

Community Outcomes from the Beta Resilience Dialogues

At the end of the Resilience Dialogues, the facilitator prepares a public report summarizing key dialogue outcomes. It describes the community context, articulates key climate adaptation questions that were explored, suggests appropriate resources, and outlines next steps. This document combines the questions and next steps from each of the communities in the beta round and describes a few of the outcomes that were common across all participating communities.

Outcomes for All Communities

- Defined and explored specific, localized, community-relevant questions about potential climate impacts and how to approach adaptation to those impacts while considering implications for the full fabric of the community.
- Connected local resilience leaders to trusted experts and vetted resources that will help them address their specific local questions and tackle local impacts.
- Connected local resilience leaders with national, regional, and state-level organizations and peer networks that can provide ongoing advice, mentoring, and tools.
- Outlined practical next steps that capitalize on the knowledge and connections gained through the Dialogues to help participating communities advance their resilience planning efforts.

Antioch, CA

Questions Explored

- While there are general resources available to help Antioch understand climate impacts at a national or regional scale (e.g., sea-level rise, flooding, and wildfire risks), what are methods for interpreting those projections at the local level?
- How will climate impacts influence and be influenced by local priorities: crime, homelessness, community cohesion, and open-space preservation?
- How can Antioch increase community engagement in adaptation efforts? What communication strategies work well for helping community members understand climate change projections and associated risk?

Next Steps

- Integrate flooding and sea-level rise projections into the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Explore development of Antioch Sail Trail, a series of markers along the waterfront that would incorporate engagement activities, historical information, and climate-related information.
- Increase community engagement in climate adaptation by developing engagement materials that link climate change and resilience issues to existing city priorities such as reducing homelessness, promoting public health, preserving public space, and protecting the downtown area from flooding.
- Connect with nearby universities or colleges to explore student fellowship or engagement opportunities for resilience efforts.

Boynton Beach, FL

Questions Explored

- What are the best strategies for communicating risk and engaging with the public, especially residents and stakeholders who may be skeptical of or not have basic knowledge of climate change?
- How do demographics intersect with climate risk in the community, and how can impacts to vulnerable populations be mitigated, especially as growth and development continues?
- How can the city prioritize, maintain and regulate adaptive infrastructure like seawalls?
- What are the economic costs and benefits of adaptation and financing resilience?
- What are the unknown vulnerabilities, how can they be assessed, and what actions can the city take to address them?
- How can local resilience and sustainability networks be leveraged to advance action toward resilience?
- What are co-benefits of building community resilience?

Next Steps

- Focus on building a communication strategy to convey climate risks to a variety of stakeholders:
 - Train all city staff on climate-related issues and begin to integrate resilience and sustainability into the city's daily functions until it is mainstreamed.
 - Engage with residents as early as possible in the planning and design stages, and formalize their participation in decision-making processes through steering committees, task forces, and/or advisory boards.
 - Emphasize the co-benefits that resilience efforts can provide the community, as well as the ways in which adaptation and mitigation can be woven into existing budgets.
- Identify local champions – elected officials, municipal department heads, those active in the education community (teachers, principals, parents, and children), and neighborhood and other civic leaders – who can serve as strong advocates for community resilience.
- Continue to share information with other local and regional communities and the county, build new relationships with local partners, and participate actively in regional and nationwide networks.
 - Build on existing relationships or forge new ones with Resilience Dialogues graduates, such as Hallandale Beach and Coral Gables. Engage more actively in the work of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact and continue city involvement in the Palm Beach County Sustainable Municipalities group.
 - Connect with established groups such as the Urban Sustainability Directors Network.
 - Forge partnerships with local universities such as Florida Atlantic University, and nonprofits such as the Climate Leadership and Engagement Opportunities (CLEO) Institute, to improve the city's climate outreach and education capacity, as well as its access to data, experts, and other resources.
- Review and identify gaps among existing city vulnerability assessments, sustainability and climate action plans, and other official documents. Begin working towards developing an adaptation plan for the City of Boynton Beach that will both address the community's infrastructure concerns and ensure resilience efforts are implemented equitably.
- Integrate adaptive measures that enhance the city's resilience to future climate impacts, such as increased flooding and saltwater intrusion. Ensure these measures apply to all current and future

projects.

Bridgeport, CT

Questions Explored

- How should Bridgeport approach next steps in climate resilience planning and implementation in the face of climate change?
- Within the defined purview of climate resilience planning and implementation, how might Bridgeport select and prioritize resilience building on a domain(s) in ways that also achieve other community benefits? What are potential administrative/legislative barriers to resilience efforts and how might they be addressed?
- What steps should be established for an analytical process/framework for climate resilience planning?
- What tools should Bridgeport leverage to identify and prioritize climate resilience building actions?
- What tools could help Bridgeport identify and integrate climate resilience and adaptation into municipal planning and capital projects? Which variables should be considered, how are they defined, collected, managed, and assessed?
- What tools or best practices are available which make climate change information understandable and actionable for the public?
- What community health and climate resilience models are available to adapt to Bridgeport's needs?
- What are potential State and/or Federal funding opportunities for climate resilience planning and implementation?

