdapt
- Marc Stern, Professor, Virginia Tech
- Ari Mielbrecht-Hansen, Student, University of British Columbia

Tools Cafe: Support for Municipal & State Governments

Communication & Stakeholder Engagement

Rooms 319/320

All participants will rotate through all four stations, where product designers will demo tools and answer questions:

Managing Water

U.S. Precipitation Time Series Explorer [Available publicly September 2026] (NOAA/NCEI)

IDF Curve (NOAA/RISA)

FloodWise Communities (NOAA/RISA)

Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (NOAA/RISA)

Drought Non-Stationarity (NOAA/RISA)

Extreme Events

Heat.gov (NOAA/NIHHIS)

U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters Database (Climate Central)

Storm Events Database (NOAA/NCEI)

Post-Extreme Event Learning Toolkit (NOAA/RISA)

Regional and Local Impacts

Alaska Weather and Climate Highlights (NOAA/RISA)

Climate Local (Climate Central)

Toxic Tides (Climate Central)

Coastal Risk Finder (Climate Central)

FloodVision RiskViewer (Climate Central)

Intelligent Data Exploring Assistant (NOAA/RISA)

Planning

Typical Meteorological Year (NOAA/NCEI)

Climate and Hazard Mitigation Planning (CHaMP) Tool (NOAA/RISA)

U.S. Climate Resilience Information System (NOAA/CPO)

U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit (NEMAC)

Simple Planning Tool for Climate Hazards (NOAA/RISA)"

Speakers

- **Bridget Smith**, NOAA/National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)
- **Sean Bath**, NOAA/Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program (RISA)
- **Ned Gardiner**, NOAA/Climate Program Office (CPO)
- **Alice Lau**, NOAA/National Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS)
- **Ashlyn Shore Dunsworth**, University of North Carolina Asheville/National Environmental Mapping and Applications Center (UNCA/NEMAC)
- **Kelly Van Baalen**, Climate Central



DAY 3:
Thursday, May 14

Schedule At-A-Glance

8:00 am - 9:00 am	Registration and Coffee
9:00 am - 10:30 am	Session Block #8
10:30 am - 11:00 am	Break & Snack
11:00 am - 12:30 pm	Session Block #9
12:30 pm - 12:45 pm	Break & Snack
12:45 pm - 1:45 pm	Closing Plenary & Town Hall Strategy Session

8:00 AM — 11:00 AM

Registration *East Atrium*

9:00 AM — 10:30 AM Session Block #8

Infrastructure

Room 303

Presentations

Designing Differently: Innovative Green Infrastructure at the Neighborhood Scale

- Ryan Quinn, Associate Project Manager, Pittsburgh Water

Enhancing Heat Resilience for Water Utilities: Local Strategies to Safeguard Operations and Workers at AlexRenew.

- Yilin Giltinan, Management Team Member, Community Adaptation Learning Exchange

Closing the Flood Risk Gap: Planning for a Resilient Transportation System

- Katherine Rainone, Transportation Resilience Planner, MWCOG

How will we pay for resilient infrastructure? Adapting to the new funding landscape

- Francesca McCann, Senior Funding & Finance Specialist, Black & Veatch

Pitching the Private Sector: Framing Heat and Flood Resilience as Business Value

- Jessica Farrington, Climate Resilience Planning Lead, Black & Veatch

Rising Together: A Regional Model for Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Communication & Stakeholder Engagement

Room 304

Cities, counties, and State agencies continue to step up and lead adaptation and resilience efforts amid increased uncertainty at the federal level. Given the transboundary nature of climate hazards and impacts, neighboring jurisdictions must work together to adapt. What is the role of State agencies? What does effective multi-jurisdictional adaptation planning look like? How can we balance the challenges of day-to-day planning with the critical long-term need for serious investment to prepare for a warming world? And who pays?

California State legislation, SB 272 (Laird, 2023), requires local governments along the San Francisco Bay shoreline to develop sea level rise adaptation plans that meet guidelines adopted by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) by 2034. This law is poised to accelerate regional shoreline planning, encourage cross-jurisdiction collaboration, and direct investment in adaptation. BCDC’s approach serves as a model for other coastal regions.

This panel brings together BCDC and several local partners responding to this mandate. Join our conversation about how this guidance was developed, what lessons we can learn, what tools we need, and how can we work together to ensure successful planning for equitable, regionally-driven, science-based, multi-benefit sea level rise adaptation.

Speakers

- **Dana Brechwald**, Assistant Planning Director for Climate Adaptation, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- **Kris May**, CEO and Founder, Pathways Climate Institute
- **Todd Hallenbeck**, GIS Specialist Lead, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- **Marquita Price**, Principal Planner, Hood Planning Group
- **Maryellen Hearn**, Resilience Lead, Adaptation and Flood Risk, Pathways Climate Institute
- **Luiz Barata**, Senior Planner/Urban Designer, Waterfront Resilience Program, Port of San Francisco

Are We F*cked? Building Authentic Climate Resilience to Transform Through Disruption Catalyzing Behavior Change (Special Session)

Room 305

Traditional emergency management and adaptation frameworks assume acute, short-term disruptions followed by recovery. Most resilience planning assumes systems will bend but not break—that recovery means returning to “normal.”

This workshop challenges those assumptions to root local adaptation work/climate impacts within the broader context of the global, interconnected ecological and social crises we are facing.

It reimagines resilience as transformative capacity for communities to adapt, evolve, and build new systems as cascading climate disruptions make the status quo impossible. Participants engage with small group, region-specific scenario planning exercises (coastal hurricanes, drought, wildfires, flooding, social unrest, supply chain disruptions, climate migration) to think beyond disaster recovery cycles toward fundamental systems change.

This Workshop Builds:

- Capacity to face reality and imagine resilient new systems
- Understanding of how disruptions amplify across interconnected systems
- Identification of critical gaps and existing assets for transformative adaptation
- Concrete strategies for building fundamentally different economies, governance, and relationships
- Innovative and replicable cross-sectoral approaches for frontline communities

Participants will develop systems clarity and leave with specific transformation priorities. Sustained outcomes include local action commitments, increased relational capacity, community networks, alternative infrastructure, and advocacy for systemic policy change that is anchored in the increasing risk landscape we now inhabit.

Speakers

- **Heather Higinbotham**, GGN FLOW Facilitator, Good Grief Network

Indigenous Fire Stewardship: From Storytelling to Shovel

Land Use Planning

Room 307

Since time immemorial, Indigenous Peoples have stewarded the land with fire to lessen the risks of wildfire destruction and sustain ecosystems. Despite centuries of suppression and erasure, Indigenous fire knowledge persists within the community through storytelling, teaching, and practice. Today, this knowledge system is a valuable guide for creating more holistic community-based fire management practices.

This session brings together community leaders from the Yurok Tribe, Red Cliff Band, and Upper Snake River Tribes to explore and share Indigenous fire stewardship. We will share stories, technical strategies, and examples of community education to highlight holistic, culturally informed approaches to wildfire practices. While the session highlights the work being done in Indigenous communities, the lessons and approaches can also be applied to the wildland-urban interface (WUI) in urban and rural western communities.

