

CAROLINAS CLIMATE CONNECTION

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CISA FEATURED RESEARCHER

MEET MONTANA ECK

Montana Eck is from Old Fort, North Carolina and is a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Born and raised in the heart of the southern Appalachian Mountains, Montana's research interests have been shaped by his personal experiences with extreme weather and climatic change in his own community. His academic journey began at the University of North Carolina at Asheville, where he received a Bachelor's degree in History. More recently, Montana completed a Master's in Geography at Appalachian State University, where his thesis investigated how our warming climate has influenced the variability of winter weather in the Appalachian Mountains.

Currently, his dissertation research seeks to provide novel insights into how precipitation events can influence car crash risk in the Carolinas. In particular, he hopes to bring attention to the significant disparities in risk between our rural and urban communities.



Along with his personal research endeavors, Montana currently assists CISA with the development and expansion of the [Hazardous Extremes Risk Assessment \(HERA\) tool](#). In particular, he is leading a project that aims to conduct engagements with health care coalitions in the southeastern United States to assess data needs for emergency management plans and hazard vulnerability assessments. By incorporating feedback from these engagements into the development of the HERA tool, Montana and the project team will help further the objectives of NOAA's Weather-Ready Nation in the southeast by informing public health and health care professionals about potential exposures to meteorological and climate hazards in their local community.

Ultimately, Montana hopes that his work can help bring attention to the underappreciated impacts of extreme weather in communities across the Carolinas. When not working in Chapel Hill, Montana enjoys spreading awareness of climate change through communication initiatives, such as Skype a Scientist, and loves hiking new treks along the Blue Ridge Parkway with his family and friends.

CAROLINAS CLIMATE RESILIENCE CONFERENCE

2021 Carolinas Climate Resilience Conference

Attend in-person or online



After a delay from last year's initial date, CISA is excited to share the **Carolinas Climate Resilience Conference (CCRC)** to be held May 10 - 12. All sessions for the 2021 CCRC (excluding three virtual pre-conference workshops) will be hosted in a hybrid format, with both in-person and virtual speakers and attendees. We will use the [Socio virtual conference platform](#) to support remote participation.

2021 CCRC AGENDA

This year's conference features over 175 confirmed speakers across a variety of formats! For more information, you can view the full agenda on our conference website.

[**VIEW THE FULL AGENDA ONLINE**](#)

Workshops

This year's program features 4 workshops to be held May 3rd - 6th, the week prior to the main event. All workshops will be virtual and are a great opportunity to learn from the CCRC network:

• Are You Ready for Climate? Planning for Extremes Using CISA Tools and Services	May 3, 10:30 - 12:00
• Principles of Quality Climate Adaptation and Resilience Practice	May 4, 9:30 - 12:00
• Tapping into Community Knowledge: A Strategy to Bring Equity to Climate Resilience Initiatives	May 5, 10:30 - 12:00
• Creating Regional Extreme Heat Resilience Plans	May 6, 10:00 - 12:00

Plenaries

Monday: The Climate Challenges We Face and Our Inspiration to Act

This panel discussion will include three speakers to share different perspectives on their experiences working in the climate adaptation field, what motivates them, and how their own resilience helps to inform their engagement with others around climate change.

Tuesday: State and Local Risk Assessment and Resilience

This plenary session will highlight work at the state level in North Carolina and South Carolina to support climate resilience, how local governments are assessing their risks and developing adaptation strategies, and how both levels of government are beginning to work towards implementation.

Wednesday: Climate Communication through the Arts

The closing session will include various artists sharing their work to motivate action on climate change through different forms of art, including music, puppetry, painting, and fabric arts.



*Artwork from a prior show delivered by Paperhand Puppet Intervention. They will participate in our closing plenary Wednesday. Tune in to see their creations live!
Source: [Paperhand Puppet Intervention](#)*

Student Poster Competition

This year we will feature students from across the Carolinas in a poster competition to share their stories and findings from their research. Posters will be available for viewing through the virtual conference platforms. Students will also give short presentations of their work in two poster sessions on Monday, May 10 at 4:15 p.m. and Tuesday, May 11 at 2:00 p.m. Winners of the student poster competition will be announced on Wednesday during the closing plenary.



