

Urban Adaptation to Climate Change: The Case of New York City

Cynthia Rosenzweig



Distinguished Lecture Series

Michigan State University

April 15, 2010



**CENTER FOR CLIMATE
SYSTEMS RESEARCH**
THE EARTH INSTITUTE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Copenhagen and Beyond

- **Critical numbers:**

45,000, 15,000, 128, 5 . . .

- **Role of Sub-National Actors**

- **‘Just do it’**

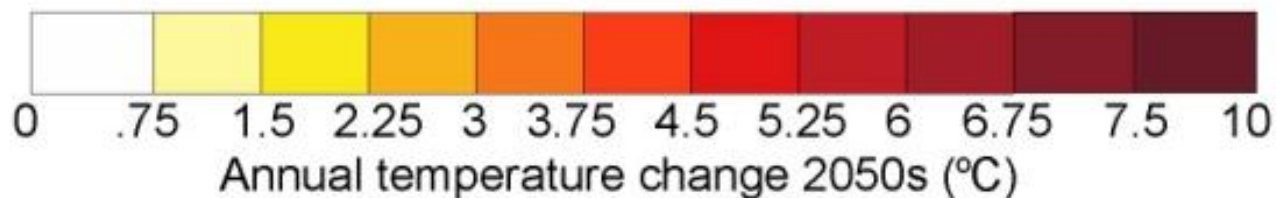
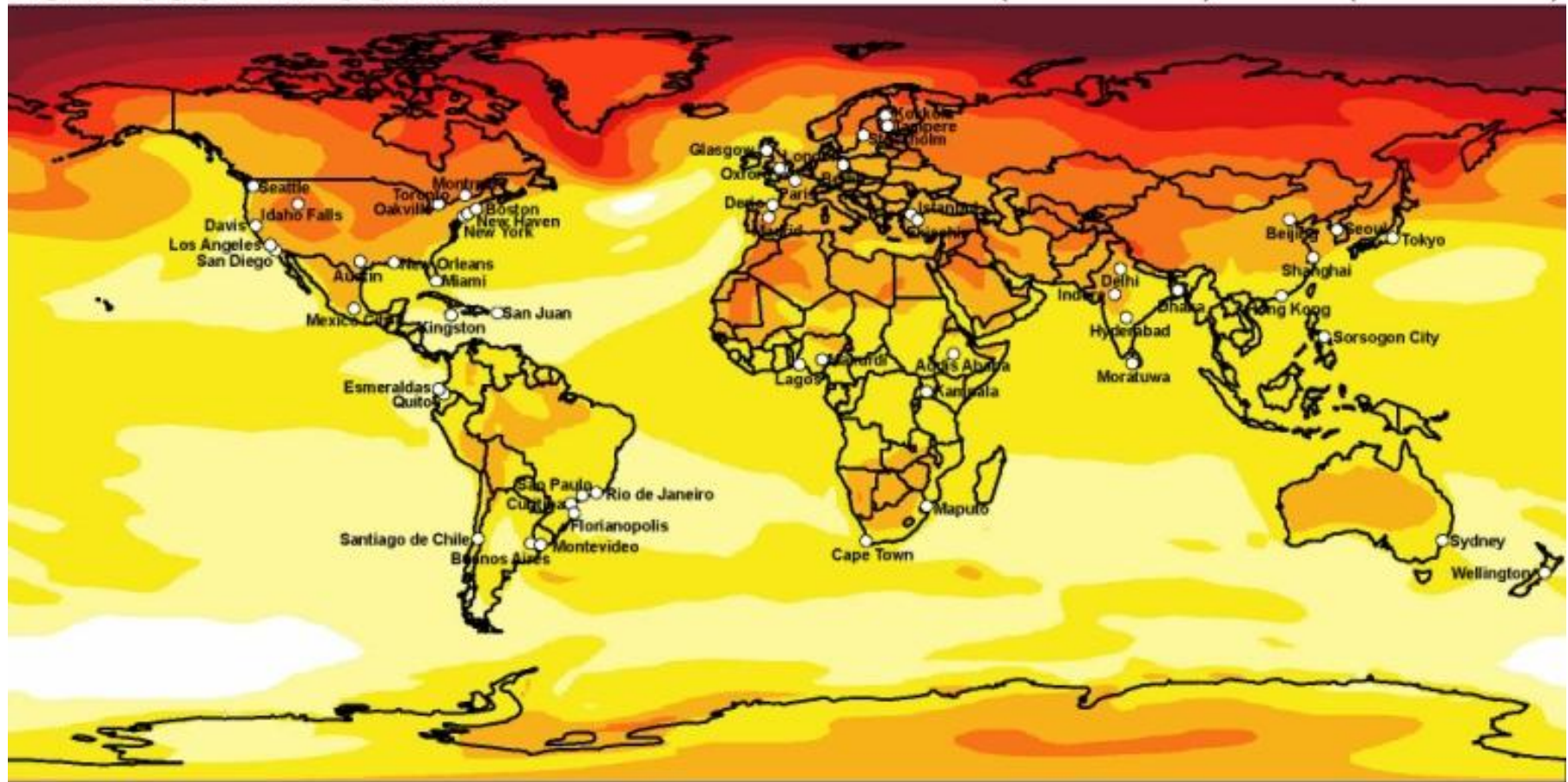


Coordinate with Global Efforts

First UCCRN Assessment Report on Climate Change in Cities (ARC3)

NCAR CCSM 3.0 GCM A1b

(2040-2069) minus (1970-1999)



BUILDING THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR LOCAL ACTION

Cities generate no less than 40% of global GHG emissions and are extremely vulnerable to climate change impacts

Past climate research has overlooked cities despite unique factors

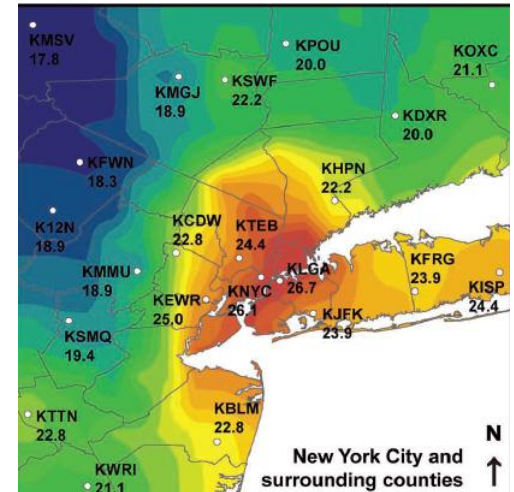
1. Majority of global population is urban
2. Hubs of economic activity
3. Frequently located on coasts or major rivers
4. Urban heat island and air quality problems
5. On front lines dealing with climate impacts

ARC3 Goal

To establish on-going city-centered state-of-knowledge reports to urban decision-makers and help build capacity for action



© Shagun Mehrotra
Climate change and water stress in African slums, Kampala



Source: Rosenzweig et al., 2009

Urban Heat Island, New York City

CONTENTS



Vulnerability

Framework for vulnerability assessment applied to four diverse cities: Buenos Aires, Delhi, Lagos, New York City.



Climate Hazards

City-specific hazard assessment using observed and projected data on temperature, precipitation, and sea level rise.



Energy

How climate change affects urban energy systems, especially surge in peak load demand, and mechanisms to mitigate and adapt.



Water and Wastewater

Linking climate change with water systems in the cities across the globe with a focus on formal and informal water supply and sanitation services.



Transportation

How urban transportation systems are impacted by and impact climate change. Assessment of regulatory and market mechanisms for mitigation and instruments for adaptation.



Health

Impacts of climate change on human health in cities and adaptation measures.



Land Use

Analysis of how land use zoning and population density interacts with urban planning and management to mitigate and adapt to climate change.



Governance

How city governments may strengthen science-based policy-making, effective leadership, efficient financing, jurisdictional coordination, planning, and citizen participation.

SECTION 1

DEFINING RISK FRAMEWORK

Vulnerabilities and agency assessed
Climate hazards assessed using City-specific existing data
Science base for city decision-makers

SECTION 2

URBAN SECTORS

Risks
Adaptation
Mitigation
Policy alternatives

CASE STUDIES

Range of examples to illustrate organizational strategies from range of socio-economic and physical city conditions

SECTION 3

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

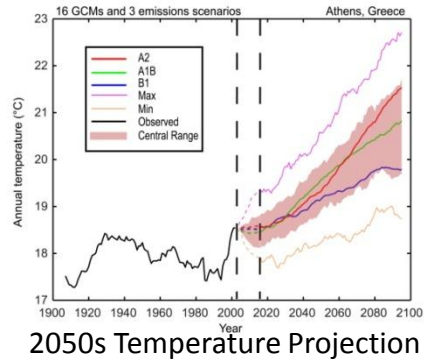
Complex interactions among city sectors, systems, and land use
Implication for city governance to combat climate change

CLIMATE HAZARDS

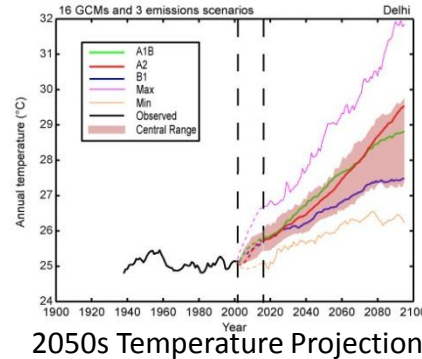


Copenhagen Climate Summit for Mayors

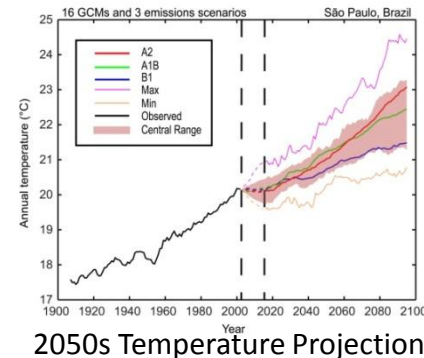
Athens



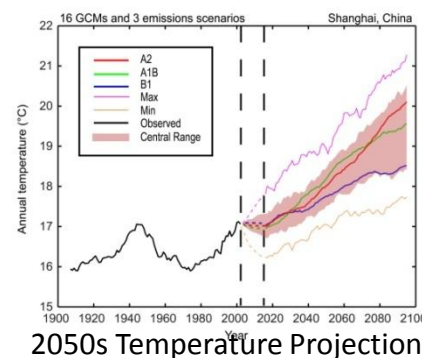
Delhi



Sao Paulo



Shanghai



12 Cities Analyzed

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Athens | 7. Melbourne |
| 2. Dakar | 8. New York |
| 3. Delhi | 9. Sao Paulo |
| 4. Harare | 10. Shanghai |
| 5. Kingston | 11. Tokyo |
| 6. London | 12. Toronto |

**2050s projected
temperature
increase between
1 C to 4 C**

Key takeaway

1. More frequent/longer/hotter heatwaves
2. More floods and droughts
3. Sea-level rise with enhanced coastal flooding

Source: Center for Climate Systems Research
Columbia University 2009

HEALTH



Risks

1. Large size and high density amplify health risks
2. Increase in poor and elderly populations compounds threats of heat and vector-related illness
3. Cities with limited existing water services at greater risk of drought and vector-related illnesses

Adaptation and Mitigation strategies

1. Passive approaches (tree planting, green roofs, permeable pavements) to reduce urban heat island
2. Improving and increasing water and energy services
3. Regulate settlement growth in flood plains
4. Expand health surveillance and early warning systems

Key takeaway

Climate change likely to exacerbate existing health risks in cities and create new ones



Source: Shagun Mehrotra, 2003

High Existing Health Risks, Kibera, Nairobi



Source:

Heatwave exacerbates existing health risks of poor & elderly in NYC, July 4-6, 1999

WATER



Risks

1. Variance in precipitation significantly affects quantity and quality of water supply
2. Impervious city surfaces and increased precipitation intensity overwhelm current city drainage systems
3. Over 1/2 the people in large developing country cities rely on informal water supply vendors

Adaptation and Mitigation strategies

1. Reduce water theft and leaks
2. Adjust water-intake locations
3. Rainwater harvesting and water reuse
4. Demand management—public education, industrial process changes to reduce water intensity