The session will feature a moderated panel and audience discussion to explore the realities of implementation, including sticking points for collaboration and community safety, effective education strategies, and emerging trends in Indigenous-led fire stewardship. Getting beyond concepts and into the details of successful implementation will enable participants to leave the session with both an understanding of Indigenous perspectives and practical approaches to culturally relevant fire management.

Speakers

- **Sophia Kestell Amaya**, Climate Resilience Specialist, Adaptation International
- **Bazile Minogiizhigaabo Panek**, Founder and CEO, Good Sky Guidance
- **Joe Hostler**, Environmental Specialist, Yurok Tribe
- **Scott Hauser**, Executive Director, Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation

Protecting the Future of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Through Adaptation (Special Session)

Room 308

How is adaptation being incorporated into how we manage, govern, and steward ecosystems and ensure biodiversity protection?

The foundation of every aspect of our industries and livelihoods is dependent on how we protect the future of our ecosystems. However, with unprecedented climate change, adaptation practitioners must evolve their management approaches to meet the challenges of managing critical resources in a changing climate. This session explores how practitioners working to conserve ecosystems and biodiversity are embedding climate adaptation into their practices. Presentations include both successes and setbacks, with emphasis on lessons learned and practical insights gained through implementation, and feature efforts that contribute to advancing knowledge and practice in climate-informed protection strategies.

Presentations

Co-developing Coastal Resilience: The Stone Living Lab as a Collaborative Model for Nature-based Approaches

- **Joe Christo**, Chief Resilience Officer and Co-Director, Boston Harbor Now and Stone Living Lab

Dynamic Transects: A Framework for Increased Habitat and Community Resiliency in the Pocomoke Sound Corridor

- **Rebecca Winer-Skonovd**, Senior Project Manager/Eastern Bioregions Leader, Biohabitats

Identifying climate-resilient native keystone plants in the Mid-Atlantic and South Central United States

- **Mia Wavrek**, Associate Program Officer, Climate Smart Communities Initiative, The Climate Resilience Fund
- **Naomi Edelson**, Senior Director, National Wildlife Federation
- **Jennie Hoffman**, Climate Scientist, Independent consultant
- **Rebeca Quiñonez-Piñón**, Senior Scientist, National Wildlife Federation

Bay-Wise Living Landscapes Program: Catalyzing Climate Resilient Community Action in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

- **Stacy Small-Lorenz**, Faculty, Residential Landscape Ecology Specialist, University of Maryland Extension

Nationwide Perspectives from the Climate Adaptation Science Centers: Science, Partnerships, and Adaptation in Action

- **Sarah Love**, Postdoctoral Fellow, NE CASC
- **Molly Cross**, Regional Administrator, USGS, NC CASC
- **Kris Metzger**, Regional Administrator, USGS, SC CASC
- **Carrie Brown-Lima**, Regional Administrator, USGS, NE CASC
- **Toni Lyn Morelli**, Research Ecologist, USGS, NE CASC
- **Jon Woodruff**, Professor, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

From Bridges to Blueprints: Coordinating Climate Adaptation Across Pennsylvania's Communities Local Capacity Building

Rooms 310/311

This symposium highlights how Pennsylvania is aligning climate action and adaptation across state, county, and hyperlocal levels, anchored by Allegheny County's Climate Action Plan (to be finalized before the Forum). Speakers will represent the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Allegheny County, and the Triboro Ecodistrict, a nationally recognized consortium of three small river town municipalities — Millvale, Etna, and Sharpsburg — located just upriver from Pittsburgh along the Allegheny River. These communities are highly vulnerable to flooding and other climate impacts and have pioneered innovative, community-driven adaptation approaches.

Panelists will share lessons from their respective planning processes, focusing on governance alignment, financing pathways, and equity considerations. Together, they will illustrate how scaling from hyperlocal initiatives to countywide planning to statewide frameworks can address the systemic challenges legacy regions face: aging infrastructure, declining tax bases, and the uneven burden of climate risk on frontline communities.

The session will feature a moderated discussion and interactive audience engagement. Takeaways will include replicable models for cross-jurisdictional collaboration, strategies for integrating equity

into adaptation planning, and actionable tools participants can apply to strengthen climate action planning in their own communities.

Speakers

- **Brittany Prischak**, Director - Department of Sustainability, Allegheny County
- **Anna Rosenblum**, Climate & Sustainability Studio Lead / Senior Associate, evolveEA
- **Megan Porta**, Energy Program Specialist, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- **Joe Lampe**, Founder and Director, Resilient Future Consulting
- **Danielle Lewis**, Energy Program Specialist, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- **Megan Tuñón**, Executive Director, Etna Community Organization (ECO)

Climate-Safe and Salmon-Safe: Natural Climate Solutions in the Inland Northwest Adaptation & Mitigation Intersection

Room 315

In the Inland Northwest, 30-40% of total greenhouse gas emissions originate from the agriculture and forestry sectors. However, there are many opportunities to decrease end-to-end carbon emissions in these sectors, including the use of Nature Based Climate Solutions (NBCS). This session will focus on implementation of NBCS on the Coeur d'Alene (CDA) Reservation. Our team includes a federally-recognized Tribal nation (CDA), land-grant universities, and a non-profit institution. Our expertise spans natural and working lands carbon cycle science, ecological science, market-based agricultural conservation incentives and certification, and Tribal climate adaptation and environmental policy. Presenters will focus on a two-pronged approach to NBCS: first, the understanding the carbon sequestration potential of Palouse Prairie restoration and secondly, the transition from annual grain production to a perennial grain, Kernza. Presenters will highlight a framework to measure baseline carbon stocks and implement a long-term monitoring program of carbon fluxes and stock changes to ensure these practices lead to measurable carbon emissions reductions or additional drawdown. This is completed in conjunction with the established Salmon-Safe certification program to ensure other co-benefits will still be achieved. Our work highlights the importance of Tribal community involvement in the development and deployment for successful implementation.

Speakers

- **Laura Laumatia**, Environmental Programs Manager, Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- **Danielle Ignace** Associate Professor, University of Minnesota
- **Kristina Bartowitz**, Research Assistant Professor, University of Idaho
- **Aiyana James**, Climate Resilience Coordinator, Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Resilience Without the Reset: Internal Capacity, Decisions, and Next Steps Social Resilience & Transformation

Room 316

This interactive workshop is designed as a learning and reflection session for organizations advancing resilience while multiple plans, programs, and priorities are already underway. Participants will be

guided through facilitated discussion and practical exercises applied to their own contexts. The goal of the workshop will be for participants to gain tools to assess strengths and challenges, consider internal capacity to address needs, clarify ownership and decision-making, and identify realistic next steps, including where external support may be helpful and where work is best carried forward internally.

Speakers

- Melissa Deas, Cadmus Group
- Erin Garnaas-Holmes, Lead Resilience Planner, District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment

Stories That Inspire: Nurturing Community Strengths Through Creative Climate Storytelling

Climate Justice & Equity

Rooms 317/318

This session explores storytelling as both a method and a practice for advancing equitable climate adaptation, with a focus on community health, emotional and cultural resilience. Drawing on case studies from the Twin Cities, Pittsburgh, Washington, D.C., and other coastal cities throughout the U.S., the panelists will share how methods like interviews, oral histories, media platforms, and workshopping have been used to capture the lived experiences of climate disruption, personal and collective grief, and the strengths that sustain communities. By doing site visits, listening to local narratives, and building relationships of trust, the presenters have co-created spaces where stories not only document harm but also reshape planning processes, mobilize resources, and generate actionable solutions.

