

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Community Resilience Listening Session

Commenter's Affiliation	Comment
LGO	Louisiana is still cleaning up the mess from the Oil Spill, need to get back on track with restoring other services
General Public	Constant death washing up on the shores: manatees and dolphins washing up. My home is near the shores. I am having seizures from what is washing up on the shore. Fake graphics on TV from BP. Throat has been raw since June 13, 2010, has trouble talking. 25 people are here to talk about health problems and y'all will miss it because they divided us into these separate rooms.
General Public	Thought about how they have been struggling economically. First it was Katrina, and then the BP oil spill was the nail in the coffin.
General Public	It is imperative to lead forward towards revitalization, to have community outreach. There is a break down in communication; people with issues and no where to take them. Should have town hall meetings across the nation to capture the issues. There is nowhere for them to go. I hear from across the country, "The oil spill was last year. When is the last time you saw a dead turtle?" Well, I see them all the time. People think the well was capped and it was over. Not enough advertising in the newspaper to show others what is going on. People have not been able to benefit from these meetings because they are not on the internet. I appreciate that you are here to help us do that.
NGO	I hope the task force starts with the end first. It would be good to have a section in the Strategy that reports on what the community would like the end result to be, rather than the government officials or science's goals. Maybe the community wants dirt at the end of this. If there is no dirt, then you have not succeeded. You can put this in the Strategy to reflect what the communities want to see. Those projects will need to be prioritized to give the community what it wants/needs.



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NGO	I know how close "connectiveness" is to community resilience. To connect the everyday person to what the Task Force is doing, more outreach is needed. In addition to asking for input, tell people how their input made a difference in the decision. Please show how what they said helped guide decisions for the outcome.
Business and Industry	In Pensacola, the ecosystem is still suffering from Hurricane Ivan. With the BP reward for compensation, very few people will benefit from it. Education is hurting in Pensacola. There is no outreach for children to obtain education in a broader form.
NGO	We are not talking about education a lot on the whole. This did not happen just due to BP, it happened a long time ago. We need better programs. Investments in the environment is the answer to long term change. We have political people fighting over building roads and other things, but we have to do education pre-K thru 12. Have to educate the communities its the only way we are going to make a change.
General Public	Consider the people, and how you can keep those people living there. My experience from Waveland: how will the community come back if the decisions being made do not make people come back?
Academia	Integration of ecosystem restoration and climate change and other things. It is a holistic approach across the board.
NGO	Keep the focus on community with participation, distribution of resources, monitoring all by the community. Have the community perform the labor such as those who have boats and have lost income. Turn first to those who live on the coast for that labor instead of bringing people in from other places. Then let the community determine the success of the project. How to measure success? The amount of money that makes it to the gulf coast, and does not stop off in Jackson, Mississippi (north of the impacted area) and by the percentage of locals employed by the effort. Let them measure the success.



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General Public	Citizen oversight and transparency. Local governments have to regain the trust of everyone on the gulf coast. After the Valdez spill there was an oversight committee. People are not divided by their own human nature. The same people will come together for any disaster. This is the only way to do it. Let the general public tell the truth of the spill.
NGO	Difficult for government to go into communities to provide assistance, due to mistrust. Big idea to create partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community organizations and leaders. Ask these groups to do this work in the communities. Success will look like having mutual work agreements.
NGO	Key policy changes that effect Alabama is regarding child care. Parents have to be working or be full time students. Those who were cut off after the spill due to not being in school or loss of a job. When there is a natural disaster there needs to be emergency child care services, because the parents have to put their lives back together.
NGO	One big change is to make it illegal to have injection wells in the fragile wetlands. Change the permitting process for anything that does not protect the wetlands. Due process should be in all permitting processes dealing with the general public, so they can say they do not want this in their back yard. If you are going to restore it, why keep killing it.
Academia	The FEMA mitigation section needs to change the voluntary buyout program, because you can not leave a structure on the land in the buyout program. This enables people to build structures on the properties where previous owners have chosen to be bought out. These are typically coastal properties.

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NGO	<p>Create the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC). There is a need for the Task Force to release the membership of the CAC committee. The mistrust continues. To have that committee put forth will be a start. There are projects that need to be reviewed, both new and old. Projects need to be environmentally responsible there needs to be a "do no harm" clause written in the projects.</p>
LGO	<p>Success- How will we measure and report? There is a lack of measurable goals. Success needs to be measured by attainable goals. Check back periodically to see where we are with those goals. Big idea: the local community knows what we need, not the people in DC. The people who live in these communities know what their community needs. We already have these projects, we just need the money.</p>
LGO	<p>They are saying the Katrina money was spent in Louisiana, but Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes did not see this money. When the economy of south Louisiana was affected, the entire country saw what happens when Louisiana is impacted. Give the local governments the authority to decide where the money is spent in their area. We can do the things that need to be done much faster and cheaper. Hurricane protection and restoration are not two separate concepts, they work together. Get rid of the red tape. We have the opportunity to do it now before we get in a deeper hole.</p>
NGO	<p>We have to watch out for the State, when they get the money. We need to watch the Federal and State governments, because the money does not make it down to the local communities. It gets used on some other property that is not on the coast.</p>



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NGO	The closer you get the community, the better chance you have at success in that area. There is no bias in the community level that can override the voice of the oil and gas industry or the politics. There needs to be a sit down to have a level of trust that develops. People know what they want, let the scientist figure out how to make it happen. I want dirt, let the scientist figure out the best way to get me dirt. Have non-profits with local people with boots on the ground. Needs to be dialogue with how community can trust government.
Academia	The Clean Water Act funds may not make it to the coast. The task force should make sure these dollars get to the Gulf Coast, because I do not think they will make it to the coast.
NGO	We were impacted by Katrina and Rita, Gustav and Ike and the BP oil spill. These were all severe, and yet we have been suffering another cataspoe for decades. We are living on the coast, but the coast came to us we did not move on the coast. The coast is washing away and people are losing land. Ask the real people...their measure of success is if there enough dirt for them to continue living here. Let the scientist figure out how to get that person dirt.