Key takeaway

Water supply services highly vulnerable to drought, extreme precipitation, and sea level rise



Source: Ademola Omojola

Water Scarcity and Vendors, Lagos

TRANSPORT



Risks—contingent on local transport systems

1. Mass transit vs. individual vehicles
2. Underground vs. elevated roads and rail
3. Moving people vs. goods
4. Impacts on power and telecom systems create transport system risks

Adaptation and Mitigation strategies

1. Technical vs. ecosystem-based approaches
2. Levees, dams, pumps to limit flood damage
3. Improve drainage to protect transport assets
4. Elevate equipment to eliminate flood risk
5. Temporarily move rolling stock in advance of storms
6. Diversify transport modal choices

Key takeaway

Incorporate climate considerations into transit plans, construction, and management systems while retrofitting existing assets



Compressed Natural Gas, Cabs, Delhi

Civil society organizations and courts have been instrumental in legislating conversion of public transport to be fuelled by CNG

ENERGY



Risks – both supply and demand

1. Power plant flooding
2. Increased variance in water quantity and timing impact hydro-power
3. Increase in heat waves imply more frequent blackouts, damaging local economy
4. Demand may increase *or* decrease

Adaptation and Mitigation strategies

1. Demand management programs to cut peak load
2. “Harden” power plants and networks to increase resilience to flooding/storm/temperature risks
3. Diversify fuel-mix for city power to increase share of renewables

Key takeaway

Mitigation prioritized, but adaptation focus equally important



Coal Based Energy Supply, Baoshan

GOVERNANCE



Challenges

1. Climate is one of many issues on local government's agenda
2. Tradeoffs between current priorities and long-term risks
3. Uncertainties about timing and scale of local impacts affects prioritization of investments and action
4. Local authorities constrained by policy and fiscal space
5. Jurisdictional conflicts, multiple stakeholders

Key takeaway

Local authorities recognize the challenge and many are working together to take action

WAY FORWARD

1. Science-based policy-making
2. Effective leadership
3. Efficient financing
4. Jurisdictional coordination
5. Land-use planning,
6. Citizen participation



COMMISSIONERS
ANNOUNCE MANHATTAN
STREET GRID PLAN



PLANS UNVEILED
FOR CENTRAL PARK



THE FIRST SUBWAY
LINE BEGINS SERVICE
IN NEW YORK CITY



IDLEWILD AIRPORT
OPENS—LATER
KNOWN AS JFK
INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT

Credits for images (Central Park and subway):
New York City Department of Records/
Municipal Archives

Now is **our** moment to make a difference in the future of our city

Throughout our history, there have been key moments when New Yorkers looked forward and took bold steps to prepare our city for its future.

The street grid plan of 1811 plotted out room for a million people—more than 10 times Manhattan's population at the time. In 1858, we unveiled plans for a Central Park devoted to the people—even though most New Yorkers still lived a mile away. Starting in 1901, we began building one of the world's largest subway systems when our city was mostly still farmland and fields. And 50 years ago, we transformed a golf course into the international aviation hub of the United States through the construction of JFK International Airport.

Now is **our moment—and we need your help.**

There are many ways to get involved.

Visit our website www.nyc.gov/planyc. Here you can learn more about each goal and share your ideas on how to reach them.

If you can't log on, **send us a letter.**

Look for a town hall meeting in your borough.

And most importantly, **tell your family and friends** so we can hear from them, too.

All of New York has a stake in this discussion—because every New Yorker will experience its impact.

And over the next three months, these ideas—your ideas—will shape a plan to secure our city's sustainable future.

Ten goals for creating a sustainable city over the next 25 years

openNYC

- 1** Create homes for almost a million more New Yorkers, while making housing more affordable and sustainable
- 2** Improve travel times by adding transit capacity for millions more residents, visitors, and workers
- 3** Ensure that all New Yorkers live within a 10-minute walk of a park

greenNYC

- 7** Reduce global warming emissions by more than 30%
- 8** Achieve the cleanest air of any big city in America
- 9** Clean up all contaminated land in New York City
- 10** Open 90% of our waterways for recreation by reducing water pollution and preserving our natural areas



maintainNYC

- 4** Develop critical back-up systems for our aging water network to ensure long-term reliability
- 5** Reach a full "state of good repair" on New York City's roads, subways, and rails for the first time in history
- 6** Provide cleaner, more reliable power for every New Yorker by upgrading our energy infrastructure



Mitigation/Adaptation

**Together we
can make the
New York of 2030
cleaner, healthier,
more reliable, and
more sustainable
than the city
we love today.**



Photo: S. Cornwell

Mainstreaming Adaptation in New York City

Steps

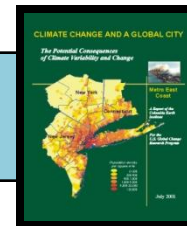
1. Lay the Foundation
2. Design Integrative Process
3. Articulate Overall Approach
4. Provide Planning Tools for Action Plans
5. Monitor and Reassess!

New York City

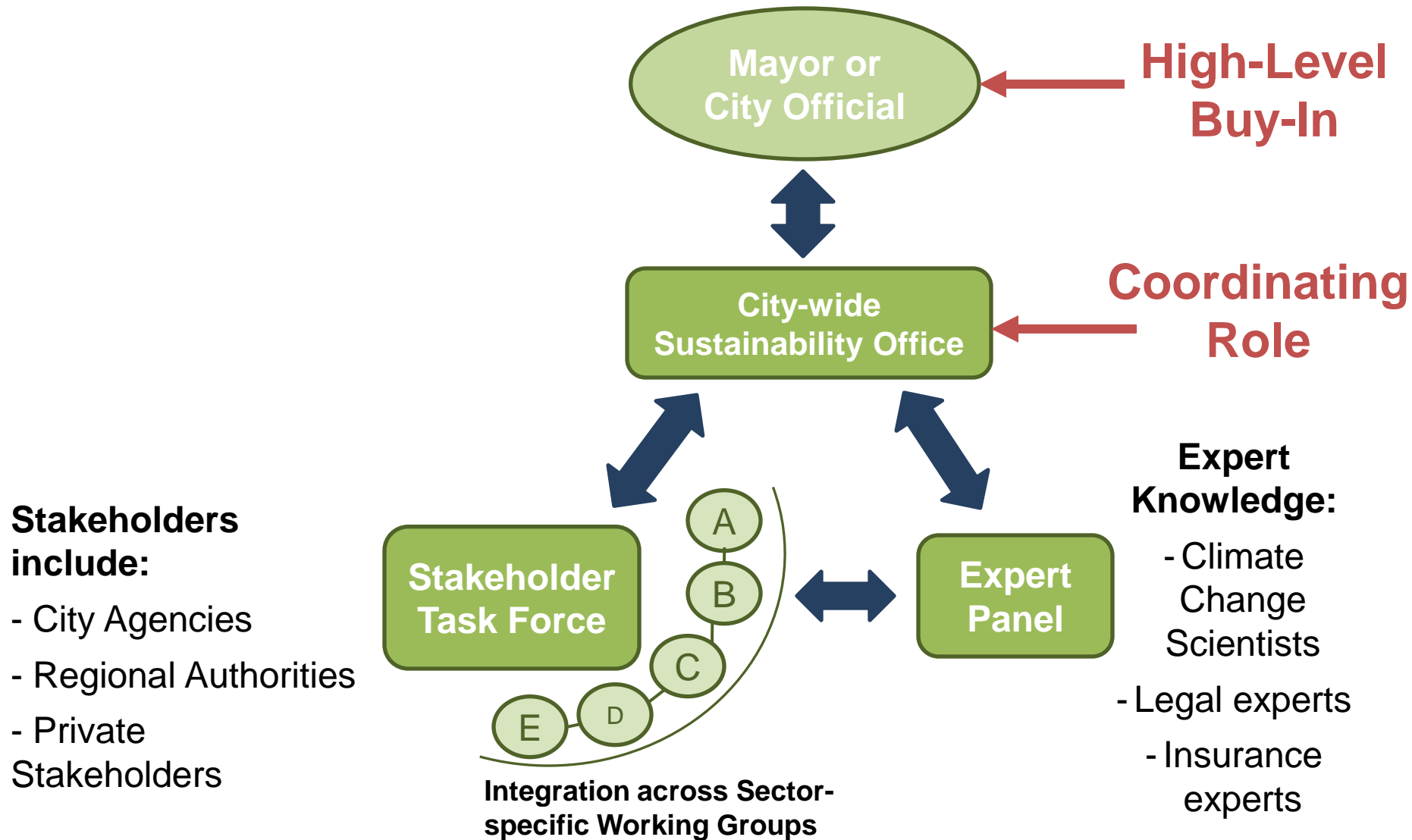
- Key Assessment Reports & Studies
- Public and Private Decision-makers and Experts, High-Level Initiation/Buy-In
- Flexible Adaptation Pathways
- Climate Risk Information, Adaptation Assessment Checklist, Climate Protection Levels
- Indicators and Foundation Report

Step 1. Laying the Foundation

| YEAR | REPORT TITLE | ORGANIZATION/PUBLICATION |
|------------------------|---|---|
| <i>Underway - 2010</i> | <i>New York State Adaptation Assessment</i> | <i>New York State Energy Research & Development Authority</i> |
| <i>Underway - 2009</i> | <i>New York City Climate Change Adaptation Task Force & New York City Panel on Climate Change</i> | <i>NYC Office of Long Term Planning & Sustainability</i> |
| <i>Underway - 2009</i> | <i>Long Island Shore Study</i> | <i>The Nature Conservancy</i> |
| 2008 | New York City's Vulnerability to Coastal Flooding: Storm Surge Modeling of Past Cyclones | <i>Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society</i> |
| 2008 | NYC DEP Climate Change Program Assessment and Action Plan | <i>New York City Department of Environmental Protection</i> |
| 2007 | Confronting Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast: Science, Impact and Solutions | <i>Union of Concerned Scientists</i> |
| 2007 | August 8, 2007 Storm Report | <i>Metropolitan Transit Authority</i> |
| 2001 | Climate Change and a Global City: The Potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change | <i>U.S. National Assessment Columbia Earth Institute</i> |
| 1999 | Hot Nights in the City: Global Warming, Sea-Level Rise and the New York Metropolitan Region | <i>Environmental Defense Fund</i> |
| 1996 | The Baked Apple? Metropolitan New York in the Greenhouse | <i>New York Academy of Sciences</i> |

