

Introduction to Adaptation Planning for Climate Change

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Climate Mitigation and Adaptation



Climate Change **Mitigation**

Reduce greenhouse gas
emissions



Climate Change **Adaptation**

Reduce vulnerability of
natural and human systems

Maximize potential benefits



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Adaptive Planning

Climate Resilient – organizations, communities, economies, and ecosystems

Avoid or minimize negative impacts

Capitalize on potential positive changes

Be able to ‘bounce back’ after an event



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History May Not be the Best Guide to the Future

- Past events should not be used as the only indicator of future events
- Anticipate more extremes
- We have already set these changes in motion



Adaptive Planning

Prepare for changes in built, human, and natural systems

“Planning backward from 2050”

“Asking the Climate Question”



Adaptive Planning



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Be Smart About What We Build and Where



Adaptive Planning

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Getting Started

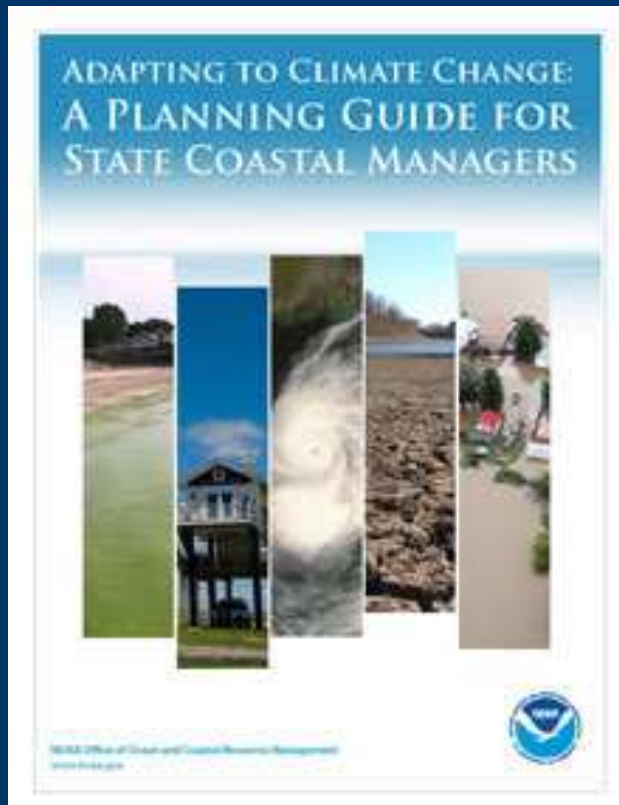
How can you enable better decisions and still move forward?

- Many impacts to consider
- Can get overwhelming
- Prioritize and start small
- It takes time!



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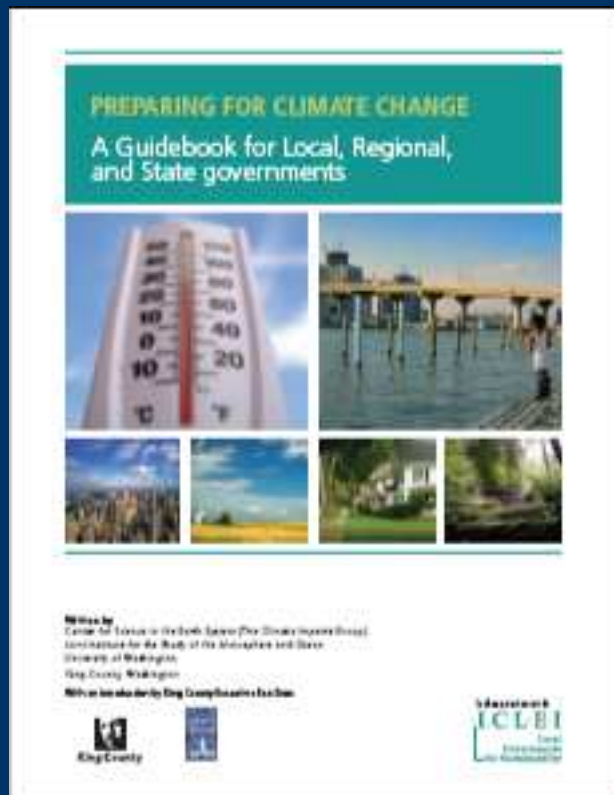
Adapting to Climate Change: A Planning Guide for State Coastal Managers



