3CRS Hub

Community-Driven Coastal Climate Research & Solutions for the Resilience of New England Coastal Populations

Low-lying, working waterfront communities throughout New England are disproportionately vulnerable to projected increases in the frequency and intensity of flooding and coastal storms. These pose an existential threat to these communities, jeopardizing livelihoods, ocean-reliant economies, critical infrastructure, community health and wellbeing, and peoples' heritage.

By collaborating with four pilot communities over five years (2023-2028), the Community-Driven Coastal Climate Research & Solutions (3CRS) hub aims to co-develop processes, expert networks, data streams, local relationships and knowledge needed to expand the capacity of working waterfront communities to become more climate resilient. In the longer term, we intend to empower climate resilience efforts in additional New England communities.

What will this project do?

Through partnerships, a community workshops series, interviews, and other participatory research methods that center community voices, we will work with communities to:

1) identify strengths, vulnerabilities, and information gaps related to climate resilience in each community;
2) co-develop tools, trainings, and capacity to meet evolving community needs around climate resilience;
3) highlight and center community narratives and visions of resilience to inform future policies and projects.

How might this benefit your community?

(1) Shape your own resilient future
The 3CRS Hub will work with communities to develop and leverage resources, knowledge, and relationships to control, shape, and envision their future. Through tailored products such as community-driven resilience metrics and the collective visioning of a resilient future, communities can advocate, develop, and implement planning strategies that lead to a more resilient and healthy environment.

(2) Increase access to decision support tools, knowledge, and data
Ensuring everyone can access and interpret the decision support tools, knowledge, and localized environmental data they need is critical for informed decision-making. We will partner with communities to build the expertise needed to apply decision making tools and data to their unique circumstances, for example by using AI models to allow community members to access coastal resilience information in an easy way.

(3) Hyper-local data and planning tools for more informed decision making
We'll work with communities to develop customized climate resilience data sources and tools, such as sea level rise models and flood sensors. These tools will incorporate detailed information at a detailed level to better reflect hyper-local needs and characteristics for better resilience planning.

The 3CRS team includes Brown University, University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, Gulf of Maine Research Institute, RI Coastal Resources Center, University of New Hampshire, and NERACOOS