Managing Climate Risks in Coastal Communities

Strategies for Engagement, Readiness and Adaptation

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Introducing a practical framework for building local capacity to respond to climate change

"The timing couldn't be more pertinent as coastal communities around the globe increasingly experience the consequences of a changing climate. This book hones in on one of the biggest barriers inhibiting towns and cities from investing in actions that build overall climate resilience: collective risk management." —Anna Brown, Senior Associate Director, Rockefeller Foundation

"This eye-opening book from preeminent researchers and practitioners shows how risk assessments and role playing among key local stakeholders can engage and persuade. It offers hope and guidance to policy makers and citizens who want to act before it is too late." —Judith Innes, Professor Emerita, University of California, Berkeley

"Cutting through the debates that polarize national governments on the issue of climate change, the authors offer keen insights into how local communities might engage the public to wrestle with the inevitable tradeoffs and chart a course toward resiliency." —David Mathews, President, Kettering Foundation

Drawing on research from the New England Climate Adaptation Project, "Managing Climate Risks for Coastal Communities" introduces a framework for building local capacity to respond to climate change. The authors maintain that local climate adaptation efforts require collective commitments to risk management, but that many communities are not ready to take on the challenge and urgently need enhanced capacity to support climate adaptation planning. To this end, the book offers statistical assessments of one readiness enhancement strategy, using tailored role-play simulations as part of a broader engagement approach. It also introduces methods for forecasting local climate change risks, as well as for evaluating the social and political context in which collective action must take place. With extensive illustration and example engagement materials, this volume is tailored for use by researchers, policy makers and practitioners.

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