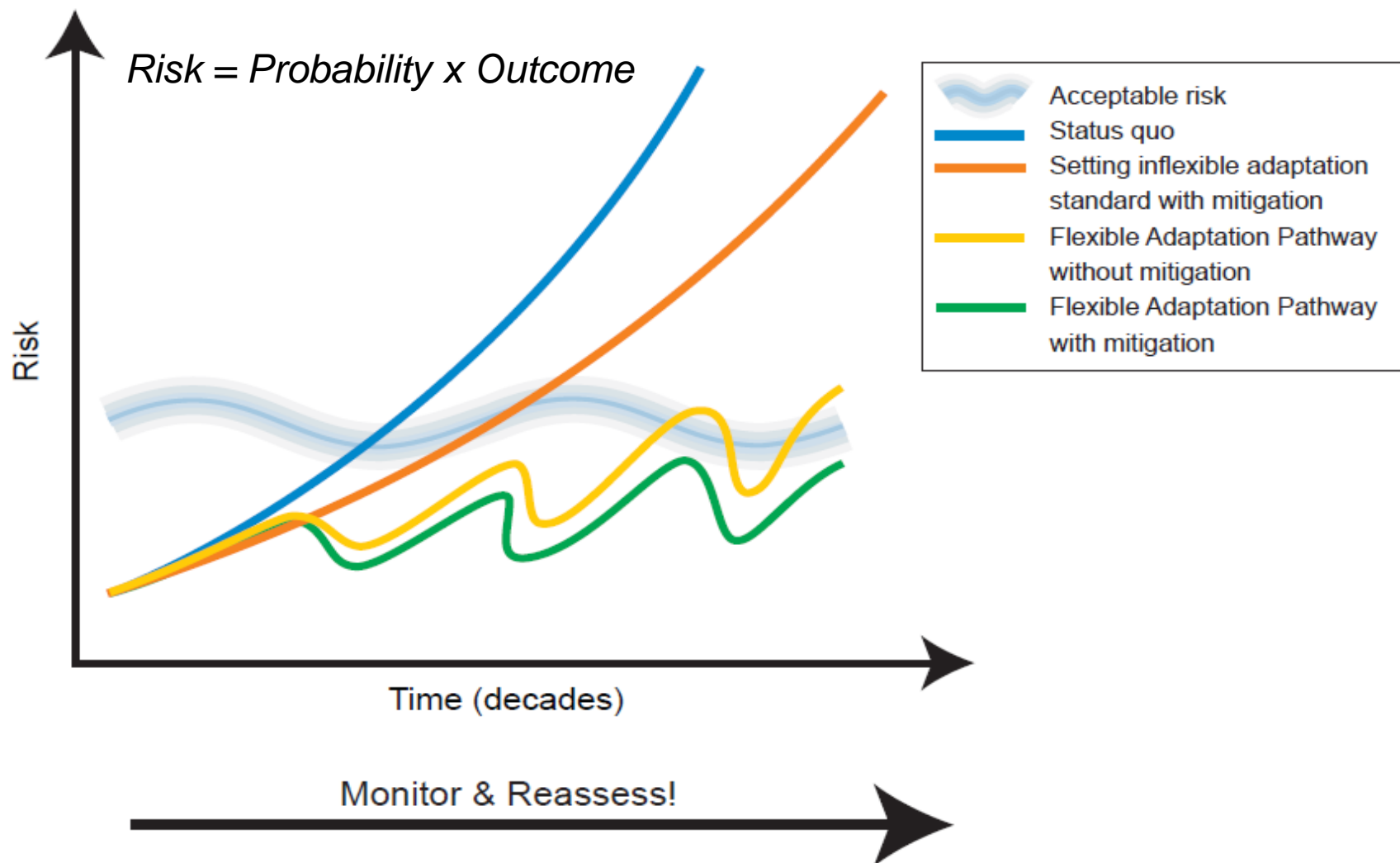


Step 2. Design Integrative Process



Step 3. Articulate Overall Approach

Climate change adaptation as a risk management issue →
Flexible Adaptation Pathways as the response



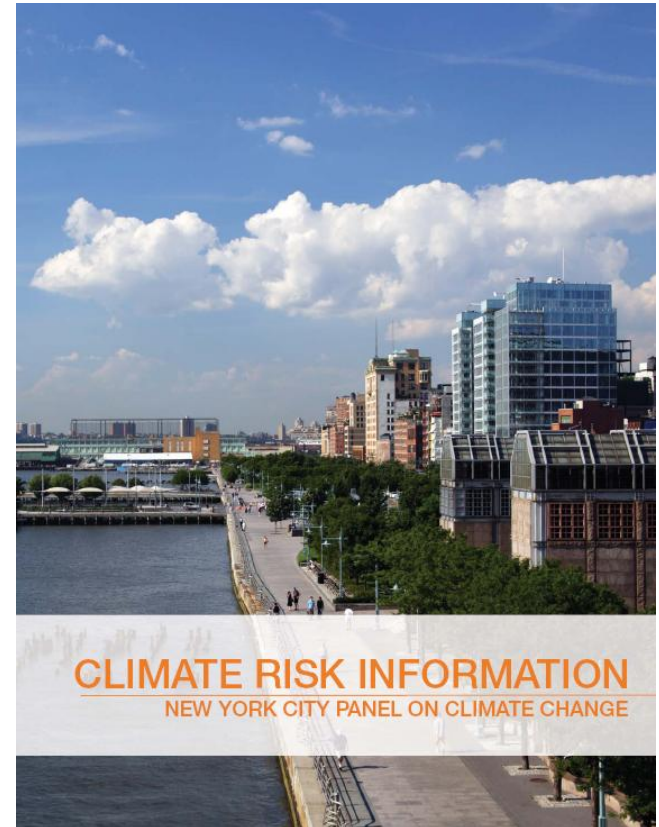
Step 4. Provide Planning Tools for Action Plans

1. Assessment Report

- background expert knowledge
- best practices
- resource guide
- case for adaptation

2. Workbooks for stakeholders

- Climate Risk Information
- Adaptation Assessment Guidebook
- Climate Protection Levels



Step 5: Indicators & Monitoring

Direct Climate Indicators

- Mean annual changes
- Extreme events
- Tropical storms
- ENSO & NAO
- Earth’s carbon cycle

Indirect Climate Indicators

- Shoreline erosion
- Localized inland flooding
- Biological & chemical composition of waters
- Changes in vegetation

Infrastructure Impacts

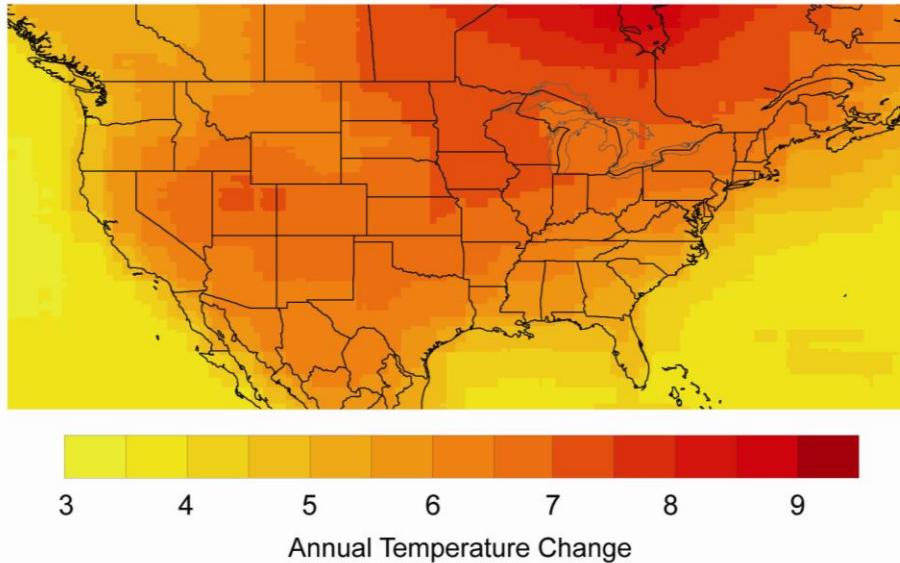
- Infrastructure damage from climate-related factors
- Impacts on operations, including transportation delays
- Combined sewer overflow events (CSOs)
- Climate-related power outages

MONITOR & REASSESS

Source: Columbia University Center for Climate Systems Research & NPCC CRI

Maps: Annual Temperature

A1B 2080s 16 GCM Annual Temperature Change



A1B 2080s 16 GCM Annual Temperature Change

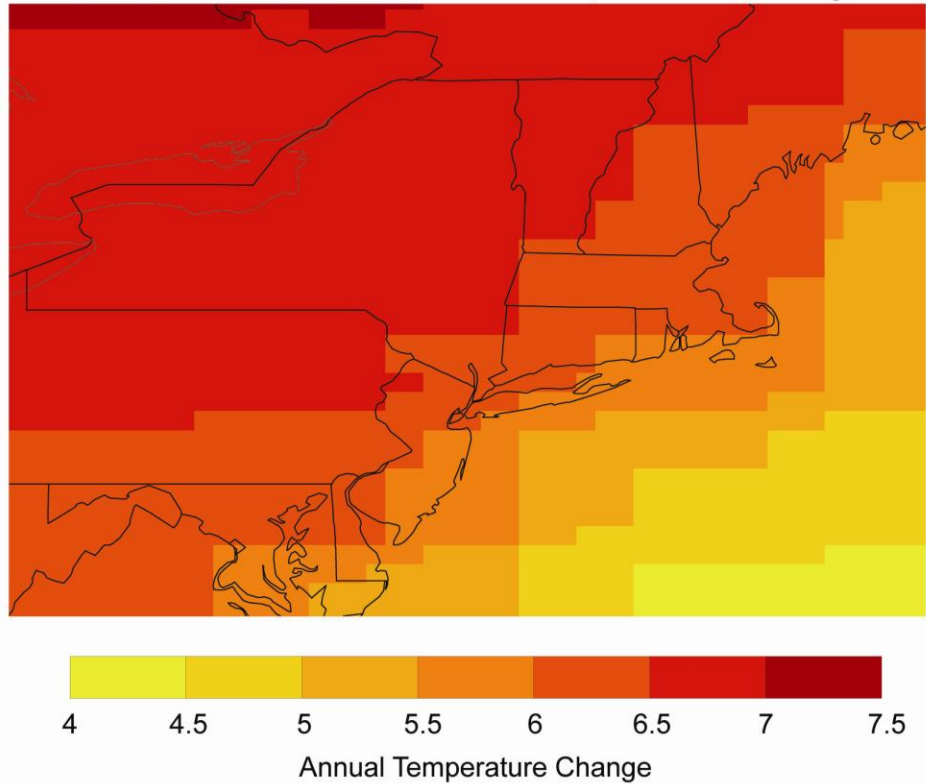
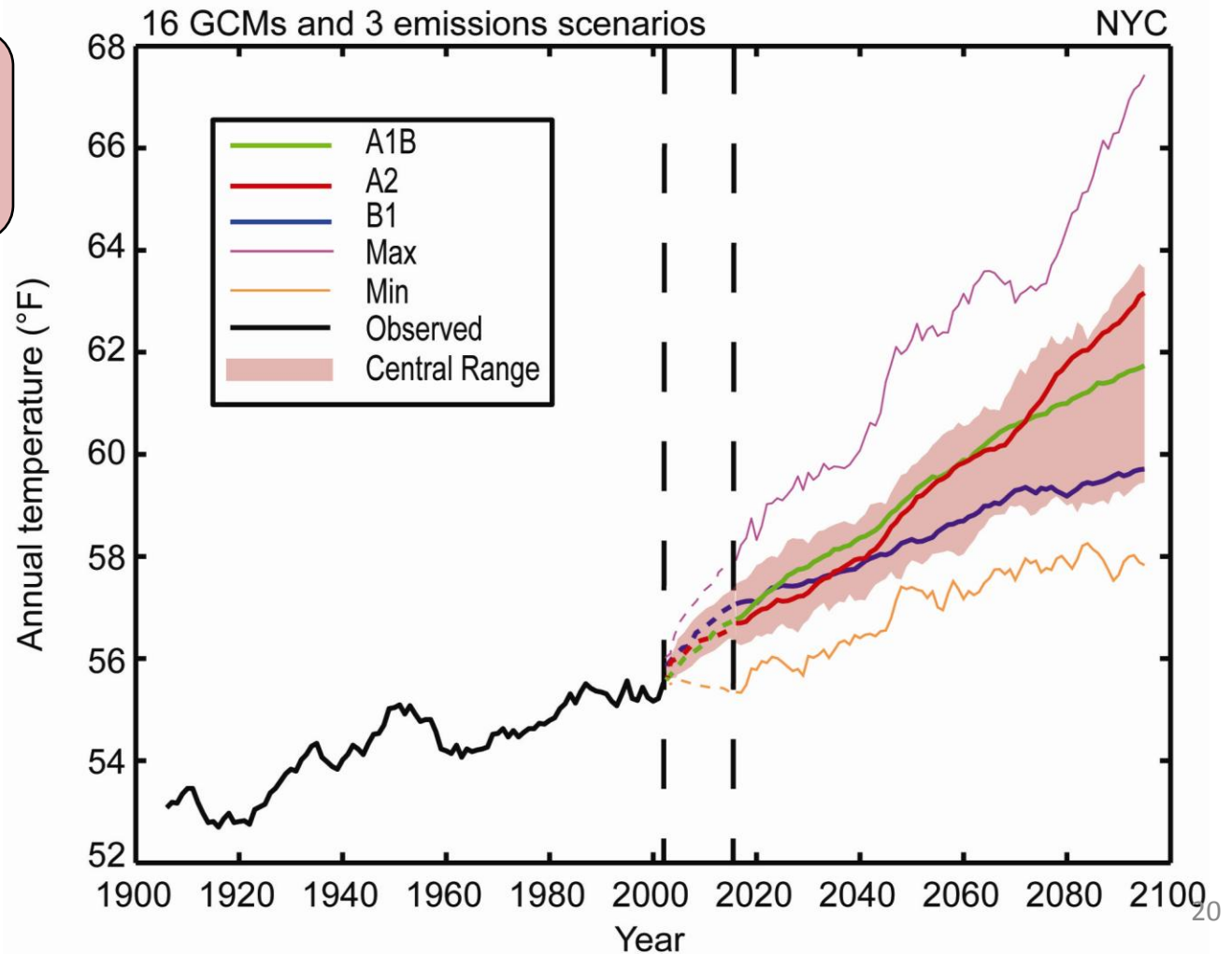