We'll highlight that ethical storytelling improves adaptation methods while respecting community agency and independence. Key points include practical frameworks for respectful, community-led, culturally meaningful storytelling. After the panel, participants will do an interactive PhotoVoice exercise to learn storytelling tools and how to incorporate them into climate adaptation. The goal is for everyone to leave empowered with new strategies to incorporate storytelling into decision-making, ensuring that local voices are heard, respected, and protected as we develop equitable solutions.

Speakers

- Cassandra Jean, Ph.D., Senior Climate Resilience Specialist/ Researcher, Adaptation International
- Jothsna Harris, Founder, Change Narrative LLC
- Matt Scott, Director of Storytelling and Engagement, Project Drawdown
- Dr. Erica Cochran, Associate Professor Co-Director, Center for Building Performance & Diagnostics (CBPD), Carnegie Mellon University
- Clara Kitongo, Tree Equity Manager, Tree Pittsburgh

Collaborating To Build the Evidence Base Is Adaptation Delivering? Monitoring & Evaluation to Advance the Field (Special Session)

Rooms 319/320

This working group invites all those interested in being part of the effort to build an adaptation evidence base to share methodological approaches, build a collaborative network, and real-time in this session co-develop assessments to be undertaken post-Forum.

Organizers will share some existing and proposed key elements. Goal: Develop statement of core principles for sharing/publication, identify network of interested parties, and create partnerships to undertake project

This session is the third of a three-part series. The first session "Why We Need an Evidence Base For Adaptation" is on Tuesday, and the second session "How To Build The Evidence Base For Adaptation" is on Wednesday.

Speakers

- Lara Hansen, Chief Scientist & Executive Director, EcoAdapt
- Ned Gardiner, Program Manager, NOAA

10:30 AM — 11:00 AM

Break & Snack *Ballroom Gallery*

11:00 AM — 12:30 PM Session Block #9

Decision Making Tools & Technology

Room 303

Presentations

Insights on economic analysis and decision-support tools for advancing adaptation in Canadian communities and sectors

- Nicole Lulham, Program Manager, Natural Resources Canada

Data-Driven Urban Cooling: Targeted Green Street Investments in Washington, DC

- Blair Johnson, Resilience Planner, Arcadis

Interactive climate services bridge capacity gaps for stormwater vulnerability assessment in the U.S. Gulf Coast

- Sarah Fendrich, PhD Candidate, Stanford University

ClimateReadyVT: Helping Small Businesses Build Climate Resilience

- Peter Plumeau, Partner - Strategy & Leadership, Reframe Lab, LLC

Narratives from a Resilient Coast: Conversations and Shared Experiences Among Frontline Coastal Communities in Alaska

Art, Storytelling, & Movement

Room 304

All are welcome to join a workshop-style session led by the Alaska Sea Grant (ASG) Coastal Resilience Program emphasizing storytelling and relationship building as integral parts of community-level adaptation and resilience. Through an April 2025 workshop called 'Adapt in Place,' the ASG team piloted a method of bringing together communities in Western Alaska and the Canadian Arctic to share insights from their resilience initiatives with one another. Reframing mitigation efforts as 'adapting in place' (rather than 'managed retreat') generated a more nuanced, community-centered approach. In this session, we will invite adaptation and resilience practitioners to share their stories of resilience through film, music, and photography. Students from Newtok will share their project "Lessons from Newtok", in which they document the impacts of climate change on Newtok through photography and writing. A local coordinator from Napakiak

will share his community's experience developing a managed retreat plan through a series of photographs. Short films highlighting the subsistence way of life in Western Alaska and community-driven efforts to monitor coastal change will also be shared. Participants will leave the session with a framework for facilitating knowledge sharing workshops and strategies for guiding conversations.

Speakers

- **Katie Basile**, Coastal Resilience Specialist, Alaska Sea Grant, University of Alaska Fairbanks Kuskokwim Campus
- **Davin Holen**, Coastal Community Resilience Specialist, Alaska Sea Grant, University of Alaska Fairbanks
- **Sean Kelly**, Alaska Sea Grant, University of Alaska Fairbanks Kuskokwim Campus

Coastal Towns to Agricultural Grounds: Examining Unique Transportation-based Climate Vulnerabilities in Rural North Monterey County

Adaptation From the Land to the Sea: Addressing Unique Challenges for Rural & Island Communities (Special Session)

Room 305

North Monterey County's rural areas are prone to repetitive flooding. In 2023, the Pajaro River levee breached, leading to widespread evacuations and extensive damage. The underserved Hispanic and Indigenous Mexican populations in the area experienced the greatest disruption, displacement and damage to their livelihoods, homes, and families. Increasing rainfall intensities and sea level rise-driven coastal flooding will keep these communities on the front lines of climate change impacts—despite agricultural production exceeding 1 billion dollars annually.

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) completed a climate vulnerability assessment in North Monterey, centering community insights and feedback in the assessment. Engaging with the Spanish-speaking population required personal and targeted outreach that met communities where they are. The project team collaborated with college student volunteers and local community-based organizations to maximize outreach efforts on a limited budget. Community members shared their experiences and identified flooded roadways that most impacted their daily lives.

This session will explore how TAMC merged and validated community experiences with an analytical multi-hazard analysis to prioritize future transportation-related climate adaptation projects that benefit local communities. Through facilitated group discussions, participants will leave with a fresh perspective on the resilience of communities that are often unseen and overlooked.

- **Meagan Brown**, Environmental Data Scientist, Pathways Climate Institute
- **Alissa Guther**, Transportation Planner, Transportation Agency for Monterey County
- **Eloy Ortiz**, Special Projects Manager, Regeneración Pajaro Valley Climate Action
- **Kris May**, CEO and Founder, Pathways Climate Institute

Water Resources

Room 307

Presentations

Dam Removal as Climate Resilience Strategy

- **Anabel Winitzky**, Southeast Conservation Associate Director, American Rivers

A One Water Approach to the Water–Energy Nexus: Climate-Resilient and Equitable Urban Water System Planning

- **Masoumeh Khalkhali**, Environmental Engineer, CDM Smith

- **Sebastian Malter**, Senior Water Resources Engineer

Climate change risks and municipal bond disclosures of U.S. drinking water utilities

- **Zia Lyle**, Post Doctorate, IRMI at UNC Chapel Hill

Integrating Climate Change into Watershed Planning: CRWD's Climate Resilience Framework and Flood Mitigation Strategy

- **Rachel Funke**, Water Resource Project Manager, Capitol Region Watershed District

- **Nate Zwonitzer**, Planning, Projects, and Grants Division Manager, Capitol Region Watershed District

Decision Making under Deep Uncertainty: An Accessible Guidebook for Water Utility Adaptation Decision-Making