Posters from the 2018 CCRC

Session Topics & Presentation Formats

The CCRC agenda features 35 breakout sessions, with a number of speakers across different formats. Session topics include actionable climate science, extreme events, resilience recovery, planning, and more!

28 oral presentations

20 symposia

22 lightning talks

18 poster sessions

INTERESTED IN ATTENDING?

More information including registration rates, hotel accommodations, information about continuing education and professional development credits, and a link to the registration page are available on the Attend page of the conference website.

ATTEND THE 2021 CCRC

Travel Support

CISA is pleased to offer travel support to a limited number of attendees at the 2021 Carolinas Climate Resilience Conference. Scholarships are open to state and local government staff and elected officials, nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, tribal representatives, and other community leaders. Applications will be accepted until **Friday, April 2**. **Submit your travel application** through the online form.



We're looking forward to seeing you at the 2021 CCRC!

Sponsors

Many thanks to all the organizations who are providing support for the 2021 CCRC. Interested in becoming a sponsor? Learn more at: <https://cisa.sc.edu/ccrc/sponsors.html>

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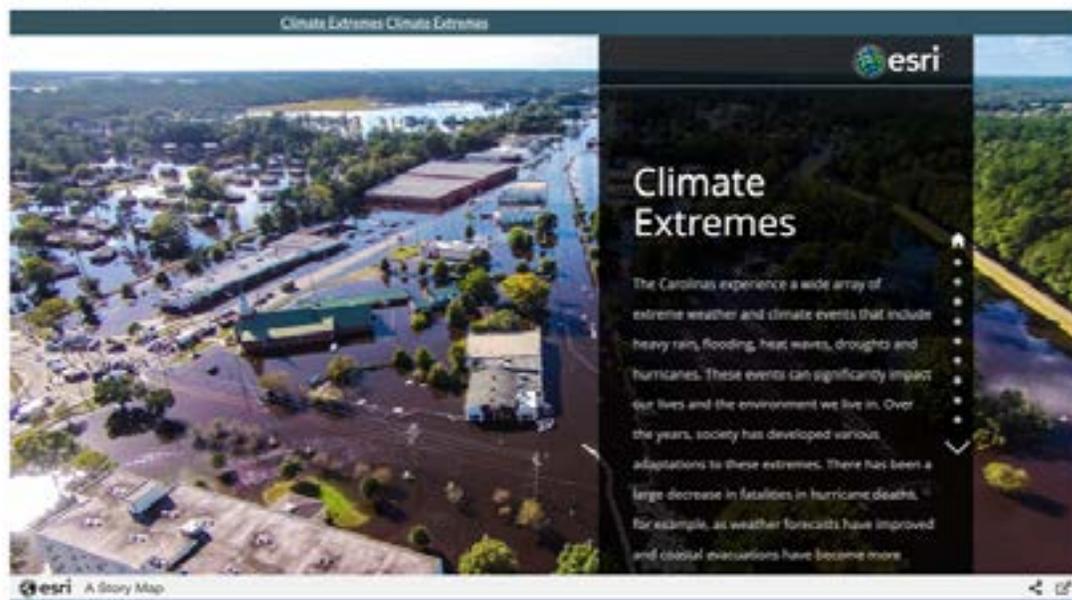


Geography
at South Carolina
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



NEW CISA STORY MAP EXPLORES CLIMATE EXTREMES IN THE CAROLINAS

Story Maps



A screenshot showing the web map's opening scene

The frequency and severity of extreme weather events are shifting due to climate change, and the CISA and SERCC teams who developed the Convergence website have released a new story map to explore these changes. The story map presents the many weather and climate events that are likely to impact us in the Carolinas, providing a resource to learn about past extreme climate events and helping us prepare for those ahead.

[VIEW THE STORYMAP](#)

An Educational Resource

The story map explores drought, extreme heat, hurricanes, winter weather, and other severe weather in the Carolinas. The story map provides information about current extreme weather threats and past events. Each event type is outlined and links to other story maps which delve into more detail about the nature of extreme weather threats. The team, based at UNC Chapel Hill, has provided an impressive resource to educate and prepare us for the climate extremes we face as Carolinians.

