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Center for Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience

Using Facilitated Communities of Practice to build local climate resilience capacity

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Objectives

- **key take-aways from peer-reviewed literature**
- **two climate resilience Facilitated Communities of Practice** (FCoP)
- **how you might utilize a FCoP** to advance climate resilience

The Challenge

Flood damage in Ellicott City, MD, 2016. Photo courtesy of Preservation Maryland.

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Flood damage, Alstead, NH. Photo by Duncan Watson

Facilitating Collaboration

Both "bottom up" community planning and "top down" national strategies may help regions deal with impacts such as increases in electrical brownouts, heat stress, floods, and wildfires. **Such a mix of approaches will require cross-boundary coordination at multiple levels** as operational agencies integrate adaptation planning into their programs. (Melillo et al. 2014, p. 671-672)

The Basics

- A community of practice (CoP) is a **social structure for knowledge sharing and collaborative action** (Akkerman et al. 2008; Wenger 2000).

- **Communities of practice = key modality for climate engagement, capacity building, and action** (Iyalomhe et al. 2013; Moser et al. 2015; Nursey-Bray et al. 2016).

Image source: http://ged578.pbworks.com/w/page/39335812/Communities%20of%20Practice

What Do CoPs Require?

CoPs **require** (Chua 2006; Garavan et al., 2007):

Meaning/Shared Purpose

Image source: http://www.evidence4action.net/our-shared-purpose/
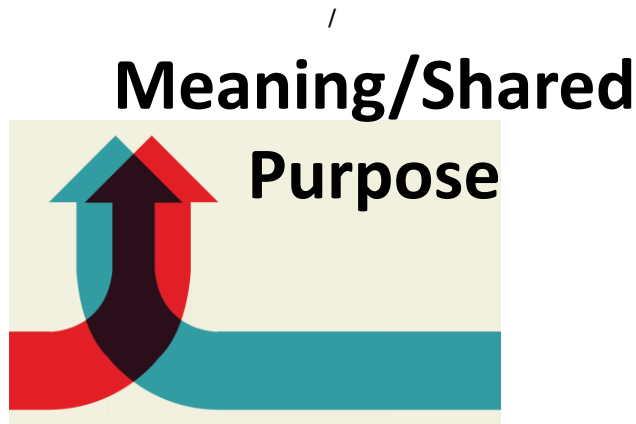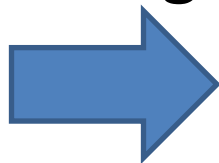
Trust

Image source: http://www.euroscientist.com/trust

Management of group dynamics

➡ **to build identity and social capital**

What are the Possible Benefits of CoPs?

- increased potential for collaboration and innovation
(Bettiol and Sedita 2011; Garavan et al. 2007)

- ability to promote understanding between scientists, policymakers, and professional local government staff

What are Considerations for Online CoPs?

- Can increase accessibility and decrease expense (Byington 2011)

- Requires IT support and appropriate timing (Chua 2006)

- Performing shared activities before online networking activities (Akkerman et al., 2008)

