

Grist for the Mill: Essential Ingredients that Support Communities in Adaptation

Chris Keeley

Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve,
UNH Cooperative Extension & NH Sea Grant



Research Origins & Goals

- M.S. Thesis (2012) using case study research
 1. What are the common factors that prompt communities to engage in climate adaptation?
 2. [.....]
 3. [.....]
- Supplemented by experiences with NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup
- Reinforced at National Adaptation Forum (2013)

Essential Ingredients that Support Communities in Adaptation:

1. Experience with Extreme Weather

These impacts help to:

- Show consensus of existing vulnerabilities – *We've got problems!*
- **Inspire** action to reduce future impacts
- Get people **talking** about impacts through stories and experiences



2. Local Leadership on Climate Change

Local leaders or “climate champions” help to:

- Proclaim climate change is a **local priority**
- Filter the **jargon**
- Identify & bring **stakeholders** to the table
- Sustain the **dialogue** on climate change



3. Trusted Technical Assistance

Climate change is a big challenge!

Communities need:

- Convening & facilitation support
- Access to and interpretation of information
- Long-term assistance



Trust and relationships are key!

Putting it all together

Recommendations to adaptation practitioners:

1. Leverage extreme weather events by creating opportunities for community members to share **stories and experiences**.
2. Seek out **climate champions** early.
3. Invest in the **relationships** and **trust**.



Questions & Discussion

- How have you seen these factors at play with adaptation in your community? In your work?
 - Extreme weather events
 - Local leadership on climate change
 - Trusted technical assistance
- Have you experienced other “essential ingredients?”