



A BETTER CITY

**CHALLENGE for
SUSTAINABILITY**

*Business and Institutional Leaders
Working Toward a Sustainable City*



Recap of What's in Store for Boston's Climate & How Can We Adapt? Tuesday, May 3, 2016

This year has marked the first in history in which the United States Government has implemented relocation plans for **US climate change refugees**. Vulnerable populations across the nation have already begun feeling the impacts of climate change, through isolating floods, wildfires, extreme heat waves, and increased severity of tropical storms. The **City of Boston** is actively working on climate resiliency in order to ensure that our communities are not caught unprepared as climate change continues to impact our region.

On May 5, 2016, **A Better City** and the **Challenge for Sustainability** brought together the Climate Ready Boston Team and a group of deployable flood defense equipment providers from the Netherlands to address the questions: *What's in Store for Boston's Climate & How Can We Adapt?*

Mia Goldwasser, Climate Preparedness Program Manager, City of Boston, kicked off the event by reiterating the importance of developing a comprehensive city-wide climate vulnerability and resiliency planning structure. **Paul Kirshen**, Professor of Climate Adaptation and Director of the Sustainable Solutions Lab, UMass Boston, then shared some "pretty daunting" projections: rising temperatures, more hot and cold extremes, approximately a 20% increase in extreme rainfall by 2100, continued sea level rise, and more damaging coastal storms. "Our work in Boston can be seen as a pilot for climate adaptation in cities globally," Kirshen said.

Jill Allen Dixon, Associate, **Sasaki Associates, Inc.**, displayed several maps that overlaid social vulnerabilities (older adults, low-to-no income, people of color, etc.) with flood and heat projections to show how climate impacts will be distributed throughout the city. Several clear critical resiliency focus areas (CRFA's) where the social risk factors overlapped considerably with detrimental climate impacts included East Boston, parts of the South End, and the Seaport. The complete climate consensus, vulnerability assessment, and resiliency initiatives/roadmap are expected to be finished and shared with the public this summer. Finalized results will be published on the **Climate Ready Boston** website.

Even with this aggressive timeline, “[w]e can’t always wait for the big decisions to be made – we have to work on the micro-scale as the macro-scale decisions are made,” said **Carter Craft**, Senior Economic Officer, Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York. Craft introduced the three flood defense providers from the Netherlands, **Michiel van den Noort** of **HyFlo**, **Comé Rijlersdam** of **Dutch Dam**, and **Robert Alt** of **TubeBarrier**.

On **September 15, 2016**, A Better City will be hosting a Resiliency Expo to further explore potential building and district-level resiliency technologies to help the Boston business community continue to prepare for the impacts of Climate Change.

Meeting presentations are available at the links below:

Climate Ready Boston - Mia Goldwasser

Climate Projections Consensus - Paul Kirshen

What's in Store for Boston - Carter Craft, Michiel van den Noort, Comé Rijlersdam, Robert Alt