- Leadership = maintain the online forum as a useful and supportive space (Byington, 2011)
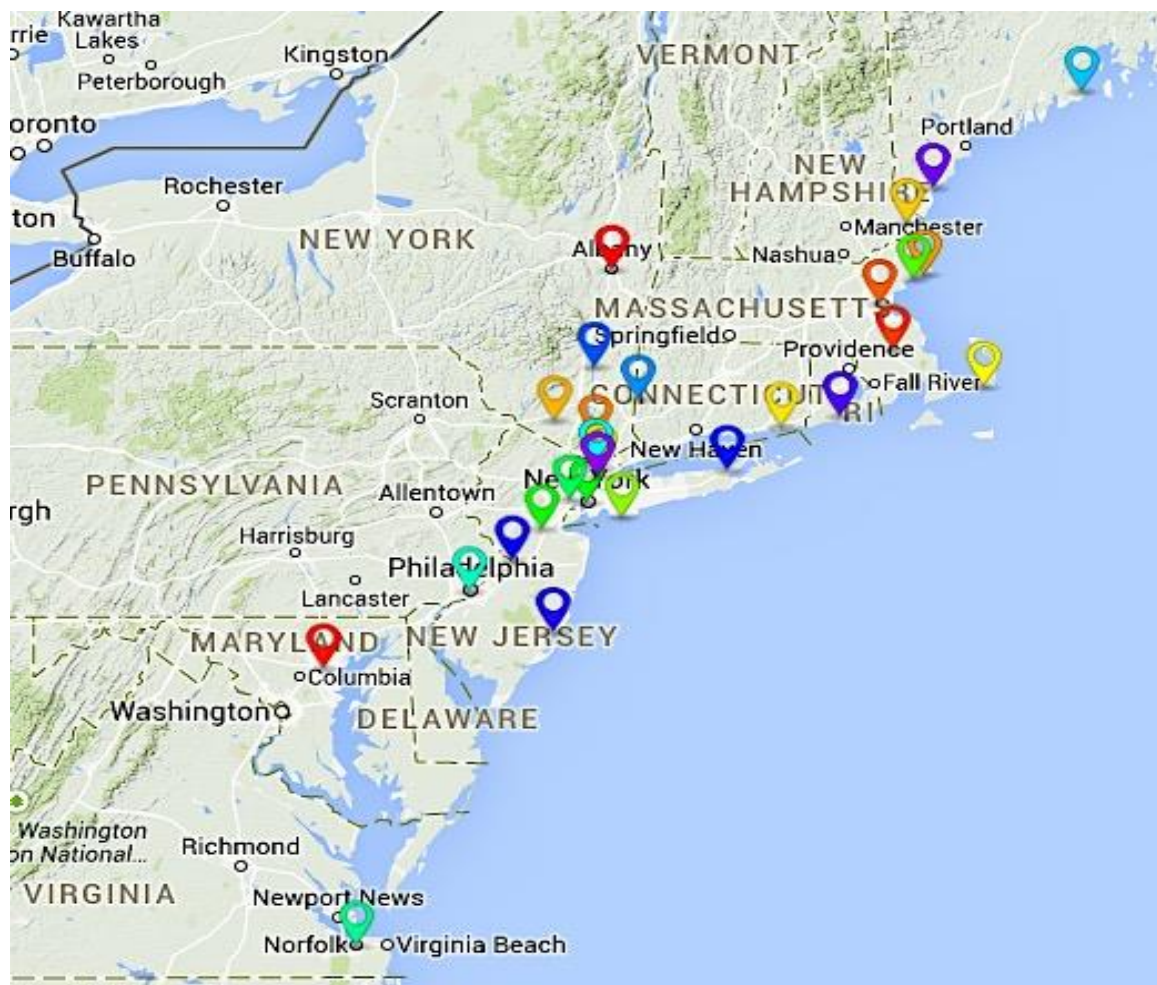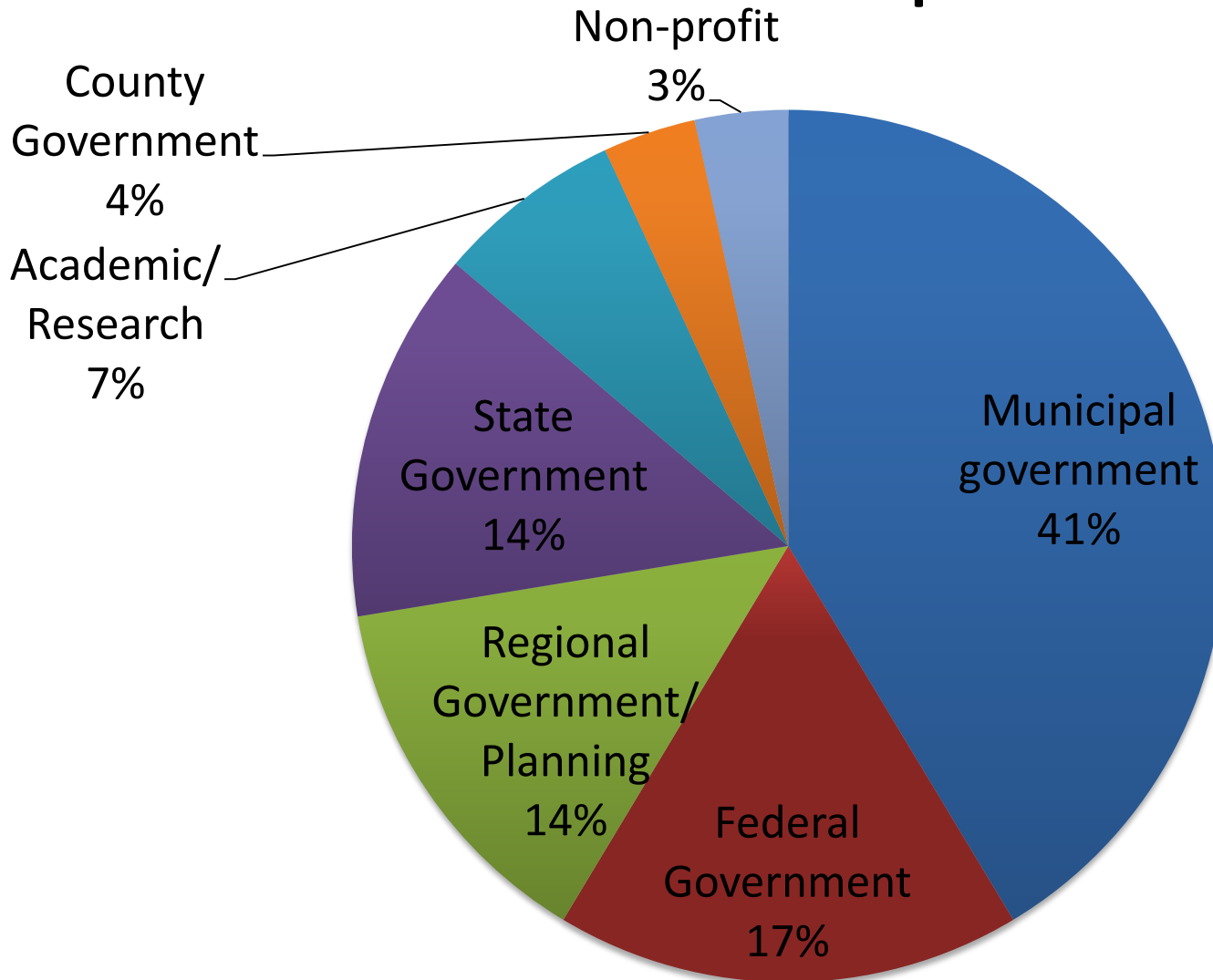
Road Test Participants:

