

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Questions and Answers

Emma Zinsmeister: So thank you to Jen and to all of our speakers. I believe we have a few minutes left just to take a couple of questions and as I mentioned any questions that we are able to get to today we will get you answers in writing until this is on our website and we will of course announce when all the materials from the webcast are available. So I guess we'll go ahead and take some questions, Lauren, if you want to kick us off.

Lauren Pederson: Great, so Jennifer there were a couple of questions about financial modeling that you did, and the first question is the financial models that you mentioned publicly available? And the participant is referring to the financial models of adaptation from New England Environmental Finance Center and Paul Kirshen.

Jennifer Pagach: Yes, We I wouldn't personally – I do have copies of what they did but rather than me directly share them, you know in my presentation I have the link to the article and the (SRI) ArcUser magazine which is an ESRI publication that has a bunch of information there and if that's not enough I would encourage you to contact Sam directly. I know some of his research maybe he may not want to directly share but I am sure he'd be able to share with you how he kind of type down. And then if someone just wanted to know in general more about it they could feel free to call me, note that I gave my number but it's 8604243295 but I am sure Sam and Paul would be happy to talk to people directly as well.

And you can actually watch the webcast on the ICLEI (and CT) climatechange.com websites and see in their words how they did it.

Lauren Pederson: OK, great thanks. And then the next question is related to financial modeling. Can you provide some additional detail on what went into your assessment of cost to not (adopt things identified) potential climate impacts and did that economic assessment help to motivate action?

Jennifer Pagach: Well you know again I don't want to speak exactly to how it was done but I could – I'll give an overview. So basically what they did was they through our state GIS and through town of Groton GIS modeling and then knowing U.S. Army Corp of Engineer building damage they could super impose different events, so then we did 10 inches of sea level rise and our 10-year storm something like that. Then using the tax based fossil based data, the value of the properties they could get an estimation of how much damage would happen when one of those type of storms occurred. Again if you read the article and watch the presentations you can get so much more information that I am sharing but basically what we did is we worked with the talent and with the folks in the workshops to pick some areas that were vulnerable.

We picked downtown Mystic which is anybody that went to Connecticut has gone to Mystic Seaport and Mystic Village and gone to the – on the ships and all that so the huge downtown shopping and you know being a historic area. So that was one of the areas that we looked out that would be very vulnerable to flooding. We also picked a parcel that was undeveloped and we looked at what would be the issues involved value as a buffer.

And then we also looked at some other areas in the town. And then we had some folks come and actually talk to us about what some of the adaptation strategy could be to protect those areas and then during the workshop people kind of selective what the things they wanted to be see modeled where. And then they did some more crunching Merrill and his team talked with more crunching to figure out what the cost would be. So you could definitely take, if you didn't do anything, if you didn't put out any kind of barriers for the storms, you didn't do anything what would that storm cause a relatively amount of property damage versus if you did do something.

So this is actually – their project was actually funded by EPA. So I know that they've been working with some other communities that you can get more information from them as well. And Sam Merrill with the New England Financial Institute, it's actually out of Maine.

Emma Zinsmeister: And we're actually...Really close on time here. So I understand that folks on the line listening in may need to go. And if you do please consider taking a few minutes to fill out our optional survey at the end and tell us what resources you need and what challenges you are facing with adaptation. And if folks can stay on for just another couple of minutes, I think we have time we can probably do one more question per speaker and then we'll address the rest in writing.

Lauren Pederson: All right, the next question is Steve Seidel from the Pew Center. It sounds like there are a lot of great projects in different federal agencies but list of the projects you mentioned were not in the agencies. What kind of issues or information do you think are required for coordination between federal agencies?

Stephen Seidel: Yes, that's a really good question and clearly a lot of these areas cut across different agencies. The way we structured our reports, we list it by agency but when you get into the details when you actually look at the description you'll find that for the most part, a large number of these initiatives within agencies involved other agencies. So for example the Department of Interior and NOAA entered into an interagency agreement to make sure that they are fully coordinating the regional efforts on the part of NOAA with the Climate Science Centers, the regional efforts on the part of the Department of Interior.

So there really has been a great deal of interagency coordination even within the activities that have occurred to-date.

Lauren Pederson: OK, great. Thanks Steve. And then our last question for Allison. What progress has been made on the Federal Adaptation Task Force recommendation to develop a national climate service? Is it more than just the online data clearing house?

Allison Castellan: Yes, it is more than just a online data clearing house. And actually that's just one thing sort of aspect of that that I mentioned in our conversation today. But it is much broader and we're working on to sort of build off of Steve's response as far as improving coordination among all the federal agencies at the national level or beginning to have discussions on how to although a lot of – there is as Steve mentioned a lot of interagency coordination on service projects already going on. We're working to improve that further that will help feed into

creating much more of a united national approach to both the services we provide on climate change and climate change adaptation as well as improved science coordination as well. And then our continuing ongoing discussions related to that to move that forward.

Emma Zinsmeister: OK, I think that's all we have time for today. Thank you again to all of our speakers for your time and contributions, we're glad that you were able to come and share your expertise, knowledge and resources. And thank you to everyone on the line for tuning in. If you haven't been able to participate in parts one and two of the webcast, please do check out the files on our website, you can listen to the audio and hear the presentations there if you walkthrough the slides. And we'll certainly announce through our Listserv when the materials from this webcast will be available as well.

We hope that you will continue to join us on future webcasts. And please take a minute or two to look at our survey and let us know what you think about future topics and your needs and challenges that you're working on adaptation in your communities. So thank you. And we look forward to having you join us again soon.

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

END