- **Nastaran Tebyanian**, Research Scientist, The Water Institute

- **Jordan Fischbach**, Vice President of Applied Research, The Water Institute

- **Alan Cohn**, President, Water Utility Climate Alliance

Financing Adaptation

Room 308

Presentations

The Impact of Multi-Level Funding Structures on Flood Relocation Programs in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic

- **Melissa Tier**, PhD Candidate, Princeton School of Public & International Affairs

Holding the Line: Raising Capital for Community Climate Solutions in a Shifting Landscape

- **David Hodgins**, Founder & CEO, Susteno Group

- **Kirin Kumar**, Director for Climate and Disaster Resilience, Northern California Grantmakers

- **Adalia Rodriguez**, Vice President of Human Capital and Chief Operations Officer, East LA Community Corporation

- **Roberto Requejo**, Sr. Fellow, Center for Community Investment

Paying for 520: Funding & Financing Shoreline Protection for NYC's 520 miles of Coastline

- **Harrison Jaehn**, Water Engineer, Arcadis

- **Rebecca Fischman**, Senior Resilience Planner, Arcadis

- **Maggie Haight**, Principal, BJH Advisors

- **Tianyi Yang**, Senior Vice President, Ernst & Young Infrastructure Advisors

Breaking Down Barriers: Collaborative Approaches to Funding Coastal Resilience Initiatives for Long Island Sound

- **Deb Abibou**, Extension Professional - Sustainable & Resilient Communities, Connecticut Sea Grant / Long Island Sound Partnership

- **Sarah Schechter**, Extension Professional - Sustainable & Resilient Communities, Connecticut Sea Grant / Long Island Sound Partnership

- **Sara Powell**, Extension Professional - Sustainable & Resilient Communities, New York Sea Grant / Long Island Sound Partnership

- **Ben Goldberg**, Extension Professional - Sustainable & Resilient Communities, New York Sea Grant / Long Island Sound Partnership

- **Sarah Schaefer-Brown**, Extension Professional - Sustainable & Resilient Communities, New York Sea Grant / Long Island Sound Partnership

- Elizabeth Hornstein, Extension Professional - Sustainable & Resilient Communities, New York Sea Grant / Long Island Sound Partnership
- Scaling Regional Climate Resilience: Advancing Adaptation Through Local Innovation and Collective Expertise**
- Diana Edwards, Climate Resilience Manager, AECOM

Building Resilience in Practice: First-Year Lessons from the Climate Smart Communities Initiative Network Building

Rooms 310/311

Launched in 2024, the Climate Smart Communities Initiative (CSCI) advances equitable climate resilience through locally driven projects, technical assistance, and peer learning. This panel will feature project teams representing the diversity of community resilience practice across the United States including Ottawa County (OK), Charleston County (SC), the Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of the Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw Indians (LA), and the Town of Brentwood (MD). These communities addressed a wide range of climate hazards such as flooding, sea level rise, and extreme heat.

Panelists will reflect on their first-year experiences implementing resilience strategies through the pilot program including highlighting successes, challenges, and lessons learned in navigating distinct social, political, and environmental contexts. Themes will include addressing capacity constraints, advancing equity in resilience planning, building cross-sector partnerships, and translating assessment findings into on-the-ground action.

The session will open with brief lightning talks from each project team, followed by small-group discussions where participants can engage directly with the teams for deeper dialogue and peer learning. Attendees will leave with practical insights into how communities are accelerating resilience progress, overcoming common barriers, and developing approaches transferable to their own work.

Speakers

- Katie Lund, Resilience Services Lead, Fernleaf
- Stephanie Dalke, Program Manager, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center
- Kristin Marcell, Director, Climigration Network
- Molly Caggiano, Resilience & Sustainability Manager, Charleston County Government
- Devon Parfait, Chief/ Coastal Resilience Analyst, Grand Caillou Dulac band of Biloxi Chitimacha Choctaw / Environmental Defense Fund
- Maggie Osthues, Program Manager, Climigration Network
- Martin Lively, Grand Riverkeeper, L.E.A.D. Agency

Coastal Adaptation in a Changing Climate: Lessons Across Regions Research & Science of Adaptation

Room 315

Coastal ecosystems are among the most vulnerable to accelerating climate change, yet they remain essential for sustaining biodiversity, cultural values, and community resilience. This session will highlight adaptation efforts led by the Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center (NE CASC) and partners, with perspectives from both the

Northeastern and Northwestern United States. Talks will showcase collaborations across universities, federal agencies, Tribal nations, and coastal managers that address the pressing challenges of coastal change.

Speakers will feature translational science approaches to integrating adaptation into biodiversity conservation, structured decision-making and the Resist-Accept-Direct (RAD) framework for managing change, Tribal-led initiatives, and case studies of coastal resilience projects. Drawing on ongoing work across regions, presenters will share successes, challenges, and lessons learned from adapting and managing coastal ecosystems under climate stress.

The session will highlight practical strategies for translating science into action, including approaches that center equity, foster knowledge co-production, and strengthen cross-boundary partnerships. Participants will gain examples of how adaptation science is informing biodiversity protection, along with insights into effective collaborations that span cultural and community contexts. By connecting science, management, and lived experience, this session aims to spark dialogue and catalyze new collaborations that safeguard ecosystems and people into the future.

Speakers

- Sarah Love, Postdoctoral Fellow, NE CASC
- Carrie Brown-Lima, Regional Administrator, USGS, NE CASC
- Jaron Ming, National Lead, USFWS, NWRS
- Kris Metzger, Regional Administrator, USGS, SC CASC
- Jon Woodruff, Professor, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- Ariana Sutton-Grier, USGS
- Julie Walker, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- Caty DuDevoir, Graduate Student, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Property Resilience Assessments: Unlocking Resilient Design and Retrofit at the Property-level Built Environment

Room 316

As natural hazards intensify, state and local governments, housing and community development organizations, faith-based institutions, and critical infrastructure owners and operators are increasingly experiencing direct and indirect impacts to their assets. From operational impacts like increasing heating and cooling demands and rising insurance rates, to direct damage and disruption from natural hazards, property owners and operators need more tools to understand the vulnerability of their properties and identify resilience measures that can be implemented to reduce their risk. Two new frameworks and tools are emerging to help owners, operators, and property assessors understand their holistic climate risk - the ASTM Property Resilience Assessment standard - a first of its kind standard to create a framework for how to conduct a property resilience assessment - and the Risk Mitigation Assessment (RMA) Tool that guides property assessors in conducting a hazard, vulnerability, and risk assessment of an individual property. This training will introduce these tools and frameworks, provide a few case studies from state government and faith-based institutions, and guide participants

through an interactive exercise for how they can leverage the information in these tools and frameworks across various owners, operators, and government entities to support more resilient properties.