- 29 professionals engaged in climate resilience work

- 25 municipal, regional, state-based, and nongovernmental entities

Welcome to the online Facilitated Community of Practice for road testing the Climate Resilience Toolkit

The Team

Those involved in this Climate Data Initiative project include Antioch University's Center for Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience, NOAA and White House Office of Science & Technology Policy personnel, and a select group of end-user decision makers and planners in coastal communities from Virginia to Maine (see map).

Climate Resilience Toolkit

The five-part Toolkit is located at http://toolkit.climate.gov/ and includes:

1. Identifying the problem: Focus on climate stressors that threaten people, buildings, natural resources, or the economy in your area.
2. Determining vulnerabilities: Identify specific populations, locations, and infrastructure that may be impacted by the climate problem you

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CLICK LOGOS FOR ACCESS

To participate in the Climate Resilience Toolkit discussion forum we ask that you register to the forum site rather than enter as a guest. **CLICK HERE** to see how to register.

How to participate in this Road Test:

Week 1: February 9-13

- **Wednesday, February 11, noon-1:15pm – Participate** in the introductory, interactive webinar, led by David Herring, Director of Communications & Education, NOAA Climate Program Office

Week 2: February 16-20

- Register on Discussion Forum. (See Instruction here.)
- Post your applied research question on Discussion Forum.
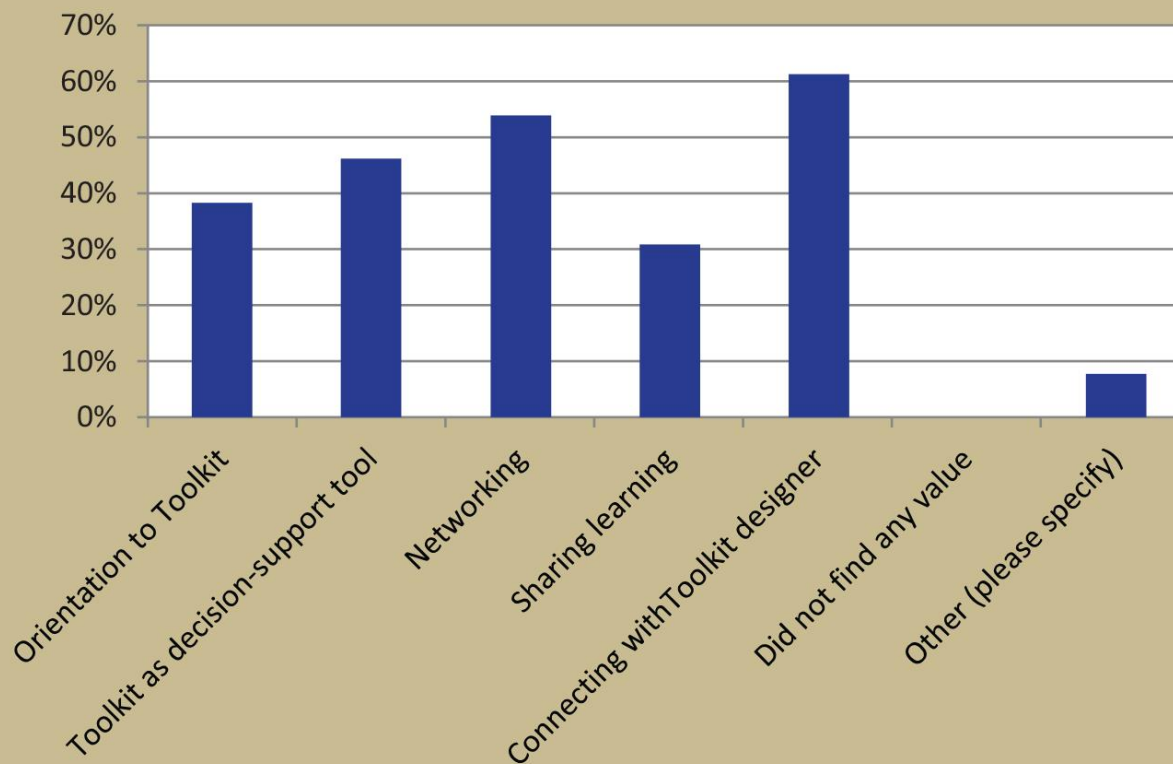
Week 3: February 23-27

Figure 26. Aspects of the Toolkit road test participants identified as most useful (n =29)

Maryland Eastern Shore Facilitated Community of Practice

Launch Session
Coastal Community Resilience: Identifying Barriers and Strategies for Adaptation Planning

March 11, 2016
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, 114 S. Washington Street, Easton, MD
8:30am-noon

