

RESEARCH ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION/RESILIENCE PLANNING

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THE CASE FOR PLANNING FOR A WARMER WORLD

[U.S. National Climate Assessment](#)¹: Planning for adaptation (to address and prepare for impacts) and mitigation (to reduce future climate change, for example by cutting emissions) is becoming more widespread, but current implementation efforts are insufficient to avoid increasingly negative social, environmental, and economic consequences. Actions to reduce emissions, increase carbon uptake, adapt to a changing climate, and increase resilience to impacts that are unavoidable can improve public health, economic development, ecosystem protection, and quality of life.²

The City and the Coming Climate: Climate Change in the Places We Live by [Brian Stone, Jr.](#)³ (Cambridge University Press, 2012). From [my review of this book](#)⁴: Cities are heating up at *double* the rate of global climate change, with major implications for human health. Managing urban heat is just as important a response to climate change as reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and the benefits will be felt much sooner. Cities should prioritize strategies that reduce both heat and GHG emissions, and trees are at the top of that priority list.

[Risky Business: The Economic Risks of Climate Change in the United States](#)⁵ and [Climate and the Economy: Texas](#)⁶: “Texas is likely to be among the states hit hardest by the impacts of climate change, with extreme heat taking its toll on workers, crops, and vulnerable communities. Under a “business as usual” scenario...climate change is also likely to drive up electricity costs and destroy billions of dollars’ worth of coastal property...[T]he most severe risks can be avoided through early investments in resilience, and through immediate public and private sector action to reduce the pollution that causes climate change.”

ADAPTATION/RESILIENCE PLANNING FOCUSED ON CLIMATE IMPACTS

[Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact](#)⁷: Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe and Palm Beach Counties, collaborative process with 100 subject matter experts, 109 cities represented. [Regional Climate Action Plan](#)⁸, published October 2012, has 110 action items in 7 goal areas.

Austin

- Council Resolutions [20131121-060](#)⁹ and [20140522-048](#)¹⁰ direct city staff on climate resilience planning
- [Climate Change Projections for the City of Austin](#)¹¹, April 2014, Dr. Katharine Hayhoe author
- [Toward a Climate-Resilient Austin: A report in response to City Council Resolution 20131121-060](#)¹², 5/1/14 preliminary identification of climate-related threats and thresholds for key city departments

Houston-Galveston

- October 2014 [Regional Climate Change Preparedness Exercise](#)¹³ sponsored by White House in collaboration with several federal agencies

RESOURCES AND GUIDES FOR A PLANNING PROCESS

[State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience](#)¹⁴: Recommendations of how the federal government can respond to the needs of communities that are dealing with climate change; it offers a seven-theme framework that can be a guide for topics that need to be examined in a local planning process.

[Rockefeller Foundation 100 Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge](#)¹⁵: Dallas and El Paso are among international cities that receive support to prepare a resilience plan and to hire a Chief Resilience Officer to oversee resilience strategy. Website will be a source for ideas and best practices information.

[ICLEI Climate Resilient Communities \(CRC\)](#)¹⁶: 5-step program to address adaptation.

[California Adaptation Planning Guide](#)¹⁷: Part of the California Climate Adaptation Strategy, this provides a step-by-step process for local and regional governments interested in climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy development.

[Security and Sustainability Forum](#)¹⁸ (SSF): A public interest educational organization that convenes global experts in free events to address threats to society from climate and other disruptions to natural systems. See [archived webinars](#).¹⁹

Other Resources

- [American Society of Adaptation Professionals](#)²⁰
- [EPA Urban Heat Island Webcasts and Conference Calls](#)²¹
- [ULI Urban Resilience Program](#)²²
- [Property Assessed Clean Energy \(PACE\)](#)²³
- *What Makes a Resilient City?* and *Grey to Green: Creating Cool Cities*, [conference reports](#)²⁴
- *Dallas State of the Urban Forest* report to be published soon by [Texas Trees Foundation](#)²⁵

¹ <http://www.globalchange.gov/>

² NCA overview finding #12, p. 27 of full report, http://s3.amazonaws.com/nca2014/high/NCA3_Climate_Change_Impacts_in_the_United%20States_HighRes.pdf

³ <http://www.urbanclimate.gatech.edu/>

⁴ *How I Got Religion on Trees*, www.anndrumm.com

⁵ <http://riskybusiness.org/>

⁶ <http://riskybusiness.org/uploads/files/Texas-v2.7.pdf>

⁷ <http://southeastfloridaclimatecompact.org/>

⁸ <http://isc.ksepartners.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/regional-climate-action-plan-final-ada-compliant.pdf>

⁹ [http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Sustainability/Climate/2013-11-](http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Sustainability/Climate/2013-11-21_Climate_Adaptation_Resolution.pdf)

[21_Climate_Adaptation_Resolution.pdf](http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Sustainability/Climate/2013-11-21_Climate_Adaptation_Resolution.pdf)

¹⁰ <http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=210783>

¹¹ https://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Sustainability/atmos_research.pdf

¹² http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Sustainability/Climate/Toward_a_Climate_Resilient_Austin.pdf

¹³ <http://www.globalchange.gov/browse/reports/regional-climate-preparedness-and-resilience-exercise-series-houston>

¹⁴ http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/task_force_report_0.pdf

¹⁵ <http://100resilientcities.rockefellerfoundation.org/>

¹⁶ http://www.icleiusa.org/climate_and_energy/Climate_Adaptation_Guidance/climate-resilient-communities-program

¹⁷ http://resources.ca.gov/climate_adaptation/local_government/adaptation_policy_guide.html

¹⁸ <http://securityandsustainabilityforum.org/>

¹⁹ <http://securityandsustainabilityforum.org/archives/webinars>

²⁰ <https://adaptationprofessionals.org/>

²¹ <http://www.epa.gov/heatland/resources/webcasts.htm>

²² <http://uli.org/research/centers-initiatives/urban-resilience-program/>

²³ <http://www.keepingpaceintexas.org/>

²⁴ <http://anndrumm.com/>

²⁵ <http://www.texastrees.org/>