Supporting Local Solutions to Mitigate and Adapt to Our Changing Climate
Community Energy
Regional Public Transportation
Interconnectivity of Trails and Open Space
Regional Food Supply
Green Job Training
Regional Markets

ADAPTATION
Adaptation to Regional Impacts
Community Adaptation

Communities Working on Adaptation Issues

- Keene NH
- Seabrook NH
- Sunapee Region NH
- Groton CT
- NYC
- Chicago
- Seattle
- Kings County WA
- Miami Dade County
- New Orleans
- Toronto
- London
ICLEI Climate Resilient Communities (CRC) Program

Milestone 1: Conducted local resiliency study
Milestone 2: Set preparedness goals
Milestone 3: Prioritized preparedness actions and created a plan
Milestone 4: Publish and Implement Plan

Created CRC Committee;

List of Vulnerabilities Identified;

Specific Actions Identified to Increase Local Resilience;

Prioritization Workshop;

Plan Adopted;

Integration into Comprehensive Plan
Research on estimates of sea level rise effecting the New England coast;

Review approach taken by other states and communities in responding to this threat;

Developed maps identifying the areas of increased risk to flooding from SLR;

Identified various regulatory and non-regulatory options that should be considered by Seabrook to protect the Town from this potential risk.

RPC received funds from the Town of Seabrook and the NHCP to develop adaptation strategies to protect areas of Town at risk of flooding due to climate change.
Community Adaptation  
Sunapee Region

**Goals:** protect vulnerable storm water & drinking-water systems, provide adaptation information to support community-driven decision-making, and disseminate results to promote safe communities nationwide.

**Towns:** New London, Sunapee, Newbury, Springfield, Goshen, Sutton

**Research:** 180 Culverts assessed, Historic changes in rainfall, Population and building permit forecasts;

**Workshops:** 5 priorities established, 3 task forces;

**Task Forces:** Local Government and Infrastructure; Development and Zoning; Reducing Impact: Water Retention and Impervious Surfaces

**Prioritization:** Feasibility Vs Impact

**Implementation:** Town Planning
Lessons Learned

• “Mitigation strategies” simply not understood; Explain and make connections

• “Climate Preparedness” best-received, followed by climate change readiness;

• Capitalize on existing plans, stakeholder engagement processes and events

• Essential to give the public opportunities from the beginning for review and input;

• Hire a Sustainability Coordinator to streamline process and ensure appropriate buy-in;

• Interagency or interdepartmental coordination;

• Climate adaptation and climate mitigation are not mutually exclusive;

• Need knowledgeable and committed champions;

• Involve experts (University, NOAA, scientists)

• Local Government as a leader

• GET STARTED!
Community Adaptation

Communication Resources

Engaging Chicago’s Diverse Communities
http://www.fieldmuseum.org/ccuc/ccuc_sites/Climate_Action/climate_action.htm

Climate Communications and Behavior (CLI University of Oregon)
http://climlead.uoregon.edu/sites/climlead.uoregon.edu/files/reports/ClimCommBehaviorChangeGuide.pdf

Pew Center
http://www.pewclimate.org/communicating

Yale Project on Climate Change and Communication
http://environment.yale.edu/climate/
Christa Daniels (Koehler), AICP Manager, State and Local Government Program
603. 422-6464
cdaniels@cleanair-coolplanet.org
Community Adaptation

Needs Assessment

**Resources:** Funding, trained staff

**Bureaucratic Barriers:** Need mandate, Unclear roles and responsibilities, Authority spread among agencies, Lack of guidance, Federal (likely also state) policies/regulations/statues hinder efforts

**Data Needs:** Information on future impacts, Climate data on local/regional scale, Data on future tipping point (when would it happen), Baseline data, Cost/benefit information (especially current costs v. future (uncertain) benefits), Local/regional vulnerability assessments

**Other Needs:** Workshops, “No regrets” actions, Public education, Training, Help with making adaptation a priority, ID and sharing of best practices