Background

The Eastern Shore of Maryland has been called the nation's third most vulnerable region to the impacts of sea level rise (behind coastal Louisiana and southeast Florida). The region's major drivers for action are sea-level rise, storm surge, coastal flooding, increased urban temperatures and extreme precipitation/run-off events, with associated infrastructure, water quality, natural riparian, and coastal system vulnerabilities. While some local governments in the region are taking initial steps
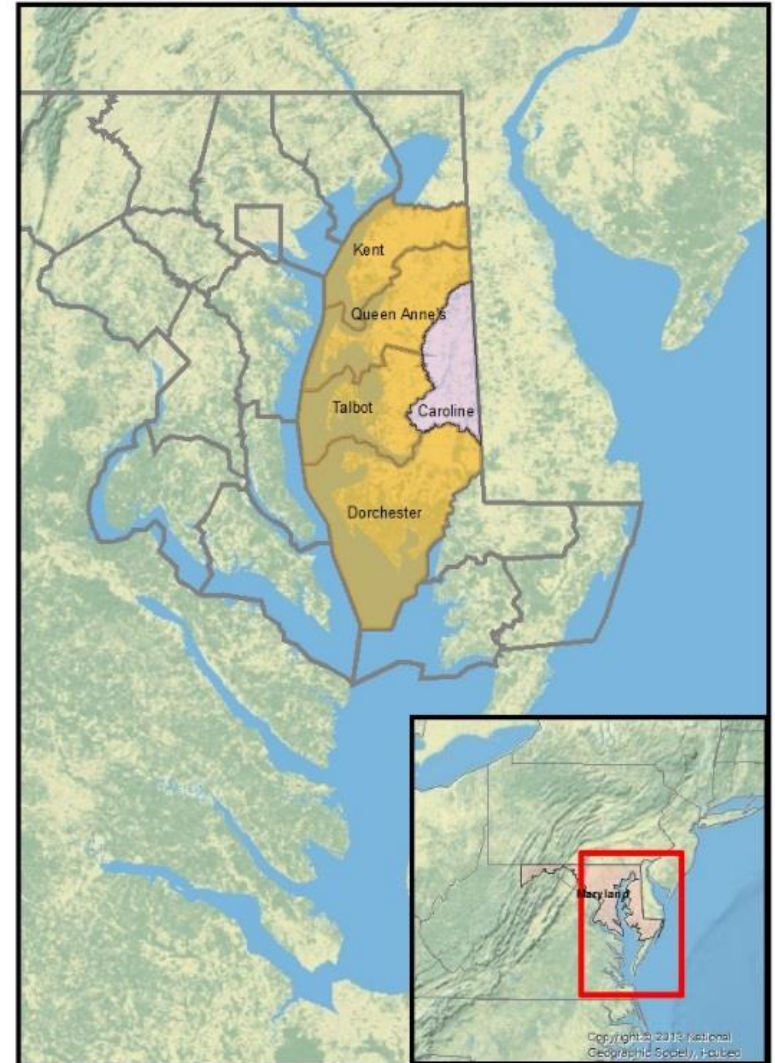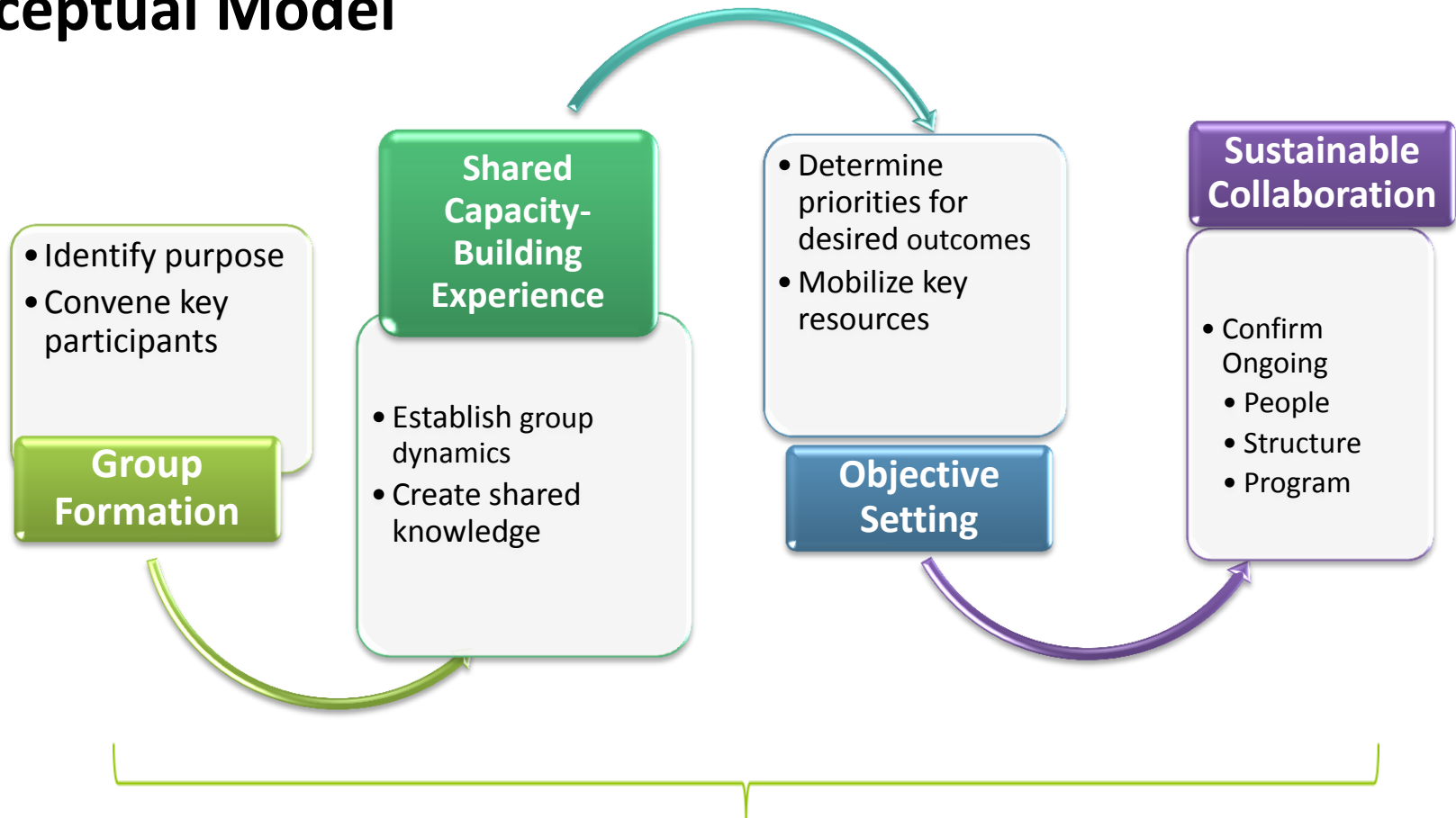
Maryland Eastern Shore Facilitated Community of Practice

