

BUILDING THE 'LAST MILE' BETWEEN RESOURCES AND ADAPTATION DECISION MAKERS



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Skip Stiles
Carolinas Climate Resilience Conference

CURRENT ADAPTATION LANDSCAPE

Local Governments are key to adaptation:

- Land Use Decisions
- Infrastructure Decisions (stormwater, roads, etc.)
- Administer Federal Programs (FEMA, HUD, etc.)

Local Government staff, appointed, and elected leadership are struggling to deal with key adaptation issues.

Large scale national studies/resources are not reaching these key decision makers.

We need to focus on the “last mile” in adaptation.

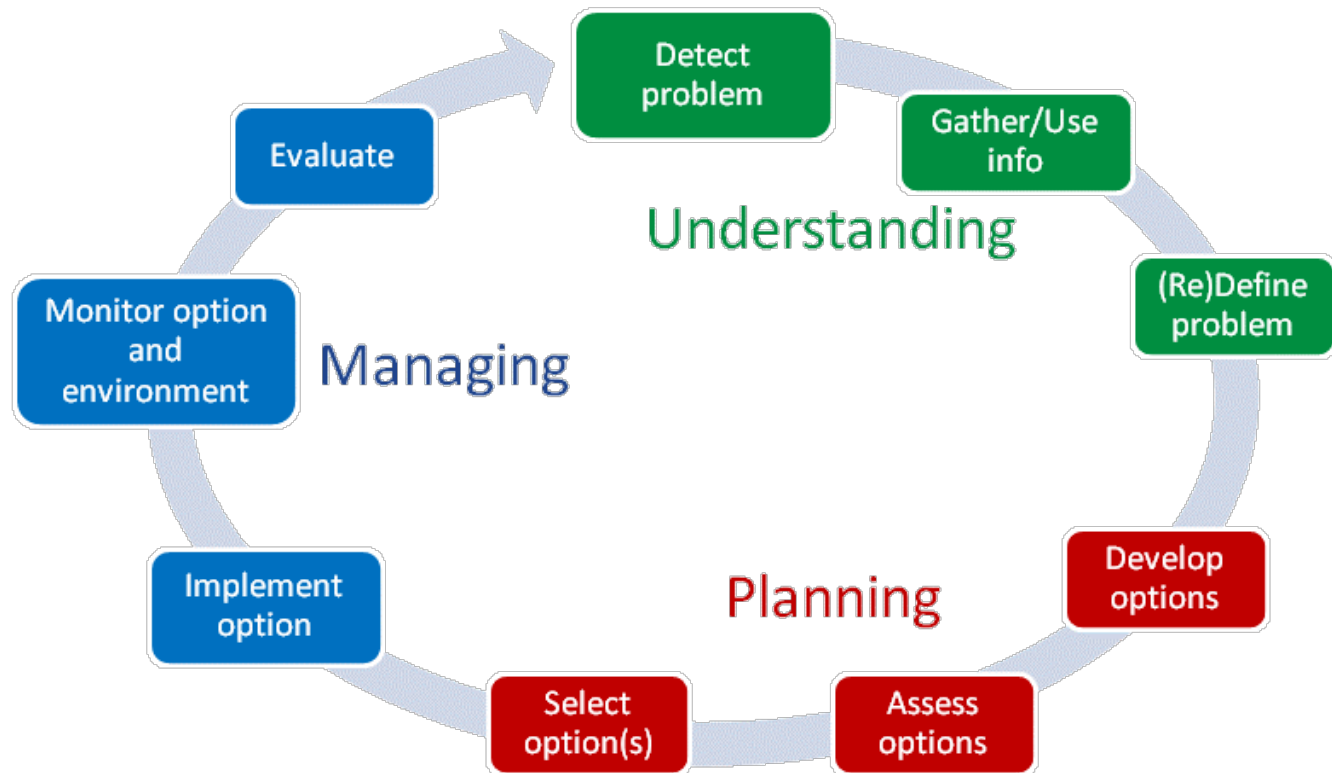


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PROCESS OF ADAPTATION



From Moser, S. C. and J. A. Ekstrom. (2010). *A Framework to Diagnose Barriers to Climate Change Adaptation*.



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WHAT ADAPTATION INFO DELIVERY HAS LOOKED LIKE



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HOW DO WE GET RESOURCES TO STAKEHOLDERS/DECISION MAKERS?



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COMMERCIAL COROLLARY: GETTING PACKAGES TO CUSTOMERS



"Last Mile"



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"SUPPORTING LOCAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION: WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE NEED TO GO"

Barriers to Progress?

