

Coastal Threat Resiliency Training for Municipal Staff

As the global average temperature rises, communities are experiencing the impacts of climate change in localized weather pattern shifts, including more days with temperatures above 90°F, extreme precipitation, and severe storms that threaten the resiliency of New York communities. In many cases, municipalities lack the technical expertise and/or capacity to identify and use applicable tools and resources to improve their resiliency to the impacts of climate change.

In 2017, New York Sea Grant (NYSG), and partners, began providing municipal staff with training on localized severe weather and climate change impacts as well as tools, resources and programs that can be used to identify and address vulnerabilities and increase community resiliency to those impacts.

Representatives of municipal and tribal governments attended two separate day-long training events.

Topics included:

- Severe weather and climate change impacts regionalized for the local audience
- Climate resiliency tools: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Climate Smart Communities Program, NY Department of State Geographic Gateway, Community Rating System, etc.
- Financing and funding community resilience work
- Tips for resiliency-related grant writing.

Based on 2017 workshops' participant feedback, this training will continue in 2018.

The 2017 workshops were partially sponsored by NYSG with additional funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Community Climate Adaptation Initiative and the Environmental Protection Fund under the New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Act.

As a result of this NYSG-facilitated educational programming, resilient communities will be better able to sustain vital services, healthy ecosystems and economic vitality, making them less susceptible to



Municipal staff participating in resiliency training learned about tools and resources to help their communities address climate impact and severe weather events. Photo: Mary Austerman, NYSG

Learn more about NYSG resiliency training:
<http://seagrant.sunysb.edu/articles/r/2724>

future hazardous events and more attractive to businesses and residents alike.

Partners:

- Erie County Workshop: Erie County Department of Environment and Planning and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- Batavia Workshop: Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University and Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is New York Resilient Communities and Economies

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.

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