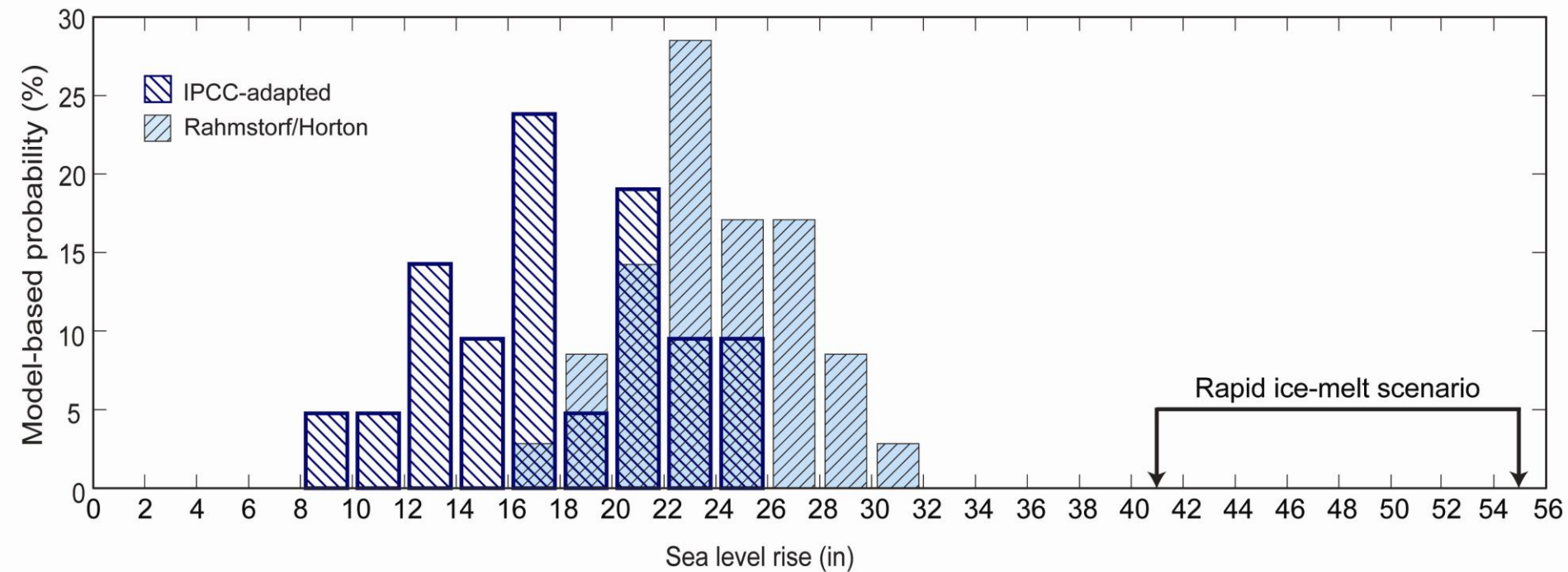
Figure 1a: Observed Climate & Future Projections

Annual Temperature



Climate Risk Information

Figure 18: Comprehensive set of sea level rise projections for NYC and the surrounding region



Climate Risk Information

Table 2:
Quantitative
Changes in
Extreme
Events

| | Extreme Event | Baseline (1971- 2000) | 2020s | 2050s | 2080s |
|--|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Heatwaves & Cold Events | # of days/year with maximum temperature exceeding: | | | | |
| | 90° F | 14 | 23 to 29 | 29 to 45 | 37 to 64 |
| | 100° F | 0.4 ¹ | 0.6 to 1 | 1 to 4 | 2 to 9 |
| | # of heat waves/year ² | 2 | 3 to 4 | 4 to 6 | 5 to 8 |
| | Average duration (in days) | 4 | 4 to 5 | 5 to 5 | 5 to 7 |
| | # of days/year with minimum temperature below 32° F: | 72 | 53 to 61 | 45 to 54 | 36 to 49 |
| Intense Precipitation & Droughts | # of days per year with rainfall exceeding: | | | | |
| | 1 inch | 13 | 13 to 14 | 13 to 15 | 14 to 16 |
| | 2 inches | 3 | 3 to 4 | 3 to 4 | 4 to 4 |
| | 4 inches | 0.3 | 0.2 to 0.4 | 0.3 to 0.4 | 0.3 to 0.5 |
| | Drought occurs, on average ³ | ~once every 100 yrs | ~once every 100 to 100 yrs | ~once every 50 to 100 yrs | ~once every 8 to 100 yrs |
| Coastal Floods & Storms ⁴ | 1-in-10 yr flood to reoccur, on average | ~once every 10 yrs | ~once every 8 to 10 yrs | ~once every 3 to 6 yrs | ~once every 1 to 3 yrs |
| | Flood heights associated with 1-in-10 yr flood (in feet) | 6.3 | 6.5 to 6.8 | 7.0 to 7.3 | 7.4 to 8.2 |
| | 1-in-100 yr flood to reoccur, on average | ~once every 100 yrs | ~once every 65 to 80 yrs | ~once every 35 to 55 yrs | ~once every 15 to 35 yrs |
| | Flood heights associated with 1-in-100 yr flood (in feet) | 8.6 | 8.8 to 9.0 | 9.2 to 9.6 | 9.6 to 10.5 |
| | 1 in 500-yr flood to reoccur, on average | ~once every 500 yrs | ~once every 380 to 450 yrs | ~once every 250 to 330 yrs | ~once every 120 to 250 yrs |
| | Flood heights associated with 1-in-500 yr flood (in feet) | 10.7 | 10.9 to 11.2 | 11.4 to 11.7 | 11.8 ²² to 12.6 |

from pg. 20, CRI

Climate Risk Information

Table 3: Qualitative Changes in Extreme Events

| Extreme Event | Probable Direction Throughout 21 st Century | Likelihood ¹ |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Heat Index ² | ▲ | Very likely |
| Ice storms/ Freezing rain | ▲ | About as likely as not |
| Snowfall frequency & amount | ▼ | Likely |
| Intense Hurricanes | ▲ | More likely than not |
| Nor'easters | Unknown | |
| Lightning | Unknown | |
| Downpours (precipitation rate/hour) | ▲ | Likely |
| Extreme winds | ▲ | More likely than not |

from pg. 21, CRI

Virtually certain >99% probability of occurrence

Extremely likely >95% probability of occurrence

Very likely >90% probability of occurrence

Likely >66% probability of occurrence

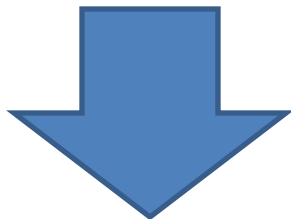
More likely than not >50% probability of occurrence

About as likely as not 33-66% probability of occurrence

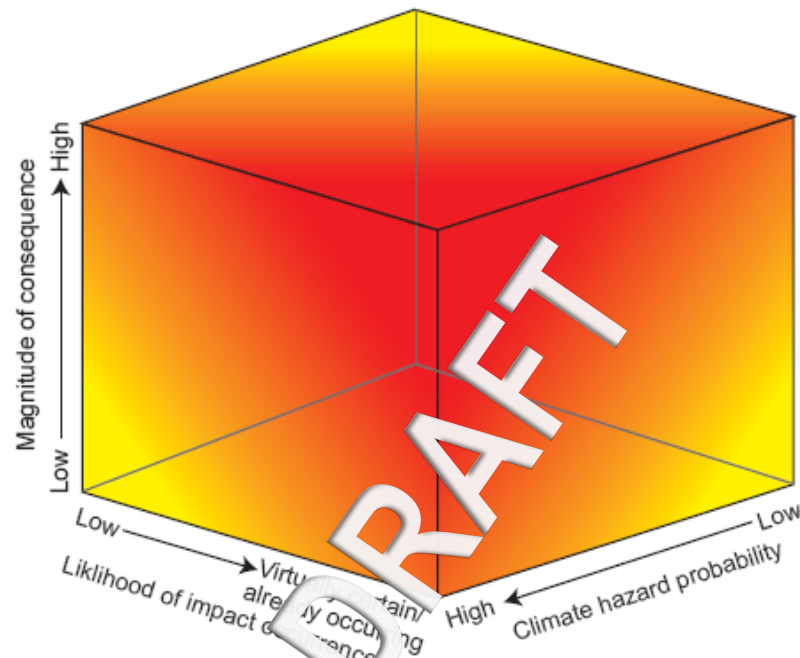
Adaptation Assessment Checklist

Guides stakeholders through completing:

- Inventory of at-risk Infrastructure
- Risk Assessment Template
- Risk Prioritization Matrix

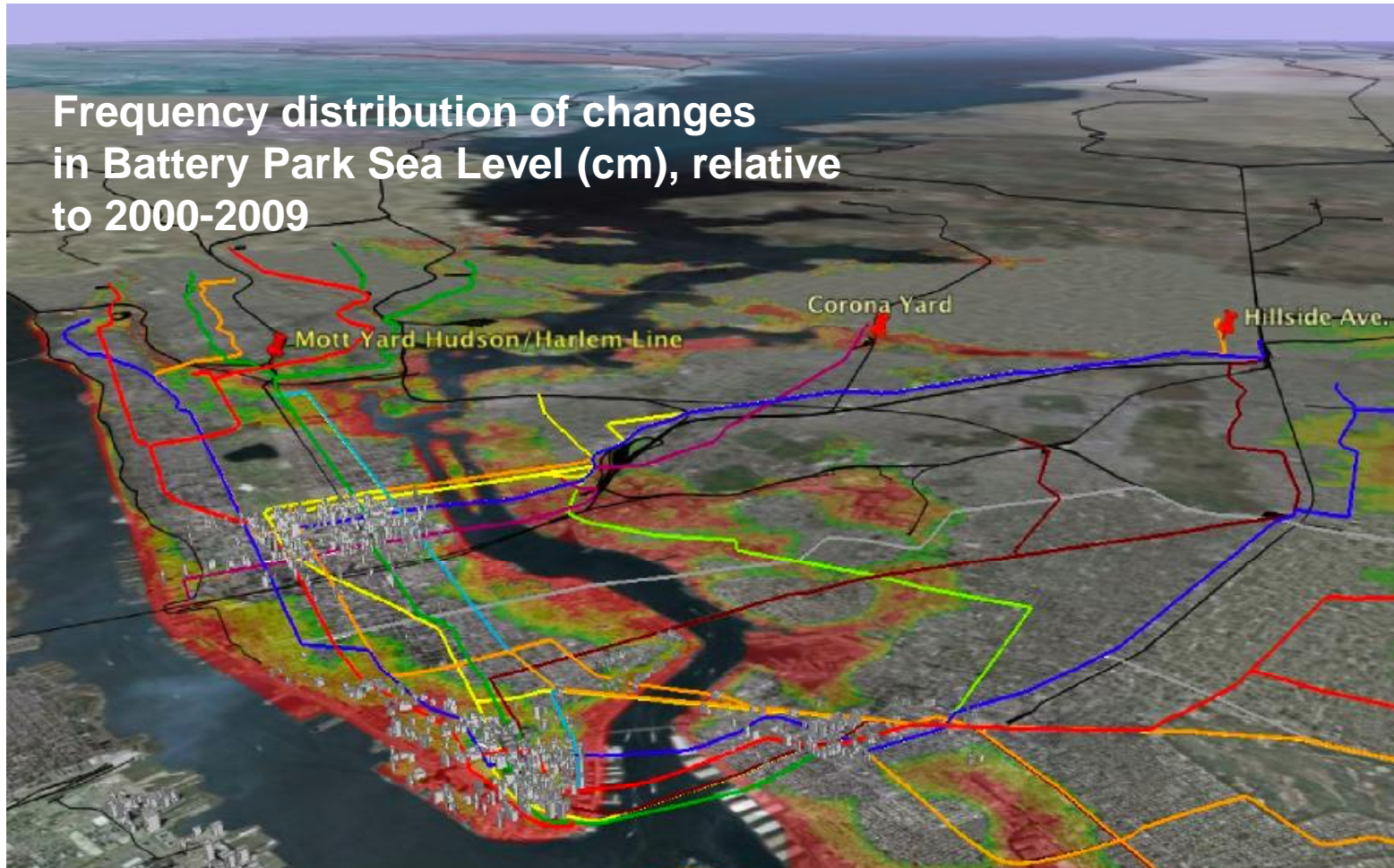


Leading to Adaptation Plans



| | |
|--------|---|
| Red | risks for which adaptation strategies should be developed |
| Orange | risks for which adaptation strategies may need to be developed or for which further information is needed is intermediate |
| Yellow | risks for which impacts should be monitored but which may not need actions at this time |

Hurricane Flood Risk



Shaded areas depict worst-track storm surge flood zones for Saffir-Simpson Category-1 in red, SS2 in brown, SS3 in yellow, and SS4 in green. Shaded lines are subways, black lines are rail systems.

