

Major Workshop Recommendations (based on large workgroup facilitated discussions)

Summary of Key Takeaways/Findings and Recommendations:

2019 iCAR workshop hosted 3 breakout sessions:

Breakout Session I: How Does Change Happen in Your Community?

Session Leaders, Heather O’Leary, USF

- ✓ What is the process of change in your experience?
- ✓ How do people’s behaviors change – what motivates them?
- ✓ How do policies get changed in your city or county?
- ✓ How can individuals be involved in the process of change at all levels?

Discussion Summary

Create a system to engage the community. Government needs to play a vital role along with media to promote change. Media can help communicate and educate while government can provide a policy framework and structure and incentive to promote change. For example, county leaders realizing the importance of resiliency and sustainability, creating an office of Innovation & Resiliency and incentivizing departments to collaborate. Departments are beginning to collaborate to create programs and develop policies that facilitate management and mitigation of climate change effects. However, this can’t be done without consideration toward equity. Often poverty impacts adopting proactive approaches that foster sustainability and resilience. A holistic approach where connections among people, planet and profits are harmonized will lead to sustainability. Instituting change is a complex process and has a personal aspect as well as an institutional aspect (Figure 1).

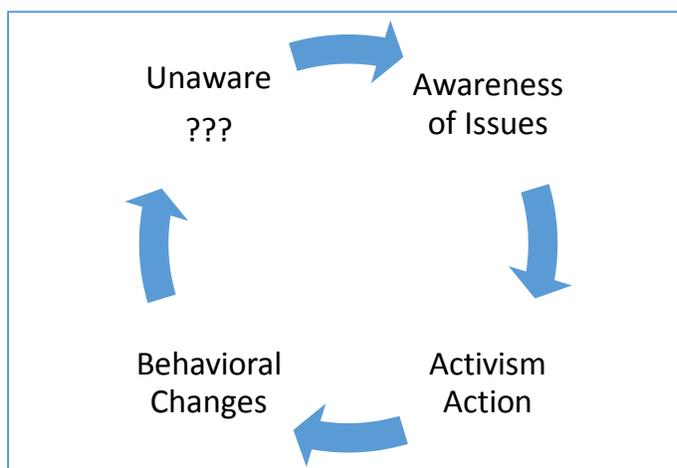


Figure 1. Pathways to change as envisioned by participants

Breakout Session: What does sustainability mean to you?

Session Leaders: Alexandria Hancock, City of Saint Petersburg

- ✓ How do you define sustainability across the three common spheres – economic, social and environmental?
- ✓ What specific policies or mechanisms would you like to see in place to promote sustainability in your community in each of these areas?

Discussion summary:

Sustainability has many different meanings to many people, however, most people agreed that at a personal level sustainability means minimizing use and waste of limited resources (Figure 2). At a community level, sustainability related to equal access and opportunity for homeownership, improvements and preparations before extreme weather events and ability to obtain support after a disaster. For example, homeowners and renters have different rights and opportunities in terms of insurance and financial incentives and sometimes these incentives are conflicting (landlords vs renters). Flooding related issues including identification of flood prone areas and planning to manage the flood impacts and access to flood insurance for renters can help resilience. Also connect people from evacuation zones with people living in non-evacuation zones so people can evacuate locally. At a regional level sustainability relates to energy conservation, transportation and compact community development that minimizes distance between work and home. Environmental and ecological sustainability includes protection of ecological assets and promoting living shorelines and the creation of an environmental incident command section (Figure 3). It also implies the need for building codes that promotes sustainability and resilience. Urban sustainability is interconnected with the resilience of the most vulnerable urban population. Specific actions toward sustainability should include reduction of poverty, as the underprivileged pay more for (in term of % of their net income) for food, transportation, health care and utilities. It is important not to only look to tax incentives, as it impacts different ‘earning groups’ differently.

