



Presenter

Melissa Stults – University of Michigan

Additional Authors

Richard Moss – Interdependent Advisory Committee on Applied Climate Assessment and Columbia University

Visioning Resilience: What Successful Resilience Looks Like in Practice

We all know the old adage, “you can’t effectively manage what you don’t measure.” The essence of the adage is that it’s incredibly challenging to know if something is getting better or worse if you don’t measure it or the indicators associated with it. But what does that mean for the fields of adaptation and resilience?

While a bit more “wicked” of a problem than many of fields, as the resilience/adaptation field matures, it is becoming necessary that we have mechanisms to gauge what practices are leading us towards greater resilience and which are not. Effectively, we need systems that will help us evaluate our practices, approaches, tools, and services to determine the effect they are having (or not) on enhancing resilience. This need isn’t academic; it’s practical. As the demand for climate adaptive services, knowledge, tools, and resources grows, the field will need of way of determining which contributions or practices are worth investing in, which need to be improved, and which are not effective. But building this evaluation framework necessitates an understanding of where we are trying to head, in essence, what is resilience in practice.

And that’s where you come in. To create an evaluation framework for the resilience field we need the insights of practitioners, thought leaders, investors, and scholars. We need you to tell us what you think successful resilience looks like. What will it look like when your neighborhood is resilient? What will it look like when your community is resilient? What about the economy, your state, or you personally?

In this session you will have the opportunity to share your insights through a combination of mechanisms:

1. Interactive online, real-time polling;
2. Paper surveys and ideation forms; and
3. Live question, answer, and open discussion with the two proposed moderators/facilitators.

Insights shared during this session (as well as all the other regional adaptation forums) will be used to draft an evaluation framework for the resilience field. The draft framework – which will be shared widely through webinars, via our and partner networks, at resilience conferences, and via an online website – will serve as a foundation for future work to build a more holistic evaluation framework for the adaptation/resilience field. Importantly, the products we propose developing as part of this proposal would belong to all.