Next Steps

- Continue to advance current [Resilient Bridgeport](#) plans.
- Broaden community engagement in the resilience planning and implementation process. Visit Bridgeport communities (Neighborhood Revitalization Zones as well as other groups, faith communities, business, and community action groups), to gather community input on opportunities and threats of climate change/resilience needs to identify a set of community-based actions.
- Convene and formalize a climate resilience study group/advisory task group to focus on Bridgeport and regional partners (MetroCOG) to coordinate mutual listening discussions with business, emergency management, community boards, non-profits, clubs, and faith groups, “whole community.”
- Assign a Task Group (in concert with State and regional experts and partners engaged in addressing the State of Connecticut Climate Adaptation initiatives review of tools/resources that represent best science and practice of preparing for climate change impacts: food, water, weather, enterprises dependent on climate/water/maritime resources) to build on actions/indices/metrics, adopting what works for local groups and what qualifies for funding.
- Research, identify, and as appropriate pursue funding opportunities available for resilience studies and projects.
- Encourage the formation of “sparkplug subgroups” to convene interests and focus discussion about selected topics (e.g., health, community based “grass roots” needs, grants to support (City and Regional)).

- Consider establishing a City of Bridgeport Resilience Office or appointing Resilience Officers to help organize, govern, and implement climate resilience actions.
- Identify climate resilience indices by looking at what would help Bridgeport with a benefit-cost analysis (BCA) for grants programs, as funding has been identified by the City as an impediment to implementation.
- Consider as potential metrics to compare and track Bridgeport's development of adaptation strategies:
 - Fraction of town area in 2050 1% risk zone.
 - Fraction of town residents/businesses/jobs in the 2050 1% risk zone.
 - Fraction of town roads/utility components/schools/social service facilities in the 2050 1% risk zone.
 - Fraction of town tax base in the 2050 1% risk zone.
 - Average age of town infrastructure in the 2050 1% risk zone.
 - Fraction of residents/municipal leaders that know the answer to any of 1-5.
- Build a clearinghouse (e.g., storymap) for the existing data and layers for the work that's already happened in Bridgeport.
- Work with community stakeholders to assess and agree on health priorities based on Bridgeport's inventory of health-related issues (e.g., Brownfields, water, air). Integrate into the conversation, the existing and needed health 'resources' and support infrastructure.

East Lansing, MI

Questions Explored:

- How can East Lansing embed resilience planning into policy planning? How can it evaluate and improve the effectiveness of these planning processes over time?
- What infrastructure, ecosystems, and social systems are currently vulnerable to climate-impacted weather events (e.g., flooding, stormwater, drought, wind) and how can East Lansing mitigate these risks?
- What are effective strategies for involving the full fabric of the community in building resilience so that the community will continue to function in the face of climate-related or other disruptions?

Next Steps

- Based on the results of the ongoing tree inventory, create a plan for the varieties and numbers of trees to plant over the next several years to increase the resilience of East Lansing's urban canopy.
- Increase coordination with relevant local and regional partners, including Michigan State University, Meridian Township, the City of Lansing, Ingham County, CATA, and the local Metropolitan Planning Organization.
- Explore the option of collecting stormwater management fees to jointly upgrade street and stormwater infrastructure.

Hallandale Beach, FL

Questions Explored:

- What are the impacts of sea-level rise – not just the obvious things like flooding, but less obvious things like salt-water intrusion? Who will experience these impacts? How can we protect/prepare infrastructure, homes and businesses, culture and history, environment, and the economy? How can we plan for sea-level rise in a way that is consistent with regional approaches?
- How does the composition of our community and the fabric of local, state, and national laws constrain and accelerate resilience?
- How can we finance climate adaptation projects? How can we engage more of the community in climate adaptation planning and practice?

Next Steps

- Focus on building a multi-pronged communication strategy comprised of at least two aspects:
 - Climate adaptation education and training for city staff
 - Climate adaptation education and for the public and other stakeholders
- Connect with the County and the SE Florida Regional Climate Change Compact as well as other local communities to ensure that all grant possibilities are explored, resilience strategies are aligned, and that the City is drawing on regional best practices.
- Broaden Hallandale Beach’s planning process to include equity and whole community resilience
- Identify, engage, and nurture local champions who will serve as strong advocates for climate adaptation.
- Create an advisory board and an ad hoc task force to engage local experts.

Menominee Nation, WI

Questions Explored

- What specific threats are there to Menominee forest management?
- What can the Menominee do for the future for high-impact/high-risk cultural resources (forest industry (old growth), wild rice, sugar maple and grain)?
- What resources that can help improve communication about climate variability and change?
- How could culture and language be impacted with climate change?
- How can the Menominee implement more effective communication strategies between different departments, community members, and tribal government?
- What demographics need the most education or communications (community, resource managers, Tribal Council)?

Next Steps

- Hold workshops in which youth and elders, in an active participatory role, discuss their perspectives of climate change
- Work through potential forest management changes for prospective future scenarios with MTW and then bring these options into the community events
- Conduct a social assessment and ecological data collection, guided by highly visible community input

- Coordinate with Menominee language program to set up a community summit where they bring interested people and talk about climate resiliency.

