

## COOPERATIVE REGIONAL RESILIENCE EFFORTS

*Prepared for the Chesapeake Bay Commission meeting, September 9, 2021*

### *Highlights/Takeaways*

- *Regional alliances allow for information and innovation sharing, and can save public dollars by avoiding duplicative work being done by agencies or local governments.*
- *They allow resource-strapped local governments to perform resilience projects, and to apply for grants, that they might not be able to on their own; and they can enable localities to extend the impact of their limited bonding capacity by joining in resilience projects planned at a larger scale, with neighboring communities.*

Because flooding and the effects of climate change are not confined by jurisdictional lines, regional resilience efforts, in the form of alliances, partnerships and other collaborations, can often help address these issues better than individual governments and agencies. These regional efforts can consist of several states, like the Chesapeake Bay Commission, or several localities or government agencies. They can help cash-strapped localities combine limited resources and provide them the opportunity to undertake resilience measures, and to apply for grants, they would potentially be unable to on their own. They are also an opportunity for information sharing and other collaboration between organizations and governments working to address resilience issues.

### *Florida Climate Collaboratives and Compacts*

Florida features two successful cooperative regional efforts: the **Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact**<sup>1</sup> (SEFRCCC) and the **East Central Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative**<sup>2</sup> (ECFRRC). The SEFRCCC is a partnership between Broward, Palm Beach, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties. Its goal is to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions, implement adaptation strategies, and build climate resilience in its region. It operates by sharing regional tools and knowledge, increasing public support and creating necessary government action to address climate impacts, and coordinating actions across the region to accelerate the pace and impacts of efforts to increase climate resiliency. The localities that signed onto the Compact have successfully adopted mitigation and adaptation strategies; built bipartisan support for climate action, and created partnerships with stakeholders in federal, state, and municipal government agencies; created community-based organizations to address flooding resilience; and worked with economic development entities to further their coastal and climate change resilience efforts.

The ECFRRC is an organization of twenty seven cities and counties in east central Florida, and nine organizations and state and federal agencies. Its goal is to increase the health of the region's

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://southeastfloridaclimatecompact.org/>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ecfrpc.org/resiliencecollaborative>.

citizens, build infrastructure to combat flood hazards and risk, and increase economic resilience. More specifically, the ECFRRC works to reduce the region's carbon footprint, utilize emergency management to combat risk and vulnerabilities, and increase sustainability efforts across the region. The ECFRRC has conducted vulnerability assessments, mapped coastal risk scenarios, and developed strategies with critical stakeholders to determine long-term plans for addressing climate-induced problems. The ECFRRC is funded through its umbrella organization, the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, by member dues, federal and state grants, and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

### *The Acadiana Planning Commission<sup>3</sup>*

Louisiana's Acadiana Planning Commission serves the parishes of Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, and Vermilion, analogous to counties in other states. The Commission assists the public sector with planning and implementing economic development, community development, and transportation development in the Acadiana region. Regarding resilience efforts, local officials within the Acadiana region coordinated on their application for \$25 million in hazard mitigation grant funding after 2016's historic flooding in the region. The pooled effort, which focuses on larger, regional projects, seeks to reduce flooding throughout the Acadiana region, and might be more effective than the traditional piecemeal projects the parishes would have been able to accomplish had they acted alone.

### *The Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation<sup>4</sup>*

California has a regional effort that is itself made up of regional collaboratives and partnerships composed of government, business and academic members. The Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation (ARCCA) includes regional collaboratives from throughout California, including the Bay Area Climate Adaptation Network, the Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative, the Central Coast Climate Collaborative, the Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability, the North Coast Resource Partnership, the San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative, and the Sierra Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Partnership. This alliance of smaller regional groups facilitates sharing tools and resources, is better equipped to identify strategies to overcome challenges than its constituent members acting alone, and is uniquely situated to create joint campaigns and projects between member organizations. Because of this robust alliance, ARCCA's members are better able to perform resilience and conservation work across the state. ARCCA is similar to the Chesapeake Bay Commission in that it engages in state policy development by acting as a unified voice that promotes statewide resilience. ARCCA also plays a key role in driving climate adaptation policy in California by developing policy recommendations, driving stakeholder engagement, and bringing attention to otherwise overlooked issues, particularly rural ones.

---

<sup>3</sup> <http://planacadiana.org/>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://arccacalifornia.org/>.