

Session Overview: Working Together for Climate Resilience: Linking Local Planning Efforts

Rimer, Linda

Environmental Protection Agency

The Third National Climate Assessment (NCA), a product of the United States Global Change Research Program, was released in May, 2014. Two of the key messages from that report are that climate change is affecting Americans in every region of the United States and key sectors of the national economy....and those changes are happening today.

The major findings for the Southeastern part of the United States in the NCA include the following:

- Sea level rise poses widespread and continuing threats to both natural and built environments and to the regional economy.
- Increasing temperatures and the associated increase in frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme heat events will affect public health, natural and built environments, energy, agriculture, and forestry.
- Decreased water availability, exacerbated by population growth and land–use change, will continue to increase competition for water and affect the region’s economy and unique ecosystems.
- Federal, state and local governments, communities, businesses small and large, non–profit organizations....in fact, all of us need to learn about what these future climate changes are projected to be, and what impacts they will have on our lives so that we may begin planning how to develop resilience to these changes. And then we need to go to work implementing those plans.

This panel will describe three ways in which this very work is being done today, in communities in North and South Carolina. This work involves local governments, non–profits, military installations, university students, and federal partners. While the approaches are different, they all demonstrate a commitment to collaboration – working together, in creative ways to build community resilience in a time of climate change.