

# CLIMATE ADAPTATION

# FORUM

*Environmental Business Council of New England, Inc.  
Sustainable Solutions Lab at the University of Massachusetts Boston*

## **Emerging Governance Structures for Climate Resilience**

Friday, June 2, 2023

### **Nutter, McClennen & Fish LLP**

Louis D. Brandeis Conference Center  
155 Seaport Boulevard, Boston MA 02210

**and**

Streaming virtually on Zoom



**AECOM**

**Weston & Sampson**<sup>SM</sup>



**New England Aquarium**



**rps** MAKING COMPLEX EASY



**EVERSOURCE**



**CDM 75<sup>th</sup> Smith**



**Barr Foundation**

**Union of Concerned Scientists**  
Science for a healthy planet and safer world



EBC & Sustainable Solutions Lab at UMass Boston – Quarterly Climate Adaptation Forum

EBC Contact: Ann Gisinger, [agisinger@ebcne.org](mailto:agisinger@ebcne.org)

SSL Contact: Gabriela Boscio Santos, [Gabriela.Boscio@umb.edu](mailto:Gabriela.Boscio@umb.edu)

[www.climateadaptationforum.org](http://www.climateadaptationforum.org)

## AGENDA

- 8:30 a.m. Registration & Networking**
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome**
- Kelly Knee, Forum Organizer; Executive Director, RPS Ocean Science
- Welcome from Weston & Sampson**
- Julie Eaton Ernst, Resilience Team Leader, Weston & Sampson
- Welcome from New England Aquarium**
- Luz Arregoces, New England Aquarium, Director of Community Relations  
*virtual speaker*
- Welcome from Host**
- Brent McDonald, Of Counsel, Nutter, McClennen & Fish LLP *virtual speaker*
- Program Introduction**
- Deanna Moran, Forum Co-Chair  
Vice President for Healthy & Resilient Communities  
Conservation Law Foundation
- 9:20 a.m. Keynote Presentation – A Policy Toolbox for Climate Resilience**
- Senator Sarah Elfreth, Maryland, District 30, Anne Arundel County
- 9:50 a.m. United for Climate: Local Government Collaboration on Resilience**
- Suzanne Smith, Executive Director  
Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority
- 10:05 a.m. Decreasing Flood Risk with Regional Collaborations**
- Mark Rupp, Adaptation Program Director, Georgetown Climate Center (GCC)
- 10:20 a.m. Break**
- 10:40 a.m. Climate Adaption in Connecticut: Using the Law to Empower Local Action**
- Louanne Cooley, Legal Research Fellow  
Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA)
- 10:55 a.m. Resilience, Affordability and Equity - The Future of Urban Renewal in Boston**
- Devin Quirk, Deputy Chief for Development and Transformation  
Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA)
- 11:10 a.m. Moderated Discussion**
- Panel Moderator:** Joan Fitzgerald, Professor of Public Policy and Urban Affairs  
Northeastern University

**Panelists:**

- Louanne Cooley, Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation
- Senator Sarah Elfreth, Maryland
- Devin Quirk, Boston Planning & Development Agency
- Mark Rupp, Georgetown Climate Center
- Suzanne Smith, Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority

**11:40 a.m. Audience Q&A**

**12:00 p.m. Adjourn** – Gabriela Boscio Santos, Forum Organizer; Associate Director  
Sustainable Solutions Lab at the University of Massachusetts Boston

**FORUM CO-CHAIRS**

**Kathleen M. Brill**, Partner

Foley Hoag LLP

155 Seaport Boulevard, Boston, MA 02210

617-832-1229 | KBrill@foleyhoag.com

Kathleen Brill is a Partner at Foley Hoag LLP who concentrates her practice on complex environmental and land use matters. Kathleen leverages her experience in the environmental consulting and real estate development fields to assist her clients in acquiring, protecting, and developing properties. On behalf of her clients in the public, private, energy, institutional, and development sectors, she has handled matters related to environmental permitting, regulatory compliance, environmental due diligence, environmental insurance, and government investigations. Kathleen has been recognized by Chambers USA as a leading practitioner of environmental law.

Kathleen has helped clients acquire permits at the local, state, and federal levels, and frequently coordinates the efforts of environmental, transportation, architectural, geotechnical, marine and other specialty consultants to ensure cohesive presentations before regulatory authorities. Particular areas of expertise include zoning, wetlands/Chapter 91 licensing, Article 97 protections, Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) compliance, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance, and Clean Air Act permitting and compliance.

Kathleen has a B.A. from Harvard College and a J.D. from Boston College Law School. Kathleen is active in numerous civic and professional organizations, and has held leadership positions with the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (Massachusetts Chapter).

