

# Planning for Climate Change: What are NH's Coastal Communities doing?

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Cooperative Extension



# Dover

- Role-play simulations with 125 people to experience the challenges of planning for climate change:
  - Data — What precipitation data (old or current) should Dover use in decisions?
  - Management — How much stormwater should the City require developers to manage?
  - Timing — How soon should the City enact new regulations?
- **Built capacity, raised awareness**
- To learn more:  
<http://necap.mit.edu>



# Portsmouth



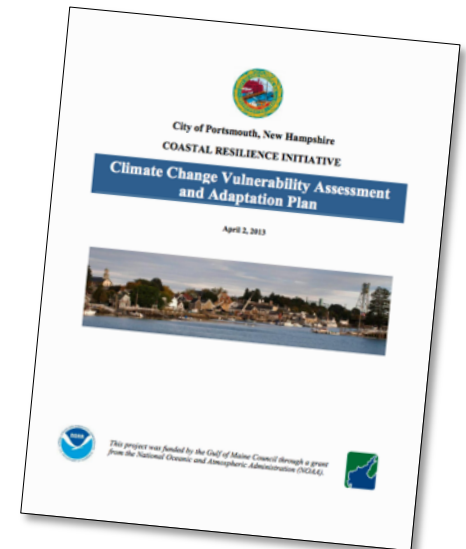
Modeled the impacts of sea-level rise on:

- Buildings and infrastructure
- Critical facilities
- Transportation
- Historic buildings
- Natural resources



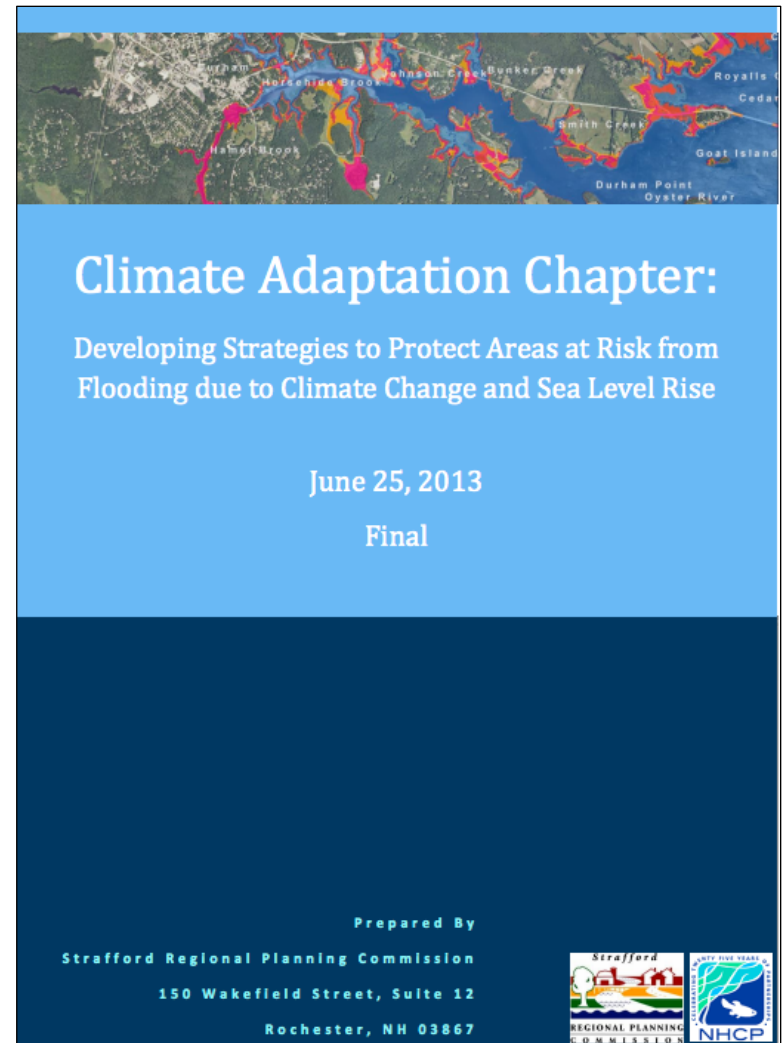
Identified strategies in an adaptation plan:

[www.planportsmouth.com/cri](http://www.planportsmouth.com/cri)



# Durham

- Added a chapter in **Hazard Mitigation Plan** focused on sea-level rise.
- Identified strategies to limit and protect development in hazardous areas.
- View the plan:  
<http://www.ci.durham.nh.us/>



# Newfields



Began with a conversation about impacts of past and future changes.

# Exeter

- Modeling how sea-level rise and more rainfall will impact:
  - River flooding
  - Drainage infrastructure
  - Water quality
  - Natural resources
- Working closely with a “Citizens Working Group” to create an **Adaptation Plan**.
- To learn more:  
[www.capenh.net](http://www.capenh.net)



# Rye

## Workshop #1 – The Climate Café

Climate change presentation, question & answer, small group discussion, prioritization



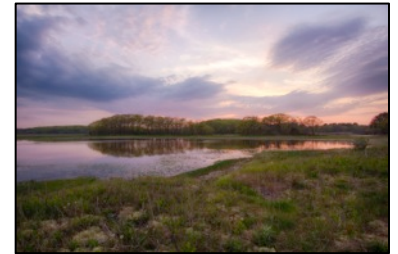
## Workshop #2 – What Tools Are Available?

Overview of planning and regulatory tools for adaptation (e.g., how to incorporate climate change into master plan, zoning, subdivision and site plan).



## Workshop #3 – A Field Trip to Rye's Salt Marshes

Learning how salt marshes protect Rye from storm surge, and how sea-level rise affects salt marshes.



## Workshop #4 – Transitioning into Next Steps

Connecting the local "Preparing for Climate Change in Rye" project into an upcoming regional project.



To learn more: <http://www.town.rye.nh.us/>

# Hampton, Hampton Falls, Seabrook

- 2009: Hired Planning Commission to study sea-level rise impacts
- 2011-12: Economic analysis of sea-level rise and storm surge impacts to public facilities and real estate.
- 2014: Working together as three towns (“Seabrook Hamptons Estuary Alliance”) to explore key issues, gather more information





# So what are Coastal NH communities doing to prepare for climate change?

Most are at a similar point:

- **Learning** about local impacts like sea-level rise and extreme rainfall
- **Discussing** how to incorporate those impacts into local plans & decisions.
- **Building capacity.**

END