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From: Consensus Building Institute <mosthues@cbi.org>

Sent: Fri, May 31, 2019 8:01 am

Subject: Climigration News and Opportunities Digest - May 31, 2019

Climigration

SHOULD WE STAY OR SHOULD WE GO?

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The Climigration Network is excited to announce the **upcoming June 4th webinar “Catalyzing Community-led Projects on Managed Retreat,”** which will feature the five 2018 Climigration Awardees as they highlight the work accomplished with their 2018 funding, share lessons learned, and outline their next steps and vision for their work moving forward.

The webinar will take place on **Tuesday, June 4 at 3:00-4:00pm EDT**. To register, please click the below button.

[Register](#)

Please see below for climigration funding opportunities, exciting upcoming events, and short summaries of climigration-related news and other media to keep you updated on what is happening in the field.

As always, feel free to pass this email along to anyone else you think might be interested and to call or email with any questions. News article summaries are also posted to our [News page](#).

Best,
Maggie Osthues | 617.844.1121 | mosthues@cbi.org
Climigration Network
www.climigration.org

OPPORTUNITIES

Climate Ready program Grants: The California State Coastal Conservancy is accepting applications for its 6th round of Climate Ready program grants until July 1st. The Conservancy is prioritizing projects incorporating managed retreat strategies in natural shoreline infrastructure and habitat enhancement projects. Visit the [Climate Ready website](#) for the announcement and application materials.

Climate Resilience Fund Grants: The Climate Resilience Fund and NOAA are working together to align and synergize their annual grant opportunities. Applicants to the NOAA competition will be encouraged to pursue the opportunity to add to, enhance, or scale up their projects by applying to CRF's annual 'Coordination and Collaboration in the Resilience Ecosystem' grants competition in early 2019. *Check the [CRF website](#) for forthcoming details about this upcoming opportunity.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

At What Point Managed Retreat? Resilience Building in the Coastal Zone

June 19-21, 2019
Jerome Greene Hall, Columbia University
New York, NY

Event Description: Organized by the Climate Adaptation Initiative at Columbia University's Earth Institute, this conference will address a range of issues facing coastal communities in the United States and around the world as sea levels rise and coastal flooding becomes more frequent and intense. The science around retreat is still ill-defined, and policy discussions remain contentious. This conference will bring together thought leaders on this topic to advance the science and policy dialogue. Specifically, the conference is intended to be of interest to academics, planners, practitioners, and industry representatives from sectors such as real estate and insurance.

For those planning on attending this conference, the Climigration Network is working to create an opportunity for in-person Climigration Network Meet-up. Please keep an eye on your inbox for an invitation closer to the date.

Read more about the event [here](#).

NEWS

Flood Buyouts Are Getting More Expensive As Storms Intensify

Associated Press
PBS News Hour
May 28, 2019



Residents across the country are waiting for offers from buyout programs to relocate out of flood-prone homes. Over the past thirty years, more than \$5 billion dollars has been spent by federal and local governments to buy out tens of thousands of vulnerable properties, according to an Associated Press analysis of data from FEMA and HUD. Buyouts are also getting more expensive, with many of the most expensive occurring in the last decade after storms hit heavily populated coastal states, and record-breaking flooding in the Midwest this year has the potential to add substantially more buyouts to the queue. Most buyouts still occur as a reaction to disaster, but proactive federal funding has begun to grow, with a recent study finding that, for every \$1 spent through federally funded grants to acquire or demolish flood-prone buildings, society as a whole saves \$7 in avoided costs.

Read the full piece [here](#). (Photo credit: Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Melissa Leake)

Rethinking Disaster Recovery After A California Town Is Levelled By Wildfire

Kirk Siegler
NPR
May 28, 2019

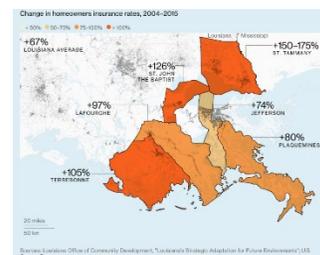


Currently, approximately 7,200 Camp Fire survivor households rely directly on federal aid; FEMA has paid over \$85 million in emergency aid for survivors, and an additional \$370 million in loans have been distributed by the Small Business Administration. As climate change increases the severity of natural disasters, a shift to more proactive policies and funding is necessary to avoid the increasing costs associated with solely reactionary disaster management. Congress passed the Disaster Recovery Reform Act in the fall of 2018, setting aside about 6% of all FEMA disaster relief funding for pre-disaster mitigation programs. This money could allow states to start buying out private property in high-risk areas to convert to green space, which has never been done in high-fire-risk areas in the US.