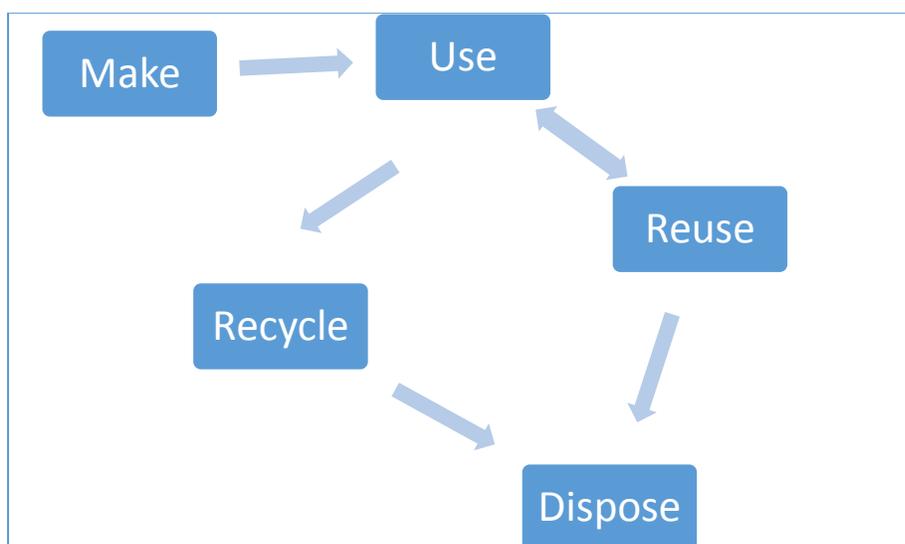


Figure 2. Sustainability as envisioned by participants

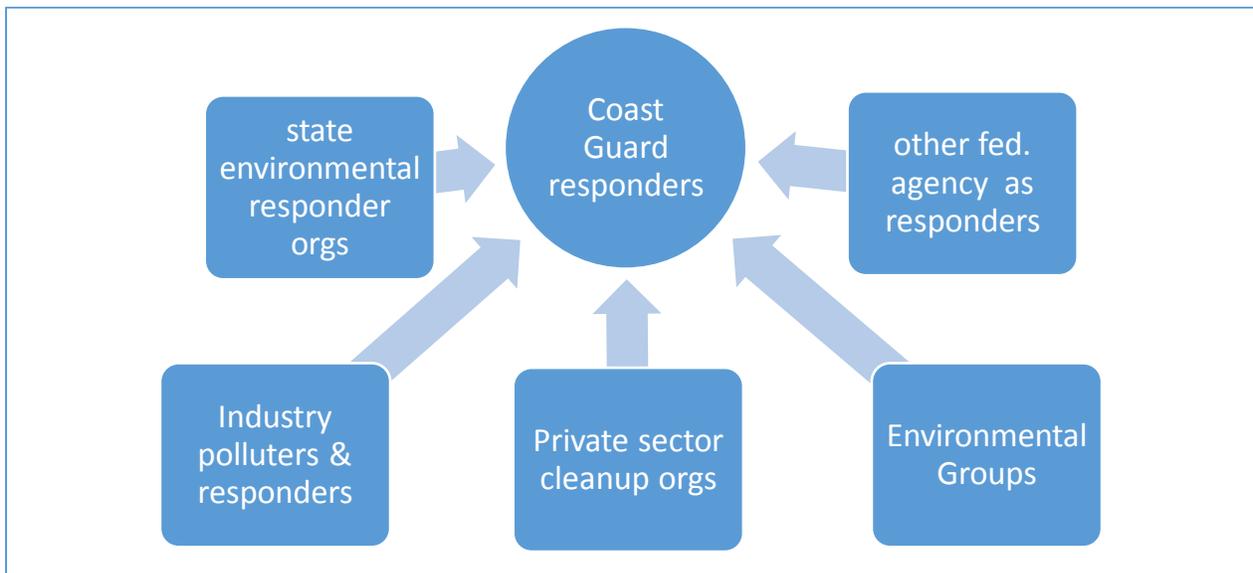


Figure 3. Environmental Incident Command as envisioned by participants

Break out Session and Report back: How do you define community?

Session Leaders: Barbara Stalbird, City of Saint Petersburg

- ✓ How do you define the community or communities you belong to?
- ✓ How does your community incorporate new members and encourage inclusivity?
- ✓ How does your community come together around resilience?

Although all people and all places are affected by climate change, each region of interconnected communities need to define common priorities for sustainability and resilience. A multitude of necessary actions are needed, with some more immediate than others and some requiring more resources than others. In this context, defining the community is a necessary first step – i.e people who participate in the decision making process and people who will be impacted by the decision. In the context of climate change, people that are subject to a common set of risks and problems can be considered part of a community. Community includes neighborhoods, cities, regions, schools, and churches, businesses (large, medium and small). Given the fact that climate resiliency and sustainability are so vital to protecting our community, the issues should be included as part of all planning discussions even if they appear seemingly unrelated. So the issue becomes more front and center in people’s lives, they are more educated, or at least aware of the importance and how it can affect them personally. Climate change and its effects impacts everyone and every aspects of our lives (Figure 4).

