Paper presentation proposal

Community Organizing for Resiliency Planning to Climate Change

Ann Hoogenbom
(ann.hoogenboom@uvm.edu)

University of Vermont

Specific research focus is applied to local scale scenarios in varying climates around the globe in order to better understand how social interactions play a role in resiliency planning with regards to behavioral trends in community organizing. In particular, qualitative research on case studies provide examples of the current strategies being employed both as post response adaptation strategies as well as mitigation planning to natural disaster events. Most prominent findings include resiliency planning toolkits, climate change scenario workshops and standardization of best management practices applied to local, regional and state models. Significant challenges include the ability to accurately forecast future climate change impacts on global, regional, state and local scales. Additionally, communication of scientific knowledge such that decision makers and planners can formulate action plans is still in its infancy stage. Research in this area suggests that success will only be achieved through an interdisciplinary approach inclusive of social, behavioral, and technological sciences that most effectively create cross sector connections (Matson, 2009). The Mad River Valley case study analysis aims to achieve a new depth of qualitative research through a plan to examine the current strategies being employed both as post response adaptation developments as well as mitigation planning to natural disaster events (specifically Hurricane Irene). Typically, resiliency can be defined as the capability of social systems to prepare, respond, and recover from events whereas adaptation is generally defined as the adjustments human systems make in response to changing situations.