**Deanna Moran**, Vice President for Healthy & Resilient Communities

Conservation Law Foundation

62 Summer St, Boston, MA 02110

617-850-1780 | dmoran@clf.org

EBC & Sustainable Solutions Lab at UMass Boston – Quarterly Climate Adaptation Forum

EBC Contact: Ann Gisinger, [agisinger@ebcne.org](mailto:agisinger@ebcne.org)

SSL Contact: Gabriela Boscio Santos, [Gabriela.Boscio@umb.edu](mailto:Gabriela.Boscio@umb.edu)

**[www.climateadaptationforum.org](http://www.climateadaptationforum.org)**

Deanna is Vice President for Healthy & Resilient Communities at Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), a regional environmental advocacy organization in New England. In her role at CLF, Deanna oversees four teams working on community resilience, research & partnerships, impact investing, and farm & food. The Healthy & Resilience Communities program works in partnership with communities, civic leaders, universities, and impact investors on a portfolio that includes the largest participatory action research study in the country focused on health and place; three impact investment funds for healthy neighborhoods totaling \$85 million that have produced more than 500 units of workforce housing; a Legal Food Hub that has connected 800 New England farmers and food entrepreneurs with pro bono legal support; and advocacy for more equitable, inclusive, and climate-resilient development. Deanna previously served as Director of Environmental Planning at CLF where she managed climate resilience advocacy.

Prior to joining CLF, Deanna worked for a community development financial institution (CDFI) in New Jersey where she assisted local governments and other stakeholders in devising and implementing neighborhood revitalization strategies including the reclamation of vacant and abandoned properties. She has consulted on a number of planning and policy-based projects for organizations including the Southern Coalition for Social Justice and the New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance. Deanna is active in a number of professional organizations including the American Planning Association, American Institute of Certified Planners, and the American Society of Adaptation Professionals.

She holds a JD from Suffolk University Law School, a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning and a Master's degree in Public Policy from Rutgers University and a B.A. in Environmental Design from the University at Buffalo.

### **FORUM MODERATOR**

**Joan Fitzgerald**, Professor of Public Policy and Urban Affairs  
Northeastern University  
310 Renaissance Park, 360 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115  
617-373-3644 | Jo.Fitzgerald@northeastern.edu

Joan Fitzgerald is a Professor of Urban and Public Policy. She focuses on urban climate action and strategies for linking it to equity, economic development, and innovation. In her fourth book, *Greenovation: Urban Leadership on Climate Change* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2020), she argues that the climate strategies of most cities represent random acts of greenness rather than integrated and aggressive action. She points to leading cities in North America and Europe and offers strategies for cities to accelerate their action. She is leading a team at the Dukakis Center that is conducting an assessment for the Boston Foundation's Boston Climate Progress Report. The report will assess Boston's progress on its climate action and resiliency plans with particular focus on equity. She is co-authoring a new book, *Cities and the Struggle for Climate Justice*. Fitzgerald blogs on urban climate action on Planetizen. She teaches *The 21st Century City*, *Cities, Sustainability & Climate Change*, and *Intro Environmental Science & Policy*.

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Senator Sarah K. Elfreth**  
Maryland, District 30, Anne Arundel County  
James Senate Office Building, Room 104, 11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401  
410-841-3578 | sarah.elfreth@senate.state.md.us

First elected in 2018 to represent Annapolis and southern Anne Arundel County, Senator Sarah Elfreth is the youngest woman ever elected to the Maryland Senate. She is passionately committed to serving her constituents

EBC & Sustainable Solutions Lab at UMass Boston – Quarterly Climate Adaptation Forum

EBC Contact: Ann Gisinger, [agisinger@ebcne.org](mailto:agisinger@ebcne.org)

SSL Contact: Gabriela Boscio Santos, [Gabriela.Boscio@umb.edu](mailto:Gabriela.Boscio@umb.edu)

[www.climateadaptationforum.org](http://www.climateadaptationforum.org)

both in the State House and in the community. Sarah worked with colleagues across the aisle and around the State to pass 84 bills - all with bipartisan votes - she sponsored in her first five years in office. These new laws range from implementing the largest investment in Maryland's State Parks, creating Maryland's first Office of Statewide Broadband, providing treatment to veterans living with PTSD, expanding critical prenatal care for healthy Maryland mothers, and protecting forests, oysters, and clean water.

Sarah serves on the Budget & Taxation Committee where she Chairs the Subcommittee on Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment Subcommittee and is responsible for balancing and overseeing the budgets of over 20 departments and agencies. As one of two senators representing Maryland on the multi-state Chesapeake Bay Commission, Sarah works with colleagues in Pennsylvania and Virginia to build regional consensus and implement policy solutions to protect and restore the Bay. She also serves as the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Program Open Space & Agricultural Land Preservation and the Joint Committee on the Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area.

As a member of the Budget committee, Sarah fights to secure tens of millions in funding every year to support local projects and nonprofit organizations serving District 30. These include investments in the Thomas Point Lighthouse, the historic Stanton Center, Wellness House, the Woodland Beach Fire Department, the Brewer Hill Cemetery, Arundel Lodge, Annapolis Maritime Museum, both the Annapolis and Mayo American Legions, and the YWCA.

Sarah graduated, magna cum laude, from Towson University and holds a master's degree in Public Policy from The Johns Hopkins University. Prior to her time in the Senate, Sarah served as the Director of Government Affairs for the National Aquarium and as Director of University Projects for Margrave Strategies where she focused on economic development in university towns.

