



## Coordination and Collaboration in the Resilience Ecosystem

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### Background

In early 2018, The Climate Resilience Fund (CRF) and the NOAA Climate Program Office (CPO) (with critical support from EcoAdapt and Harmonic International) co-sponsored a two-day workshop in Silver Spring, MD. The Resilience Ecosystem Workshop (REW) gathered approximately 75 representatives from across the U.S. These participants are part of a broader community of organizations and individuals currently engaged in helping the nation understand and prepare for current and forthcoming effects of a changing climate. Workshop participants were asked to identify gaps and opportunities to work together to build on existing services and resources within a metaphorical “Resilience Ecosystem” (RE). Participants crafted project proposals for a grants competition established through an ongoing partnership between CPO and CRF.

### Summary of REW Goals:

1. Identify ways to help U.S. communities and businesses adapt and build resilience to climate-related hazards using **scientific tools, information, expertise, and traditional knowledge**.
2. Promote opportunities for and **incentivize collaboration** to achieve efficiencies, effectiveness, and scalability that otherwise might not be achieved.
3. Establish, grow, and evolve the **commercial marketplace of climate decision-support products** and services.
4. Move from tools that “push” data to **tools that allow users to “pull” information** applicable to problems and hazards. Determine who the “end user” really is for existing tools.
5. A limited number of municipalities have enough internal resources and capacity to use the tools themselves; instead, they hire boundary organizations to consult. The groups’ consensus was that we *should be **creating tools for boundary organizations and members of our professional network***.
6. **Reach climate champions** where they are. Cultivate new ones. Provide wayfinding for champions to link to opportunities.
7. **Map professional development opportunities that exist** through a user needs assessment. Support lifelong learning among professionals at all career stages so that climate information is contextualized.
8. Identify across-the-board **standards for resilience**, enabling apples-to-apples comparisons. Conduct a literature review to determine if/what standards are being used.
9. **Undertake a national-level survey** of what’s happening on the ground with inclusion of baseline assessments.
10. Foster development of a **systematic approach to assessing stakeholder needs, perspectives** and motivations and to sharing the data and lessons learned from stakeholder queries.
11. Foster development of a **right-scaled semantic web tool** that can make the online content all across the resilience ecosystem discoverable in users’ specific frames of interest.
12. Supplant current emphasis on new tool development and instead support efforts to **help decision makers to take action using existing tools and resources**.

### Summary of REW Gaps:

1. **Develop the business case for adaptation:** What are people willing to pay for and what is driving this value?” This needs to be market- and demand-driven. There is a shortage of tools and information addressing the benefits of adaptation vs. the cost of the option.

2. **Define and share strategies for financing** implementation.
3. **Enable better translation** of ecosystem approaches to urban systems.
4. Mechanisms for **service providers to better identify their strengths** in order to make it easier for them to be found and to facilitate collaborations.
5. Incentivize and support the employment of **"co-production" techniques** for service provider/user collaborations.
6. **Direct support of local communities** and others who do not have internal adaptation capacity or resources to find or use it.
7. Need for **standardized terms/vocabulary** so that users can determine which tools apply to particular problems. It's not helpful to the ecosystem when we interchange words/definitions.
8. **Tools to support the decision process**, not just tools for impacts/data ingestion.
9. The resilience ecosystem currently lacks **sufficient resources (both time and money)**.
10. There are growing gaps in the field due to **shifts in the federal government's priorities**.
11. **Innovative finance** mechanisms.
12. Improve interoperability through **more coordination, especially with private sector**

### **NOAA/CRF Grant Competition Goals and Criteria (2018-19)**

The completed grant competition focused on coordination of climate adaptation and resilience services. Grants were made available to qualifying organizations for collaborative projects that would build upon existing resources that support climate change adaptation and resilience activities. The grant competition supported projects that addressed **goals and gaps**, identified by REW Workshop participants.

#### **Criteria: Proposals were evaluated in accordance with the following criteria:**

- **Focus & Scope**
  - Potential to materially improve access to and opportunity for practitioners and decision-makers to find and use *existing* climate data, science, tools and resources.
  - Addresses a need, gap, or opportunity identified by participants in the RE Workshop (refer to the [REW Summary Report](#)).
  - Demonstrates awareness of existing RE resources.
  - Demonstrates clear added value to the RE.
- **Collaboration**
  - Two or more separate entities (organization, individual, public agency, or business) contribute to the project.
  - Two or more elements (data resources, web tools, science translators, training programs, etc.) will be involved in the proposed project.
- **Feasibility & Cost**
  - Team possesses relevant experience and expertise required to complete the project.
  - Project can be completed and delivered within the estimated scope of time and cost.
- **Deliverables**
  - Project deliverable will benefit the broader RE, i.e., practitioner/user groups, communities, and/or resource managers.
  - The deliverable will exist in the public domain, openly accessible to and for the benefit of all.

For more information:

Climate Resilience Fund website: [www.climateresiliencefund.org](http://www.climateresiliencefund.org)

NOAA CPO website: <https://cpo.noaa.gov/>

Resilience Ecosystem Workshop page: <http://ecoadapt.org/workshops/resilience-ecosystem-workshop>