CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

Climate Adaptation and Resilience: The Road to COP26
Raising Global Ambition to Address Climate Impacts

Monday, April 19, 2021

Materials will be available at:
www.eesi.org/041921cop26
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About EESI...

**NON-PROFIT**
Founded in 1984 by bipartisan Congressional caucus as independent (i.e., not federally-funded) non-profit organization

**NON-PARTISAN**
Source of non-partisan information on environmental, energy, and climate policies

**DIRECT ASSISTANCE**
In addition to full portfolio of federal policy work, EESI provides direct assistance to utilities to develop “on-bill financing” programs

**SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES**
Focused on win-win solutions to make our energy, buildings, and transportation sectors sustainable, resilient, and more equitable
…About EESI

- **BRIEFING WEBCASTS**
  Live and archived video recordings of public briefings and written summaries

- **CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS**
  Bi-weekly newsletter with all you need to know including a legislation tracker

- **SOCIAL MEDIA (@EESIONLINE)**
  Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube

- **FACT SHEETS**
  Timely, objective coverage of climate and clean energy topics
A Resilient Future for Coastal Communities
Coastal Resilience Briefing Series...

Coastal Resilience in Alaska

Resilience along the West Coast

Financing Climate Mitigation and Resilience: Lessons from Hawaii

Coastal Resilience in the Great Lakes Region

Improving Coastal Resilience in the Northeast

Coastal Resilience in the Southeast

Nature-based Resilience for Gulf Coast Communities

Community-Centered Resilience: Lessons from Louisiana

Puerto Rico the U.S. Virgin Islands Miniseries

- Federal Support and Local Action
- Resilient Housing and Communities
- Sustainable, Democratic Energy and Public Health

Climate Adaptation Data Week
- Localizing Sea Level Rise Projections for Decision-Makers
- Assessing National Park Asset Flood Risk: Retreat, Adapt, Fortify?
- Cultural Heritage and Climate Change
- Bridging the Gap Between Science and Decision-Making
- Weather and Social Data to Inform Participatory Planning Initiatives
Federal policies and programs must be designed and implemented based on the climate of the future rather than the climate of the present or past. Climate justice and equity must be fully embedded into new policies and programs and incorporated into ongoing efforts. The federal government should take a leadership role in connecting science with practice, and support and expand collaborations with state, local, and tribal efforts. The federal government should take a leadership role to ensure that intra- and inter-agency coordination helps states, local governments, and tribes to access available coastal resilience resources. Federal investments in coastal communities must be leveraged to create local jobs and help develop a workforce trained in adaptation and resilience. Climate adaptation and resilience work should complement and, when possible, contribute to a decarbonized, clean energy economy.
Raising the Ambition of Federal Climate Change Adaptation and Climate Resilience Policy

Rachel Jacobson
American Society of Adaptation Professionals
Adaptation Professional

Someone who integrates projections about future climate conditions into their day to day work.
Putting people and communities on the front lines of climate change first, always.

- Those who experience the consequences of climate change first and worst.
- People who are highly exposed to climate risks and have fewer resources, capacity, safety nets, or political power to respond to those risks because of discrimination.
- Including, but not limited to: Black people, Indigenous Peoples, people of color, people with low incomes and from low income backgrounds, immigrants, those at risk of displacement, old and young people, people experiencing homelessness, outdoor workers, incarcerated people, renters, people with disabilities, and chronically ill or hospitalized people.
Federal policy changes needed

Fund

Reform

Transform
Fund the actions we know we need

➔ More federal dollars for adaptation & resilience
➔ Put impacted people in control of how money is spent
➔ Cut red tape for funding to ensure equitable access
Reform existing policies to avoid maladaptation

Maladaptation
“...actions that may lead to increased risk of adverse climate-related outcomes, increased vulnerability to climate change, or diminished welfare, now or in the future”
(IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, WGII)

→ require use of forward-looking climate information

→ Ask: where are benefits and risks going?
Transform

→ Accept emerging new realities
→ Envision where we want to go
→ Enact new policies to get there
Federal policy changes needed

Fund

Reform

Transform
Where to start? ASAP Policy Priorities for 2021

→ Create Federal standards for climate data and mandate use of future climate projections in agency decisions.

→ Treat climate change as a crisis and prioritize justice and equity in crisis response

→ Overlay climate resilience needs on all infrastructure decisions

→ Preserve and manage natural systems for climate resilience

→ Define, develop, and train the climate change adaptation and climate resilience workforce
Thank you

Rachel Jacobson
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Federal Policy Agendas

2021 ASAP Policy Priorities

Resources related to the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis Action Plan
- ASAP Member policy recommendations for the Committee
- Tribal review of the plan led by Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

Resilience-21 First 100 Days Agenda

Forward-Looking Climate Information

GAO: improved federal coordination to facilitate use of forward-looking climate information

Climate Migration and Managed Retreat

- Georgetown Climate Center Managed Retreat Toolkit
- Policy guidelines to advance community-led solutions to climate-forced displacement in the US by The Legal Justice Coalition (facilitated by UUSC and the Lowlander Center) and the Rising Voices Community Relocation & Site Expansion Working Group.

- Long wait times for post-flood buyouts leave homeowners underwater, Anna Weber and Rob Moore (Natural Resources Defense Council)
- GAO report on a climate migration pilot program
What did you think of the briefing?

Please take 2 minutes to let us know at:
www.eesi.org/survey

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