



Briefing Notice

Improving Coastal Resilience in the Northeast

Innovative Solutions to Protect Communities, Property, and the Environment

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

2 PM – 3:30 PM

Room 1539 Longworth House Office Building

Please RSVP to expedite check-in: www.eesi.org/102319northeast#rsvp
Live webcast (connection permitting) will be streamed at: www.eesi.org/livecast

The **Environmental and Energy Study Institute** (EESI) invites you to a briefing on initiatives and partnerships that are helping protect Northeast shorelines and communities from extreme weather events and other coastal hazards. The briefing will showcase nature-based solutions that support coastal resilience for wilderness areas, small communities, and large cities such as New York City. Nature-based solutions can protect human lives and property while creating habitat for wildlife and providing co-benefits like water filtration. These techniques can also be paired with traditional “gray” infrastructure to meet a greater variety of planning needs.

Much coastal restoration work involves multiple agencies at the local, state, and federal level, often working in conjunction with nonprofits and businesses across state and district lines. The panelists will describe this collaborative process and how buy-in for nature-based resilience projects can be achieved across diverse and sometimes competing interests. Speakers for the briefing are:

- **Kate Boicourt**, Director of Resilience, Waterfront Alliance
Ms. Boicourt will discuss the Alliance’s collaborative work with over 400 business, government, and civic partners to build consensus around a resilience policy platform for the New York Metropolitan area and beyond.
- **Sara Burns**, Water Resource Scientist, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
Ms. Burns will discuss the Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program, which helps communities develop action-oriented resiliency plans and provides grants to implement those plans.
- **Sam Belknap**, Community Development Officer, Sea Level Rise Project Lead, The Island Institute
Many of the more than 120 coastal and island communities along Maine’s 5,000-mile coastline are small, isolated, and vulnerable to sea level rise and climate change impacts on the lobster fishery. Mr. Belknap will discuss action being taken to improve infrastructure and community resiliency for these communities and the rural working waterfronts on the Gulf of Maine.

The Northeast faces a diverse set of coastal challenges, including coastal erosion, threats from storms such as Hurricane Sandy, and heavy property development. However, inventive collaborative projects developed in the Northeast can prove a model for other regions experiencing similar issues.

The briefing will provide specific project examples to protect both homes and industry and the legislation and policies developed at the federal level to help those projects succeed, along with suggestions for further Congressional opportunities to support long-term sustainability of the country’s coastal infrastructure.

This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Amber Todoroff at atodoroff@eesi.org or (202) 662-1885.

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