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Congressional Briefing:





“Federal Action for Resilient Coasts”

Thursday, October 29, 2020

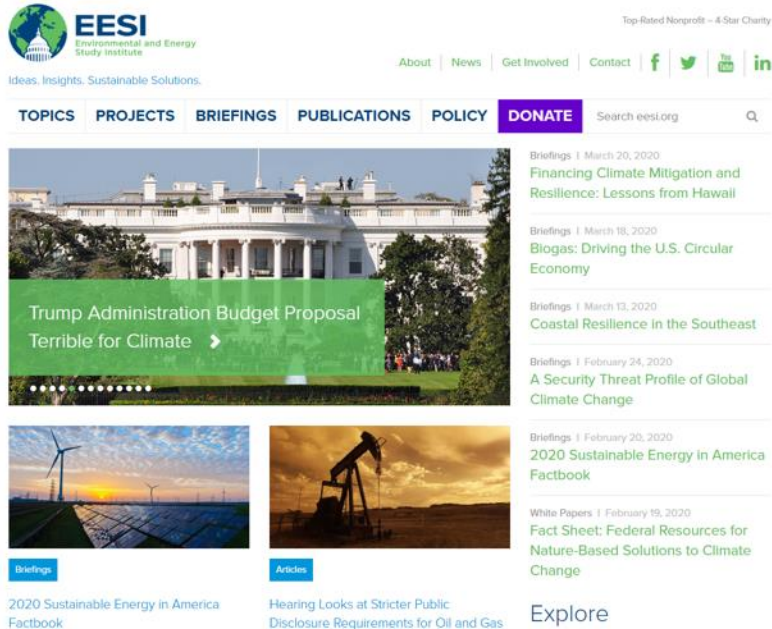
About EESI...



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-  **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



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Explore

A Resilient Future for Coastal Communities

Coastal Resilience Briefing Series...

A map of the United States with several callout boxes pointing to different coastal regions. The callouts include: "Coastal Resilience in Alaska" (pointing to Alaska), "Resilience along the West Coast" (pointing to the West Coast), "Financing Climate Mitigation and Resilience: Lessons from Hawaii" (pointing to Hawaii), "Coastal Resilience in the Great Lakes Region" (pointing to the Great Lakes area), "Improving Coastal Resilience in the Northeast" (pointing to the Northeast), "Coastal Resilience in the Southeast" (pointing to the Southeast), "Community-Centered Resilience: Lessons from Louisiana" (pointing to Louisiana), "Nature-based Resilience for Gulf Coast Communities" (pointing to the Gulf Coast), and "Puerto Rico the U.S. Virgin Islands Miniseries" (pointing to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands).

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

Community-Centered Resilience: Lessons from Louisiana

Nature-based Resilience for Gulf Coast Communities

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*

A Resilient Future for Coastal Communities

...Coastal Resilience Briefing Series...



Briefing Series Panelists

Mary Austerman, New York Sea Grant

Patrick Barnard, USGS Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center

Samuel Belknap, The Island Institute

Donald Bogan, Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing

Kate Boicourt, Waterfront Alliance

Adam Borrello, North Shore Community Land Trust of Hawaii

Derek Brockbank, American Shore & Beach Preservation Association

Samantha Brooke, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Sara Burns, The Nature Conservancy

Rob Croll, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission

Ernesto Diaz, Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources

Nicole Faghin, Washington Sea Grant

Jessica Fain, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

Beth Gibbons, American Society of Adaptation Professionals

Greg Guannel, University of the Virgin Islands

Anukriti Hittle, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources

Aimee Kinney, Puget Sound Institute

Justin Kozak, Center for Planning Excellence

Alex Kragie, Coalition for Green Capital

Charles Lester, UC Santa Barbara

Jeremy Littell, Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center

Gwen Yamamoto Lau, Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority

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Arturo Massol-Deyá, Casa Pueblo de Adjuntas and University of Puerto Rico

Ian Miller, Washington Sea Grant

Sarah Murdock, The Nature Conservancy

Raymond Paddock III, Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

Aaron Poe, Aleutian Bering Sea Initiative

Rhonda Price, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and Gulf of Mexico Alliance

Marcy Rockman, International Council on Monuments and Sites and Co-Equal

Liz Williams Russell, Foundation for Louisiana

Mathew Sanders, Louisiana Office of Community Development

Ruth Santiago, El Puente-Latino Climate Action Network and Comité Dialogo Ambiental, Inc.

