



**Center for
Clean Air Policy**

Ask the Climate Question:

Best Practices in Urban Climate Adaptation

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**Hill Briefing on Adapting to Climate Change in
Urban Regions**

July 22, 2009



**Center for
Clean Air Policy**

Center for Clean Air Policy

Dialogue. Insight. Solutions.

- Help governments develop, implement climate policy: CA, CT, MA, ME, Europe, China, Mexico, Brazil...
- Run international climate negotiators dialogue
- US Climate Policy Initiative
- Transportation and Climate Policy Dialogue
- Urban Leaders Adaptation Initiative:



“Ask the Climate Question”

Urban Leaders Adaptation Initiative

- Core funding from the [Rockefeller Foundation](#), support from the Surdna Foundation
- Facilitate [partner action](#) on adaptation, 10 partners:
 - » Chicago, King County, LA, Miami-Dade, Milwaukee, Nassau, NYC, Phoenix, San Francisco, Toronto
- Develop and share best practices and success stories to aid and Influence [other communities](#)
- Inform and frame [national and state policy needs](#)

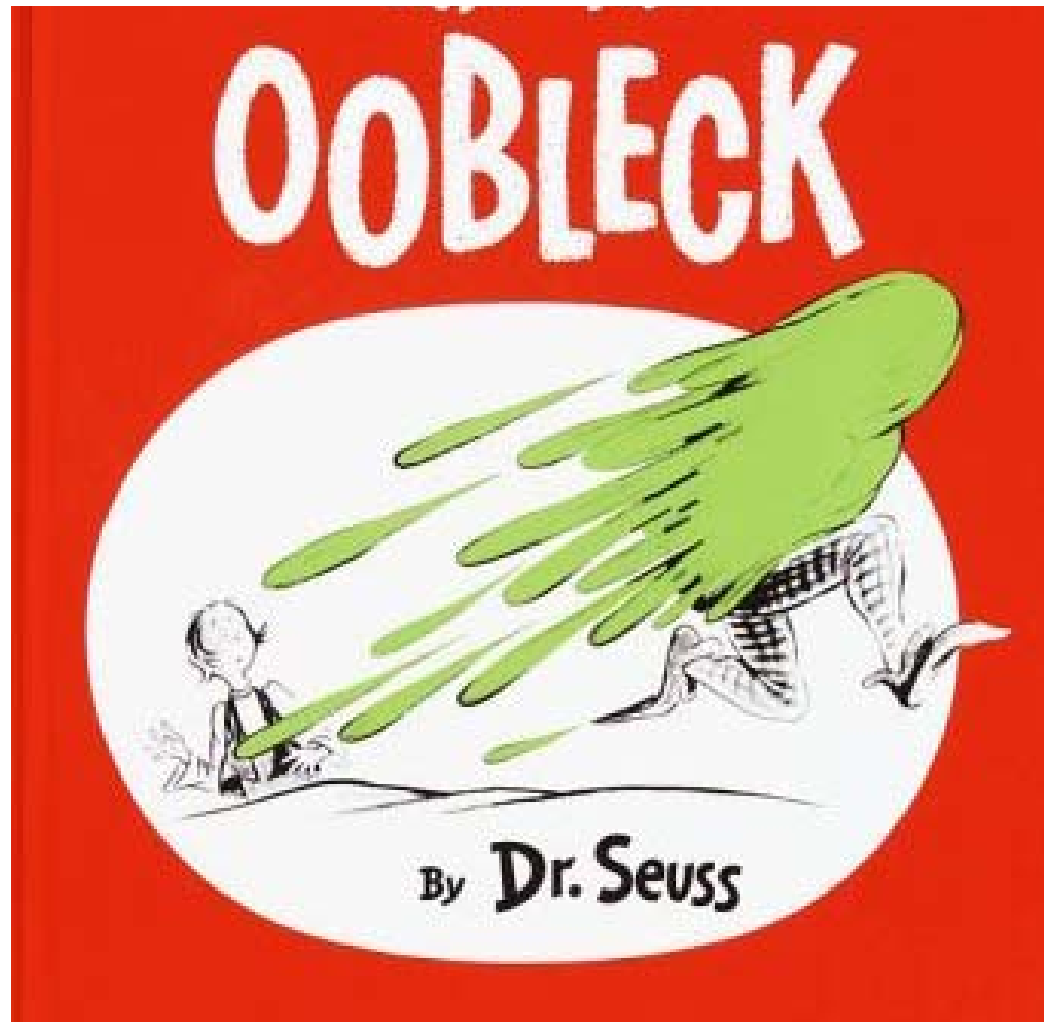


To What are We Adapting?