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Google Earth, and
NYSEMO (for colored flood zones and NYCT subway lines)

Infrastructure Adaptation Flood Walls

As part of its Climate Change Program, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection is preparing an RFP to study the impacts of rising sea level on Wastewater Pollution Control Plants, tide gates, and other structures, and to develop and evaluate adaptations. Issuance within a few months.



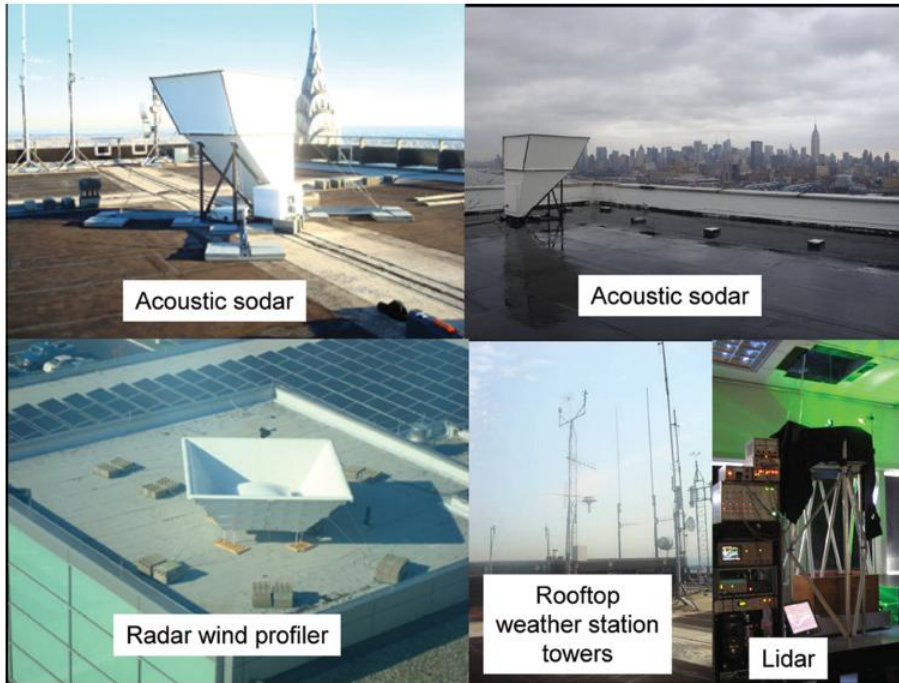
Treatment tanks overflowed at the Hunts Point (Bronx) WPCP during a March 2001 storm; unusually high tide elevations prevented discharge of treated sewage into the East River and caused back-up

Developing New Climate Protection Levels

- Changes in policies, rules & regulations
- Based on:
 - climate science,
 - engineering, legal & insurance practices, &
 - discussions with stakeholders
- Examples:
 - ✓ Protect long-lived infrastructure against future 1-in-100 year storms
 - ✓ Prepare for a specified number of heatwaves
 - ✓ Withstand a specified number of droughts & floods

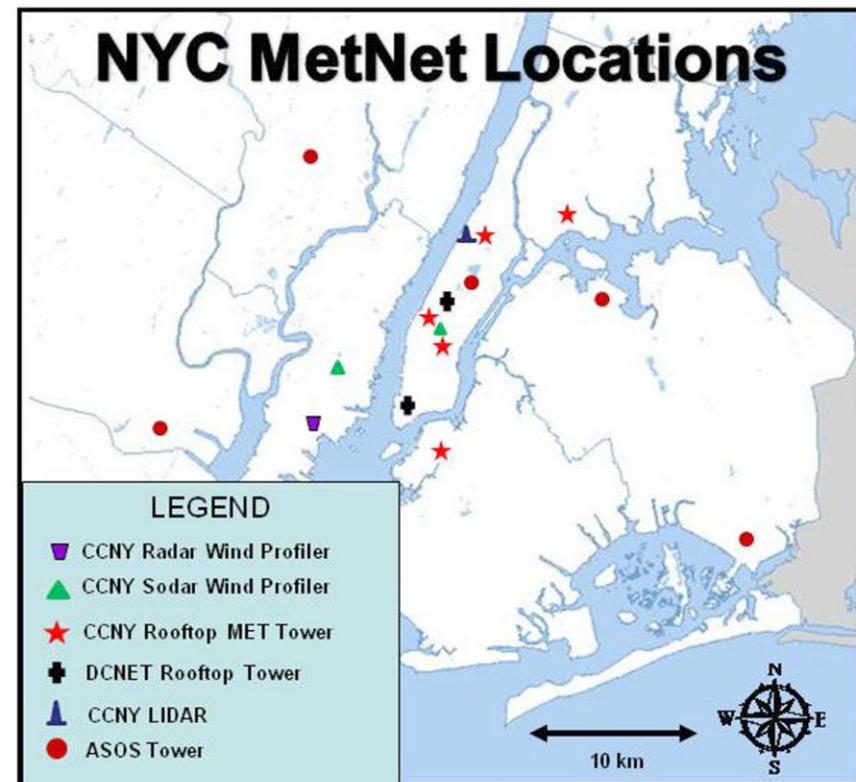
All considerations based on review of timing, location, and preexisting regulations & controls

Indicators and Monitoring



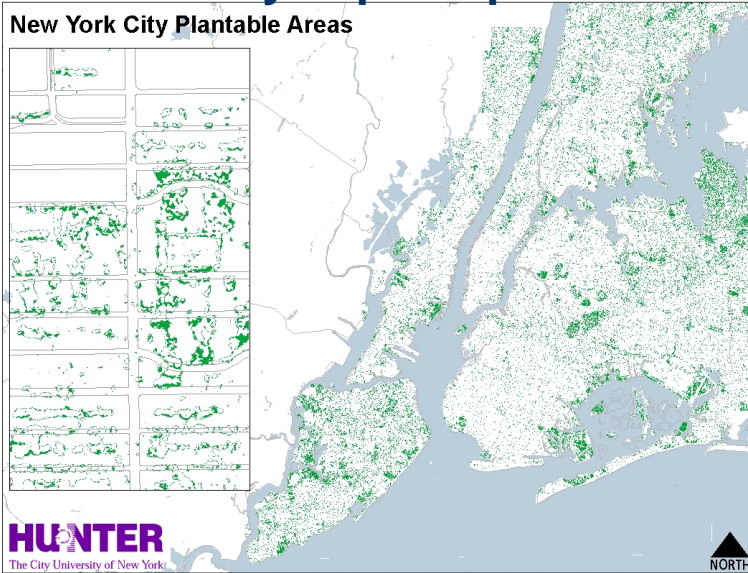
- Weather stations, acoustic sodar, and radar wind profiler
- Deployed in a dense grid within NYC and its immediate environs

NYC MetNet Instruments



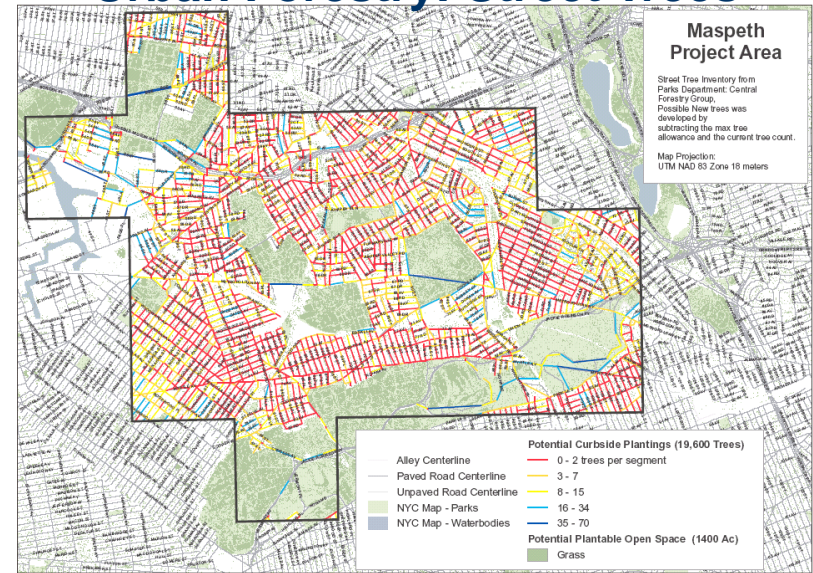
Encourage Mitigation and Adaptation Synergies

Urban Forestry: Open Space Planting



Grass areas; 3 m resolution

Urban Forestry: Street Trees



Street tree inventory from NYC Dept. of Parks; assumes avg canopy width of 37.7 ft.

Green Buildings



Solaire Building Battery Park City

Living Roofs



Chicago City Hall
Source: Dunnett and Kingsbury, *Planting Green Roofs and Living Walls*, 2004

Key NPCC Findings

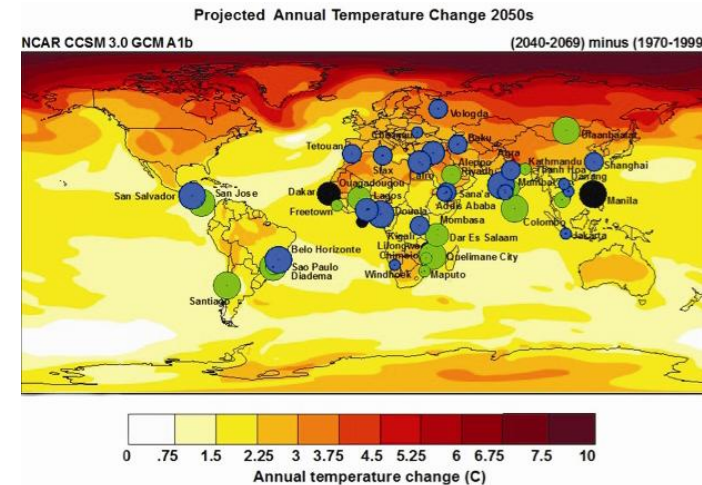
New York City has many tools in place that can be used to facilitate climate change adaptation

- Risk and hazard management strategies
- Design standards
- Legal framework
- Insurance industry
- Adjustments in operations, and management, capital investments in infrastructure, and development of policies that promote flexibility

Back to Copenhagen...

CITIES ACT

1. Cities are highly vulnerable to climate change, but have great potential to lead on both adaptation and mitigation efforts
2. Cities are serving as laboratories for climate change action, despite constraints
3. Ample climate risk and response information available for effective action, yet in limited use
4. Cities must mainstream climate science, adaptation strategies, and mitigation actions into daily decision-making and long-term plans and investments
5. Research community able and willing to help



Cities are developing long-term action plans—but many need to mainstream climate risks into existing planning efforts

**Climate Change Adaptation in New York City:
Building a Risk Management Approach
NPCC Report 2010
New York Academy of Sciences Annals/Wiley
2010**

ARC3

First UCCRN Assessment Report on
Climate Change and Cities

**Cambridge University Press
2010**

**For pre-order and updates
please visit www.uccrn.org**

Going Beyond Conventional Wisdom

Climate Change Adaptation

Conventional Wisdom:

Adaptation is Local . . .