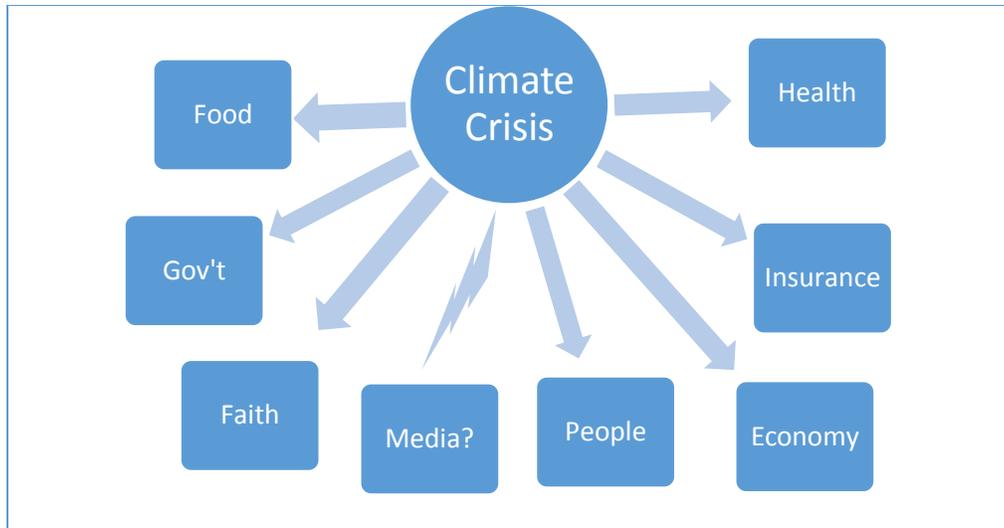


Figure 4. Climate crisis impacts everyone and every aspects of our lives as envisioned by participants

Below we have summarized key information from these sessions followed by a recommendations for the future workshop

1) Key Takeaways (General Audience Comments and Thoughts)

- ✓ Policies should be based on data and they should be inclusive
- ✓ Local government helping make it easier for homeowners and businesses to prepare by giving them options to opt out rather than opt in.
- ✓ Pathways to change are complex but not impossible. It should include financial incentives, change in political will, lobby and enactment of laws to foster change, shift in perspectives (from individual to community, from now to distant future) and communication of information and promotion of participation in governance
- ✓ iCAR should offer more public education events to promote awareness related to climate change and their implications.
- ✓ Media should play a greater role is promoting awareness of the issues and their social, ecological and economic impacts.
- ✓ Informed decisions based on effective communication is not possible without involved reporting from the media.
- ✓ Create an environment where small rural communities can have a voice in decision making and have ownership to usher in change.
- ✓ Informed decision making is key to fostering resilience.
- ✓ Knowledge sharing among experts and the public and identifying shared values builds a consensus to evoke change.

Workshop Presentations Can be Found at

<https://www.usfsp.edu/icar/icar-2019/#presentation>

Extended Abstracts (Organized by sessions and presentation order)

Florida Resilient Coastlines Program: Creating More Resilient Florida Coastlines Together

Whitney Gray

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection
Whitney.Gray@FloridaDEP.gov

Keywords: resilience, coastline, adaptation

The Florida Resilient Coastlines Program (FRCP)

The Florida Resilient Coastlines Program (FRCP) within the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection seeks to synergize community resilience planning, natural resource protection tools and funding to prepare Florida's coastal communities for the effects of climate change, especially coastal flooding, erosion and ecosystem changes from sea level rise. By using best practices for Florida developed during a multi-year research project conducted by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, coastal communities can prepare for and bounce forward from acute shocks and chronic stressors. With the support of the Governor and Legislature, the FRCP provides funding and technical assistance for communities to plan for and adapt to the effects of sea level rise.

More information can be found at <https://floridadep.gov/ResilientCoastlines>

Updated Regional Sea Level Rise Projections

Libby Carnahan
UF/ IFAS
lcarnahan@co.pinellas.fl.us

Keywords: Sea Level Rise

This presentation offered overview of the revised recommends a common set of sea level rise (SLR) projections for use throughout the Tampa Bay region by the Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel (CSAP).

Climate Science Advisory Panel. 2019. Recommended Projections of Sea Level Rise for the Tampa Bay Region (Update). 19 p

Link to full

document: https://www.tbep.tech.org/TBEP_TECH_PUBS/2019/TBEP_05_19_CSAP_SLR_Recommendation.pdf