

Trainers and Tools: Building Coastal Flood Hazard Resiliency in Florida's Regional Planning Council Communities

18 months - 10 Regional Planning Councils – 4 Tools – 1 Cohesive Resilience Plan

Building Capacity through Technical Assistance Coupled with Outreach

OVERARCHING GOAL

Creating a unified multi-region coastal resilience network for Florida to provide an iterative set of co-benefits. In developing this statewide coastal resilience structure for this project, a framework will be set in place which can be adjusted to be applied to any other resilience grant or project, from adaptation planning and vulnerability assessments, to hazard mitigation and emergency management.

Recent State legislative changes to FL Chapter 163 and 627 require coastal management elements to contain a redevelopment component in comprehensive plans¹. The component must include "development and redevelopment principles, strategies, and engineering solutions that reduce the flood risk in coastal areas which results from high-tide events, storm surge, flash floods, stormwater runoff, and the related impacts of sea-level rise." This training will supply local governments with tools for meeting these new requirements with the best available data, while avoiding duplicated efforts in data collection and analysis.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project promotes the translation of science to policy and risk preparedness in Florida communities by increasing understanding of, access to, and utilization of a range of existing tools.

Projected sea level rise impacts threaten to exacerbate the vulnerability of Florida's at-risk coastal resources. Adapting to and mitigating sea level rise impacts will require that it be incorporated into all levels of hazard mitigation and land use planning in Florida. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), in partnership with the South Florida Regional Planning Council, University of Florida, and NOAA Office for Coastal Management will undertake a Training of Trainers intervention that will increase local capacity to project, assess, and respond to sea-level rise throughout the ten regional planning councils of the state.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT: South Florida Regional Council (<http://sfregionalcouncil.org/>)

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¹ Additional information and links to the published law are available at <https://www.flseagrant.org/news/2015/06/new-law-includes-sea-level-rise-in-coastal-planning/>

BENEFITS

This Project will enhance communities' understanding of coastal vulnerability by increasing Regional Planning Councils' capacity to train and provide technical assistance regarding the use of coastal flood hazard tools and associated techniques. This coordinated effort at the state and regional level will educate and promote the use of coastal flood hazard assessment tools.

PROJECT GOALS

1. Ensure that regional planners (i.e., regional planning councils) have the capacity to inform and lead their constituents in coastal adaptation.
2. Catalyze the understanding and context-appropriate use of coastal flooding assessment tools among Florida communities.

Meeting these goals required full regional planning council participation

THE TOOLS

- **NOAA's CanVis** – A free visualizer which is intended to elicit higher levels of stakeholder engagement, CanVis utilizes no data and modifies imagery to show potential inundation scenes.
- **NOAA's Digital Coast: Sea Level Rise Viewer and Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper**– A free visualizer which can facilitate stakeholder engagement, scoping and inventory, and assessment and analysis, SLR Viewer offers an online interactive platform in map format to display a variety of sea-level rise scenarios.
- **FDOT/UF's Geoplan Sketch Planning Tool** – A free visualizer *and* modelling software package intended to promote stakeholder engagement, scoping/inventory, assessment/analysis, and planning, the Geoplan Sketch Planning Tool offers a variety of sea-level rise analyses related to transportation.

PROJECT DELIVERABLES ORGANIZED BY TASKS – WITH TIMELINE

Task 1: Organize and Implement Statewide "Training of Trainers" Event on Coastal Flood Hazard Assessment Tools **Completion Date: 4/1/16**

- In-person 2-day training event with tool introduction and localized exercises from NOAA² and Geoplan representatives.
 - The first day will focus on planning and facilitation of local trainings and collaborative meetings, using proven NOAA techniques and expertise.

² Digital Coast Training Courses: <http://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/list>
Planning and Facilitating: <http://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/planning-and-facilitating>

- The second day will emphasize on developing modules, tools training, and project support for Task 2. Regional project design and evaluation will guide representative from each planning council to select specific data layers and to formulate data stories. These will be delivered in subsequent trainings within the respective regions in Task 2.

Task 2: Coordinate RPCs to Provide Pilot Assistance Using a Tool and Develop a Unified Coastal Flood Hazard Assessment Tool Workshop **Completion Date: 8/1/16**

- Workshop attendees will take what they learned back to their area and share new skills as a project is created to apply the tools in each planning area

Task 3: Implement Coastal Flood Hazard Assessment Tool Workshops in all Planning Areas, involving all Planning Councils

- A follow-up webinar style event will occur in which each Planning Area representatives presents the results of their projects **Completion Date: 1/1/17**

Task 4: Provide Ongoing Technical Assistance to Communities in each Planning Area about Coastal Flood Hazard Assessment Tools **Completion Date: 3/31/17**

- A compilation of the projects and the overall process, workflow, and organization will be documented in a comprehensive report.

ROLES AND EXPECTATIONS FROM FLORIDA’S REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS

- Attend the events and complete the assigned projects to develop training modules in your area, using the tools and techniques which you have been trained on to facilitate local trainings and present tailored modules.
- Document progress and share results
- Produce regional Vulnerability Assessments highlighting specific tools and unique local vulnerabilities

