



*Climate Change Adaptation and the
National Estuary Program*

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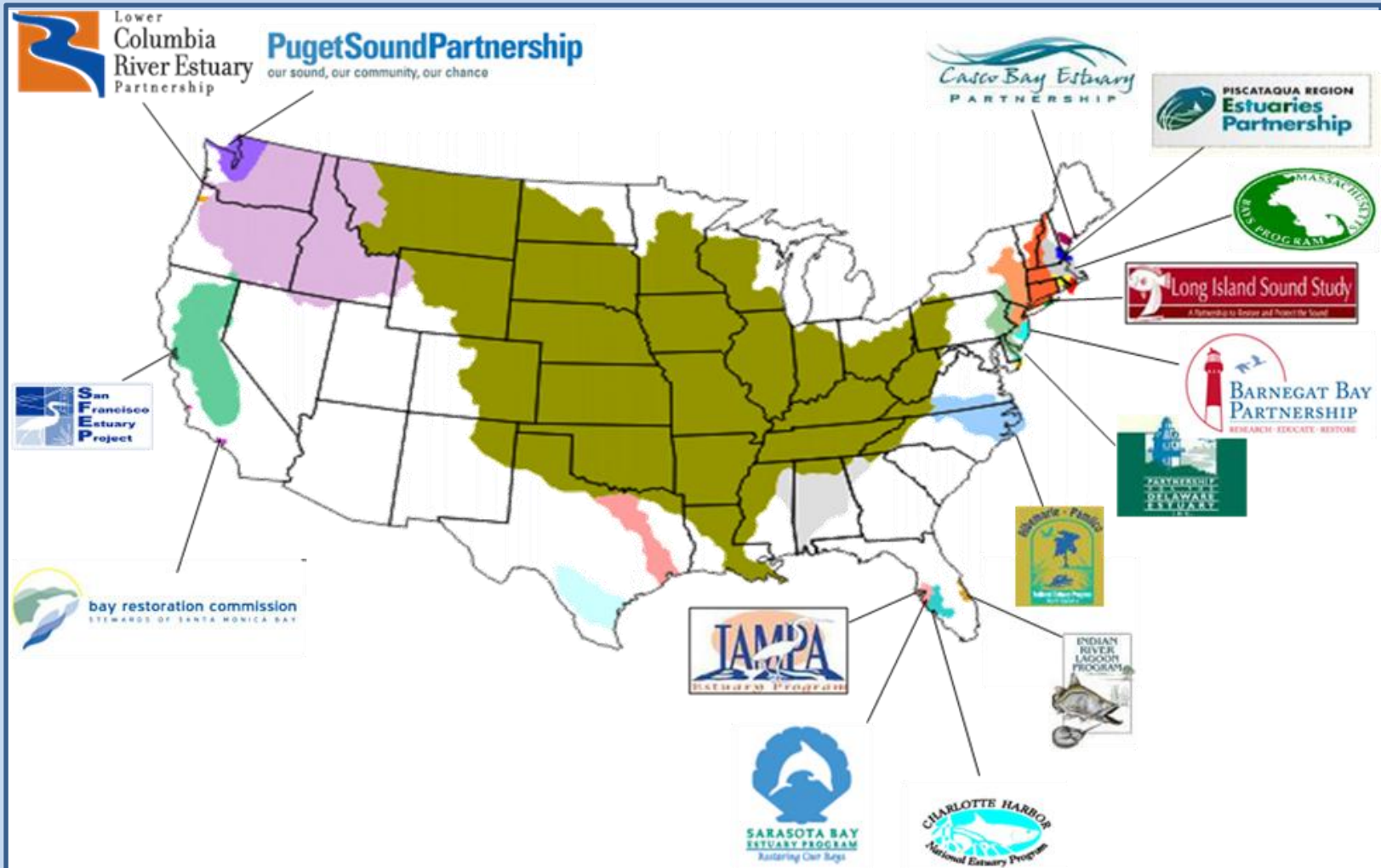
U.S. EPA Climate Ready Estuaries

Mission

The core mission of CRE is to help our coastal partners raise the adaptive capacity of their communities so they can effectively identify risks and adapt to the impacts of climate change.



CRE's local NEP partners (FY08-10)



CRE funded projects, FY08–10

- **Vulnerability assessments**

(basic climate science, sea level and storm surge, at risk habitat types, potential natural resource, infrastructure, and economic impacts)

- **Planning**

(tap experts, manage risk, consider land use, apply conservation, seek consensus planning, build resiliency)

- **Outreach/education/stakeholder processes**

(toolkits, visualization, workshops, outreach plans)

- **Monitoring and indicators**

Background on Groton Project

Why Groton?

- Well-designed collaboration among a variety of sectors
- Proven recipe for success: start small, then extend work to create a possible model for use in other communities

EPA's Objectives for Workshop Series

- Provide a model of effective, municipal-level adaptation planning for potential application elsewhere

EPA's Involvement

- Active participation with significant assistance from EPA Region I climate expert
- Engaged in discussions, lent support, and offered expertise

Outcomes/Lessons Learned

Workshop Successes

- Provided an effective model process for local climate change planning
- Identified which adaptation-related tasks are best supported by which entities (state, local, federal, etc.)
- Yielded ways adaptation can integrate into existing planning and land use decisions
- Involved deliberate and active consideration of a town's future by multiple stakeholders

Key Lessons Learned

- Every place is unique, so it's critical to get the right people in the room to determine the most significant vulnerabilities and address the community's top adaptation priorities
- Local comprehensive planning is a great reality-based entry point for building in resilience to climate change
- Motivation for adaptation planning increases after recent extreme weather events that force rescheduling! Twice!

Take-Home Message for Other Communities

- Effective planning doesn't mean starting from scratch – it's adjusting the planning tasks you're already doing, and building in the additional factor of climate change

Next Steps

EPA's Adaptation Work with States & Locals

- Projects conceived and undertaken with locally-based organizations will surface the particulars of local adaptation needs and provide planning focus
- Climate change adaptation planning needn't attack every possible impact or every scenario – what's important is to assemble the right players, design a comfortable and flexible format, be open to alternate viewpoints, and then... get started!

Building on Groton Workshops in 2011

- CRE is funding the Long Island Sound Study to create – with locals in the state – a climate change adaptation toolkit specifically tailored to the needs of municipalities.
- The project will rely on the two remarkable, well-seasoned individuals who led the Groton project, Jen Pagach from CT DEP and Missy Stults from ICLEI–Local Governments for Sustainability.

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