



# Making the Case for Living Shorelines

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The future of living shorelines is dependent upon how we communicate with and get buy-in from local communities. I will discuss these topics:

**1. Sociological Factors including Justice issues**

**2. Community Responses**

**3. Strategies for Engagement**

# 1. Sociological Factors

Rural NC, where the weather and seasons dictate a way of life, is especially vulnerable to the hurricanes, flooding and extreme weather that is supercharged by climate change.

Worse yet, these rural communities often don't have the money, infrastructure, people power and in some cases, the information to adapt.

Things to keep in mind to get buy-in:

- **Take a community resilience approach.** An example of this is the NCCF living shoreline in Atlantic which will protect the community graveyard from washing away.
- **Incentivize stewardship across sectors.** Make sure that the most vulnerable areas are addressed first and that justice issues are considered.

## 2. Community Responses

- Engage stakeholders to plan for coastal resilience.
- Reach people through trusted resources about issues they care about to find tangible solutions.
- Integrate coastal hazard planning with Land Use Plans or larger community planning efforts.

### 3. Strategies for engagement

- **Local Governments** Example: Coastal Resources Commission's new position on Sea Level Rise. Case Study Tools and Conveners are available to guide entities like municipalities.
- **Funding Opportunities** Example: ZSR 3 year grant to answer the question of "How do we cultivate community resilience in Eastern Carteret County in the face of climate change and current economic conditions?"

- **Churches** Example: NC Interfaith Power and Light has core programs that promote a variety of solutions to mitigate future climate change, including energy efficiency and conservation, increased renewable energy use, and collective low-carbon lifestyle changes. NC IPL programs encourage congregations, clergy, and judicatories to be aware and able to articulate the moral dimensions of climate change and environmental justice issues from a faith perspective. Remember from earlier slide: We must reach people through trusted resources about issues they care about to find tangible solutions.
- **NGOs** Example: Sierra Club can build relationships and trust in rural communities through fun and educational field trips, and advocacy actions.



## Summary:

- In order to be successful, the “Case for Living Shorelines” must consider an interconnected web of topics in addition to the purely technological solutions.
- Remember to look at the sociological factors including justice issues, the community responses, and the strategies for engagement with the community.