Mitigation is Global and National . . .

More Useful Approach:

Local, National, and Global Initiatives are needed
to 'mainstream' both Adaptation and Mitigation
(and their interactions)

Challenges

- Responding to Need for Rapid, Recurring Assessments
 - Political terms come and go
 - Climate system is changing
- Enhancing Coordination
 - Stakeholders
 - Jurisdictions
 - Scenarios
- Handling Uncertainty of Climate Information
 - Downscaling
 - High-end Scenarios, e.g., Rapid Icemelt
- Revising Standards and Regulations
- Defining and Implementing Role of Different Levels of Government

Common Definitions

Including:

- **Adaptation*** — Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.
- **Adaptation Assessment*** — The practice of identifying options to adapt to climate change and evaluating them in terms of criteria such as availability, benefits, costs, effectiveness, efficiency and feasibility.
- **Risk** — Product of the likelihood of an event occurring times the magnitude of consequence should that event occur.
- **Climate hazard** — Climate variables which could have particular consequence to a given region or sector (i.e., temperature, precipitation, sea level rise).
- **Uncertainty & Likelihoods*** — An expression of the degree to which a value is unknown. Uncertainty can result from lack of information or from disagreement about what is known or even knowable.

** IPCC AR4 WGII, all others from NPCC CRI*

NYC Task Force Members

City Agencies

- Dept. of Buildings
- Dept. of City Planning
- Dept. of Design & Construction
- Dept. of Environmental Protection
- Dept. of Health
- Dept. of Law
- Dept. of Parks & Recreation
- Dept. of Sanitation
- Dept. of Transportation
- Economic Development Corp.
- Office of Emergency Management
- Office of Management & Budget

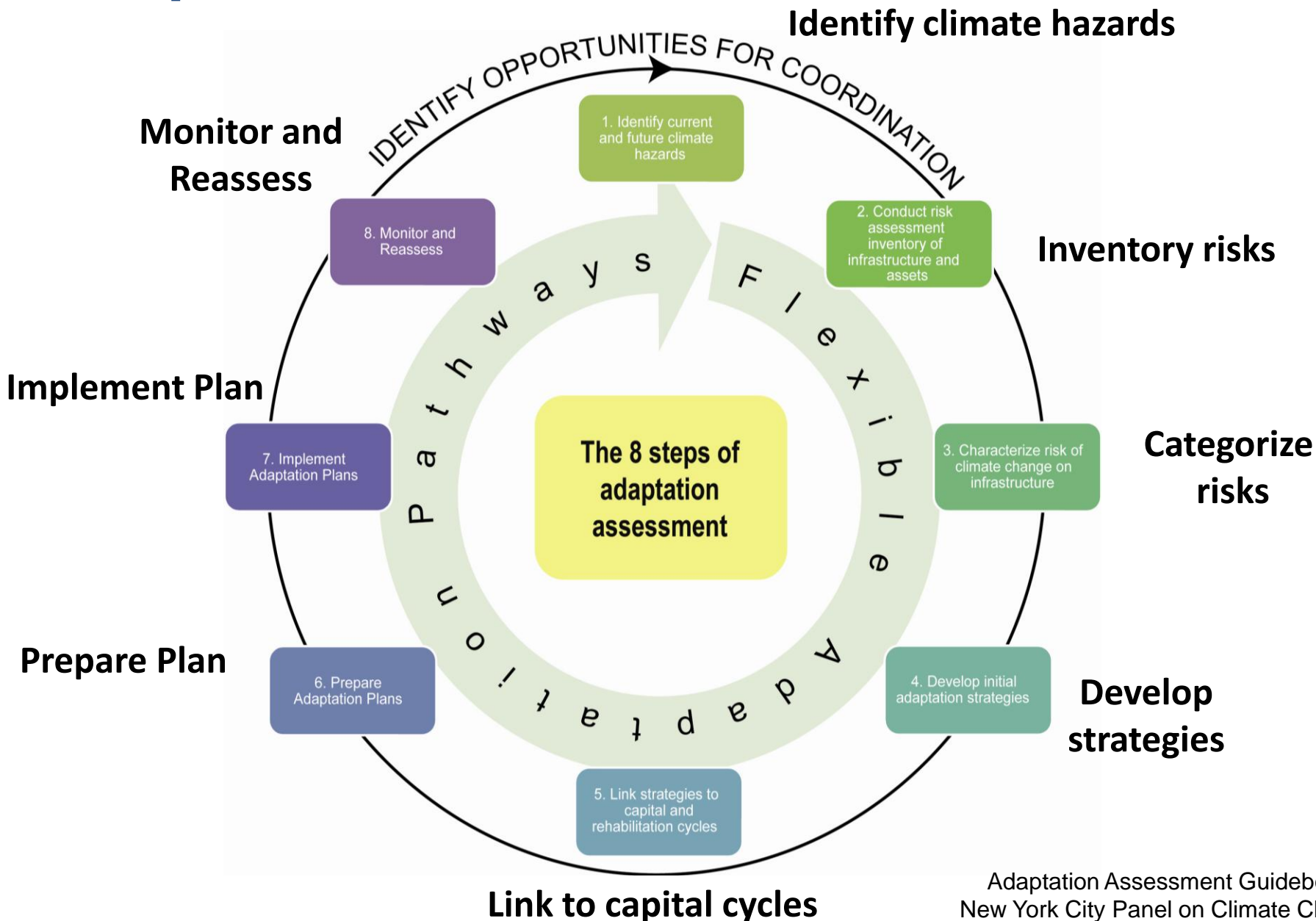
Federal & State Agencies/Authorities

- Dept. of Environmental Conservation
- Dept. of State
- Dept. of Transportation
- Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- NY Power Authority
- NYS Public Service Commission
- NJ Transit
- Port Authority of NY/NJ
- State Emergency Management Office
- U.S. National Park Service (Gateway Natl Recreation Area)

Other Stakeholders

- Amtrak
- Astoria Energy LLC
- AT&T
- Cablevision
- Con Edison
- CSX
- National Grid
- NRG Energy
- NY Independent System Operator
- Sprint Nextel
- Suez Energy, NA
- Time Warner Cable
- T-Mobile
- TransCanada
- USPowerGen
- Verizon

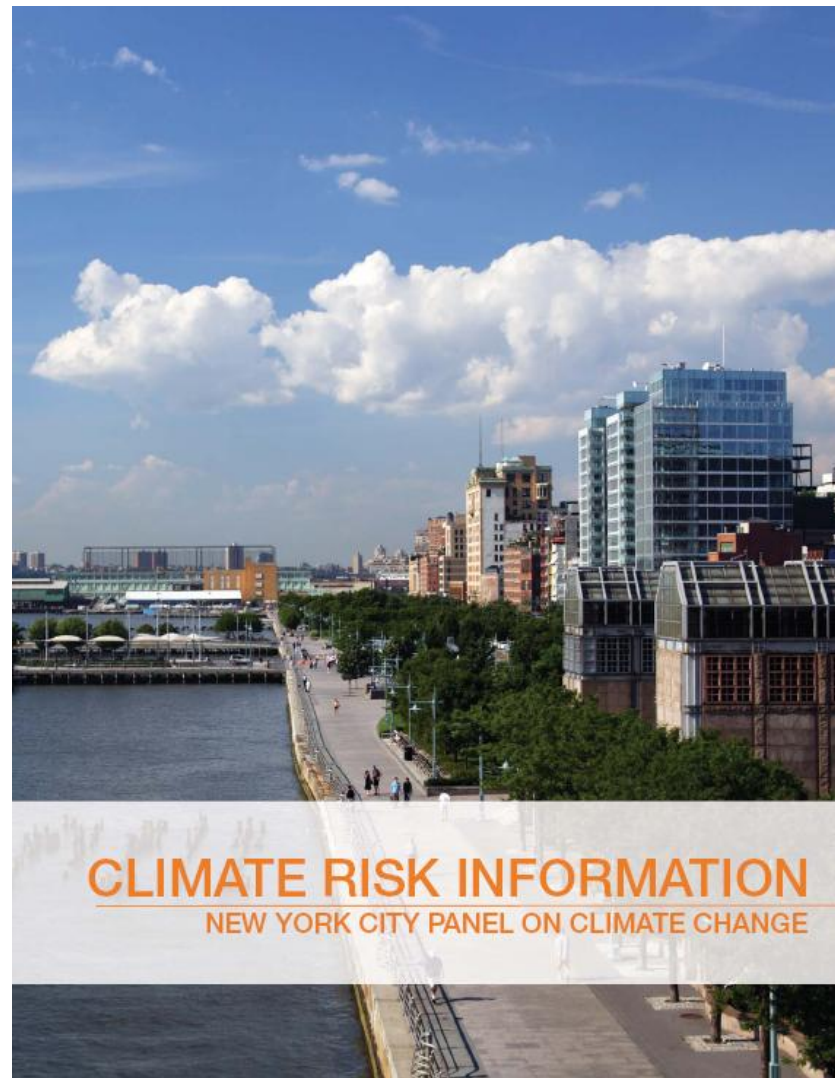
Adaptation is a Process



Climate Risk Information

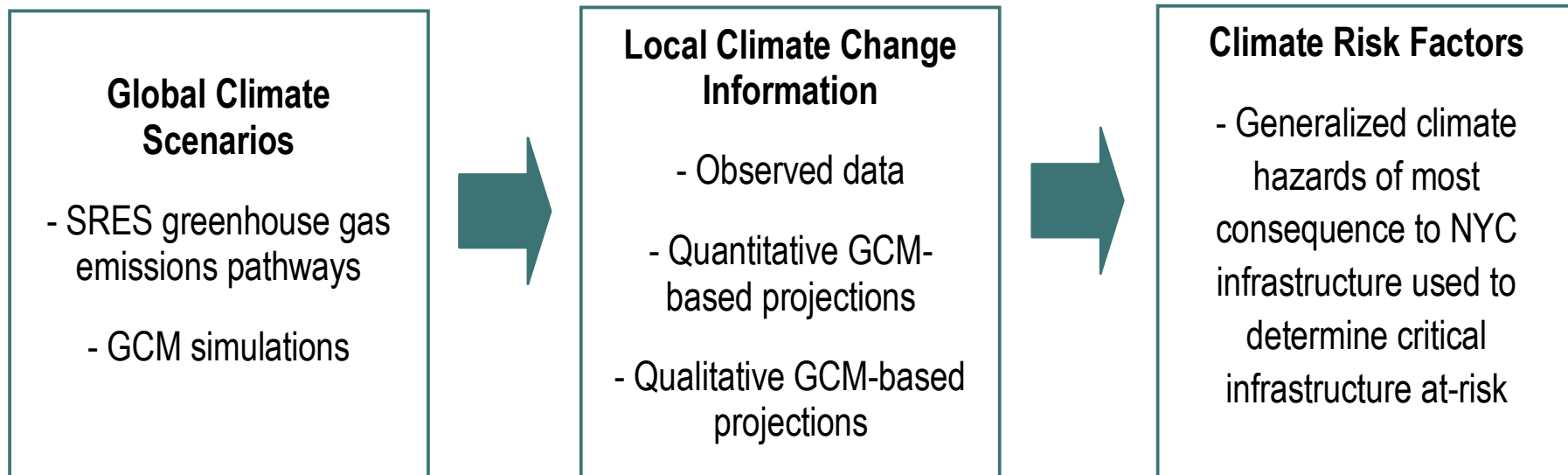
Executive Summary

1. Climate Change Scenarios & New York City
2. Observed Climate
3. Future Projections
4. Infrastructure Impacts
5. Indicators & Monitoring
6. Appendices
7. Glossary
8. References



