

Recent Press Coverage from Local US News Sources:

1. **Our View: State should plan for climate changes**

Ending efforts to prepare for rising sea levels and stronger storms is no way to save money.

Portland Press Herald, Portland, ME

March 19, 2013

http://www.pressherald.com/opinion/state-should-plan-for-climate-changes_2013-03-19.html

“...creating climate change adaptation plans should be the least controversial part of the whole dispute, but even this has broken down along party lines in Maine.

In 2010, the Democratic-controlled Maine Legislature directed the Department of Environmental Protection to come up with a detailed plan to address climate issues by January 2012. But when control of the Legislature and the department both shifted into Republican hands, the report never materialized and no one seemed to mind.

After watching the devastation of the New Jersey shore and lower Manhattan last fall, it's easy to see why Maine should be concerned about climate change.

There are infrastructure improvements that could protect our low-lying structures. There may be places where that would be too expensive and relocation might be more cost-effective. This is the kind of information that would be useful to land use planners and developers.

Maine can't afford to ignore the facts and pretend that climate change is not happening. Dropping the climate change adaptation work may be an effective political statement, but it could prove to be an expensive one if a string of superstorms rakes the coast.

Money is tight for state government, so lawmakers should spend wisely. Cutting funds for this kind of planning is a bad way to save money.”

2. **Arkansas Farmers Face New Challenges with Climate Change**

Arkansas Business, Little Rock, Arkansas

March 19, 2013

<http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/91415/arkansas-farmers-face-new-challenges-with-climate-change>

“A farmer can't control climate change. Global governments might be able to impact that, but farmers can't. Farmers have to respond to it. They have to understand it. They have to understand its implications.”

Matlock says the farmers he deals with do recognize a changing climate. “Arkansas farmers are acutely attuned to the issue of sustainability, particularly as it pertains to climate change and other changes in their production environment,” he says.

1. **Hunters, Anglers Urge Obama to Act on Climate Change**, Environmental News Service

March 15, 2013

<http://ens-newswire.com/2013/03/15/hunters-anglers-urge-obama-to-act-on-climate-change/>

Ten groups representing millions of anglers, hunters, scientists and conservationists sent a letter to the President on Monday asking that the Obama administration “develop and implement climate change adaptation strategies that support the resiliency of fish and wildlife populations.”

“Because of the time we spend in the woods, fields, lakes and rivers, changes in weather patterns are not an abstraction to us,” the groups say in their letter to the President.

“This past year alone, we saw iconic rivers such as the Yampa in Colorado and Madison in Montana closed to fishing due to high water temperatures. Likewise, we saw droughts in the Midwest dry up duck marshes, and wildfires of uncommon intensity burn more than 9 million acres of game habitat,” they write.

4. In the city: Climate adaptation planning ongoing in Fort Collins

The Coloradan, Fort Collins, Colorado

February 17, 2013

<http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20130217/COLUMNISTS/302180003/In-city-Climate-adaptation-planning-ongoing-Fort-Collins>

Colorado recently has seen the most destructive wildfires in our state’s history, in part due to heat and drought conditions, influenced by a changing climate. In Fort Collins, the impacts of recent wildfires have brought home greater awareness of a range of consequences, including health impacts from poor air quality.

The most serious and anticipated water impacts in Colorado from climate change include shifts in timing and intensity of streamflow and runoff. Fort Collins-specific concerns include the possibility of insufficient yields from our water rights, decrease in water quality and damage from flooding to stormwater infrastructure.

Combine the predictions for changes in temperature and water with predicted increases in frequency and severity of storms, and it becomes incumbent on the responsible governments to consider these possible impacts in long-range planning and capital investments.

5. Report finds insurers unready for climate change-related disasters

Miami Herald, Miami, Florida

March 19, 2013

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/03/07/3272881/report-finds-insurers-unready.html>

The insurance industry is ill-prepared to handle climate change-related disasters, regulators and industry watchers warned Thursday, saying the business hasn’t evolved enough in the face of rising sea levels and extreme weather fueled by climate change.

Failure to plan for the effects of climate change might challenge the stability of one of the largest sectors of the world economy, said Mindy Lubber, the president of the sustainability nonprofit organization Ceres, which authored a report that looks at insurers in three states. There were 11 extreme-weather events that each caused at least a billion dollars in losses last year in the United States. Superstorm Sandy alone caused \$50 billion in economic losses.

6. Chula Vista Examines Water Recycling Requirement

Union Tribune San Diego, San Diego, CA

March 12, 2013

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/mar/14/tp-chula-vista-examines-water-recycling/>

Chula Vista is exploring a potential requirement for residential builders to include water recycling systems in new homes.

A proposal calls for new homes to include plumbing that allows wastewater produced through dishwashing, laundry and bathing — called graywater — to be used for irrigation, saving families money and preserving a natural resource.

Residents’ rising water bills have been putting increased pressure on their pocketbooks in recent years.

The ordinance, if adopted, would advance the city's goals for environmental sustainability, and would fulfill one of the city's 11 climate adaptation strategies.

By 2050, a March 5 staff report stated, San Diego County's demand for water is expected to increase by 37 percent as a result of population and economic growth. Meanwhile, prolonged droughts and climate change could reduce the water supply by 20 percent, further increasing water costs for local residents.

7. Boston prepares for future superstorms

Boston Globe, Renee Loth, Boston, Massachusetts

February 23, 2013

<http://bostonglobe.com/opinion/2013/02/23/boston-prepares-for-future-superstorms/07N63UN9uRmt8v73L1QjO/story.html>

The city is using a number of tools to reduce its watery vulnerability: adding climate-preparedness guidelines to the BRA's development review process; convening a working group of developers to spread the word about readiness; conducting an inventory of existing buildings in flood-prone areas to goad owners into improving their emergency response plans. Swett says these steps will be in place within six months.

But the city may have trouble keeping ahead of the storm. Millions of square feet of development are planned or already approved for the South Boston waterfront. The Boston Convention and Exhibition Center is seeking a major expansion. Hundreds of residential buildings are in the pipeline for the East Boston piers. All of these are on low-lying coastal properties vulnerable to sea-level rise. All of them should be made to incorporate climate-adaptation designs before a shovel goes in the ground.

It isn't like developers don't know what needs to be done. The new Spaulding Rehab hospital in Charlestown, opening in April, was designed to endure a 2.5-foot sea level rise. All of its mechanical equipment is on the top floors. The windows open manually in case of electrical failure. Retaining walls were constructed to act as a natural reef.

8. High-elevation forest mortality continues as spruce surpasses lodgepole

Climate change the likely driver?

Aspen Business Journal, J.D. Thomas

Aspen, Colorado

February 20, 2013

<http://www.aspenbusinessjournal.com/article.php?id=8197>

While most of the spruce beetle infestation was centered in southern Colorado, other high-elevation tree species in the state continue to suffer, as witnessed by the lodgepole die-off and increased mortality in sub-alpine fir. Bark beetles get much of the credit, but some experts believe the time has come to recognize climate change as the real driver in the situation.

"The effects of climate change are verified to be more extreme at higher altitudes," said University of Colorado researcher Scott Ferrenberg, a Ph.D. in entomology and evolutionary biology. "And the signal for climate change at tree level is very strong."