Laurie Schoeman, Enterprise Community Partners

Amy Snover, Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center

Brody Stapel, Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative and Double Dutch Dairy

Heidi Stiller, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Margarita Varela, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources

Joanna Walczak, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Lexia Weaver, North Carolina Coastal Federation

Ross Weaver, Wetlands Watch

Rob Young, Western Carolina University

A Resilient Future for Coastal Communities
...Coastal Resilience Briefing Series



**A RESILIENT
FUTURE FOR
COASTAL
COMMUNITIES**

Federal Policy
Recommendations from
Solutions in Practice



Six Guiding Principles



**30 Policy
Recommendations
(with Examples) Across
Six Themes**



Eight Policy Levers



**Organized by Category
and Policy Lever**



**Definitions, References,
and Program Catalog**

Federal Policy Guiding Principles



- 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**.

A Resilient Future for Coastal Communities

Federal Policy Recommendations



- **Community at the Forefront**
- **Land Use and Development**
- **Cultural Heritage**
- **Climate Adaptation and Resilience Data**
- **Disaster Preparedness**
- **Financing Adaptation and Resilience**

TABLE 1

RECOMMENDATIONS ORGANIZED BY CATEGORY

Category	Recommendations	
Capacity building	1.2 Federal agencies should provide funding within adaptation and resilience grant opportunities for local leader training.	
	1.3 Federal government funding for adaptation and resilience should be designed so that communities have more decision-making authority in project implementation.	
	2.1 Congress should ensure that all land use planning is designed—and all infrastructure is built—to anticipate and withstand future climate conditions.	
	2.2 The federal government should encourage, fund, and provide technical assistance for all coastal areas to conduct climate vulnerability assessments.	
	2.3 Federal agencies should use climate vulnerability assessments to efficiently allocate resources.	
	2.4 Federal agencies should ensure nature-based solutions are given equal, or preferential, consideration to gray infrastructure as long-term coastal resilience infrastructure solutions.	
	2.6 Federal agencies should extend the work of Department of Agriculture (USDA) conservation districts to include climate resilience services for private landowners, or use USDA conservation districts as a model for a 'climate resilience districts' program.	
	2.7 Federal agencies should account for environmental and social impacts in benefit-cost analysis (BCA) tools.	
	Amend an existing agency, office, or program authorization	

TABLE 2

RECOMMENDATIONS ORGANIZED BY FEDERAL POLICY LEVEL

Federal policy level	Recommendations
Amend an existing agency, office, or program authorization	1.1 In order to establish and strengthen long-term relationships, federal agencies should consult with communities to ensure that projects and programs are designed with the community and specifically address community needs.
	1.2 Federal agencies should provide funding within adaptation and resilience grant opportunities for local leader training.
	1.3 Federal government funding for adaptation and resilience should be designed so that communities have more decision-making authority in project implementation.
	2.1 Congress should ensure that all land use planning is designed—and all infrastructure is built—to anticipate and withstand future climate conditions.
	2.2 The federal government should encourage, fund, and provide technical assistance for all coastal areas to conduct climate vulnerability assessments.
	2.3 Federal agencies should use climate vulnerability assessments to efficiently allocate resources.
	2.4 Federal agencies should ensure nature-based solutions are given equal, or preferential, consideration to gray infrastructure as long-term coastal resilience infrastructure solutions.
2.6 Federal agencies should extend the work of Department of Agriculture (USDA) conservation districts to include climate resilience services for private landowners, or use USDA conservation districts as a model for a 'climate resilience districts' program.	
2.7 Federal agencies should account for environmental and social impacts in benefit-cost analysis (BCA) tools.	

A Resilient Future for Coastal Communities

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Briefing Series Panelists—*Joining Us Today!*

Mary Austerman, New York Sea Grant	Greg Guannel, University of the Virgin Islands	Rhonda Price, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and Gulf of Mexico Alliance
Patrick Barnard, USGS Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center	Anukriti Hittle, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources	Marcy Rockman, International Council on Monuments and Sites and Co-Equal
Samuel Belknap, The Island Institute	Aimee Kinney, Puget Sound Institute	Liz Williams Russell, Foundation for Louisiana
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