

CLIMATE RESILIENCE



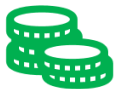
Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Hudson River
Estuary Program

Advancing Climate Change Adaptation in the Hudson River Estuary Watershed

DEC's **Hudson River Estuary Program Climate Resilience Team** and partners work to engage, educate, and empower communities in the estuary watershed to adapt to climate change using ecosystem-based approaches. We collaborate with researchers, agencies, nonprofits, and municipal representatives to innovate and streamline resilience actions.

Climate Resilience Team Impact, 2015–2024:



\$22m+

in leveraged funds were invested in resiliency projects in communities receiving technical assistance.



86

municipalities and counties received in-depth **technical assistance**.



77

municipalities completed **vulnerability assessments**.



275

adaptation actions were completed.

Support for Communities and Partners

Cornell Cooperative Extension Partners: Helping Communities Complete Resilience Actions

Our [partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension \(CCE\)](#) delivers technical assistance to estuary watershed municipalities to complete resilience actions and get certified under the NYS Climate Smart Communities program. Actions include incorporating resilience into comprehensive planning, local policy analysis and updates, emergency flood guides for residents and businesses, and more.

- ✓ **144 actions were completed** in **82 municipalities** since 2018.
- ✓ **CSC Certification assistance** has been provided for **37 municipalities** since 2018.
- ✓ **85 estuary watershed municipalities** are now **Certified Climate Smart Communities**.
- ✓ **Increasing county capacity** enables communities to make critical progress in adapting to climate change.

Flood Resilience Network: Communities Working Together to Tackle Climate Risks

We provide funding and leadership to the [Flood Resilience Network](#) (FRN), which connects local governments committed to taking actionable steps to manage current and future flood risks. FRN helps members evaluate flood risk and solutions for the future and allows them to learn, share insights, and work together to adapt to flooding. It is a collaboration with Hudson River Watershed Alliance, NY Sea Grant, and other partner organizations and agencies.

- ✓ **28 local governments** participating
- ✓ **Leveraged \$4.8m+** in resilience funding since 2015



FRN members evaluating public waterfront resilience opportunities. Photo: L. Zemaitis.

Climate-adaptive Design Program: Collaborative Design to Inspire Change

[Climate-adaptive Design](#) (CaD) aims to inspire, advance, and implement climate adaptation and resilience projects in Hudson riverfront communities. The CaD Studio is led by Cornell University Department of Landscape Architecture Professor Josh Cerra and connects students with flood-prone Hudson riverfront communities to explore design alternatives for resilient, thriving, and connected waterfronts. Hudson River Estuary Grants and other funding opportunities are offered to fund subsequent phases of community engagement, design, engineering, permitting, and construction of resilience projects.

- ✓ **Inspirational designs for nine community sites**
- ✓ **Conceptual plans for waterfront projects in five communities**
- ✓ **Final engineering designs** underway for resilient shoreline projects in **two communities**
- ✓ [CaD Regional LookBook](#) and [Story Map](#)



Kingston, NY waterfront design by CaD students.
Image: L. Wan.

Adaptation Inspiration Videos

Below is a series of short films that highlight regional leaders adapting to climate change, available with English or Spanish captions.

- [Climate Justice: Working Together for an Equitable Future](#)
- [Conserving Natural Areas in Your Community](#)
- [Dams and Culverts: Reconnecting our Waterways](#)
- [Sustainable Shorelines](#)
- [Planning for Sea-level Rise](#)
- [Climate-adaptive Design](#)
- [History of the Hudson: Hope for the Future \(Part 1\)](#)
- [Future of the Hudson: Develop a Climate Resilience Vision \(Part 2\)](#)



Funding Assistance

DEC's Hudson River Estuary Grants Program offers grants for climate resilience planning actions with funding from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. We summarize additional state and federal grant opportunities on our [Funding Climate Adaptation & Resilience webpage](#).

For More Information

- ✓ [Hudson River Estuary Program Climate Resilience Team](#)
- ✓ [Resources Adapting to Climate Change](#)
- ✓ [NYS Climate Smart Communities Program](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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The climate resilience team works through a partnership with:



Cornell University



NEW YORK STATE WATER
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