Mt. Shasta, CA

Questions Explored:

- What are key strategies and best practices for integrating climate resilience in local plan updates?
- How can a small, resource-constrained community make progress in achieving climate resilience? In a region largely unsupportive of climate resilience, where are opportunities to collaborate on mutual interests for multiple co-benefits? How can key assets such as sense of place and community engagement be leveraged to overcome constraints?
- Where are opportunities to develop focal points for the community in pursuing resilience? Mt. Shasta is subject to a variety of impact across multiple sectors, but where are actionable opportunities to bring people together?

Next Steps

- Hold an interactive workshop to share information about climate change impacts and resilience with city staff and decision makers, with a focus on how to integrate climate resilience considerations into city plan updates and implementation.
- Explore resources, tools and best practices that can help broaden the integration of resilience into city plans to promote co-benefits from the provision of basic services, and longer-term resilience frameworks.
- Develop and include shovel-ready projects in city plans that integrate green space and green infrastructure. Seek financing opportunities to support expanded work.
- Convene a multi-stakeholder conversation to establish a resilience vision for Mt. Shasta and explore opportunities to incorporate a resilience lens into community education and engagement around public safety, wildfire prevention, and water conservation.
- Focus on leveraging local interest in environmental protection and build a multi-stakeholder coalition of volunteers to advise, collaborate, and engage in local resilience initiatives.
- Seek to connect and engage with trusted local, regional and national collaborators to enhance capacity, share lessons learned, and advance resilience priorities.
- Work with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to develop an approach to incorporating climate into your local plans. (*Note: Follow-Up Meeting has been scheduled for July 21 in Sacramento, CA.*)

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)

Questions Explored:

- How can BCDC create a process for evaluating, assessing, and prioritizing adaptation actions that is both qualitative (includes issues of equity, economy, governance, and environment) and quantitative?
- How can BCDC improve support for local implementation efforts?
- What are effective ways to structure or adapt this approach so that it applies across diverse

- counties and local jurisdictions?
- What models for regional coordination and collaboration can BCDC build from to develop its own regional approach to resilience.

Next Steps

- Near-term:
 - Convene members of the nine Bay Area counties for preliminary meetings on regional collaboration. Potential topics:
 - Consider whether a sub-regional, regional, or combined approach would be better for near-term and medium-term engagement.
 - Discuss regional goals for increasing resilience to sea-level-rise and measurable steps to make progress on those goals.
 - Reach out to contacts recommended by the subject-matter experts to learn more about effective models for evaluation of implementation actions and coordination of regional efforts.
- Medium-term
 - Host a visioning workshop with regional and county stakeholders to agree on a few promising collaboration priorities and start working on a coordinated framework.
 - Develop a process for reviewing and issuing qualifications for local implementation plans.
 - Develop a 5-year strategic plan for BCDC's regional work.

Savannah, GA

Questions Explored

- What considerations and tools can Savannah use to prioritize strategies to address key resilience needs?
- What hazards in Savannah will be influenced by climate change? Is climate variability reflected in the hazard information Savannah uses for planning?
- What climate impacts are most relevant and of interest to Savannah residents? What communication strategies, partnerships, and outreach mechanisms can Savannah use to engage residents on resilience?
- What resources will be necessary to restore economic function and activity in the community after a disruptive or extreme event? How can Savannah engage its industries in resilience planning?
- What vulnerabilities of low-income communities may be exacerbated by the impacts of climate variability and change? What metrics should Savannah use to measure vulnerability? How can Savannah engage with existing networks and build connections to help communities support and expand their resilience?

Next Steps

- Use a Structured Decision-Making Process to guide stakeholders through potential solutions from the Savannah Sustainability Assessment to develop shared values and identify a goal for prioritizing hazards and resilience actions to be included in the draft Savannah sustainability plan.

- Investigate the possibility of obtaining support from an outside organization to provide expertise and help with engagement and communication with stakeholders.

Whitefish, MT

Questions Explored

- How can Whitefish and the surrounding community best manage climate impacts related to wildfire, water, recreation and tourism, and food and agriculture?
- What are the most effective ways to engage with residents of Flathead County who may be skeptical or do not understand climate science? Are there available tools for planning and facilitating effective community meetings that pertain to climate, sustainability, community resilience, etc.?
- What financial mechanisms exist to support resilience and adaptation activities? How can the community ensure their adaptation and resilience building efforts link with the local economy and generate economic benefits?
- What are some opportunities for Whitefish and the surrounding community to build climate resilience associated with the local food movement, jobs and the economy, and co-benefits?

Next Steps

- Wildfire: Engage more directly with FireSafe groups and neighborhoods in the Flathead region, and encourage local forest fuels reduction projects by government, NGO partners, and landowners
- Water: Incorporate water resilience into the Whitefish Climate Action Plan
- Recreation and tourism: Connect with the Whitefish Convention and Visitor Bureau on the Whitefish Tourism Master Plan to encourage inclusion of climate resilience
- Local Food Movement: Organize a climate science day in conjunction with the Montana Institute on Ecosystems, MSU Extension, and OneMontana