



Climate Adaptation Guidelines Resource Directory

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Background and Purpose

A companion to our “Climate Adaptation Tools Resource Directory,” this guide is intended to showcase some of the best frameworks and guidelines that have been developed to help local governments undertake climate adaptation and mitigation planning. For each resource, we include a link to where it can be found online, the authors, the publication date, and a description of its purpose. The resources are arranged in descending date order, and all the current on-line guides are listed at the end. This guide is a work in progress and will continue to be updated and refined. Please contact us with questions or suggestions.

Name	Organization & Web link	Date Published	Website	Description
Planning for Flood Recovery and Long-Term Resilience in Vermont	EPA and FEMA	July, 2014	http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-07/documents/vermont-sgia-final-report.pdf	The state of Vermont requested technical assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This document summarizes Vermont's flood resilience planning in the wake of natural disasters.
Tools for Coastal Climate Adaptation Planning: A Guide for Selecting Tools To Assist with Ecosystem-Based Climate Planning	Natureserve	March, 2013	http://www.natureserve.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/ebm-climatetoolsguide-final.pdf	This excellent guide provides the information necessary for coastal natural resource managers and community planners to select appropriate tools for their projects. Focuses on spatially explicit solutions for climate-related planning and clearly describes the three categories of tools – Visualization, Modeling and Decision Support tools. Offers several case studies and describes the tools used therein, and a clear guide to how difficult the tools are to use and what software is required.
FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Handbook	FEMA	March, 2013	http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1910-25045-9160/fema_local_mitigation	FEMA's official guide for local governments to develop, update and implement local mitigation plans. The Handbook complements and

			handbook.pdf	references the Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide, which is the official guidance for Federal and State officials responsible for reviewing local mitigation plans.
Climate Adaptation Guidebook for Municipalities in the Chicago Region	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning	June, 2013	http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/livability/sustainability-climate-change/climate-adaptation-toolkit	Intended to aid municipalities in the Chicago region that are interested in adapting their planning and investment decisions to a changing climate.
Adapting to the Rise – A Guide for Connecticut's Coastal Communities	The Nature Conservancy	2013	http://www.ct.gov/ctrecovers/lib/ctrecovers/TNC_Adapting_to_the_Rise.pdf	Provides town planners, elected officials and concerned citizens with 1) a basic understanding of several areas of focus related to adapting to immediate and future flooding projections, examples from communities that have adopted various adaptation strategies, and 30 links to resources and deeper background material.
Handbook for Small Canadian Communities - Planning	Canadian Institute of Planners	March, 2011	http://www.fcm.ca/Documents/tools/PCP/climate_change_adaptation_planning_handbook_for_small_canadian_communities_EN.pdf	Intended to help small Canadian communities to prepare and implement a Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP). The recommendations are linked to other municipal planning documents, such as the emergency measures plan, the energy strategy, the transportation plan, the strategic plan, the community land use plan, the economic development strategy, the public works plan, etc.

Policy Guide on Planning and Climate Change	American Planning Association	April, 2011	https://www.planning.org/policy/guides/pdf/climatechange.pdf	Recommends a policy framework to assist communities in dealing with climate change and its implications. The need for both mitigation and adaptation responses to climate change makes planning central to any policy solution. Includes a section on communicating climate risk.
Preparing for Climate Change: A Northeast-Focused Needs Assessment	Clean Air Cool Planet	June, 2011	http://www.climateaccess.org/sites/default/files/CACP_Preparing%20for%20the%20Changing%20Climate.pdf	Presents a snapshot of the needs of local, regional and state governments in undertaking climate preparedness efforts.
Massachusetts Climate Change Adaptation Report	State of Massachusetts	September, 2011	http://www.mass.gov/eea/waste-mgmt-recycling/air-quality/green-house-gas-and-climate-change/climate-change-adaptation/climate-change-adaptation-report.html	Overviews the impacts of climate change Massachusetts and provides an analysis of potential adaptation strategies.
Developing Climate Change Capacity at the Municipal Level in Nova Scotia Report: Municipal Climate Change Action Plan Guidebook	Canada- Nova Scotia Infrastructure Secretariat	November, 2011	http://atlanticadaptation.ca/sites/discoveryspace.upei.ca.acasa/files/Appendix%20-%20MCCAP%20Guidebook_0.pdf	The purpose of this guide and the accompanying template is to help municipalities prepare Municipal Climate Change Action Plans (MCCAP) that meet the municipal obligation described in the 2010 - 2014 Municipal Funding Agreement. The

