

CLIMATE ADAPTATION FORUM

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

Lessons Learned: How We Adapt on the Road to Climate Adaptation

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Virtual Program

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

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www.climateadaptationforum.org

AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome**
- Ann Gisinger, Forum Organizer
Executive Director & President, Environmental Business Council
- Program Introduction**
- Kelly Knee, Forum Organizer
Executive Director, RPS Ocean Science
- 9:20 a.m. Building a Resilient Massachusetts: Lessons Learned in State and Local Climate Adaptation**
- Mia G. Mansfield, Assistant Secretary of Climate Resilience
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 - Oleander Stone, Deputy Director of Climate Equity and Environmental Justice
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- 9:40 a.m. Strategies for Water Supply and Water Treatment Adaptation In Response to Climate Change and Decarbonization Goals**
- Scott Struck, Principal Scientist/Engineer
National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
- 10:00 a.m. Break**
- 10:20 a.m. Funding and Technical Assistance for Climate Resilient Communities**
- Robyn DeYoung, Lead of Green Infrastructure Program
US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- 10:40 a.m. Moderated Discussion**
- Panel Moderator:**
- Carolyn Norkiewicz, Forum Co-Chair
Regional Coordinator for Greater Boston Municipal Vulnerability Program
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Panelists:**
- Robyn DeYoung, US EPA
 - Mia G. Mansfield, MA EEA
 - Oleander Stone, MA EEA
 - Scott Struck, NREL
- 12:00 p.m. Adjourn**

FORUM CO-CHAIRS

Indrani Ghosh, PhD, Resiliency Senior Technical Leader
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Indrani has nearly 20 years of experience as a water resources engineer and as technical lead in climate change resiliency projects, specializing in leading interdisciplinary teams and stakeholders through risk based prioritization of adaptation solutions. She has industry-leading experience in translating climate change projections to engineering design criteria for new and existing infrastructure and modeling climate impacts for the purposes of vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning for many projects in the Northeast. She has worked with numerous municipalities and public agencies to model their exposure to coastal and stormwater flooding, including stormwater flood modeling in complex urban environments, using the best available and most appropriate sea level rise, storm surge, and rainfall projections. She has extensive experience integrating climate projections in hydrologic/hydraulic models of urban storm and sanitary sewer systems. Indrani is frequently invited to be part of panel discussions on climate risk and resiliency at New England universities, and has won national awards for her contributions to the engineering profession.

Carolyn Norkiewicz, Regional Coordinator for Greater Boston, Municipal Vulnerability Program
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Carolyn Norkiewicz is the Greater Boston Regional Coordinator for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant Program. She works with municipalities on local climate change adaptation planning and implementation projects that are funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In addition to assisting communities with grant management, she connects MVP grantees with resources and local partners to support an equitable and holistic approach to building climate resilience.

Prior to her current role, Carolyn most recently worked with the City of Medford's Office of Energy & Environment on their climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning process, while earning her M.A. in Urban & Environmental Planning & Policy from Tufts University. Her thesis work focused on the opportunities and challenges of collaborating at a watershed scale on climate adaptation planning. Before graduate school, Carolyn worked for an urban conservation organization in Lowell, MA (Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust) and, prior to that, served with AmeriCorps Cape Cod. She graduated from Stonehill College with a B.A. in English, and currently resides in Boston.

SPEAKERS

Robyn DeYoung, Lead of Green Infrastructure Program
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Robyn is U.S. EPA's Green Infrastructure Lead in the Office of Water. Twenty years ago, she started her professional career at the Environmental Business Council of New England assisting the membership director to connect local policy makers and private businesses. After graduating from Boston University with a Masters in Energy and Environmental Analysis she moved to Columbus, OH where Robyn worked at the Ohio EPA to develop a state-wide emission offset program and provided climate change policy analysis to the Governor's office. For the past 12 years, Robyn has worked at U.S. EPA developing technical and policy resources that promote clean energy, green infrastructure adoption and climate adaptation strategies.

Mia G. Mansfield, Assistant Secretary of Climate Resilience
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Mia is the Assistant Secretary of Climate Resilience at the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. In this role, she co-leads the implementation of the State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan, and the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program. Prior to this, she launched and led the Climate Ready Boston initiative for the City of Boston. She has a Master's in City Planning from MIT and a BA from Brandeis University.

Oleander Stone, Deputy Director of Climate Equity and Environmental Justice
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Oleander Stone (they/them) is the deputy director of climate equity and environmental justice at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Prior to this, they served as the regional coordinator for the Berkshires and Hilltowns for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program (MVP) and focused on the development of the new MVP 2.0 process. Their academic background is in geologic carbon sequestration and they have a long history of working in agriculture and native habitat restoration. When not at work, they can be found in their garden dreaming of future dinner parties or walking along a river with their dogs.

Scott Struck, Principal Scientist/Engineer
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Dr. Struck has 23 years of water resources experience with government agencies like National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and private consulting. Scott provides strategic planning and research in water, wastewater, and alternative source water treatment, and integrated water resource assessments to create high-impact research, programs, projects, and partnerships. Scott regularly addresses existing problems or emerging issues through engaging with multi-disciplinary teams to develop scientifically based, applied solutions. Scott has authored over 50 publications including journal articles, technical reports, book chapters, guidance documents, and conference proceedings. He serves as an associate editor for the Journal of Sustainable Water in the Built Environment, is an adjunct faculty member at the Colorado School of Mines, and remains active with Engineers Without Borders.