Speakers

- **Katie Wholey**, Director of Climate Resilience, Enterprise Community Partners
- **Brittany Moffett**, Senior Resilience Engineer, Arup
- **Ana Moura-Cook**, Program Manager for Climate Resilience, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
- **Lucy Cummings**, Director, Faith Center Resilience, New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS)

Building Just and Inclusive Climate Resilience: Knowledge, Agency, and Governance in Action

Social Resilience and Transformation

Rooms 317/318

In this session we explore how climate resilience depends on strengthening community agency, collective action, and inclusive systems of governance. When communities lead, they build the social capital and shared responsibility needed to sustain resilience over time. Yet, lasting change also requires shifts within the institutions and governance systems that shape adaptation decisions. The panel highlights how collaboration between communities, academics, and government can open space for new forms of participation and knowledge, while also testing the limits of institutional flexibility. Drawing on approaches from reparative justice to storytelling, body mapping, and mixed-methods research, the session considers how change unfolds across multiple levels - from grassroots organizing to municipal reform. It asks: How can participatory and reparative practices reshape governance to address root causes of social vulnerability? And how can diverse ways of knowing, including storytelling and body mapping, help bridge community visions with systemic transformation toward more just and enduring climate resilience?

Speakers

- **Rosalyn Negron**, Professor of Anthropology and Research Director of the Sustainable Solutions Lab, University of Massachusetts Boston
- **Nicholas Johnson**, PhD Candidate, University of Massachusetts Boston
- **Olivia Aguilar**, Director of the Miller Worley Center for the Environment, Mount Holyoke College
- **Laura Castro-Diaz**, Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts Boston
- **Fabian Torres-Ardila**, Associate Director, Gaston Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy
- **Shannon Callahan**, PhD Candidate, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Adaptation Information-Sharing in the Changing Federal Landscape

Navigating the Muddy Waters of a Federal Maelstrom (Special Session)

Room 319/320

The adaptation and resilience information-sharing landscape is increasingly complicated, particularly in light of federal withdrawal of climate resources and the systematic removal of information about

communities that bear the brunt of climate impacts. This workshop invites you to participate in conversations with organizations that host knowledge-sharing tools like the Adaptation Clearinghouse, Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange, and others. Small group discussions will help us understand how you access adaptation and resilience information, and what resources are most useful in your daily work. Conversations will explore how these tools can better meet practitioner needs for data, analysis, reports, and examples of real policy solutions. Takeaways from this workshop will inform ongoing collaboration among resource providers to fill information gaps and make climate resources more accessible.

Facilitators

- **Caren Fitzgerald**, Communications Manager, Georgetown Climate Center
- **Dan Rizza**, Director, Program on Sea Level Rise, Climate Central
- **Pete Rafle**, Georgetown Climate Center

Speakers

- **Marisa Borreggine**, Institute Associate, Georgetown Climate Center
- **Kathryn Braddock**, Lead Scientist, EcoAdapt
- **Annie Bennett**, Associate Director, Adaptation Program, Georgetown Climate Center
- **Ned Gardiner**, Program Manager, NOAA Climate Program Office

12:30 PM — 12:45 PM

Break & Snack *Ballroom Gallery*

12:45 PM — 1:45 PM

Closing Plenary & Town Hall Strategy Session: Where do we go from here? Forward with Vision, Strategy & Support

Ballroom ABC

The adaptation community has its work cut out for it. Fortunately, none of us are working alone. This week we've learned from each other and hopefully we've heard some innovative new ideas we can take back home to implement. Maintaining this network and increasing our knowledge exchange is vital but so are the actions we take and the vision of what we are working toward. Come to the closing session ready to share your insights, your commitments to action, and the seed of renewal we want to plant, or collaborate with other on. Leave the 7th National Adaptation Forum with inspiration, vision, and the sense you are working together on meaningful ways to build resilience.

Two long-time leaders in the adaptation field will guide us through an interactive and empowering session. In the preceding days of the Forum, they will be tracking emerging ideas, and they ask you to provide input into this closing session with feedback on the sessions you attend.

Speakers

- **Lara Hansen**, Chief Scientist & Executive Director, EcoAdapt
- **Susanne Moser**, Director, Susanne Moser Research & Consulting

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communities
initiative

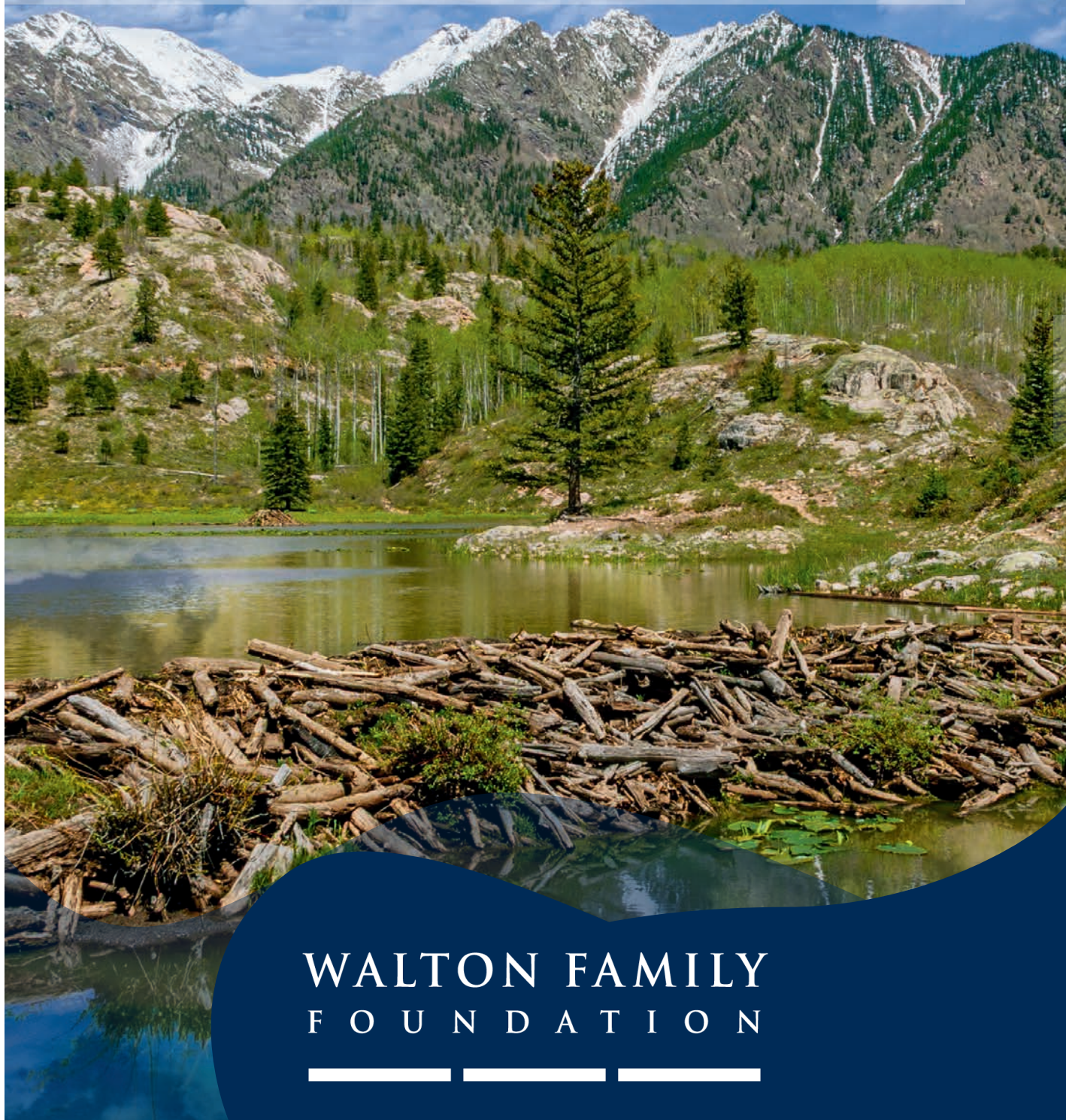
An initiative that advances climate resilience plans and projects across the country through direct grants, practitioner training, and knowledge sharing.