Diving into Details

For greater detail, you can also explore story maps on these climate extremes:

- [Drought](#)
- [Wildfires](#)
- [Extreme Heat](#)
- [Hurricanes](#)
- [Winter Weather](#)
- [Severe Weather](#)

NEW TOOLS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

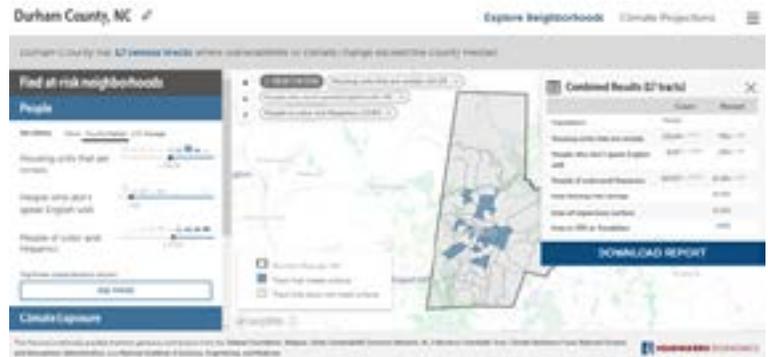
To round out this newsletter, we would like to share a few tools and funding opportunities. Please feel free to reach out to cisa@sc.edu if we can answer questions or provide assistance with any of these items.

Tools

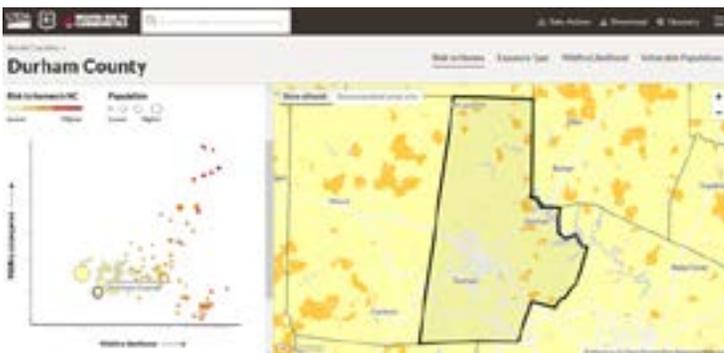
Neighborhoods at Risk

This tool, developed by Headwaters Economics in collaboration with the Urban Sustainability Directors Network and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, allows you to view selected climate projects and identify socio-economic indicators attached to geographies like census tracts and counties.

<https://headwaterseconomics.org/apps/neighborhoods-at-risk/>



A screenshot from the Neighborhoods at Risk Tool showing a selection of available data for Durham County, NC



A screenshot from the Wildfire Risk Tool showing data for Durham County, NC

Wildfire Risk to Communities

This tool, developed by the US Forest Service and the US Department of Agriculture, allows you to explore data related to risks, exposure, likelihood and vulnerable populations. The tool also has information about understanding and reducing wildfire risk.

<https://wildfirerisk.org/>

Adaptation Clearinghouse Equity Portal

This tool, developed by the Georgetown Climate Center, allows you to search adaptation resources across a variety of categories that center equity.

<https://www.adaptationclearinghouse.org/networks/adaptation-equity-portal/>



A screenshot from the Equity Portal landing page

Funding



EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

The Environmental Protection Agency is currently accepting proposals through May 7th for environmental justice projects, granting up to \$50k. Non-profits and tribal organizations in the Carolinas are eligible to apply. Small groups and new applicants are especially encouraged to apply.

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-small-grants-program>



FEMA

FEMA Moves to Unlock New Climate Funds

According to recent news reports, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is planning to dramatically increase the funding for programs to mitigate future damages from climate impacts. FEMA programs like the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant could see additional requests for proposals in the coming years for which communities in the Carolinas could be eligible.

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>



AMERICAN FLOOD COALITION

Flood Finder Tool

This website from the American Flood Coalition allows communities to search government grants with a variety of filters to find potential sources of money for funding flood resilience projects.

<https://floodcoalition.org/resources/floodfundingfinder/>