

# *Building a Resilient Coast* **Maine Confronts Climate Change**

<http://www.seagrant.umaine.edu/extension/coastal-community-resilience>

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## **DVD Users' Guide**

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This resource is designed to enhance communication and learning among audiences viewing the DVD. The DVD developers hope that communities using the DVD will organize group discussions to share experiences and knowledge, and discuss next steps and action planning. This users' guide provides a series of questions corresponding to each DVD segment and can be used to facilitate discussions among groups or individuals.

NOTE: The term *coastal decision makers* is used throughout this guide to indicate those groups or individuals at the federal, state, regional, municipal, community, and individual level who make coastal planning decisions that affect people, natural resources, and/or property.

### **Segment 1 – Introduction**

- What does “changing climate” mean to you?
- Can we prepare for and adapt to climate change?

### **Segment 2 – Climate Change, Changing Coast: Science and Economics**

- “Climate will become more extreme and more intense than what we’re used to, as the century continues.” Does this statement match with your experience in the time you’ve known your part of the coast?
- How have the dunes and/or bluff areas changed in your community?
- How do you think these changes will impact the coast for beach and dune areas, bluff areas, and rocky areas?
- “Jacobson believes such potential changes require a concerted global response.” Yet Jack Kelley says, “I don’t think there’s anything we can do about it.” What do you think the future of Maine coastal communities will be if coastal decision makers don’t take coordinated action to address climate change impacts?

### **Segment 3 – How Shoreline Property May Be Affected**

- Have you seen the effects of erosion and flooding from coastal storms in your neighborhood or community? How were these situations managed?
- How can your neighborhood or community prepare for times of hazardous conditions due to storms and erosion? Is your community aware of assistance and resources available through the state and county Emergency Management Agencies?

### **Segment 4 – How Coastal Communities May Be Affected**

- “How do we prepare prudently in the face of uncertainty, without over-preparing for conditions that might not happen, without panicking.” What are the tools and resources that can be drawn on to achieve this balance in public policy and on private property? Where should action planning begin?
- Should decision makers be working in partnership to address climate change impacts? If so, what partnerships would be most advantageous? Should there be identified leaders of any coordinated effort? If so, who should they be?
- What investments does your community have in coastal areas that might be impacted by expected changes?
- In your opinion, are the building setbacks along coastal and river areas adequate for the changes in sea level rise and storm intensities you believe are likely to occur?

## Segment 5 – What Individuals and Communities Can Do to Protect Themselves

- “We don’t, and can’t, know all the details of how the climate will change, but we do know the direction of change... and these trends indicate a need to prepare for changes that are likely to occur.” Based on your knowledge and experience, what would you consider the appropriate level of response to the climate change impacts you believe are likely to occur?
- Are you aware of any successful models of action taken by decision makers like yourself? If so, what are they?
- In your role as a coastal decision maker, if you believe you need to take action, what is the first thing you would try to do? Who, if anyone, would you need as a partner to be successful? What information would you need? How would you get this information?
- If you hope to take action, but feel hindered from doing so, what is the major obstacle? How could you address it?
- In your view, what are ways that your community can come together in order to protect your beaches and coasts?

### Links to Resources

- *Climate Variability and Coastal Community Resilience: Testing a National Model of State-based Outreach Project* — <http://www.seagrant.umaine.edu/extension/coastal-community-resilience>
- *Maine’s Climate Future: An Initial Assessment* — <http://www.climatechange.umaine.edu/mainesclimatefuture/index.html>
- Maine Geological Survey — <http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mgs/mgs.htm>
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Climate Program Center — <http://www.climate.noaa.gov/>
- Northeast Regional Climate Center— <http://www.nrcc.cornell.edu/>
- Maine Emergency Management Agency — <http://www.state.me.us/mema/>
- Climate Change at the National Academies; *Ecological Impacts of Climate Change*— [http://dels.nas.edu/climatechange/ecological-impacts.shtml?utm\\_medium=etmail&utm\\_source=National%20Academies%20Press&utm\\_campaign=NAP+mail+new+05.26.09&utm\\_content=Customer&utm\\_term](http://dels.nas.edu/climatechange/ecological-impacts.shtml?utm_medium=etmail&utm_source=National%20Academies%20Press&utm_campaign=NAP+mail+new+05.26.09&utm_content=Customer&utm_term)