Read the full piece [here](#). (Photo credit: California National Guard, CC BY 2.0)

Louisiana Unveils Ambitious Plan to Help People Get Out of the Way of Climate Change

Christopher Flavelle and Mira Rojanasakul
Bloomberg
May 15, 2019



Louisiana unveiled a blueprint for managing climate migration in the state, the first plan of its kind in the US. The plan looks at six parishes near the Mississippi River, categorizing areas as “high,” “moderate,” or “low” risk zones and outlining steps to help people move from higher risk areas to inland receiving communities while also readying receiving communities to host growing populations. Policies for higher-risk areas include a temporary buyout program, a “transition away from permanent residential development,” and stricter adaptation measures along the coast. Proposals for lower-risk, receiving communities include denser development, improved transportation infrastructure, and beautified downtown areas. The blueprint was developed with input from over 70 public meetings and support from a \$40 million grant from the Obama administration.

Read the full piece with interactive graphics [here](#). (Source: Louisiana Office of Community Development, “Louisiana’s Strategic Adaptation for Future Environments”; U.S. Census Bureau)

Small Towns, Big Flood Waters

Kat Kerlin
UC Davis
May 15, 2019



UC Davis flood experts are visiting communities faced with moving to escape rising waters and flooding to explore how towns address these growing threats and retain their sense of community. Valmeyer, Illinois, was hit hard by the great Mississippi River flood of 1993, causing the town to relocate 2 miles away. The town’s mayor worked hard to secure funding, and while the town still feels the impact of the relocation, it has maintained its sense of community and experienced economic and population growth since the retreat. Another experience is that of Odanah, Wisconsin, an unincorporated community on the reservation of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa (Ojibwe). Relocation funded by HUD in Odanah successfully relocated nearly all structures in the floodplain. However, from a cultural and community perspective, feelings on the relocation are mixed, and some view it as forced relocation that has caused major cultural disruptions.

Read the full piece [here](#). (Photo credit: Royalbroil, CC BY-SA 3.0)

Heatwaves, Floods and Higher Rents: ‘Climate gentrification’ could hit western and central Queens, study finds

Mark Hallum
QNS News
May 15, 2019



The Regional Plan Association (RPA) and Make the Road NY conducted a study, “Equitable Adaptation,” of residents in western and central Queens, NY, to anticipate possible displacement through worsening climate impacts like heat waves and flooding. Twenty percent of residents in the studied communities do not have air conditioning and already face environmental problems of mold and

flooding and deal with transit-related stress. The report emphasizes that the climate changes will impact lower income brackets more, especially those in neighborhoods with a high concentration of older buildings. Rob Freudenberg from RPA highlights a central question regarding climate gentrification: “As we make areas safe from flooding, will that then raise the property values or raise the rents and push people out, make it more desirable for people to live there?”

Read the full piece [here](#) and find the study [here](#). (Photo credit: [Jleon](#), CC BY 2.5)

Climate now biggest driver of migration, study finds

Inga Vesper
SciDevNet
May 8, 2019

A [new study](#) by researchers at the University of Otago in New Zealand published in *Global and Planetary Change* analyzed migration data from 198 countries of origin to 16 OECD member states between 1980 and 2015 and found that climate change impacts, such as flooding and extreme temperatures, have become more important push factors in migration than economic inequality or conflict. As climate change impacts grow, the UN has said that it will not define climate migrants as refugees, so as not to dilute resources to refugees fleeing violent conflicts. A report in 2018 by the UNFCCC, the UN’s climate change body, found that countries around the globe are largely failing to address climate migration accurately.



Read the full piece [here](#). (Photo credit: [Fabian Hanneforth](#), CC BY-SA 3.0)

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