

Climate Adaptation Data Week – April 13-17

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The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) invites you to our briefing series on coastal climate adaptation data needs and applications. Every U.S. coast is facing adaptation challenges due to rising sea levels, storm surge, and other coastal hazards. There is a tremendous amount of data for scientists and planners to use when making decisions about climate adaptation. But what data is most useful, how can it be made more accessible to coastal decision makers on the ground, and what policies and programs are helping communities make data-based adaptation decisions?

This week-long briefing series will explore programs around the country that have been collecting and using geographic and climate data to inform adaptation planning, and how federal action can help or hinder those efforts. Join us for your lunch break or your morning coffee, depending on your time zone, to hear experts discuss their program for 20 minutes followed by 25 minutes of Q&A.

Localizing Sea Level Rise Projections for Decision-Makers

Global climate data is not always accessible to local decision-makers, especially when projections are at a country or hemispheric scale. The Washington Coastal Resilience Project addresses this problem by generating down-scaled probabilistic sea level rise predictions. Nicole Faghin, Coastal Management Specialist, and Dr. Ian Miller, Coastal Hazard Specialist, both at Washington Sea Grant, will share how they generated these predictions and work to disseminate the data to cities, towns, and NGOs working along the coast.

Assessing National Park Asset Flood Risk: Retreat, Adapt, Fortify?

The National Park Service owns thousands of buildings and other infrastructure at risk from coastal flooding and sea level rise. Dr. Rob Young, Director of Western Carolina University's Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines, led a project to map and evaluate the vulnerability of each coastal NPS asset-from the Statue of Liberty to remote roads in Alaska-in order to help park managers decide what should be protected, what should be abandoned, and what should be moved further inland.

Cultural Heritage and Climate Change

Dr. Marcy Rockman [invited], ICOMOS-IPCC Scientific Coordinator for the Climate Change and Heritage Working Group and Climate Researcher with Co-Equal, will speak about the intersection of cultural heritage and climate change. Based on her new Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences article, Marcy will share recommendations on how federal agencies could more fully incorporate archeology and cultural heritage into the U.S. response to climate change.

Bridging the Gap Between Science and Decision-Making

The University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group (CIG) has proven to be a leader in climate adaptation science and application through three focus areas: conducting research, creating tools, and connecting those resources to at-risk communities. Dr. Amy Snover, Director of the Climate Impacts Group and the Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center at the University of Washington, will discuss CIG's cutting-edge programs and methodology for facilitating climate resilience in the American northwest.

Weather and Social Data to Inform Participatory Planning Initiatives

Mary Austerman, Great Lakes Coastal Community Development Specialist at New York Sea Grant, will discuss a collaborative effort with the National Weather Service to integrate weather and social science data to inform vulnerability assessments for coastal cities and towns along Lake Ontario. Austerman will then describe how this work fed into a participatory planning process for communities vulnerable to repeated flooding events.

This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Amber Todoroff at atodoroff@eesi.org or (202) 662-1892.

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April 15 | 12:00 - 12:45 PM EDT

April 14 | 12:00 - 12:45 PM EDT

April 13 | 12:00 - 12:45 PM EDT

April 16 | 12:00 - 12:45 PM EDT

April 17 | 12:00 – 12:45 PM EDT