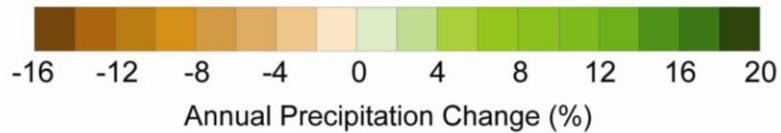
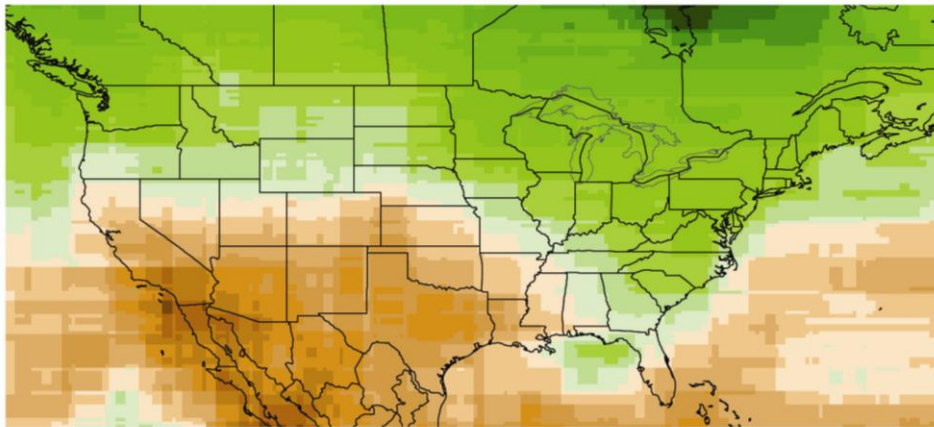
Climate Risk Information

Document Guide

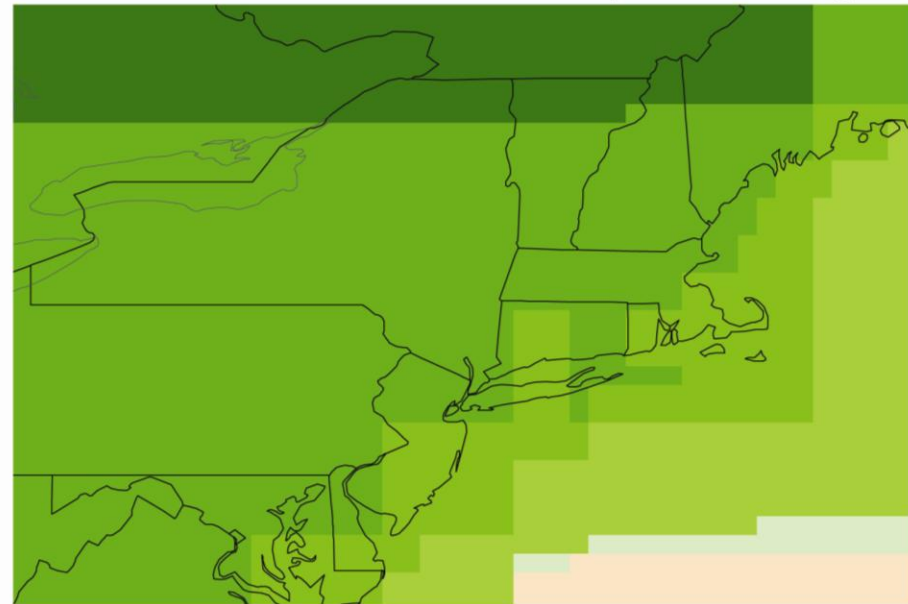


Maps: Annual Precipitation

A1B 2080s 16 GCM Annual Precipitation Change



A1B 2080s 16 GCM Annual Precipitation Change



Climate Risk Information

Table 1:
Baseline Climate and Mean Annual Changes

| | Baseline 1971-2000 | 2020s | 2050s | 2080s |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Air temperature Central range ² | 55 °F | + 1.5 to 3 °F | + 3 to 5 °F | + 4 to 7.5 °F |
| Precipitation Central range ² | 46.5 in | + 0 to 5 % | + 0 to 10 % | + 5 to 10 % |
| Sea level rise³ Central range ² | NA | + 2 to 5 in | + 7 to 12 in | + 12 to 23 in |
| Rapid Ice-Melt Sea Level Rise⁴ | NA | ~ 5 to 10 in | ~ 19 to 29 in | ~ 41 to 55 in |

Figure 1b: Observed Climate & Future Projections

Annual Precipitation

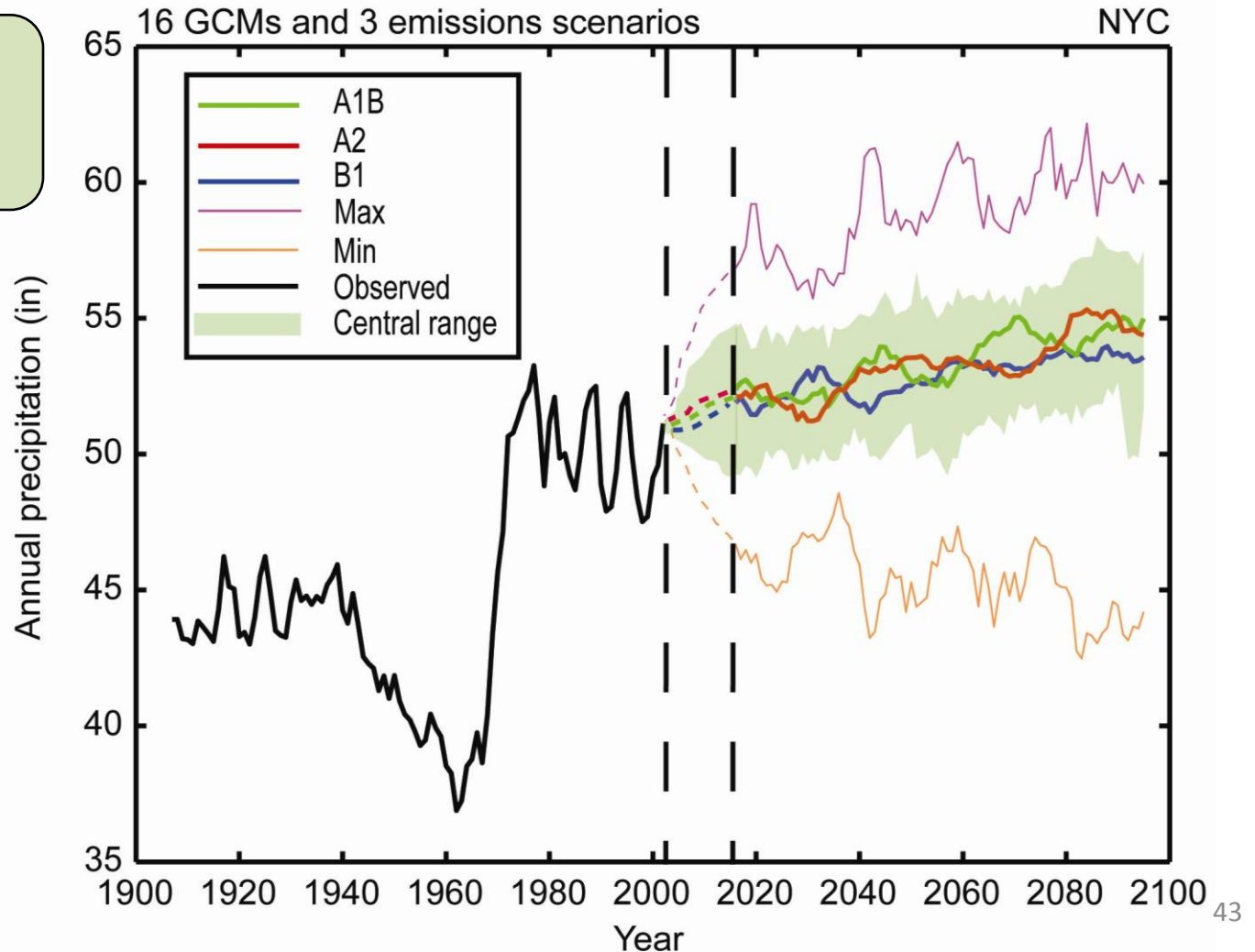
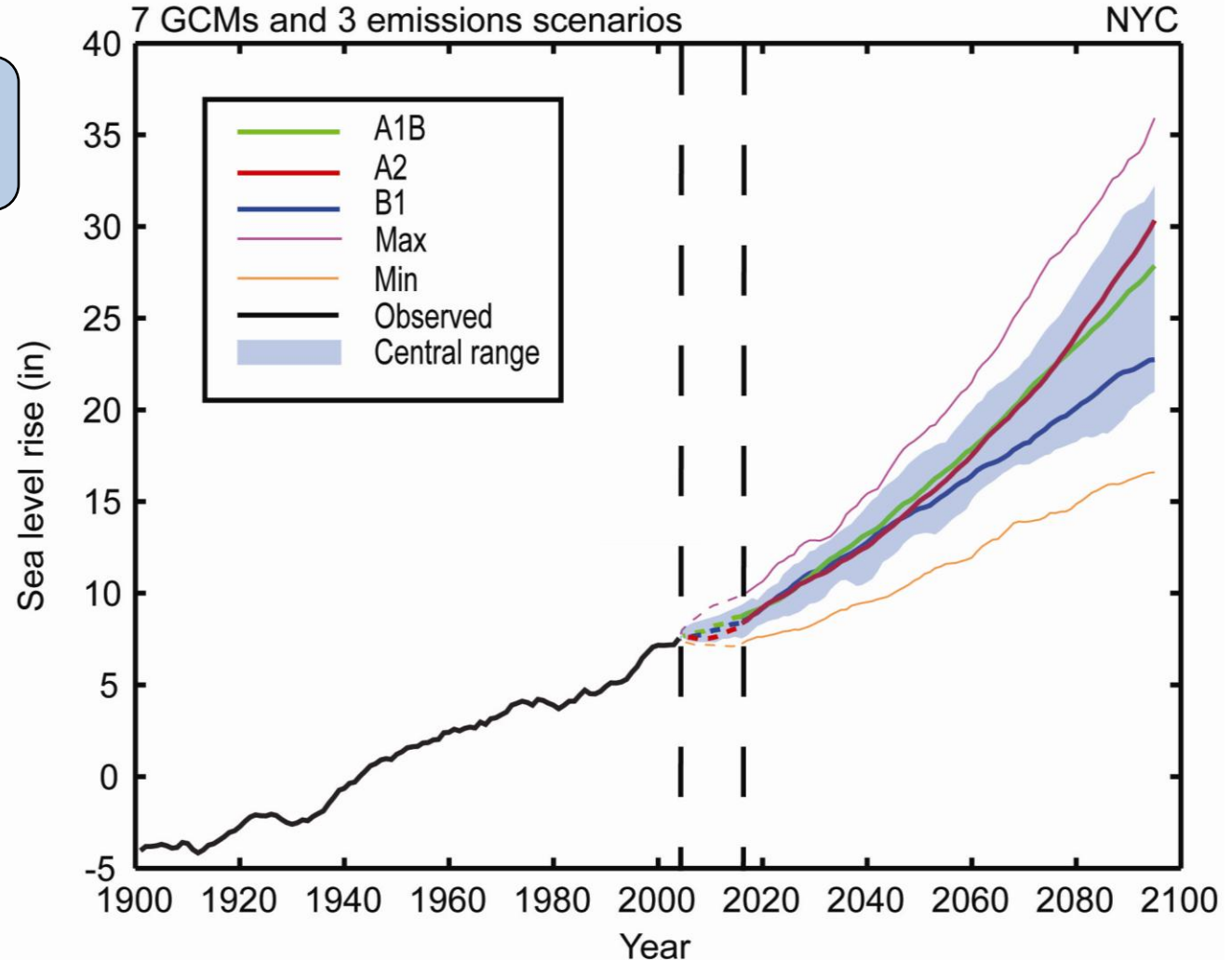


Figure 1c: Observed Climate & Future Projections

Sea Level Rise



Climate Risk Information

Section 4: Infrastructure Impacts

Temperature Risk Factors & Likelihood



Potential Implications for NYC Infrastructure

- More hot days
- Hotter summers
- More frequent & intense heat waves
- Warmer winters
- Fewer & less extreme cold air outbreaks
- Warmer water temperatures