Learn more at ClimateResilienceFund.org

Creating opportunities for nature and people to thrive together

Advancing durable water solutions





CO₂ Foundation

A family philanthropy providing support for scientifically sound, potentially game-changing responses to the global climate emergency.

The Foundation supports responses to the increasingly frequent and severe impacts of accelerating climate change via interventions that protect people and communities immediately and can be used broadly to hasten effective adaptation.



Current Grantees

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 Montana Health and Climate | National Center for Healthy Housing
 National Council for Occupational Safety and Health | Northern Arizona University
 Oregon Environmental Council/Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network | Planning Ahead
 Point Blue Conservation Science | Society for Science
 Southeast and Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership | Tech for Change
 The Conversation U.S. | The Climate Center | The Climate Security Initiative
 Transmediavision | University of Florida Foundation | Urban Institute
 Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN)
 University of Washington Department of Atmospheric and Climate Science | VEIC
 West Virginia University Extension Disaster Emergency Network (EDEN)
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CO2Foundation.org

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At Kresge, we help cities combat and adapt
to climate change while advancing racial
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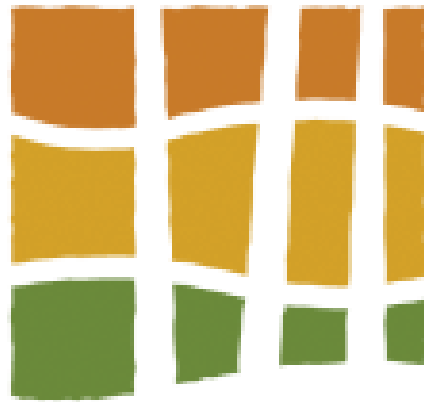
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Additional Contributors

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Energy Solutions (C2ES)**

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FIELD BUILDER LEVEL

Climate Resilience Fund

John Nordgren: john@climateresiliencefund.org
<https://www.climateresiliencefund.org>

The Climate Resilience Fund (CRF) mobilizes financial and technical resources and expertise to accelerate the pace and scale the impact of effective, equitable climate resilience. Our core focus is on helping communities across the nation to better understand and address the challenges presented by the rapid onset of climate-related impacts.

CRF embraces a positive vision of a climate-resilient society, where the knowledge and resources for proactively addressing the unavoidable impacts of rapid climate change are available and accessible to help steer society in a new direction — one where healthy communities, ecosystems, and sustainable economies coexist and thrive.

CO2 Foundation

Karen Wolfgang: karen@co2foundation.org
<https://www.co2foundation.org>

The mission of the CO2 Foundation is to execute impactful grant-making and communication about the urgent societal risks from extreme weather and the urgent need for evidence-based and effective carbon removal approaches that create a safe, just, and resilient future for all. The Vision of the CO2 Foundation is a near-future of effective climate action, to reduce the risks of catastrophic weather and to catalyze community climate resilience strategies.

EcoAdapt

Lara Hansen: Lara.Hansen@EcoAdapts.org
<https://www.ecoadapt.org>

EcoAdapt, founded by a team of some of the earliest adaptation thinkers and practitioners in the field, has one goal - creating a robust future in the face of climate change. We bring together diverse players to reshape planning and management in response to rapid climate change. EcoAdapt has four programs: 1) Knowledge Exchange, which includes the National Adaptation Forum and the Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKEx.org); 2) Research and Innovation, which focuses on understanding the state of the field, the effectiveness of adaptation solutions, and finding new innovative adaptation approaches; 3) Adaptation Support, where EcoAdapt staff provide customized guidance, tools, and advice, and 4) Training and Workshops designed to build local capacity to develop plans and implement actions that reduce climate vulnerability.

The Kresge Foundation

<https://www.kresge.org/>

The Kresge Foundation was founded in 1924 to promote human progress. Today, Kresge fulfills that mission by building and strengthening pathways to equity and opportunity for low-income people in America's cities, seeking to dismantle structural and systemic barriers to equality and justice. Using a full array of grants, loans, and other investment tools, Kresge invests more than \$160 million annually to foster economic and social change. For more information, visit [kresge.org](https://www.kresge.org).

Walton Family Foundation

<http://www.waltonfamilyfoundation.org>

The Walton Family Foundation is at its core, a family-led foundation. Three generations of the descendants of our founders, Sam and Helen Walton, and their spouses, work together to lead the foundation and create access

to opportunity for people and communities. To learn more, visit waltonfamilyfoundation.org

LEADER LEVEL SPONSOR

David and Lucile Packard Foundation

<https://www.packard.org/>

The Packard Foundation works with people and communities to create enduring solutions for just societies and a healthy, resilient natural world.

PARTNER LEVEL SPONSOR

Barr Foundation

<https://www.barrfoundation.org/>

The goal of the Barr Foundation's Climate Resilience Program is to increase capacity in Metro Boston to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Climate Resilience Program focuses on three main priorities: 1) building awareness and mobilizing a diverse constituency for action on climate risks, impacts, and resilience strategies, 2) mobilizing key stakeholders to advance equitable policies and resilience plans, and 3) catalyzing momentum through demonstration projects that integrate resilience into the fabric of cities.

CDM Smith

Lauren Miller: millerlm@cdmsmith.com
<https://www.cdmsmith.com/>

CDM Smith is a privately owned engineering and construction firm providing legendary client service and smart solutions in environment, water, transportation, energy, and facilities. Passionate about our work and invested in each other, we are inspired to think and driven to solve the world's most complex natural and physical infrastructure challenges. We offer customized and scalable climate risk and adaptive solutions, based on proven research and best practices. Our national climate resilience team includes scientists, planners, economists, and engineers who understand the unique issues of the communities we serve. With a focus on transforming complex climate data into actionable insights, solutions, and tools, we specialize in using climate projections, including sea level rise, rainfall, temperature, and drought and tailor the data to meet specific end-user requirements in various practical applications - climate risk assessments and climate resilient planning, modeling, and design.

Doris Duke Foundation

<https://www.dorisduke.org/>

The mission of the Doris Duke Foundation is to build a more creative, equitable and sustainable future. We work across three areas: Arts & Culture; Nature; and Health & Well-being. In Nature, we advance conservation that secures a thriving, resilient environment for all through support for climate-smart stewardship of forests and Indigenous leadership

Georgetown Climate Center

Joshua Saks: joshua.saks@georgetown.edu
<https://www.georgetownclimate.org/>

The Georgetown Climate Center (GCC) serves as a resource to state, federal, and local policymakers working to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change. GCC's Adaptation Program provides thought leadership, peer-learning, and resources to help protect people, homes, and critical infrastructure. GCC also hosts adaptationclearinghouse.org, an online library of adaptation resources, policies, and case studies for people working to build resilience in their states and communities. georgetownclimate.org.

