Risky Business

How to assess our risk

An Interactive Session on Community Decision Framework Models for Climate Adaptation

Local Solutions: Northeast Climate Change Preparedness Conference Conference
Manchester New Hampshire
May 19, 2014
Agenda

• Welcome & Introductions: Edward Saltzberg, Managing Director of the Security and Sustainability Forum [www.ssfonline.org](http://www.ssfonline.org)

• Community Decision Model Presentations
  – The Climate Café – Simple Steps to Stating with Adaptation: Chris Keeley, Communities & Climate Program Coordinator, University of New Hampshire
  – Testing the shift from perceived to anticipated risk using the COAST Approach™: Sam Merrill, President of Catalysis Adaptation Partners

• Audience Discussion: Sherry Godleewski, Environmental Program Manager at NH Department of Environmental Services
The Climate Café:
Simple Steps to Starting with Adaptation

Chris Keeley
Communities & Climate Program
I want to hear from you
Climate impacts?
The Climate Café
Introducing Newfields, NH

- Population: ~1,700
- Small degree of major infrastructure
- Primarily volunteer government
Project Timeline

January-May 2012
Getting started

Talking with Planning Board, Emergency Management to build relationships, and ID local concerns & key participants.
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June
ID’ing values

Kick-off meeting with community dinner, local climate assessment, and World Café approach to vulnerability assessment.
Part I: Learning about the impacts

Local climate assessment presented by UNH climate change expert/co-author.

30 minute Presentation
20 minute Q&A
Part II: Talking about “vulnerabilities”

How could _______ (people, infrastructure, or natural resources) be impacted by more flooding, extreme heat, and more frequent or intense storms?

What actions can be taken to address these impacts?
Result: Focus Areas for Adaptation

Two focus areas emerged: **Stormwater Management** & **Emergency Preparedness**
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July-August
*Moving to Action*
Developing strategies and identifying actors, resources, and timeframes.

September-November
Review progress, ID key near-term actions.

December 2012 - January 2013
Implementation.
## Action Planning

### Focus Area #1: Stormwater Management

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>People</th>
<th>Costs</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>1. Inventory the <em>location, capacity, and condition</em> of stormwater infrastructure.</td>
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<td>• Contact UNH Civil Engineering Department about student volunteer project</td>
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<td>• Look into NH Coastal Program funding, New England Grassroots Environment Fund, and others</td>
<td>Planning board PB Chair Coastal Adaptation Workgroup</td>
<td>None to low</td>
<td>Spring 2013</td>
<td>There are several options for obtaining this information: (a) Incorporate as a CIP action, (b) pursue through volunteer collection, (c) Hire a contractor</td>
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Outcomes:

1. A web-based map of stormwater infrastructure that is easy to access and update.
How has the Climate Café been used in other communities?
Workshop #1 – The Climate Café
Climate Change 101 and small group discussions

Workshop #2 – What Tools Are Available?
An overview of planning and regulatory tools to use for adaptation (e.g., master plan, zoning, subdivision and site plan)

Workshop #3 – A Field Trip to Rye’s Salt Marshes!
Learning how salt marshes protect Rye from storm surge, and how sea-level rise affects salt marshes

Workshop #4 – Transitioning into Next Steps
Connecting the “Preparing for Climate Change in Rye” educational and engagement series into the regional planning commission’s upcoming project.
Introducing Rye, NH

- Population: 5,200
- Extensive wetlands and beaches
- Primarily volunteer government
Given the trends in increased frequency of storms, coastal flooding, and sea-level rise, how might these impacts affect (people, infrastructure or natural resources) in Rye?

Who can help do something about these impacts at the local, regional, state, or federal levels?
The Climate Café

- Critical infrastructure
- Roads - washout, temporary access, long-term costs of repair
- Wells, storage, access, replanting

Water sources
- Security/fear
- Cost flood insurance, property
- Emergency personnel leave/casualties
- Nuclear plant risks?
- Educating new routes
- Stock of resources, food
- Businesses might help
The Climate Café

Result:
A Summary of Local Concerns
Conclusions

- Get started today! Use local knowledge and values to start; don’t wait for perfect data or exhaustive analysis.

- Demystify climate change -- put it into local terms
  - Example: “Climate change means we may lose our beaches and tourism.”

- Involve everybody.
Questions?
Stormwater Management

Update stormwater regulation: Rework Rockingham Planning Commission/UNH Stormwater Center’s model reg. into subdiv. & site plan review

Web-based (Google Maps) inventory of location, condition, and capacity of stormwater infrastructure

**Ongoing** – Update completed and awaiting formal adoption

**Ongoing** – Discussions with UNH Civil Engineering Dept; Storm/Stormwater Photo contest in Spring
Implementation (a few examples)

**Emergency Preparedness**

Establish “Bulk Purchase & Installation” Discount Program for residential generators

Community calendar for storm preparedness tips and information

Subscribe to emergency alert system

Complete – Received selectboard approval, six installations in Fall 2012

Complete – Distributed in September 2013.

Complete – Subscribed to NIXLE and PING