Maryland Eastern Shore Coastal Resilience Facilitated Community of Practice participants, April 2016.

Questions

a) How might you use an FCoP approach to building climate resilience capacity, within your own sphere/s of engagement?

b) What recommendations do you have for strengthening and/or expanding use of the FCoP model?

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Key Needs

• Communities just embarking on adaptation planning need an introductory orientation to the adaptation process highlighting the major steps involved and resources available.

• Innovative strategies for funding and technical assistance are needed to support various aspects of the adaptation process and those engaged in local level adaptation need to be able to find and secure this support.

• Scale-relevant data need to be developed that is tailored to each community.

• Public and stakeholder engagement needs to be supported throughout the adaptation process.

• Specific expertise across multiple areas of vulnerability needs to be provided in response to the specific community-identified vulnerabilities. Opportunities for peer-to-peer interaction need to be created.

• External facilitation is valuable in promoting regionally coordinated adaptation efforts.

The Solutions

1. Nimbly innovate funding resources and encourage private sector investment to support local-level adaptation

2. Develop actionable data sets for local level end users

3. Build local capacity through multiple approaches, including conferences, webinars, decision support tools and facilitated communities of practice with a focus on peer-to-peer interaction and practical guidance

4. Facilitate regional collaboration

5. Conduct ongoing needs assessment

2016 Local Solutions: Eastern Regional Climate Preparedness Conference. Baltimore, MD; Photo by Karen Buchsbaum