- 1. Establish the Planning Process**
- 2. Assess Vulnerability**
- 3. Create an Adaptation Strategy**
- 4. Design a Plan Implementation and Maintenance Process**

Drawn from Adapting to Climate Change: A Planning Guide for State Coastal Managers, by the NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management – 2010

Preparing for Climate Change: A Guidebook for Local, Regional & State Governments



1. Listen to the Science
2. Build support and a Team
3. Assessment – risk, vulnerability, adaptive capacity
4. Set goals and develop your plan
5. Implement your plan
6. Measure progress

Drawn from *Preparing for Climate Change: A Guidebook for Local, Regional and State Governments*, by the Climate Impacts Group and King County, and published by ICLEI – September 2007

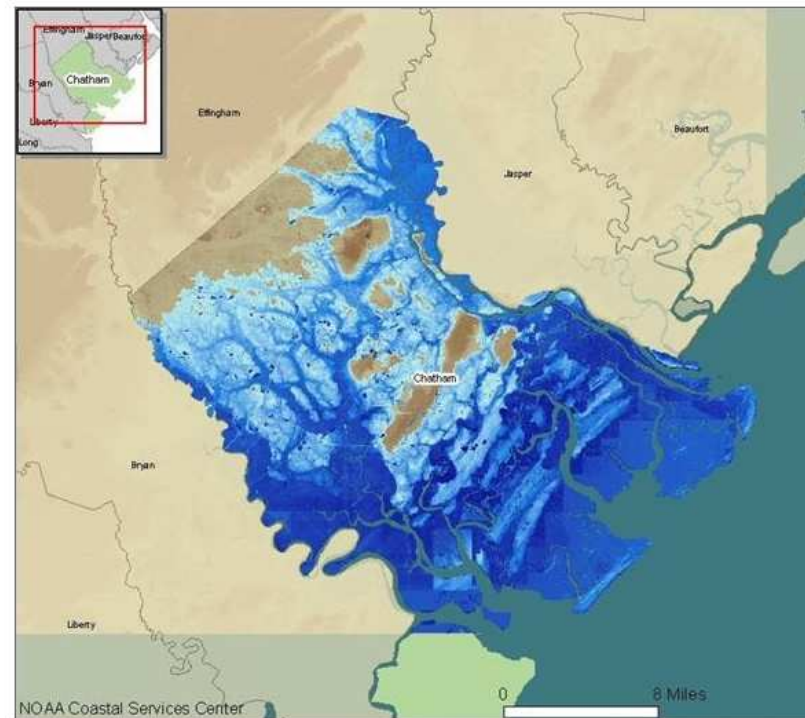
The Science – Make it Local

- Will flooding happen more frequently in certain areas?
- Will sea level rise expand risk areas?
- What impacts will drought have on our water supply?

U.S. Drought Monitor Southeast

July 20, 2010
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	46.3	53.7	7.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Last Week (07/13/2010 map)	57.1	42.9	7.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
3 Months Ago (04/27/2010 map)	82.0	18.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/05/2010 map)	99.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/06/2009 map)	82.6	17.4	5.5	1.0	0.0	0.0
One Year Ago						



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Build Support – and Build a Team

- Identify key staff and decision makers
- Interdepartmental
- Engage City Council
- Find a champion
- Engage regularly



Assessment

- Explore local/regional climate changes and the impacts
- What system will be exposed to these impacts?
- Are there other existing stressors?
- What strengths does your community have?



Create Your Plan

- Review goals established for at risk planning areas/sectors
- Identify actions or strategies that capitalize on opportunities and reduce vulnerability
- Prioritize actions
- Draft adaptation plan (goals, actions, timeline, costs)



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Planning with Uncertainty

“No regrets” strategies make sense even if climate change impacts are not as projected

“Low regrets” strategies provide climate change benefits for little additional cost or risk

“Win-win” or “Co-benefit” strategies reduce climate change impacts while providing other environmental, social, or economic benefits



The cost of inaction is greater!

Implement Your Plan

- Incorporate Climate Change into Existing Planning Activities (Comprehensive Plans, Wastewater Treatment, Transportation Infrastructure, Emergency Management)
- Implement new actions (create new policy, identify funding and other resources, create a timeline, celebrate success)



Take Home Messages



- Adaptation planning is a comprehensive process
- Easier to start if you can link to ongoing work and make it routine
- Use guides and resources

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