Community-Centered Resilience: Lessons from Louisiana

November 6, 2019

Materials will be available at: www.eesi.org/110619lasafe

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Community-Centered Resilience: Lessons from Louisiana

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Repetitive-Loss Properties by U.S. County

Number of properties with two or more NFIP claims from 1978–2013 (by county)

© Union of Concerned Scientists 2013; www.ucsusa.org/floodinsurance
POPULATION SHIFTS 2000-2010

Data prepared by Esri, sourced from U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1 and Census 2010 Summary File 1.
**FEMA Declared Disasters**

Number of FEMA declared disasters since 2011 in each Parish. Source: FEMA

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The average household in the six LA SAFE parishes has received over **28x the national average** in FEMA disaster recovery payments between 1978 and 2016.

In Plaquemines, its **268x the national average**.

**FEMA’s NFIP Payments, 1978 - 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th>Louisiana</th>
<th>6 LA SAFE Parishes</th>
<th>Plaquemines Parish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total NFIP Payments</td>
<td>$57.3 B</td>
<td>$19.4 B</td>
<td>$4.9 B</td>
<td>$361 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Payments per Household</td>
<td>$490</td>
<td>$11,260</td>
<td>$13,920</td>
<td>$131,564</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Working together for community resilience, economic prosperity, and a better quality of life for everyone in Louisiana.
Identify Challenges & Opportunities
Propose Strategies
Evaluate Vision & Strategies
Policy, Program, & Project Development
Project Evaluation

2017 Outreach & Engagement
March & April Parishwide Meeting
May & June Community Meetings
July & August Parishwide Meeting
October Stakeholder Round-tables & Open Houses
December Parishwide Meeting

2018 Plan Development & Implementation

71 Community Meetings  
2,835 Individual Participants
LA SAFE combined the highest rated community strategies with future flood risk and existing efforts in each parish to create draft projects.
Selected Project Portfolio

Most popular strategies

- Public Boat Docks
- Cross-Parish Stormwater Management
- Coastal Restoration and Jobs Training
- Improved Drainage System
- Job Training Programs
- Increased Affordable Housing Options
- Drainage Requirements for New Developments
- Cultural Camps & After School Programs
- Culvert & Ditch Maintenance
- Commuter & Regional Rail
- Complete Streets
- Community Gardens & Planting Programs
- Incentivize Essential Service Providers
- Medium Density Housing
- Improve Public Transit Across Parish Lines
- Create a full-time drain Maintenance Department
- Restore Abandoned Property to Natural Condition
- Expand Boat Harbors
Planning Around Supply Chains and Industries
Planning for Future Growth Corridors on High Ground
Our Land and Water
A Regional Approach to Adaptation

Six Parish Plans, One Regional Approach
LA SAFE & Community Organizing

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Philanthropy and Government Action

• Civic Engagement, Leadership Development and Relationship Infrastructure
• Research and Analysis towards necessary policies and practices
• Storytelling to connect experiences of change to narratives for action
LA SAFE from the Community’s Perspective

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IN THEIR WORDS

“When you have to relocate, it is like a death. It plays on your mental and physical well-being.”
MOVING AWAY

1 in 4 know family who have left

4 in 10 know friends or neighbors who have left

Survey funded by National Association of Realtors
LA SAFE: LONG TERM IMPACTS ON SOCIAL NETWORKS

Community

Faith Leaders

Politician

Healthy community debate
Government Led Planning often lacks inclusiveness

Communities are often asked to comment on plans they didn’t make
The LA SAFE Approach: Was It Effective?
The Disconnect Between LA SAFE Planning and Local Adoption
The Challenge: Lack of capacity and local context
How do we buy down our risk?
Scenario Planning

Low Scenario
(most optimistic)

Medium Scenario

High Scenario
(least optimistic)

With Coastal Master Plan

Without Plan
We’re used to responding to disasters
Slower moving drivers of change

A collection of rational decisions adding up to an irrational result
Society requires stability in our institutions
Adaptation requires flexibility
Who should be thinking about the implications?
Rethinking Government’s Approach to Climate Adaptation Planning

LA SAFE – Terrebonne Parish, LA
Moderate Risk – 50 year vision
Rethinking government’s approach to adaptation planning

The Three Emergencies

- **Political capital**
- **Visibility**
- **Real actions, behaviours**
- **Conceptual**
  - rules, norms, governance
- **Existential**
  - values, assumptions, beliefs

**RESPONSES**

Are we doing things right?

*James Butler, Ioan Fazey, Graham Leicester, Camille Manning Broome, Jeannette Dubinin*
Rethinking government’s approach to adaptation planning

The Three Emergencies

- **REAL**
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RESPONSES

- Are we doing things right?
- What are the right things?

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The Three Emergencies

- **REAL** actions, behaviours
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**RESPONSES**

- Are we doing things right?
- What are the right things?
- What is right?

Rethinking government’s approach to adaptation planning

*James Butler, Ioan Fazey, Graham Leicester, Camille Manning Broome, Jeannette Dubinin*
An Existential Emergency Up and Down the Bayou
What’s next?

How do we incentivize big ideas like LA SAFE?
Good Data and Modeling
Start the Conversation
Need to Build in Flexibility
Leadership
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