Outside of the Senate, Sarah teaches public policy at Towson University's Honors College and works as a senior advisor on conservation and fisheries management campaigns. Despite receiving the "Baby Senator" trophy in 2019 for joining the chamber as its youngest member, Sarah's success in passing legislation has earned her numerous "Legislator of the Year" awards from community and statewide groups, including: the Maryland Military Coalition, the Park Rangers, the Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition, Preservation Maryland, the Maryland Library Association, among others. She lives in downtown Annapolis.

## **SPEAKERS**

**Louanne Cooley**, Legal Research Fellow  
Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA)  
University of Connecticut: Avery Point Campus  
1080 Shennecossett Rd, Groton, CT 06340  
860-405-9214 | [louanne.cooley@uconn.edu](mailto:louanne.cooley@uconn.edu)

Louanne R. Cooley is a 2020 graduate of UConn Law where she earned a J.D. with a Certificate in Energy & Environmental Law. While a student, she interned at the State of Connecticut Office of the Attorney General and the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and was a research assistant for UConn Law's Center for Energy & Environmental Law.

Louanne currently is an elected official in the Town of Mansfield serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission and is a volunteer in Connecticut's Medical Reserve Corp. She earned a B.S. and M.S. in Biology from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, and pursued Ph.D. studies at the University of Michigan while teaching and doing fieldwork at the University of Michigan Biological Station. Prior to attending law school, Louanne taught at the University of Connecticut in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

EBC & Sustainable Solutions Lab at UMass Boston – Quarterly Climate Adaptation Forum

EBC Contact: Ann Gisinger, [agisinger@ebcne.org](mailto:agisinger@ebcne.org)

SSL Contact: Gabriela Boscio Santos, [Gabriela.Boscio@umb.edu](mailto:Gabriela.Boscio@umb.edu)

[www.climateadaptationforum.org](http://www.climateadaptationforum.org)

**Devin Quirk**, Deputy Chief for Development and Transformation  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, Boston, MA 02201  
617-722-4300 | [devin.quirk@boston.gov](mailto:devin.quirk@boston.gov)

Devin Quirk serves as Deputy Chief of the BPDA where he is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the Agency and implementing Mayor Wu's and Chief Jemison's vision for the transformation of the BPDA. Devin has worked for the City of Boston since 2010. Most recently, Devin served as Director of Real Estate for the BPDA where he restructured the Agency's approach to public real estate with a focus on fiscal responsibility, community development, and a commitment to using public land to advance public good. Devin has also previously served as Director of Operations for Boston's Department of Neighborhood Development (DND), now known as the Mayor's Office of Housing where he oversaw day-to-day management of the 150 person staff and the implementation of the City's affordable housing strategies.

**Mark Rupp**, Adaptation Program Director  
Georgetown Climate Center  
Georgetown Law  
500 First St. NW, 8th Floor, Washington DC 20001  
202-661-6566 | [mark.rupp@georgetown.edu](mailto:mark.rupp@georgetown.edu)

Mark Rupp serves as Adaptation Program Director at Georgetown Climate Center (GCC), leading a team in support of resilience, equity, and community-based solutions at the local, state, and federal levels. He also serves as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Georgetown University Law Center, teaching an advanced environmental law class on climate change. Mark came to GCC from the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) where he led State-Federal Policy and Affairs for the Ecosystems Program. Prior to EDF, Mark served in several positions in state and federal government: Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Relations at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Director, Washington, DC Office to former Governor Chris Gregoire (WA); Health and Human Services Policy Advisor to Governor Gregoire in Olympia, Washington; Legislative Counsel to U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (WA) in Washington, DC; and staff positions in the Washington State House of Representatives. Mark is an attorney with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Policy and Assessment.

**Suzanne Smith**, Executive Director  
Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Agency  
411 King Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
707-565-5373 | [suzanne.smith@scta.ca.gov](mailto:suzanne.smith@scta.ca.gov)

Suzanne Smith has been the Executive Director of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority since 1997 and oversaw the creation of the RCPA as a sister agency in 2010. She reports to the Board of Directors and manages the two countywide agencies and a staff of fourteen. Ms. Smith has overall responsibilities for securing and coordinating regional, state and federal funding for projects and programs related to transportation and climate change; managing the Measure M sales tax; overseeing long-range planning related to transportation, housing, jobs, and climate change; and collaborating with partner agencies and the public on policy priorities.

Prior to joining the SCTA, Ms. Smith was the District Director for State Assembly Member Valerie Brown. In that capacity, she focused on such policy issues as transportation, education, and local government. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of California at San Diego, and her Master of Arts degree in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco.

EBC & Sustainable Solutions Lab at UMass Boston – Quarterly Climate Adaptation Forum

EBC Contact: Ann Gisinger, [agisinger@ebcne.org](mailto:agisinger@ebcne.org)

SSL Contact: Gabriela Boscio Santos, [Gabriela.Boscio@umb.edu](mailto:Gabriela.Boscio@umb.edu)

[www.climateadaptationforum.org](http://www.climateadaptationforum.org)