

U.S. EPA
State Climate and Energy Technical Forum
Held in conjunction with
Local Climate and Energy Webcast Series
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2:00pm EST

Catherine Morris: Thank you very much. You've got a lot in there. And I guess I'll - because we are a little overtime, I'll wrap this up with a question that both you and Kurt can respond to. How do you decide where to allocate those very scarce resources between mitigation and adaptation planning and implementation. How do you make those kinds of decisions as you're heading into the future?

Mikaela Engert: For us really the big thing is where we've got overlap and when we start to take a look at a lot of things it's a win-win scenario. If it creates some sort of opportunities to increase resiliency in a way and maybe a save this money, that kind of a strategy is probably ultimately going to be number one. Sometimes, though, things might get bumped to the top because they are politically motivated. We have some rating criteria that we're going to end up using in our CIP that links back into some of our existing criteria for short term projects and those kinds of things but ultimately resource and flexibility and review and so it's constantly changing every single year from year to year but that's roughly how we do it. It's no different than I guess how we would do our CIP program at the end of the day.

Catherine Morris: And I assume you do pursue both of them together, not like one goes before the other necessarily?

Mikaela Engert: Well it really depends on the project too, I mean sometimes we might elect to take one of the leadership role one something. So it might be more of a mitigation side project then perhaps an adaptation side or even vice-versa. Sometimes it might be a money loser rather than a money maker. But it's really dependent upon if it's going to move things further along in terms of some of the overarching principles within our community vision that we wanted to achieve. There is so much more in it than I would have to time get into. But maybe I can follow-up with that person specifically offline.

Catherine Morris: OK, thanks. Kurt did you have a response to that?

Kurt Malchow: Sure and so I'm discussing this from a state perspective. I have the danger of getting little more vague but let me just start by talking about the information that we're trying to collect. We are hoping to use the research and the vulnerability assessment to find the largest problem. I don't know from there if we approach the issue from an allocation of mitigation versus adaptation. I would like to think that we look at the scale of the problem and then you could divide up if you address it in the mitigation or adaptation issues. In most of the cases they feed off each other. And it is just a matter of trying to find out how those interplay.

Catherine Morris: Well thanks very much to all three our speakers. One had to leave a little early but I'll turn it back to Julia to close up the call today.

Julia Miller: Great, thanks Catherine. I would also like to thank the speakers. These were really fantastic presentations and I know that I learned a lot. I would also like to remind everyone about where to find the presentations online. You can go to www.epatechforum.org and all the presentations and background resources are posted on that site. I also want to remind folks again that we have one more webcast in this series coming up on federal programs and resources for climate adaptation, scheduled for January 13th from 2:00 to 3:30 PM Eastern Time.

So with that I will wrap it up and thank everyone for calling in, and we hope you're able to call in again next month.

Operator: This concludes today's conference call. You may now disconnect.

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