- Lack of staffing
- Lack of understanding of climate science
- Limited financial resources
- Lack of leadership
- Too much information/too many studies to sort through (lack of information is NOT a barrier, rather it is too much information).



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"Supporting local climate change adaptation: Where we are and where we need to go," Nordgren, et. al., Environmental Science and Policy, May, 2016.



"SUPPORTING LOCAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION: WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE NEED TO GO"

Best Format for Info?

- Case Studies
- Peer to Peer Conversations/Networking
- Web-based information

Least Used Resources?

- Trainings and Workshops
- Scientific papers.



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"Supporting local climate change adaptation: Where we are and where we need to go," Nordgren, et. al., Environmental Science and Policy, May, 2016.



“SUPPORTING LOCAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION: WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE NEED TO GO”

“Findings demonstrate that existing services and resources are meeting the early phases of local adaptation efforts such as conducting vulnerability assessments and creating adaptation plans but are failing to meet the needs associated with implementing, monitoring, and evaluating adaptation activities.”

Resources to help move forward?

- Identifying financial support
- Adaptation ordinances, codes, policies
- Information on adaptation strategies

“Supporting local climate change adaptation: Where we are and where we need to go,” Nordgren, et. al., Environmental Science and Policy, May, 2016.



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WETLANDS WATCH ADAPTATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT - 2015

Secured funding to develop a local government adaptation guide. Started with a needs assessment.

Wanted to evaluate where on the adaptation cycle localities were, what resources they used, and what resources they needed.

Interviewed 70+ staffers in 14 coastal localities, one-on-one.



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WETLANDS WATCH NEEDS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS - 2015

“I do not have time to read all these studies. When I need information I use a search engine. If you develop a guide, put it on the web and keep it updated.”

“Tell me which SLR curve to use. Issue it with a state logo so I don’t have to argue about IPCC data.”

“Give me ‘cost of doing nothing’ information or savings to flood insurance to balance my ask for \$\$.”

“Boards and commissions have not been educated on SLR or adaptation options. Real need for this training to come to locality.”



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WETLANDS WATCH NEEDS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS - 2015

Not all localities placed the same priority on sea level rise adaptation. More impacts = higher priority.

Not all localities were at the same stage of adaptation. One county, after years of meetings on sea level rise regionally, still had not started impact mapping.

Local government organizational structure influenced effectiveness of actions. Those using interdepartmental arrangements were more advanced/innovative.

Elected leadership was seen as the greatest barrier to progress, due to conflicting demands and lack of training.



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADAPTATION GUIDE



Case Study



Funding



Guidance



Tools



Legislation



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WORKING ON THE LAST MILE IN COASTAL VIRGINIA



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PART OF THE NEW ADAPTATION RESOURCE DELIVERY SYSTEM IN COASTAL VIRGINIA = BUILDING THE LAST MILE

THE HAMPTON ROADS ADAPTATION FORUM

Facilitating Best Practices for the Region

Eastern Shore Climate Adaptation Working Group

ADAPT VA



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Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



OUTREACH TO STAKEHOLDERS – “COME TO US”



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OUTREACH TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF – “COME TO US” AND “GO TO THEM”



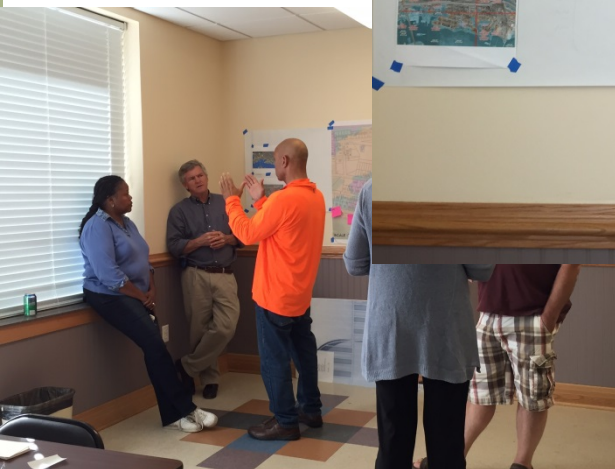
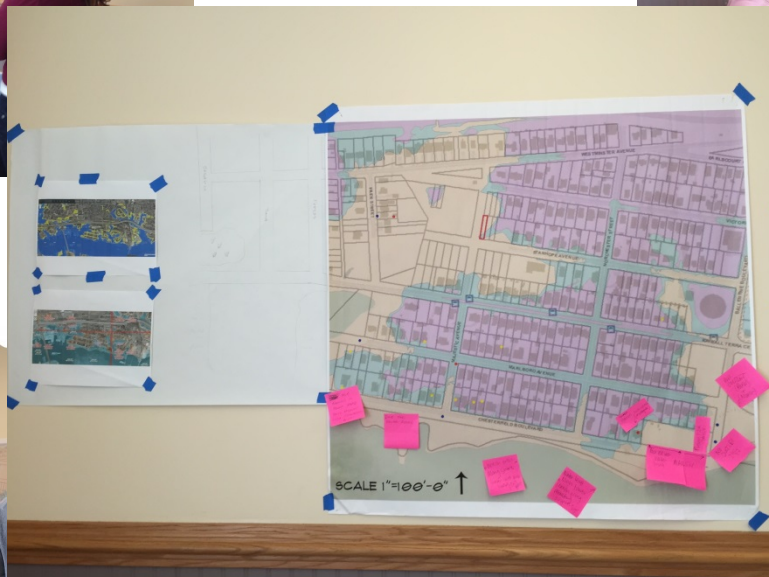
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OUTREACH TO FLOODED COMMUNITIES – “GO TO THEM”

