

## **PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE: HOW NOAA'S COASTAL TRAINING PROGRAM IS HELPING LOCAL ENTITIES PREPARE**

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Evidence for climate change is compelling, but predicting the impacts of climate change at the local level poses a challenge. How can local jurisdictions best prepare for climate impacts? To help answer this question, the Coastal Training Program based at Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) offered two 1-day climate trainings for shoreline and coastal planners in March 2009. Class content was derived from the results of a needs assessment survey completed by 209 professionals involved in shoreline and coastal planning in Washington State. The format of the training was based on input from NERR managers throughout the U.S. with the intent of creating a customizable toolkit to guide workshops that could be replicated throughout the United States NERR system and beyond.

Climate impacts in the Pacific Northwest will affect shoreline and coastal communities to varying degrees. This talk will highlight projected climate impacts in the Pacific Northwest and why they matter to coastal managers in the region. We will elucidate steps that local jurisdictions can take to begin preparing for climate change, such as how to conduct a vulnerability assessment, determining which stakeholders to engage in adaptation planning, how adaptation planning fits within a state regulatory and policy framework, and how to overcome barriers to adaptation. We will describe major sectors that should be considered in adaptation planning and share case studies from communities in Washington and beyond who have begun tackling climate preparedness challenges. We will also outline key exercises for adaptation planning derived from the authoritative guidebook *Preparing for Climate Change: A Guidebook for Local, Regional, and State Governments*.

As a result of this effort, a customizable climate planning workshop toolkit will be available through the national NERR web site. We will describe toolkit components and share lessons learned for those who intend to implement climate adaptation training in their region. The training and toolkit development were made possible by a grant from the NOAA Coastal Services Center to the Padilla Bay NERR's Coastal Training Program, and was developed in collaboration with the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group, Washington Sea Grant, and Seattle's King County Executive Office.

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