				guide aims to help municipalities reduce greenhouse gas emissions and identify priorities for climate change adaptation.
Adapting to Climate Change: A Planning Guide for State Coastal Managers	NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management	2010	http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/climate/docs/adaptationguide.pdf	Offers a framework for state coastal managers to follow as they develop and implement climate change adaptation plans in their own states. Appendix includes potential funding sources and regional climate change summaries.
Preparing for Climate Change: A Guidebook for Local, Regional and State Governments	ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability USA	September, 2007	http://www.icleiusa.org/acton-center/planning/adaptation-guidebook/view?searchterm	Designed to help local, regional, and state governments prepare for climate change by recommending a detailed, easy-to-understand process for climate change preparedness based on familiar resources and tools.
Getting to Resilience: A Community Planning Evaluation Tool	New Jersey Resilient Coastal Communities Initiative	Current on-line guide	http://www.prepareyourcommunitynj.org/	Helps communities reduce vulnerability and increase preparedness by linking planning, mitigation, and adaptation. Offers an on-lineonline questionnaire, to find out how preparedness can be worth valuable points through FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) . Focus is New Jersey but guideline is transferable to other states.
Connecticut Adaptation Resource Toolkit (CART)	State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	Current on-line guide	http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=4423&q=531864&deepNav_GID=2121	Developed to help local government staff, committee members and active participants in Connecticut have instant access to climate change adaptation resources thereby

				enabling them to easily and meaningfully benefit their communities. In CART, resources have been separated by professional discipline within municipal departments.
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California Planning Adaptation Guide	California Natural Resources Agency	Current on-line guide	http://resources.ca.gov/Climate/Safeguarding/AdaptationPolicyGuide/	Provides guidance to support regional and local communities in proactively addressing the unavoidable consequences of climate change. The APG provides a step-by-step process for local and regional climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy development. Usage of the APG is meant to allow for flexibility in the commitment of time, money, and effort to suit the needs of the community.
Community Rating System – A Local Official's Guide to Saving Lives, Preventing Property Damage, and Reducing the Cost of Flood Insurance	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Current on-line guide	https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/16104	Introduces the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) as a way of promoting the awareness of flood insurance.
Overview of Online Resources for Climate Adaptation Policies relating to New England on Regional, State and Local Level	Roger Williams University	Current on-line guide	http://docs.rwu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1020&context=law_ma_seagrant	Overviews adaptation strategies and policies that are being implemented to address sea level rise due to climate change in the coastal states of New England.

<p>Managing Municipal Infrastructure in a Changing Climate</p>	<p>Atlantic Climate Adaptation Solutions</p>	<p>Current on-line guide</p>	<p>http://atlanticadaptation.ca/sites/discoveryspace.upei.ca/acasa/files/DEC-00306-Infrastructure%20Workbook%20%28Web-Email%20Quality%29.pdf</p>	<p>The workbook is designed to be completed by municipal officials and staff in a group setting over a period of 3 hours. It guides participants through a series of exercises, beginning with a discussion of municipal infrastructure and how it is planned, constructed and maintained.</p>
<p>Local Government Climate Change Adaptation Toolkit</p>	<p>ICLEI Oceania (Australia) - Local Governments for Sustainability</p>	<p>Current on-line guide</p>	<p>http://archive.iclei.org/index.php?id=adaptation-toolkit0</p>	<p>Outlines how and when to use each of the included tools as a complement to the adaptive management process.</p>
<p>State of Maryland Climate Change and Coast Smart Construction Infrastructure Siting and Design Guidelines</p>	<p>State of Maryland – Climate Change Maryland</p>	<p>Current on-line guide</p>	<p>http://climatechange.maryland.gov/publications/state-of-maryland-climate-change-and-coast-smart-construction-infrastructure-siting-and-design-guidelines/</p>	<p>Includes recommendations for the siting and design of infrastructure projects in Maryland.</p>