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs?



Or Oobleck??



Not meatballs, Not **OOBLECK** **You're Doing it Already!**

- Urban Leaders partners already have many of the skills needed through their experience in:
 - » Flood Management
 - » Hazard Mitigation
 - » Emergency Response
 - » Green infrastructure
 - » Water Conservation
 - » Water Supply Planning
 - » Smart Growth Land Use Policies
 - » Coastal management

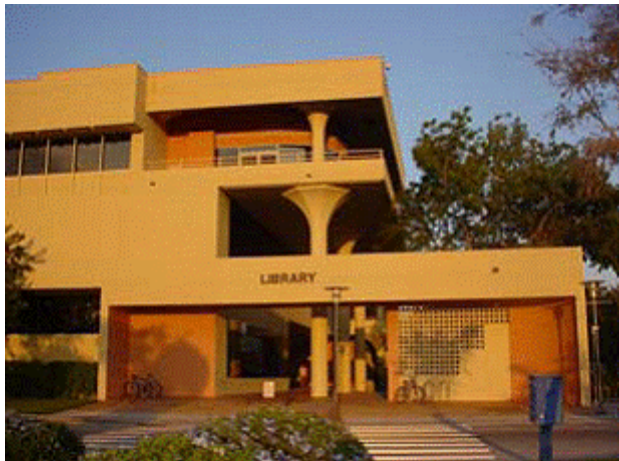
The Face of Mitigation



The Face of Adaptation?



The **Real** Face of Adaptation



Mitigation - Adaptation Nexus

Avoiding the unmanageable, managing the unavoidable.

MITIGATION

- Sustainable transportation
- Energy conservation
- Building Code changes to improve energy efficiency
- Renewable energy
- Expand deep lake water cooling
- Improve vehicle fuel efficiency
- Capture & use landfill & digester gas

Green Building

Green Infrastructure

Water Conservation

Smart Growth

ADAPTATION

- Infrastructure upgrades: sewers & culverts
- Residential programs: sewer backflow & downspout disconnection
- Health programs: West Nile, Cooling Centres, Smog Alerts, Air Quality Health Index
- Emergency & business continuity planning
- Help for vulnerable people during severe weather
- Emergency planning

Adaptation: Saving Money & Reducing Costs

- Demand-side efficiency → saving money & reducing need for new infrastructure
- Costs less to adapt than react to impacts:
 - Amsterdam-style flood controls in New Orleans would have cost \$30 billion, but the losses during Katrina were \$300 billion
- Smart, least cost planning important:
 - E.g. A \$600M investment to protect Catskills watershed in NYC provided water treatment benefits that would have cost \$6 billion to achieve through hard infrastructure mechanisms

Helping Vulnerable Populations through Climate Adaptation

- Make it Tangible
 - » Sewer overflows, not polar bears
- Addressing Urban Heat (health, quality of life)
 - » Green infrastructure
- Providing Affordable, resilient housing
 - » Not trailer parks or tent cities in flood plains
- Green jobs
 - » Building retrofits
 - » Green infrastructure installation and maintenance

How can Uncle Sam Help?



- Climate science, modeling, downscaling
- Support state & local adaptation efforts
 - » Apply cap-and-trade revenues
 - » Increase *pre*-disaster hazard mitigation funding
 - » Provide direct funding to state & local governments
- Climate extension services
 - » Technical assistance on implementation
- Ask the Climate Question about major infrastructure spending and policies
 - » Transportation, water, hazard mitigation, etc.

Conclusions

- We have no choice but to respond to climate change
- We must adapt to survive and to thrive economically
- Urban Leaders partners are leading the way

“Dealing with climate change is a question of economic competitiveness and of equity – to ensure a high quality of life for all, across the world as well as our future generations.”

-Ron Sims



Next Steps for CCAP

Series of adaptation 2-pagers

- » Mitigation-Adaptation synergies
- » Climate Extension Services
- » Equity, Environmental Justice and Vulnerable communities
- » Green Infrastructure
- » Framework on Infrastructure and Resource Efficiency (FIRE)

Recently Released Reports:

- Cost-Effective GHG Reductions through Smart Growth & Improved Transportation Choices
- Ask the Climate Question: Adapting to Climate Change Impacts in Urban regions



Thank You

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