

12-2-2014

# Out-Brief Slides: Citizen Engagement

Federal Emergency Management Agency

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## Repository Citation

Federal Emergency Management Agency, "Out-Brief Slides: Citizen Engagement" (2014). *December 2, 2014: Hampton Roads Climate Preparedness and Resilience Exercise Series*. 5.  
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A satellite-style map of the United States, showing the continental United States, Alaska, and Hawaii. The map is oriented with the top of the page at the top. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the map, containing the title text.

# Out-Brief Slides: Citizen Engagement



**FEMA**

National Exercise Program  
The White House

# Desired Outcome(s)

- Provide a short description of the key desired outcome(s) for your working group / advisory committee
  - The goal of the Citizen Engagement Committee is to bring citizens into the planning process and encourage citizen participation.
  - The Committee wants to identify the several social networks and community organizations that have already been established as a way to avoid duplicative efforts.
  - The Committee felt that while there is not a need for new information, there is a need to better communicate and modify the existing information to show citizens the direct local impacts of sea level rise.

# ACTIONS – Immediate

- Identify immediate actions that need to be taken in the next 60 - 90 days
  - Identify the existing social networks and community groups in the region.
  - Break down the issues and risks into a way that is engaging to the relevant communities.

# ACTIONS – Near-Term

- Identify near-term actions that need to be taken in the next 6 - 12 months
  - After creating a database of existing social networks and groups, create a venue for engagement between these groups.
    - Engagement should explain why action needs to be taken and what can be done to prepare and educate their communities.
  - Localize the existing information to make it engaging and relevant to specific communities.
  - Create a website and/or mobile app that allows people to access information and help individual disaster planning.

# ACTIONS – Long-Term

- Identify long-term actions that need to be taken in the next 12 -18 months
  - Create universal awareness of the fact that the issue of sea level rise exists.
  - Educate people to know where to go when emergency conditions already exist.

# Challenges and Opportunities

- What obstacles may prevent immediate, near-, and long-term actions from being completed?
  - There is no way for citizen feedback to make its way back to the Advisory Committees.
  - There are many community groups and organizations that focus on a multitude of climate change related issues, but they are not all connected.
  - There is no one universally usable way to bring community engagement or how to gain traction in communities.
    - What resonates with one community may not with another.
    - Twenty-five percent of the Newport News population lacks access to internet, including vulnerable populations.
- What opportunities can you seize today to help you complete your immediate, near-, and long-term actions?
  - The ways to organize people already exist, they just need to be used.
  - Many networks exist for community warning, they just need to be localized to have an impact.