



*Reflections on symposium discussions and opportunities for collaboration as we move forward*

**Presentation to  
States-Tribes-EPA Climate Adaptation Symposium**

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**Creating the opportunity for dialogue among state and tribal partners on fostering climate resilience**

**Focus on EPA's Climate Change Adaptation Plan – specifically the Agency's efforts to identify programmatic vulnerabilities and impacts on our co-regulator partners**

**Opportunity for stakeholders to listen to and share experience and current practices to inform collaboration and policy choices**

**Opportunity to identify needs and areas of collaboration**

**Renew commitment to continued dialogue and collaboration**



**Strong agreement reflected here that continued collaboration and communication on adaptation are essential**

- EPA remains committed and wants to expand the conversation that began with our state and tribal round table dialogues starting in 2010, continued through formal tribal consultation and public comment on the draft Agency CCA Plan

- EPA Deputy Administrator has directed that there will be a public comment opportunity for EPA program and regional implementation strategies as part of ongoing dialogue and cooperation

## What we heard



Coordination, collaboration, integration particularly across all levels of government are important to building successful adaptation strategies and policies

One size does not fit all – flexible response and integration of authorities will be essential and state, tribal and local decision making will provide adaptable and successful responses

Importance of meaningful involvement of stakeholders, organizations, and the community in planning, ultimately working to create an agile infrastructure of established relationships.

Federal, state and local authorities are striving for sustainable, resilient communities with different and complementary tools – we heard a strong desire to optimize the effectiveness through better collaboration



## What we heard

Many vulnerable populations are disproportionately impacted by climate change; Tribes and tribal communities are among those who are especially vulnerable –

EPA has a special role in the government-to-government responsibility – better integration not only across EPA but across other Federal agencies will be essential

The losses to tribal communities may be profound particularly cultural losses; TEK is essential ingredient in tribal planning and an important part of cross-government collaborative efforts.

# Climate Change and Sustainable Communities

## What we Heard –

- Climate Justice is also an important facet of both Environmental Justice and Climate Change Adaptation. We have to recognize that climate change adversely affects certain vulnerable populations greatly and that there exists a great need for plans and policies to protect these populations from bearing greater proportions of climate change burdens.



## What we heard

Planning for climate change will require a continually evolving knowledge – training and development and dissemination of analysis and decision tools are needed and EPA has a role in helping to provide information, data, training and ongoing opportunities for information exchange

The USGCRP Regional Climate Assessments offer a unified and consistent set of scenarios for smaller scale planning; a variety of analysis tools such as CREAT and COAST that we heard about here are examples of decision support tools

There is a need for expanded climate literacy

There is a need to build strong trans-generational leadership and to ensure that capacity-building is continuous and responsive



## What we heard

Champions for climate change adaptation are important and they come from many places – local, state, tribal, federal – and they are needed in each context to move the planning process forward



# Adaptation is Essential

*Adaptation is critical if the nation is to attain its desired environmental, human health, and economic outcomes.*

*The goal is resilience and sustainability – resilient economies and quality of life is not possible without providing for a sustainable environment; protection of vital ecosystem services is essential to protecting quality of life and a growing and vibrant economy*

*While cost of adaptive strategies may seem daunting, the failure to adapt will exact an even larger cost to us and across future – even near future generations*



# Conclusion

EPA recognizes that it must strengthen partnerships with states, tribes, and local communities to continue to protect public health and the environment by promoting more effective adaptation planning to protect our homes and our economy by continuing to protect the environment even under changing climate conditions.

EPA recognizes the value of partnerships with states, tribes and localities and the importance of supporting adaptation efforts by these partners through its environmental programs



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