

Climate Adaptation for Coastal Communities

Event was held on Tuesday, June 25 - Thursday, June 27, 2013

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: URI Bay Campus, Narragansett, RI

Description: This course is for folks who may be interested in incorporating climate change into their work or advancing their skills in planning for climate change adaptation. Thanks to NOAA funding, the workshop - including meals and snacks - will be offered free of cost.

The course, led by expert instructors from NOAA's Coastal Services Center, is intended to give people whose work will be affected by climate change, or those who may be in a position of providing technical assistance related to climate change to communities, the tools they need to address climate change adaptation. This course provides a thorough grounding in the topic -- including determining community vulnerabilities, identifying and finding mechanisms to implement adaptation strategies, and communicating effectively -- with ample time in class to apply what is learned to actual projects and scenarios.

The NOAA experts will be complemented by local experts who will bring relevant information and RI examples to share. Opportunities for local collaboration and next steps for adaptation planning and implementation are emphasized through discussion, participant activities, and incorporation of local speakers and examples. If you're working on a particular program/project with folks from other organizations this would be a great venue to get together with your team to move forward. And if you are AICP certified you will be happy to know that you will receive 18 hours of CM credits for taking the course.

Climate Adaptation for Coastal Communities

Course Goals and Objectives

Day 1

Introduction: Setting Your Course for Adaptation

Goal: Participants will gain an understanding of adaptation planning concepts to address coastal climate change issues. Through a classroom exercise and an optional “field visit”, participants will learn the coastal context for and challenges of climate adaptation.

Participants will be able to:

- A. Define key climate adaptation concepts and terminology, and
- B. Recognize the broad context of climate adaptation planning considerations and how they can be applied at the local level.

Climate Science: Comprehending Processes & Impacts of Climate Change

Goal: Participants will understand the human and natural influences on climate as well as climate’s impact on coastal communities and the natural environment.

Participants will be able to:

- A. Recognize basic climate science principles,
- B. Describe how climate variability and change will impact their community and the natural environment,
- C. Locate reliable sources of climate information, and
- D. Compose a climate issue statement.

Day 2

Vulnerability Assessment: Informing Adaptation Action

Goal: Participants will receive an overview of concepts used to assess the vulnerability of human and natural communities to climate variability and change, and will understand how vulnerability assessments inform adaptation planning activities.

Participants will be able to:

- A. Identify the key elements to address when scoping a vulnerability assessment,
- B. Identify and summarize salient information and data in a vulnerability assessment report, and
- C. Use appropriate information and data from a vulnerability assessment to select and prioritize adaptation efforts.

Adaptation Planning: Identifying and Assessing Adaptation Measures

Goal: Participants will learn about a variety of adaptation measures and how to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses. Participants will apply this knowledge to create a short list of adaptation measures targeting their climate issue statement.

Participants will be able to:

- A. Identify adaptation goals and objectives related to coastal management issues,
- B. Create a short list of adaptation measures appropriate to their climate issue statement,
- C. Explain methods and techniques for evaluating adaptation measures, and
- D. Recognize concepts, methods, techniques and lessons learned in the context of local planning efforts.

Day 3

Climate Communication: Applying Communication Research to be Effective

Goal: Participants will learn effective communication hints and tips for communicating about their climate adaptation efforts. From an overview of recent climate communication research, participants will apply these concepts and findings to develop a compelling message to communicate with their target population.

Participants will be able to:

- A. Use social science and climate communication research to identify relevant audience characteristics,
- B. Choose the appropriate terms, media, messenger and images to communicate with the target population, and
- C. Develop an effective message for their chosen target population and climate adaptation issue.

Implementation: Turning Strategies into Action

Goal: Through an exchange of expertise and information in a highly interactive exercise, participants will be able to identify solutions to different climate adaptation issues and a range of opportunities to move adaptation strategies forward.

Participants will be able to:

- A. Understand the value and benefits of integrating adaptation strategies into existing plans.
- B. Recognize implementation approaches that can be applied in changing policy, social, environmental, and economic conditions.
- C. Identify and select opportunities to integrate adaptation strategies into existing community efforts.
- D. Recognize opportunities for partnerships to move adaptation efforts forward.