

EPA's Climate Change Adaptation Resource Center (ARC-X)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Change Adaptation Resource Center (ARC-X) is an innovative system designed to help all 40,000 communities across the United States anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to the impacts of climate change. It supports local government officials in every community, from those with extensive experience and expertise dealing with the impacts of climate change, to those working in communities who are just beginning to meet those challenges.

Uniqueness of the ARC-X

The ARC-X provides users with an **integrated package of information tailored specifically to their needs**, based on where they live and the particular issues of concern to them.

The ARC-X is unlike any other resource currently available to the public. Users are given an opportunity to first "self-identify" by indicating the region of the country in which they live and the specific issues of concern to them. The system then provides them with a complete package of information that includes:

- ✓ insights about the implications of climate change for the things they've indicated they care about;
- ✓ adaptation strategies to address the risks posed by climate change;
- ✓ case studies that illustrate how other communities with similar concerns have already successfully adapted, along with instructions on how to replicate their successful efforts;
- ✓ tools available from EPA to help implement the adaptation strategies;
- ✓ sources of funding from EPA and other federal agencies.

ARC-X "Tailor Your Search" Capability

Ease of Use

The ARC-X leads the user through an integrated package that sequentially addresses seven different sets of questions:

1. Implications of Climate Change: Why should I care? Why does climate change matter for the things I care about?
2. Adaptation Strategies: What can I do about it? What adaptation options exist that I might consider implementing?
3. Case Studies: How can I do it? Once I've picked an adaptation strategy, how do I implement it? Have other communities with similar issues of concern successfully implemented the adaptation options in which I'm interested? What are the key steps my community would have to take to replicate their successes? What tools are available to implement each of the key steps? Are training materials available to help my staff understand how to use the tools?
4. Tools: What larger set of tools is available beyond those captured in the case studies to address the issues of concern? Who can I contact for technical assistance? Can I be provided with the names, phone numbers, and email addresses of real people who can help me use each of the tools?
5. Training: Is more general training available to build the expertise of my staff who must deal with climate impacts and adaptation in my community?
6. Funding Opportunities: What financial support or other resources are available to help defray costs?
7. EPA Contacts & State Websites: What other resources are available? Are there people in the EPA office in my region who can provide more general assistance with climate adaptation issues? Also, what additional information about climate adaptation is available from my state?

The Benefits of Adaptation

The ARC-X can help communities realize financial benefits from adaptation. Since 1980, the United States has incurred over \$1.5 trillion in damages from weather and climate disasters, each of which cost at least \$1 billion. These events are expected to occur more frequently with ongoing changes in the earth's climate.

The good news is there are measures communities can take to reduce the impacts of such events. A recent study by the National Institute of Building Sciences estimates ***investments in climate resilience and adaptation can save the nation \$6 in future disaster costs for every \$1 spent on hazard mitigation***. Also, adaptation can help ensure investments made by communities with scarce taxpayer dollars (*e.g.*, clean up of Superfund and Brownfield sites) are resilient to future extreme weather events. Adaptation is smart government.

www.epa.gov/arc-x