ADVOCATE LEVEL SPONSOR

Black & Veatch

Luke Greene: greenel@bv.com
<https://www.bv.com/>

Black & Veatch is a 100-percent employee-owned global engineering, procurement, consulting and construction company with a more than 100-year track record of innovation in sustainable infrastructure. Since 1915, we have helped our clients improve the lives of people around the world by addressing the resilience and reliability of our most important infrastructure assets.

Brown and Caldwell

Teresa Sprague: tsprague@brwnncald.com
<https://www.brownandcaldwell.com/>

Headquartered in Walnut Creek, California, Brown and Caldwell is an employee-owned full-service environmental engineering, planning, and construction services firm with 50 offices and over 2,100 professionals across North America and the Pacific. At Brown and Caldwell, we strive to drive positive change in our environment and our world. It's our purpose and our passion. BC helps our clients understand, identify, plan for, and respond to changing climatic conditions. Our approach helps build resilience and a better understanding of the range of potential expected and unexpected impacts for our clients' facilities, operations, and the communities they serve. For more than 75 years, our creative solutions have helped municipalities, private industries, and government agencies successfully overcome their most challenging water and environmental obstacles.

Cadmus

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<https://www.cadmusgroup.com/>

Cadmus provides government, commercial, and other private organizations worldwide with technology-empowered advisory and implementation services. We help our clients achieve their goals and drive lasting, impactful change by leveraging transformative digital solutions and unparalleled expertise across domains. Together, we are strengthening society and the natural world. For more information, visit [cadmusgroup.com](https://www.cadmusgroup.com/)

Cascadia Consulting Group

Mike Chang: mike@cascadiaconsulting.com
<https://www.cascadiaconsulting.com/>

Cascadia Consulting Group is a small, women-owned, mission-driven environmental consulting firm that works with public and private sector clients to tackle today's most pressing sustainability challenges. For more than 30 years, Cascadia has partnered with communities, agencies, and organizations nationwide to prepare for climate impacts, reduce emissions, reduce waste, and conserve resources.

Our teams bring together technical expertise, policy insight, and community engagement to deliver work that is grounded in evidence, reflects community priorities, and is built for real-world use. We're known for turning complex challenges into clear action plans—and for supporting clients through implementation and evaluation, not just planning.

Across all our work, we prioritize equity, inclusion, and long-term impact, helping clients move from goals to practical, measurable results that benefit real people and the natural systems they rely on

Climate Resilience Consulting

Joyce Coffee: joyce@climateresilienceconsulting.com
<https://www.climateresilienceconsulting.com/>

For more than 10 years, Climate Resilience Consulting (CRC) has helped shape the practice of climate resilience across the U.S. and internationally, working at the intersection of policy, finance, community engagement, and implementation. CRC partners with public, private, and nonprofit leaders to turn climate risk into durable action. Its newest innovation, RIA (Resilience Intelligence Advantage), accelerates decision-making by connecting local risk to practical, hand selected resilience solutions tailored to communities specific needs.

Esri (Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.)

Hunter Adamo: hadamo@esri.com
<https://www.esri.com/en-us/home>

Esri, the global market leader in geographic information systems (GIS), offers the most powerful mapping and spatial analytics technology available. Since 1969, Esri has helped customers unlock the full potential of data to improve operational and business results and create the maps that run the world. Visit us at [esri.com](https://www.esri.com).

National Wildlife Federation

Jessie Ritter: ritterj@nwf.org
<https://nwf.org>

With decades of experience advancing climate planning through federal policy, environmental justice initiatives, state and local policy advocacy, and on-the-ground projects across seven regional centers, the National Wildlife Federation's mission is to "unite all Americans to ensure wildlife and people thrive in a rapidly changing world." In a critical time of accelerating climate and biodiversity crises, we work for improved ecological balance and safe, equitable access to clean water, air, and land to ensure that all wildlife, people, and ecosystems thrive.

The Nature Conservancy

Kimberly Hall: kimberly.hall@tnc.org
<https://www.nature.org/>

Who We Are: We are dedicated staff, scientists and members advancing effective, lasting conservation in more than 70 countries and territories.

What We Do: To make the highest possible impact on the climate and biodiversity crises between now and 2030, we're developing breakthrough ideas, amplifying local leaders and influencing policy.

Where We Work: Dense rainforests, remote coral reefs and the hearts of major cities. Our strategies are as diverse as the habitats and geographies in which we work

Trust for Public Land

Taj Schottland: taj.schottland@tpl.org
<https://www.tpl.org/>

Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national nonprofit that connects everyone to the benefits and joys of the outdoors. As a leader in equitable access to the outdoors, TPL works with communities to create parks and protect public land where they're needed most. Since 1972, TPL has protected more than 4 million acres of public land, created more than 5,500 parks, trails, schoolyards, and iconic outdoor places, raised over \$112 billion in public funding for parks and public lands, and connected nearly 10 million people to the outdoors.

FRIEND LEVEL SPONSOR

Adaptation International

Sascha Petersen: sascha@adaptationinternational.com
<https://www.adaptationinternational.com>

Adaptation International was founded in 2010 with a desire to help communities look to the future and become more resilient to a changing climate.

We believe that now is the time to take action to respond to climate change, all people and perspectives add value, collaboration is critical, and communities should drive solutions.

We believe in building resilience together.

Arizona Institute for Resilience

Leona Davis: leonafdavis@arizona.edu
<https://www.air.arizona.edu/>

The Arizona Institute for Resilience (AIR) at the University of Arizona prepares the next generation of resilience leaders through its Professional Science Master's in Resilience Practice. This interdisciplinary, solutions-oriented program equips students with the skills to design, implement, and evaluate strategies that strengthen communities facing environmental and social change. Grounded in the environmental and cultural context of the Sonoran Desert, the program combines applied coursework, real-world problem solving, and collaborative leadership training to prepare graduates for impactful careers in climate adaptation, sustainability, and resilience.

California Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Sarah Hutto: sara@californiamsf.org
<https://www.californiamsf.org>

For three decades, The California Marine Sanctuary Foundation (CMSF) has championed science-based solutions to protect ecosystems and strengthen community resilience, from coastal mountains to the sea. Originally established to support the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, CMSF has evolved into one of California's most respected marine conservation nonprofits—serving as a trusted partner to state and federal agencies, Tribal governments, universities, research institutions, and local communities. From reducing ship strikes and underwater noise through voluntary vessel speed reduction programs, to mobilizing hundreds of community scientists to monitor water quality, our projects connect science with action and people with place.

Carnegie Mellon University CEE

Geena Provenzano: cerca-cee@cmu.edu
<https://www.engineering.cmu.edu/cerca/index.html>

The Center for Engineering Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CERCA) unites faculty and student expertise across Carnegie Mellon University to translate climate science into actionable guidance for communities facing complex climate conditions. Through a data-driven approach, CERCA develops solutions for making transportation, infrastructure, energy and water systems more equitable and resilient. Our mission is to bridge the gap between academic innovation and policy action, and create climate-resilient approaches that promote harmony between the built, natural, and social environments.

