

### TASK 4.2: Make scientific data, information, and guidance easier to use.

#### SUMMARY

Help users understand where, when, and how to use climate science and planning tools. Provide technical information to everyone involved to facilitate all stages of their adaptation journey. Improve and ease access to the most relevant information, helping users achieve equitable adaptation outcomes faster and more efficiently. Establish or support an independent Climate Science Consortium to provide high-quality science tailored to the Bay Area's needs. Share data, information, and guidance through a web-based "storefront" as well as via lecture series, conferences, trainings, working groups, and/or workshops.

#### WHO'S INVOLVED

**PROPOSED LEAD:** MTC/ABAG, San Francisco Estuary Institute

**PARTNERSHIPS:** Agencies including BCDC, RWQCB, SFEP, SCC, BARC, USGS, NOAA, OPC, OPR, and CalOES, subject matter experts including Greenlining Institute, Greenbelt Alliance, BayCAN, CHARG, BACWA, TNC, Point Blue, academic research institutions including Stanford, UC Berkeley, and UC Davis, and CBOs, especially those representing frontline communities and environmental advocates.

#### IMPLEMENTATION IDEAS

##### *Climate Science Consortium Structure*

1. The Consortium's service area should comprise the nine county Bay Area region. It should reach as needed beyond those borders to forge partnerships in other regions that will aid in Bay Area adaptation.
2. The Consortium will establish a governing structure with a steering committee composed of leadership staff from a cross-section of involved organizations, including but not limited to local governments, community-based organizations, academic and scientific entities, and regional planning agencies. The steering committee will make decisions about strategic planning, funding, and research priorities and provide for close collaboration between science and decision making to formulate and implement a strategy that directly addresses the short- and long-term needs of decision makers.
3. The Consortium implementing entities and audience will include leading scientific and academic organizations, statewide, regional, and local entities, and community-based organizations (CBO) currently working on climate adaptation.
4. The Consortium will develop a funding program designed to support all activities undertaken by the Consortium. Approaches to funding should be diverse, including but not limited to federal and state grants, legislative appropriations, private foundation support, in-kind and other support from participating entities, and fee-for-service structures.

5. The Consortium will develop communication materials to highlight regional science and data needs for state legislatures, federal partners, and private sector to seek additional resources.

### ***Research and Monitoring Functions***

1. Enhance regional flood modelling to fill gaps related to multiple hazards (e.g. groundwater, watershed, riverine/tidal, subsidence, erosion) and regularly update to reflect changing shoreline conditions.
2. Expand network of water elevation monitoring stations, possibly leveraging efforts such as National Ocean Service or Wetland Regional Monitoring Program, to provide real time data about factors influencing the rate and timing of sea level rise in the Bay.
3. Strengthen and expand open data initiatives among regional agencies, local governments, and community-based organizations to facilitate data sharing through technical capacity building, online portals, best practices, and financial incentives.
4. Expand research on cost and suitability of adaptation strategies for different Bay conditions.
5. Develop standard operating procedures for validating and nominating data for local and regional use.

### ***Integrating Community Science***

1. Ensure that local perspectives, particularly disadvantaged communities, are central to decision making about research priorities, data and tool development, and science interpretation. Work with community partners to engage local CBOs and communities on their needs and capacities.
2. Develop or adopt protocols or tools for collecting, standardizing, analyzing, and distributing community-led data. This involves including community members in data collection through community-based asset mapping and storytelling, using the community to collect data, prioritizing data points that are important to the community but not previously valued by cities (such as cultural or personal histories), and making data much more accessible to the community.
3. Help connect local communities to adaptation project opportunities to facilitate engagement at all stages of project design and implementation.
4. Coordinate and fund existing participatory science platforms that enable collection, integration, and analysis of community data.

### ***Technical Services Functions***

1. Technical staff from government, academia, NGOs, and communities meet on a regular basis to develop a technical assistance program that addresses the needs of decision-makers at multiple scales, coordinates across guidance documents, agencies, and other resources, identifies additional tools or resources needed, and develops forums for information-sharing, such as lecture series, conferences, or workshops.
2. Identify best available science, data, and tools for multiple scales of adaptation planning and implementation, identify data gaps, and the highest priority needs for future study.
3. Develop products (i.e. web applications, websites, infographics) that help communicate and make high priority science and data available in a clear, non-jargony manner with sufficient guidance to ensure that users know when, where, and how to use the information.

4. Provide capacity for adaptation practitioners to request individual consultation from a climate services professional network. This will take the form of a “Help Desk” – a live number that practitioners can call for assistance.
5. Expand existing databases to track the implementation of local adaptation projects and summarize region’s performance for increasing adaptive capacity.

### **Technical Assistance Storefront**

1. Host or facilitate a “Storefront” via contributions from many subject-matter experts that pull together the resources and information developed in this Action. This may require formal partnership agreements, dedicated staff time, and require significant additional resources to build an online, interactive web page.
2. The Storefront should be linked to, or may be a sub-part of, statewide guidance tools such as the Adaptation Clearinghouse, and include the ability of users to provide feedback on the usefulness of tools (“Yelp” feature) as well as forums for adding new tools by users, such as case studies.
3. The Storefront should be closely coordinated with the equity community to facilitate equity-focused resources and trainings, and the equity community should consult on the equity component of all resources funneled through the Storefront.

### **EXAMPLES**

- [Delta Science Program](#), Delta Stewardship Council
- [New York City Panel on Climate Change](#)
- [Water Data Consortium](#)
- [Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments \(RISA\) program \(NOAA\)](#)
- [EcoAdapt](#)
- [California Adaptation Clearinghouse](#)
- [Climate Adaptation Science Centers](#)
- [Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay](#)
- [Cal-Adapt](#)
- [Georgetown Climate Center Adaptation Clearinghouse](#)
- [Climate.gov](#)
- [National Climatic Data Center](#)
- [BCDC Adapting to Rising Tides Program](#)
- [BCDC Bay Shoreline Flood Explorer](#)
- [ABAG Housing Technical Assistance Program](#)
- [ABAG Local Hazard Mitigation Plan support](#)