

Planning for Climate Change Using a Green Infrastructure Approach

Coastal Communities in the
Chesapeake Bay Watershed

April 26-28, 2010

*National Conservation Training Center (NCTC)
Shepherdstown, WV*

Preliminary Agenda & Registration Info

Offered by:

The Conservation Fund
National Geographic Society
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Northern Virginia Regional Commission

Featured Presenters:

Zoë Johnson is the Program Manager for Climate Change Policy with the Office for a Sustainable Future at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. She has been actively involved in climate change planning and policy initiatives in the State of Maryland since 1998. She is the author of various reports and publications on climate change and sea level rise adaptation.

Kathleen Schwille is the director of program development for National Geographic's Education Programs Division. She manages professional development and materials development projects for K-12 teachers and informal educators focused on geography, science, and social studies learning, field work, and use of media in educational settings. She manages the FieldScope project, which engages students as citizen scientists in collecting, sharing and analyzing data utilizing web-based GIS software.

Susan Julius is the Global Ecosystem Research and Assessment Coordinator with EPA's Global Change Research Program (GCRP). She has spent the last 12+ years at EPA focused largely on conducting assessments of the effects of climate change on ecosystems, and is responsible for developing GCRP's ecosystem research and assessment program. For the last several years, Ms. Julius has also been the co-chair of the Ecosystems Interagency Working Group of the Climate Change Science Program.

Michael Culp is a Senior Environmental Protection Specialist with the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Office of Environment and Planning (HEP) where he works on policy and compliance issues related to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). He is currently the lead for FHWA on efforts related to the adaptation of highway infrastructure to climate change effects. He also leads policy, coordination and technical efforts related to the integration of the NEPA and transportation planning processes.

Monday, April 26:

Opening Remarks

Patrick Noonan, Chairman Emeritus of The Conservation Fund (invited) will provide opening remarks.

Session 1: Introduction to Climate Change Impacts on Coastal Communities

This session will provide a comprehensive overview of potential climate change impacts resulting from sea level rise and corresponding storm surge, change in temperature, and increased precipitation. Zoe Johnson from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, will detail recent research findings. Sean O'Connor from the National Geographic Society will unveil new maps depicting potential climate change impacts to the Bay. Kathleen Schwille will discuss new climate change education programs underway at National Geographic.

Session 2: Role of Green Infrastructure in Facilitating Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies for Climate Change Impacts

During this session participants will learn the value of green infrastructure planning and how it can be an effective tool for developing adaptation and mitigation strategies. Christine Conn from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) will outline how the DNR is using its statewide green infrastructure plan to develop new policies and approaches.

Session 3: Perceptions of Climate Change

When developing new strategies for addressing climate change, it is critical to understand human perceptions to climate change and subsequent behaviors that result, in order to effectively communicate climate change impacts. Karen Akerlof of George Mason University will explore current research on the public's perception of climate change and the communication points that most resonate.

Session 4: Update on Local, State and Federal Policies on Climate Change

Paula Jasinski of NOAA Virginia Institute of Marine Science , Laura Grape of Northern Virginia Regional Commission, and Christy Plumer of The Conservation Fund will provide participants with federal, state and local perspectives on trends and policies being developed in response to climate change.

Tuesday, April 27:

Session 5: Creating and Assessing a Network Design

Through case studies and lecture, Will Allen of The Conservation Fund will outline for participants the steps used to create and assess a network design at a variety of scales.

Class Project Part I: Creation of a Network Design

Participants will be divided into multi-disciplinary teams and will have the opportunity to work with real data from two locations in the Bay to create a sample green infrastructure network design.

Session 6: Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies

Zoe Johnson and Chelsie Papiez from the Maryland DNR will outline for participants the various adaptation and mitigation strategies being employed by MD DNR and will discuss how the state is currently developing priorities and criteria for which strategies to employ. Mike Bryant from the FWS Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge will offer a case study on how the Refuge has developed strategies to address salt-water intrusion and other climate change impacts. Susan Julius will round out the session discussing EPA's Global Change Research Program.

[Evening Session] Adaptation Strategies for the Built Environment

During this evening session, Michael Culp from the Federal Highway Administration will outline the corresponding policies and strategies that are being developed and employed for the built environment in response to climate change. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in a discussion on the synergies employed between the natural and built environment.

Wednesday, April 28:

Class Project Part II: Development of a Climate Change Implementation Plan

Teams will be presented with data layers depicting potential storm surges and sea level rise information for their network design, and will be asked to develop an implementation plan comprised of various adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Presentation of Climate Change Implementation Plans and Group Discussion

Registration Info:

In this pilot course, participants will have the opportunity to plan for potential climate change impacts (storm surge/sea level rise, changes in precipitation and temperature) using a green infrastructure approach as a guide for developing effective adaptation and mitigation strategies. Through hands-on class projects using data layers for two coastal communities, and lectures from cutting edge experts and on-the-ground practitioners, participants will learn and experience first hand how Green Infrastructure can facilitate climate change planning.

Target Audience:

This first pilot will focus on coastal communities in the Chesapeake Bay, therefore, preference will be given to those professionals living in and/or focusing their work on the Bay watershed. This course is designed to be a collaborative learning experience; as such it is applicable to individuals from a variety of disciplines, sectors, and scales (i.e., national, regional, statewide, local) who are engaged in land use planning and management.

Course Tuition & Fees:

- Tuition: \$125 *special rate for pilot offering
- Lodging & Meals: \$127 per night at the National Conservation Training Center (includes 3-meals/day)
- Limited scholarship funding is available

To Register:

- Go to: http://www.conservationfund.org/course/gi_climate_change
- Detailed instructions available for download
- Registration Deadline: **April 9, 2010**

Additional Information:

- Please contact Kris Hoellen at (304) 876-7462 or khoellen@conservationfund.org