Students Gather Info and Redefine Problem



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TIDEWATER RISING RESILIENCY DESIGN CHALLENGE – THE WINNERS



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OUTREACH TO FLOODED COMMUNITIES – “ONE AT A TIME”



UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA
SCHOOL of ARCHITECTURE



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Outreach Modernization

Develop Smart Phone app that allows people to report trouble spots and actually map inundation zones on their terms.



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Data Collection Has Become a Community Event



**Register to Catch the King at
www.whro.org/kingtide**



700 people mapped in 2017. 300 in 2018.
125 High School classes participating in 2018.



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PARTNERSHIPS ARE CRITICAL



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PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS/NGO'S



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BUILDING THE LAST MILE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Conduct needs assessment among end-users of adaptation resources – especially local government staff. Develop user-based/need-based strategies. Feed user needs to academic and agency partners.

Form regional partnerships with inclusion of non-government organizations – non-profits, Sea Grant, cooperative extension, etc. Hold regular information exchange sessions.

“Go to” meetings are more effective (but most resource intensive) method of interaction. “One on one” work with local government staff is most effective, but even more resource intensive.



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BUILDING THE LAST MILE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Develop trainings for local appointed and elected boards and commissions – BZA, Planning Commission, City Council/County Boards.



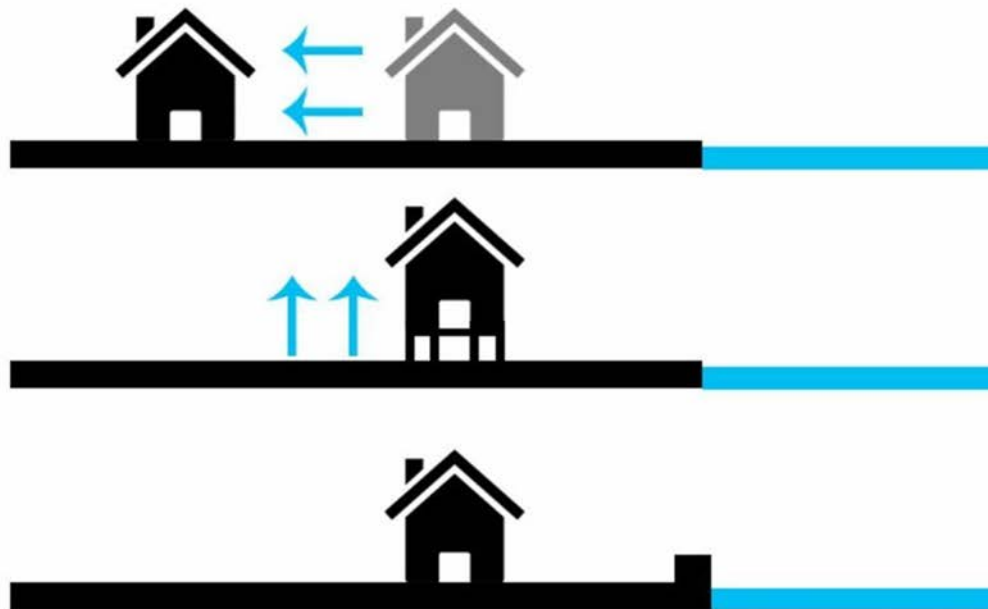
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QUESTIONS?

Conventional Solutions Won't Work



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