

# Climate Adaptation for Coastal Communities

## Course Goals and Objectives

### Day 1

#### **Introduction: Setting Your Course for Adaptation**

Goal: Participants will gain an understanding of adaptation planning concepts to address coastal climate change issues. Through a classroom exercise and an optional “field visit”, participants will learn the coastal context for and challenges of climate adaptation.

Participants will be able to:

- A. Define key climate adaptation concepts and terminology, and
- B. Recognize the broad context of climate adaptation planning considerations and how they can be applied at the local level.

#### **Climate Science: Comprehending Processes & Impacts of Climate Change**

Goal: Participants will understand the human and natural influences on climate as well as climate’s impact on coastal communities and the natural environment.

Participants will be able to:

- A. Recognize basic climate science principles,
- B. Describe how climate variability and change will impact their community and the natural environment,
- C. Locate reliable sources of climate information, and
- D. Compose a climate issue statement.

### Day 2

#### **Vulnerability Assessment: Informing Adaptation Action**

Goal: Participants will receive an overview of concepts used to assess the vulnerability of human and natural communities to climate variability and change, and will understand how vulnerability assessments inform adaptation planning activities.

Participants will be able to:

- A. Identify the key elements to address when scoping a vulnerability assessment,
- B. Identify and summarize salient information and data in a vulnerability assessment report, and
- C. Use appropriate information and data from a vulnerability assessment to select and prioritize adaptation efforts.

#### **Adaptation Planning: Identifying and Assessing Adaptation Measures**

Goal: Participants will learn about a variety of adaptation measures and how to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses. Participants will apply this knowledge to create a short list of adaptation measures targeting their climate issue statement.

Participants will be able to:

- A. Identify adaptation goals and objectives related to coastal management issues,
- B. Create a short list of adaptation measures appropriate to their climate issue statement,
- C. Explain methods and techniques for evaluating adaptation measures, and
- D. Recognize concepts, methods, techniques and lessons learned in the context of local planning efforts.

### **Day 3**

#### **Climate Communication: Applying Communication Research to be Effective**

Goal: Participants will learn effective communication hints and tips for communicating about their climate adaptation efforts. From an overview of recent climate communication research, participants will apply these concepts and findings to develop a compelling message to communicate with their target population.

Participants will be able to:

- A. Use social science and climate communication research to identify relevant audience characteristics,
- B. Choose the appropriate terms, media, messenger and images to communicate with the target population, and
- C. Develop an effective message for their chosen target population and climate adaptation issue.

#### **Implementation: Turning Strategies into Action**

Goal: Through an exchange of expertise and information in a highly interactive exercise, participants will be able to identify solutions to different climate adaptation issues and a range of opportunities to move adaptation strategies forward.

Participants will be able to:

- A. Understand the value and benefits of integrating adaptation strategies into existing plans.
- B. Recognize implementation approaches that can be applied in changing policy, social, environmental, and economic conditions.
- C. Identify and select opportunities to integrate adaptation strategies into existing community efforts.
- D. Recognize opportunities for partnerships to move adaptation efforts forward.