

CLIMATE RESPONSE

Join us for a panel discussion about sea level rise and increased storm impacts on the town of Warren and information about Warren and Barrington's selection as a climate change demonstration site.

With extensive coastline and low-lying areas near the water, Warren and Barrington are among the most vulnerable communities at risk of significant impact from sea level rise over the coming decades.

A panel of coastal experts will join town officials at this public information session focusing on Warren to discuss sea level rise and storm surge; state plans, policies and actions on shoreline change; tools for evaluating future impacts; and current and future adaptation strategies to enhance ecosystem and community resilience.

The overall purpose of this session is to discuss tools and options for state, city, and town governments, planners and policymakers, businesses and homeowners to address storm surge, flooding, sea-level rise, and other climate change factors.

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

6:30-8:00 p.m. Thursday, February 1, 2018
Town Council Chamber at Warren Town Hall
514 Main Street

Presentation and Panel Discussion by:

URI Coastal Institute, URI Coastal Resources Center, CRMC, Save the Bay, Town of Warren

For more information, contact URI Coastal Institute

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Agenda

- 6:30 Welcome
- 6:40 Introduction of Panel (Town Planner, Kate Michaud)
- 6:45 Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge (Charles Roman)
- 7:00 Online Tools to Assess Coastal Risk (Teresa Crean)
- 7:15 CRMC Climate Policies (Janet Freedman)
- 7:30 Coastal Adaptation Projects in Warren (Wenley Ferguson)
- 7:45 Questions and Discussion

About the Panel

Kate Michaud is the Director of Planning and Community Development in the Town of Warren. Kate is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and serves as the Secretary of the Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association. A graduate of Providence College, Kate has also completed studies at the University of Rhode Island's Institute for Housing and Community Development and participated in RISD's Innovative Design and Public Policy Institute.

Charles Roman is an Associate Director of the URI Coastal Institute and Research Professor in the URI Department of Natural Resources Science. He recently retired from the US National Park Service serving as a senior coastal scientist for over 25 years. He is currently engaged in the Coastal Institute's Climate Response Demonstration Site initiative, a program working with local communities and partners to investigate approaches for adapting to sea level rise, storm surge and flooding.

Teresa Crean, AICP, is a Coastal Community Planner at the URI Graduate School of Oceanography's Coastal Resources Center & RI Sea Grant. Teresa facilitates municipal-scale projects that address coastal adaptation to climate change and sea level rise. This work involves evaluating spatial data to identify challenges and opportunities with municipal stakeholders, while collaboratively considering policies and projects that may increase coastal resiliency. She earned a Master of Landscape Architecture from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse, a B.S. in Environmental Policy/Natural Resource Management from the University of Michigan.

Janet Freedman is a Coastal Geologist with the R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council. She is currently working with several partners at URI, RI Sea Grant and Eastern Connecticut State University on developing and implementing the Shoreline Change Special Area Management Plan (BeachSAMP). The BeachSAMP will incorporate shoreline erosion, sea level rise, and storm surge impacts into CRMC policy in order to increase coastal resilience under changing conditions.

Wenley Ferguson is Save The Bay's Restoration Coordinator. Wenley has worked at Save The Bay since 1990 on a variety of habitat and water quality assessment and restoration projects throughout Narragansett Bay and its watershed. Projects have included salt marsh and coastal buffer restoration projects, coastal adaptation projects and stormwater infiltration projects.