Climate Central

Dan Rizza: drizza@climatecentral.org
<https://www.climatecentral.org/>

Climate Central is an independent, policy-neutral 501(c)(3) nonprofit made up of scientists and communicators who research and report the facts about our changing climate and how it affects people's lives. Leveraging science, big data, and technology, the organization produces localized information, compelling visuals, and groundbreaking research on climate change—from sea-level rise to extreme weather—that reach audiences around the world. Through partnerships with meteorologists, journalists, local governments, community based nonprofits and other respected voices, Climate Central makes climate science approachable and useful for communities everywhere.

Defenders of Wildlife

Aimee Delach: adelach@defenders.org
<https://www.defenders.org>

Defenders of Wildlife is the premier U.S.-based national conservation organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of imperiled species and their habitats in North America. We protect and restore imperiled species by transforming policies and institutions and by promoting innovative solutions. We speak with one voice informed by scientific, legal and policy expertise, hands-on wildlife management experience and effective advocacy.

ERG

Diana Pietri: diana.pietri@erg.com
<https://www.erg.com/>

ERG is an interdisciplinary consulting firm with more than 20 years of experience partnering with states, regional coalitions, and local governments to design and implement climate resilience solutions tailored to community needs. We specialize in multisector adaptation, resilience, and mitigation projects that address climate risks and other environmental hazards at the local and regional scales. Our services include in-depth vulnerability and risk assessments, advanced modeling and mapping, and strategic adaptation pathways that empower informed, place-based decision making.

Fernleaf Interactive, LLC

Sealy Stanley: schiple@fernleaf.us
<https://fernleaf.us>

Fernleaf formed in 2014 in Asheville, North Carolina. We are a resilience planning firm that uses in-house developed software, AccelAdapt, to provide communities with accessible, data-informed, and community-centered insights.

With a team of industry experts, we work directly with all levels of government—from federal to local—to support a deeper understanding of vulnerabilities and risks. We bring quantifiable data and standards of excellence to every project we work on. Our processes are continually refined, fueled by our values, informed by our clients, and advanced by our best-in-class technology.

ICF

Susan Asam: sasam@icf.com
<https://www.icf.com>

ICF is a leading global solutions and technology provider with over 50 years of experience in the climate, energy, and environmental space. We combine unmatched subject matter expertise with cutting-edge technology to help clients solve their most complex challenges, navigate change, and shape the future.

Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience, Old Dominion University

Vincent Hodges: vhodges@odu.edu
<https://www.odu.edu/>

For nearly 15 years, Old Dominion University has taken a university-wide leadership role in issues of recurrent flooding and coastal resilience. The mission of the Institute for Coastal Adaptation & Resilience is to advance the practice of coastal resilience and adaptation by engaging with communities, organizations, and businesses to develop and deploy solutions based on integrated, innovative, and applied research. ICAR catalyzes the action needed to build vibrant communities, strong economies, and healthy ecosystems across the Commonwealth of Virginia despite natural hazards and climate change.

NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council)

Juanita Constible: jconstible@nrdc.org
<https://www.nrdc.org/>

NRDC works to safeguard the earth—its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends.

NRDC (the Natural Resources Defense Council) combines the power of more than 3 million members and online activists with the expertise of some 700 scientists, lawyers, and other environmental specialists to confront the climate crisis, protect the planet's wildlife and wild places, and to ensure the rights of all people to clean air, clean water, and healthy communities.

PlaceWorks

Katie Hollenbaugh: khollenbaugh@placeworks.com
<https://www.placeworks.com/>

PlaceWorks is a 100% employee-owned planning, design, and environmental consulting firm. Founded in 1975, PlaceWorks is committed to working with communities to address climate change at the local and regional level. We prepare innovative but feasible policies and strategies for local sustainability, climate, and energy action plans; adaptation strategies and vulnerability assessments; and other policy documents that address climate change and energy programs.

Siler Climate Consulting

Peyton Siler Jones: peyton@silerclimateconsulting.com
<https://www.silerclimateconsulting.com>

Siler Climate Consulting (SCC) is a worker-owned cooperative supporting municipal climate action with social justice at the center. SCC resources communities by working across scales, from neighborhood to national, to support socially just climate resilience efforts. We believe that communities have an opportunity, and responsibility, to address the intertwined crises of climate change and inequality. In solidarity with working class movements for climate justice, we equip our clients with tools, processes, and support to understand and address the underlying structural and systemic drivers of climate injustice.

Through our work, we emphasize procedural justice, facilitate inclusive engagement processes, and support local leaders to weave climate considerations into all aspects of municipal governance and local planning. Through our ongoing work with communities, we aim to support a just transition towards regenerative and solidarity-based economies.

SWCA Environmental Consultants

Cody Stropki: cstropki@swca.com
<https://www.swca.com/>

SWCA is an employee-owned environmental consulting firm dedicated to delivering sound science and creative solutions to complex environmental

challenges. We provide a broad range of services—including ecological restoration, climate adaptation, environmental permitting, and cultural resources management—to clients nationwide. Our collaborative approach and commitment to sustainability help communities and organizations achieve resilient, equitable, and environmentally responsible outcomes.

UNC Asheville's NEMAC

Karin Rogers: krogers@unca.edu
<http://www.nemac.unca.edu/>

The National Environmental Mapping and Applications Center (NEMAC) is an applied research center at UNC Asheville that helps decision-makers and the public understand complex environmental issues like climate change, natural hazards, and land use through tools like web applications and GIS mapping. Our ultimate aim is to empower communities with innovative and actionable insights for a more resilient future.

Union of Concerned Scientists

Maegan Ramirez: mramirez@ucs.org
<https://www.ucs.org/>

The Union of Concerned Scientists puts rigorous, independent science into action, developing solutions and advocating for a healthy, safe, and just future.

Virga Labs

Hannah Rooks: hannah@virgalabs.io
<https://www.virgalabs.io/>

Virga Labs is a woman-owned, mission-driven data science consulting firm based in Tucson, Arizona. We develop interactive decision support tools and immersive storytelling mediums that create actionable data experiences. We specialize in driving action at the intersection of water, climate, and society.

Virtual Planet

Juliano Calil: juliano@virtualplanet.tech
<https://www.virtualplanet.tech>

We help communities see their climate future, and plan for it. Using immersive storytelling, we transform sea-level rise projections, flood models, urban heat, wildfire risk, and other climate hazards and solutions into experiences people can walk through, understand, and act on. Our tools, including web apps, mobile apps, 360° videos, and VR, have supported adaptation planning in 30+ communities, from Miami and Santa Cruz to tribal nations and NOAA sanctuaries. Planners, resource managers, and community leaders use our work to build consensus, advance equity, and accelerate resilience decisions.

Stop by our booth for hands-on demos. Experience 6 feet of sea-level rise, 15-foot storm surge, or a wildfire bearing down on your neighborhood and how nature can help us adapt to a new climate. Visit [virtualplanet.tech](https://www.virtualplanet.tech) to learn more.

Voss Signs

Tom Tenerovicz: tom@vosssigns.com
<https://www.vosssigns.com/>

Since 1965, Voss Signs, LLC has produced custom and stock signs for various customers that include: Forestry Professionals, Land Owners, State and Federal Government Agencies.

Venue Map

David L. Lawrence Convention Center • Third Floor

- Public Areas
- Meeting Rooms

