

2026 NH Coastal Climate Summit

Creating Possibility, Together

Thursday, May 21 from 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

University of New Hampshire, Holloway Commons
75 Main St., Durham, NH (doors open at 7:45 AM)



7:45 AM Doors open: Registration and Breakfast

8:30 AM Welcome and Program Introduction – *Lisa Wise (CAW) and Todd Selig (Town of Durham)*

9:00 AM Keynote Address: Elizabeth Rush, non-fiction writer, Pulitzer Prize Finalist (*The Quickening: Creation and Community at the Ends of the Earth* and *Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore*)

10:00 AM Break for Networking, Viewing Art Gallery and Tables

- *Tables: Elizabeth Rush book signing, UNH Marine Docents, NH Healthy Climate*
- *Art: Emily Cady, Taylor Rose and Becca Katz, Peter Weissbrod, and the Picturing Rising Tides Gallery*

10:30 AM Session 1 – Plenary

- Introducing the 2025 NH Coastal Flood Risk Science, Model, and A Neighbor's Case Study – *Lisa Wise (NH Sea Grant Extension), Kirsten Howard (NHDES), Joe Famely (Woods Hole Group), Alex Maxwell (Fuss & O'Neill), and Jayne Knott (HydroPredictions)*
- The Climate Case for Workforce Housing – *Maeve Nolan (Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast)*
- Grey for Green: The Kings Highway Drainage Infrastructure Improvements – *Jennifer Hale (Town of Hampton)*
- The Power of Participatory Science: Beach Profile Data for Understanding Coastal Change – *Wells Costello (NH Sea Grant Extension) and Suzannah Buzzell (UNH)*

12:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM Session 2 – Concurrent Presentations

Room 1: Resilient Structures

- Climate Resilient Stream Crossings: Are We There Yet? – *Polly Perkins (NHDES)*
- Evaluating Coastal Pavement Performance and Adaptation under Sea Level Rise in New Hampshire – *Wei Sun (UNH)*
- Building Resilience can be Fun and Engaging at a Vulnerable Living History Museum – *Rodney Rowland (Strawbery Banke Museum)*

Room 2: Resilient People

- Learning from the Great Bay: Practices for Equitable Relationship Building & Resource Sharing – *Lucy Perkins (Siler Climate Consulting) and Vidya Balasubramanyam (Coastal States Organization)*
- Filling the Gap: Helping Neighborhoods Be Prepared – *Maureen Aylward-Bover (TownGreen)*
- Developing a Nature-Based Solutions Workforce in Rhode Island – *Stephanie Moniz and Richard Zevallos (Groundwork RI)*

Room 3: Resilient Shorelines

- Genesis of Shoreline Designs at Wagon Hill Farm and Lessons Learned – *Tom Ballestero (UNH Coastal Habitats and Restoration Team)*
- Resolving Salt Marsh Ownership in Hampton Seabrook Estuary – *Aidan Barry (NHDES) and Rob Pruyne (Rockingham Planning Commission)*
- Designing Resilience: Nature-based Climate Solutions in New England -- *Jennifer Martel (American Society of Landscape Architects)*

2:30 PM Break for Networking, Viewing Art Gallery and Tables

3:00 PM Participant Pop Up and Climate Champions Award

- Participant Pop-up: *Attendees are invited to briefly share recent accomplishments, project updates, new ideas, upcoming opportunities, or pose an emerging question.*
- Climate Champions Awards

3:30 PM Session 3 – Live Podcast Conversation

Ahead of the Tide: Granite Goodness presents coastal climate visionaries

- Host: Andy DeMeo
- *Panelists: Maeve Nolan (Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast), Annie Cox (Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership), Cory Riley (Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve), Brianna Hagan (Town of Hampton)*

4:20PM Closing Remarks and Adjourn

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