Very likely

Very likely

Very likely

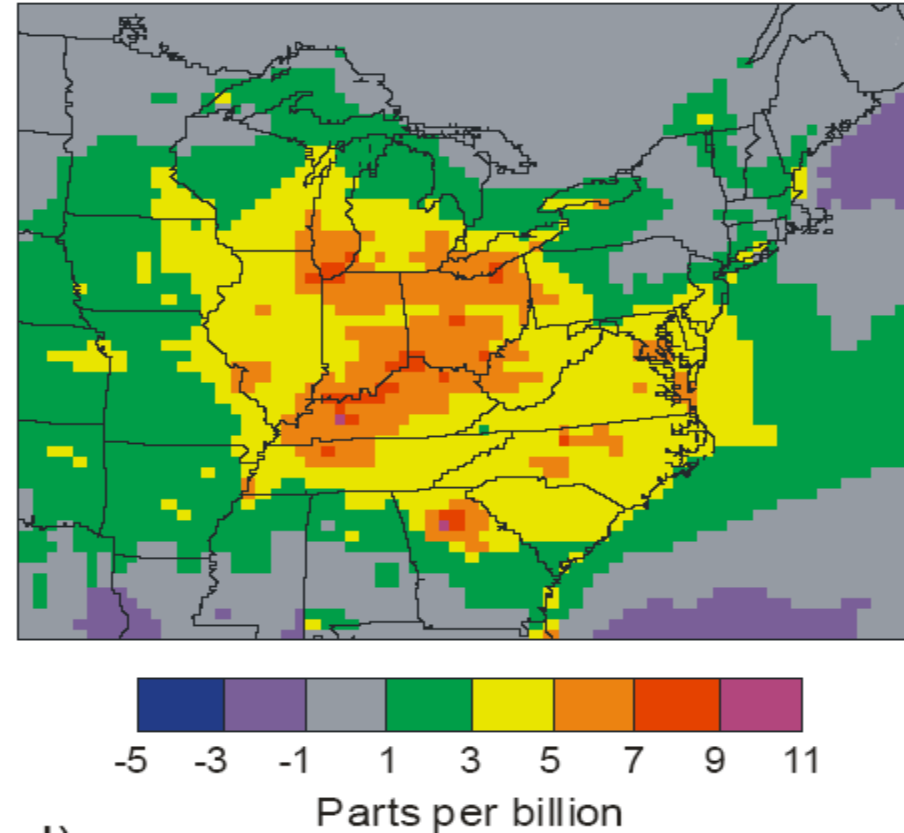
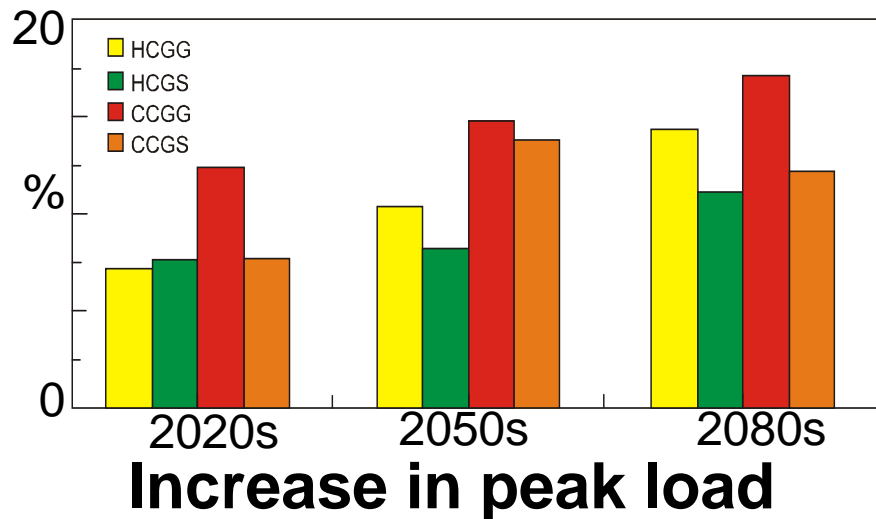
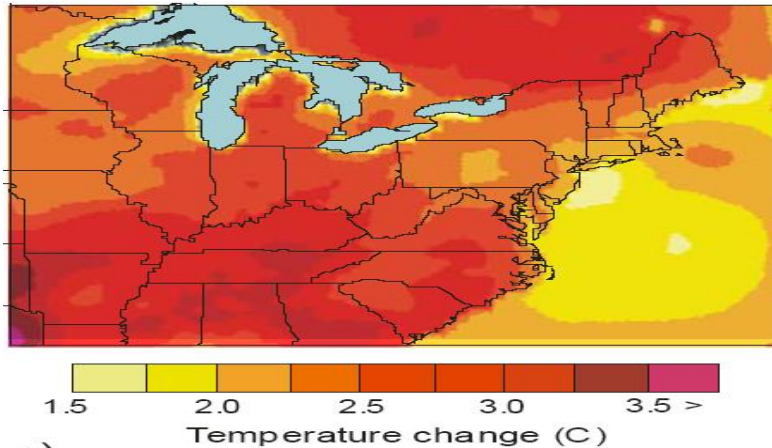
Very likely

Very likely

Very likely

- Degradation of and increased strain on materials
- Increase in peak electricity load, resulting in more frequent power outages
- Increase of demand on HVAC systems

Key Risks and Integrated Impacts Energy, Air Quality and Health



Change in ozone

→ ***Increased incidence of black outs, heat stress, asthma***

Climate Risk Information

Section 4: Infrastructure Impacts

Precipitation Risk Factors & Likelihood



Potential Implications for NYC Infrastructure

- Reduced snowfall
- More frequent & intense rainfall

Likely

Likely

- Increased average annual precipitation
- More frequent and intense droughts

More likely than not

More likely than not

- Increase of street, basement and sewer flooding
- Increase in delays on public transportation and low-lying highways

- Decrease in average reservoir storages
- Degradation of and increased strain on materials

Climate Risk Information

Section 4: Infrastructure Impacts

Precipitation Risk Factors & Likelihood



Potential Implications for NYC Infrastructure

- Higher average sea levels

Extremely likely

- More frequent and intense coastal flooding
- Shortened 100-year flood recurrence period

Very likely

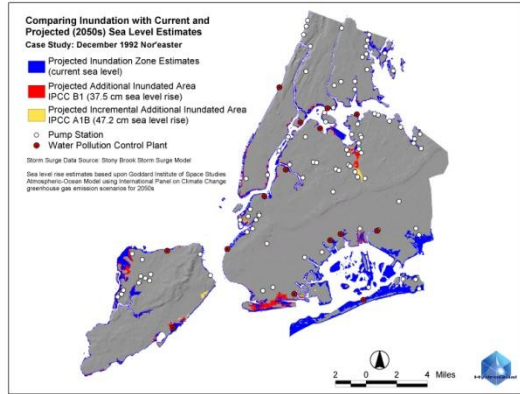
Very likely

- Encroachment of saltwater on freshwater sources and ecosystems
- Increase in pollution released from brownfields & other unprotected waste sites

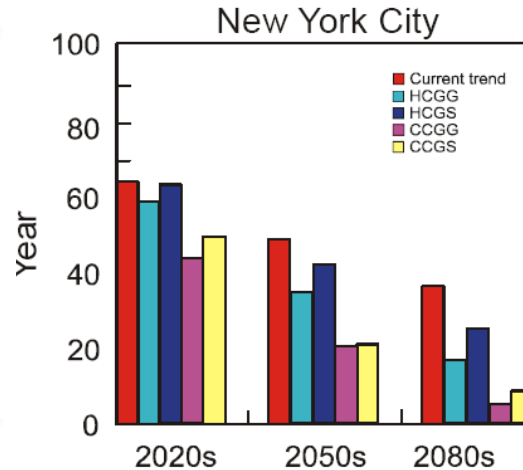
- Increase in structural damage to infrastructure due to flooding and wave action

Key Risks and Integrated Impacts

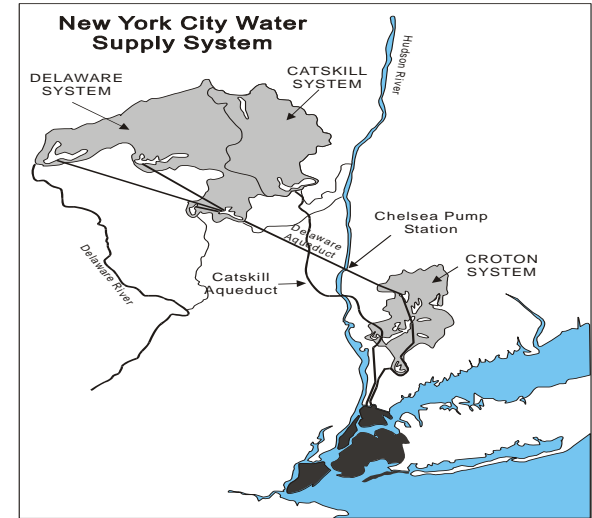
Sea Level Rise, Transportation, and Water



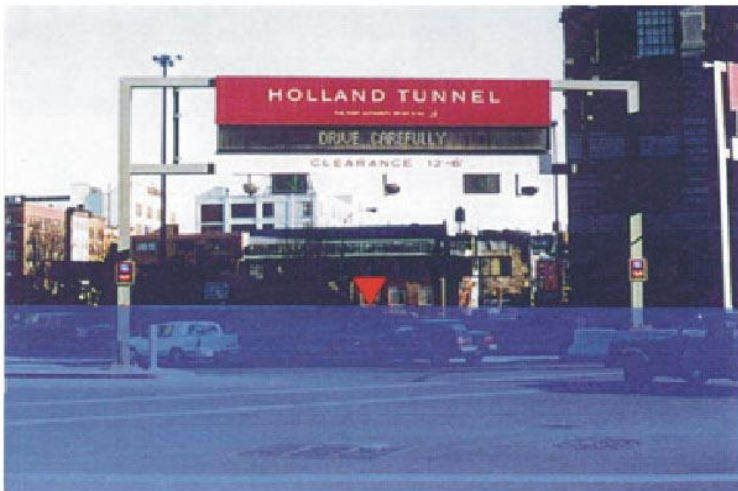
Wastewater Treatment Plants



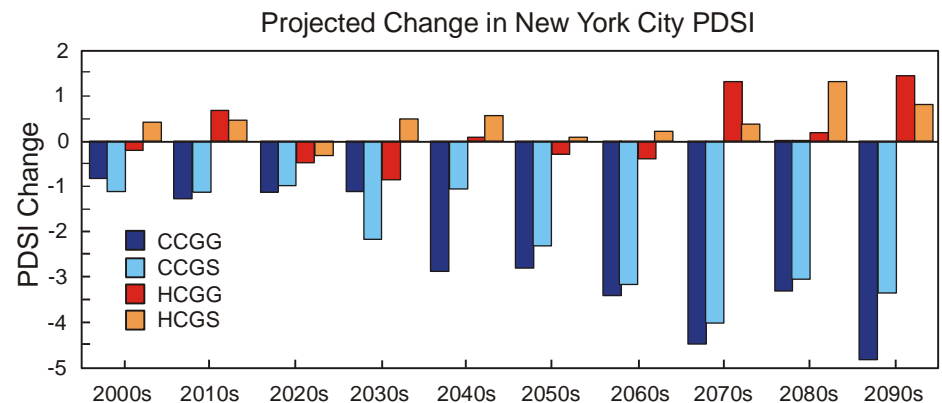
Change in 100-yr coastal floods



Water system



Transportation



Change in droughts and inland floods

Federal Government Can Foster Adaptation

- Set up 'umbrella' organization
 - ~UK Climate Impacts Program
- Conduct broad-scale, ongoing assessments of climate change and responses
 - ~US National Assessment
- Foster process for stakeholder – policymaker – scientist interaction
 - ~ Agency Guidelines; National Adaptation Network
- Provide guidance and data for climate change scenarios
 - ~ National Climate Service
- Coordinate between different levels of jurisdictions: city, state, federal
 - ~ National Standards and Regulations
- **Funding**, including adaptation in stimulus funding

