Community Initiatives

1. National Climate Adaptation Summit
2. Community Initiatives Next Steps

Jack D. Fellows
Members Meeting
5 October 2010
UCAR Community Discussions

- **2008.** Transition Document: national weather and climate resiliency collaborations, tools, and information.

- **2009.** A national network of university-city climate adaptation partnerships and “toolkits”.

- **2010.** 50th Anniversary focused on communicating science to the public and in the classroom – a bridge to the workforce discussions.

- **2011.** Developing a workforce appropriate for these complex environmental, economic, and societal challenges.
National Climate Adaptation Summit


• Issue. Many communities are struggling with how to plan for reliable water, food, energy, health, etc services in the face of a changing climate. No Federal strategy, confusion over roles, and what constitutes authoritative information.

• Goal. Bring together ~200 users and providers of climate information (50/50) to examine the needs, knowledge, and roles that could help climate research, program, and policy planning at all levels.

• Summit Co-Chairs. Shere Abbott, Rosina Bierbaum, and Jack Fellows
National Climate Adaptation Summit
Planning Committee

- Peter Backlund, NCAR
- David Behar, Water Utility Climate Alliance
- Rosina Bierbaum, University of Michigan
- Maria Blair, CEQ
- Joyce Coffee, Chicago Depart. of Environment
- Ruth DeFries, Columbia University
- David Evans, Noblis Inc.
- Jack Fellows, UCAR
- Chris Field, Stanford University
- Adam Freed, New York City Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability
- Kathy Jacobs, University of Arizona
- Tom Karl, NOAA
- Bob Kates, Independent Scholar
- Jerry Melillo, Marine Biological Laboratory
- Ed Miles, University of Washington
- Frank Nutter, Reinsurance Asso of America
- Richard Richels, Electric Power Research Institute
- Cynthia Rosenzweig, Columbia University
- Brad Udall, Western Water Assessment
- Tom Wilbanks, Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- Don Wuebbles, University of Illinois
- Gary Yohe, Wesleyan University
• **Structure.** Summit was a mix of presentations on Administration directions and agency initiatives and breakout sessions.

• **Breakouts (mix of users, providers, and sectors):**
  - **NEEDS.** What incentives and barriers should be addressed to facilitate effective climate adaptation and vulnerability assessment planning?
  - **KNOWLEDGE.** What knowledge (e.g., scientific, technical, information, tools, procedures, best practices, advice, etc) is needed by public and private decision makers (federal, state, local, etc) to adapt to climate change and assess vulnerability?
  - **ROLES.** Who should provide this knowledge and leadership, how should it be delivered, and how should these providers be related to one another?

National Climate Adaptation Summit

Users Panel

Interior Dep Secretary David Hayes

Ag Sec Tom Vilsack

NOAA Adm Jane Lubchenco

Gov Richardson and HUD Dep Sec Ron Sims

Sci Advisor John Holdren

Andy Revkin, NY Times
Agenda

3:30 Welcome and Brief Introduction. Dr. Jack D. Fellows, Vice President, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

3:35 Summit Report Summary. Dr. Rosina Bierbaum, Dean, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan

3:45 Presentation of Report and Remarks. Honorable John Holdren and Shere Abbott, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

4:00 Remarks from Summit Planning Committee Members Stakeholders

• Dr. Jerry Melillo, Senior Scientist, the Ecosystem Center, Marine Biological Laboratory

• Mr. Frank Nutter, President, Reinsurance Association of America

• Dr. David Evans, Director, Center for Sustainability, Noblis, Inc.

• Ms. Joyce Coffee, Director of Project Development, Policy, and Research; Chicago Department of Environment

4:20 Concluding Remarks. Dr. John Holdren

4:25 Questions & Answers

4:40 Adjourn

Report was released at the AAAS on 29 Sept 2010
programs and would evolve over time in
with information about relevant non-fede
Seven Near-Term Priorities

1. Developing an overarching national strategy to guide federal climate change adaptation programs. Establish agency roles, goals and metrics; and mechanisms for coordinating federal and non-federal activities.

2. Improving coordination of federal plans and programs. Mechanisms to break down barriers, integrate planning, move funding into priority areas, and maintain priorities across involved agencies.

3. Creating a federal climate information portal. Single-point access to data from all relevant federal agencies and programs and evolve over time into a “national” portal with information about relevant non-federal efforts.
Seven Near-Term Priorities

4. Creating a clearinghouse of best practices and toolkits for adaptation. Assist regions and sectors with similar adaptation challenges in learning from each other.

5. **Include support for assessment in USGCRP agency budgets.** Enable the regular national-scale assessments of climate change impacts that are required by law.

6. **Increase funding for research on vulnerability and impacts.** Includes economic analyses and pilot projects that join local, state, and regional governments and academic institutions to develop and test adaptation measures and tools.

7. **Initiate regional climate adaptation forums.** Integrate planning, communication, and coordination of activities across agencies and U.S. regions.
Community Initiatives

• **Future.** By 2050, significant climate change impacts will be occurring and 46% of the population will be minorities. Issues:
  – Growth in the climate change industry and possible workforce shortage
  – We could do better to prepare students for these complex careers
  – Workforce and diversity issues are synonymous.

• **Issues.** Will we have the university-city networks and toolkits in place? Will we be training effectively?

• **Community Developed National Climate Adaptation Curriculum**
  – Federated alliance of partners
  – Stakeholder Network and Workforce Needs Assessment
  – Curriculum and Certification Program and National Internship Program
  – Recruitment Strategy
  – Effective Business Model (where all players win)