



NEPs and Climate Change "Climate Ready Estuaries"

Massachusetts Bays Program

Management Committee

December 12, 2007

NEPs and Climate Change

- Climate not a priority in most CCMPs
- EPA/Federal science advancing
 - Significant recent advances
 - vulnerability assessment and adaptation
 - Need partners to use new science
 - Office of Air and Radiation/Climate Change Division
 - Office of Research and Development/Global Change Program
- NEPs have the right stuff
 - Stakeholders
 - Local knowledge

Proposal: "Climate Ready Estuaries"

- "One problem is a lack of interaction between government researchers and officials, industries, or communities facing risks or opportunities in a shifting climate."
- "We don't know what they (communities) need and they don't know what we can provide"

*National Academies Panel Faults Emphasis of U.S. Climate Program ,
NY Times, September 14, 2007*

Model: OAR/NPS

Climate Friendly Parks

- GHG emissions inventory
- Workshops conducted by EPA and NPS
- Action plans implemented; parks models for climate change action
- 12 Parks, so far:
 - Gateway National Recreation Area (June 2003)
 - Glacier National Park (April 2004)
 - Zion National Park (September 2004)
 - Everglades National Park (June 2005)
 - Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve (October 2005)
 - Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (November 2005)
 - Yosemite National Park (April 2006)
 - Great Smoky Mountains National Park (December 2006)
 - Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (February 2007)
 - Rocky Mountain National Park (March 2007)
 - Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (July 2007)
 - Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (July 2007)
 - Yellowstone National Park (2007)
- Parks lining up to join
 - Stimulate Environmental Action



Climate Ready Estuaries Concept

- EPA would:
 - Adapt assessment and adaptation tools to individual NEPs
 - Financial and technical support
 - Credit NEP as a “Climate Ready Estuary”
- NEP would:
 - Assess NEP specific vulnerabilities
 - Review local governance
 - Prepare Adaptation Plan
 - Use existing stakeholder structures

NEP/EPA Collaboration

NEP

Request Assistance

Local Knowledge

Dedicated Staff

Local Leadership

Assess Needs

- Sea level
- Precipitation
- Acidification
- Invasives

NEP Data

- Governance
- Shore armoring
- Target Species
- Habitat

Adaptation Plan

- Critical Tasks
- Funding
- Schedule

Implement

- Action
- Monitoring
- Adapt

EPA

National Assessment

Assessment Framework

Tools Assistance Accreditation

Federal Access

"Climate Ready Estuary"



Climate Ready Estuaries Program: First Steps

- **Synthesis of Adaptation Options for Coastal Areas (draft December)**
- **Needs Assessment (December)**
 - Webinar (January)
- **Development of Outreach Materials (December)**
 - Website/Logo
 - Ideas from Needs Assessment

First Steps (cont' in 2008)

- **Draft Plan for Program Implementation (February)**
 - Proposal for CRE for NEP Spring Meeting
- **Program Development Workshop (March)**
 - Subset of NEPs
 - Possibly concurrent with Spring Meeting
- **Support for Program Implementation (On-going)**

Next Steps

- NEPs help with program design
 - Review of adaptation practices synthesis
 - Participation in Needs assessment
 - Volunteers for March workshop
- Find additional technical and financial support
 - EPA
 - OAR/CCD – Sea Level Vulnerability and adaptation
 - ORD - Potential for duplication of Puget Sound Assessment
 - OWOW – Financial planning/Cultural tools
 - Other Public/Private support

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