

Resident Engagement Demonstration Project: Little Creek Base Neighborhoods

The demonstration project for building resilience to sea level rise in Hampton Roads was part of the Intergovernmental Pilot Project and used the Action-Oriented Stakeholder Engagement for a Resilient Tomorrow (ASERT) framework to facilitate discussion of, knowledge about, and action to adapt to flooding and SLR in the neighborhoods adjacent to Navy Amphibious Base Little Creek in Norfolk and Virginia Beach. The research team from Old Dominion University conducted four 90-minute focus groups in the neighborhoods from March-May 2016.

ASERT Process

Participatory Mapping

An interactive platform helps participants visualize and discuss impacts, collaborate and collects local knowledge.



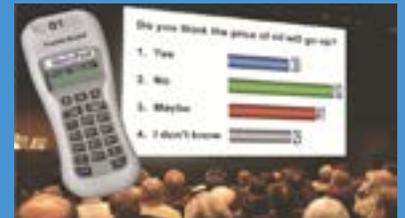
Discussion

Facilitated structured discussion among participants promotes learning, deliberation and provides perceptions and opinions



Polling

Electronic audience response systems (clickers) permit immediate sharing of participant perceptions and priorities to encourage broad engagement



Key Results

FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

- Assets included community amenities, such as parks, schools and libraries, the military base and associated facilities.
- Participants were concerned about city-wide issues, more than personal impacts: flood insurance, transportation disruption, school closing, loss of a sense of place.
- Perceived vulnerabilities included livelihoods, property (public and private), important infrastructure (military installations and shipping terminals), health and well being.
- Neighbors identified a need for a coordinated educational campaign to prepare residents for flooding events, including evacuation from the neighborhood.
- Participants focused on feasible action as a community rather than as individuals.

ASERT EFFECTIVENESS

- Process Quality- 90% of participants were satisfied with the overall process.
- 87% rated the participatory mapping exercise as moderately or extremely easy to use.
- 82% rated the discussion as moderately or extremely useful for facilitating community-wide discussion.
- Quality of Information Generated- 82% rated the quality of the information as very good or excellent.
- Efficiency- 83% rated the process as moderately or extremely valuable relative to the time committed.
- Enabling Action- 81% were moderately or extremely likely to take adaptation action and 71% were moderately or extremely likely to support their community's adaptation efforts.

This research was supported by blue moon fund and conducted by ODU Resilience Collaborative faculty Juita-Elena (Wie) Yusuf, Michelle Covi, Carol Considine, Burton St. John III, & J. Gail Nicula, with students Pragati Rawat & Kaitlin Giles

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Michelle Covi,
mcovi@odu.edu, 757-683-6598