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SOLUTIONS

Climate Change Policy

Planning and
Election Year Influence

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APA Las Vegas
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Climate Change, Planning & Planners

- Why planners need to be involved
- The new APA position on climate change
- Influencing action
 - Federal
 - State
 - Local
 - Within the planning community

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Why Planners Need To Be Involved with Climate Change

- Climate change will significantly affect the communities planners serve and the issues we address.
- Planners are uniquely positioned to play a significant role in mitigating and adapting to climate change.



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Some basics ...

The current state of knowledge related to climate change.

IPCC, Climate Change 2007 Synthesis Report

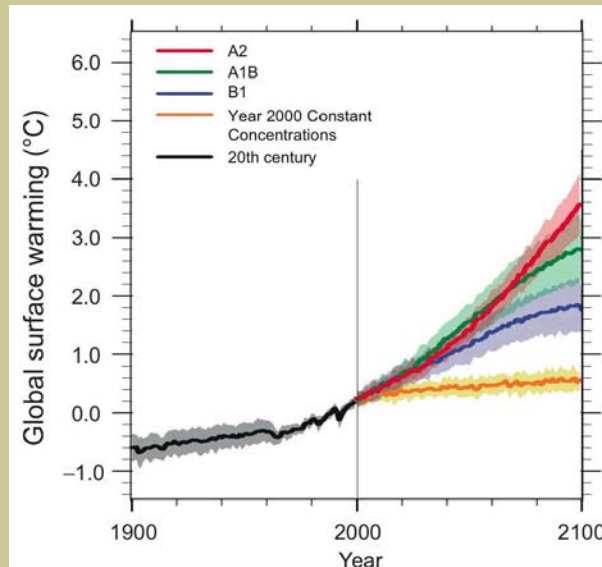
- “Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level.”
- “There is very high confidence that the net effect of human activities since 1750 has been one of warming.”
- “There is high agreement & much evidence that with current ... practices, global GHG emissions will continue to grow over the next several decades.”



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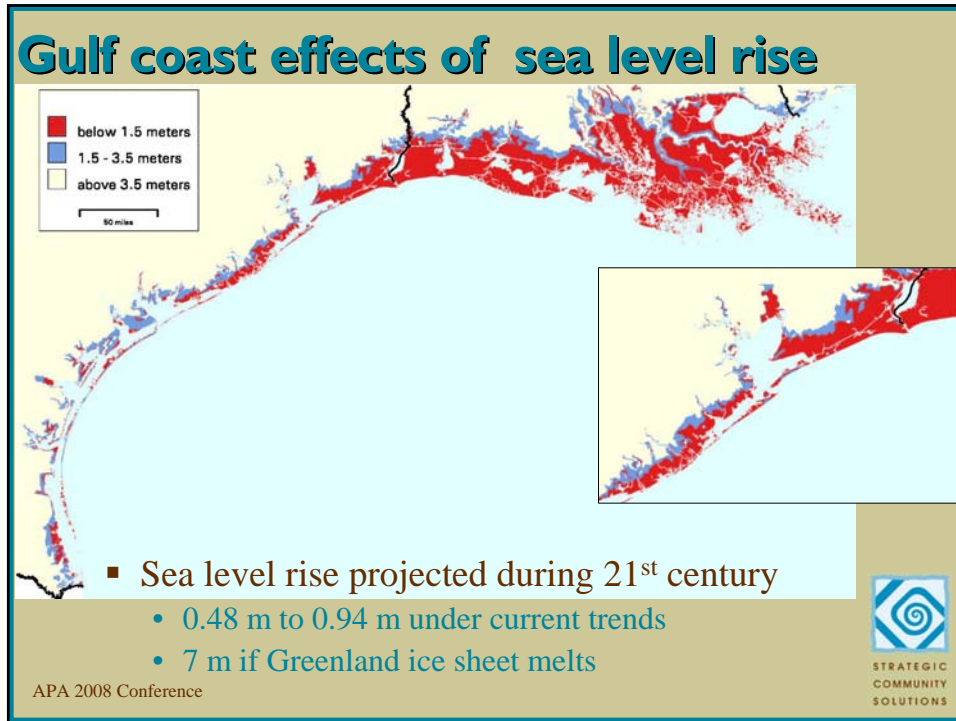
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Projections for “business as usual”



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We're uniquely positioned ...

- Technical expertise in relevant issue areas & in connections between issues
- Expertise in designing processes to engage, build consensus among diverse interests & stakeholders
- Responsibility to advise elected officials & other policy-makers
- “On the ground” nationwide

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The new APA Policy Guide on Climate Change

Adopted Sunday by the APA Board of Directors!

Policy Guide Outline

1. Introduction, Findings, Core Principles
2. Planning to Reduce Climate Change
3. Mitigating Climate Change
4. Adapting to Climate Change

Also ... Sources, Definition of Terms,
Appendix (implementation, roles
planners can play, etc.)



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Policy Guide Outline

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Planning to Reduce Climate Change

1. Emission reduction goals & planning
2. Regions & communities
3. Natural areas & open space
4. Agricultural activities
5. Transportation system
6. Water & energy systems
7. Research, education & communications

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Mitigating Climate Change

1. Greenhouse gas emissions
2. Land use
3. Vehicles
4. Renewable energy
5. Green buildings

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Adapting to Climate Change

1. Preparing for climate change impacts
2. Responding to climate change impacts

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Future Products

- Updated Policy Guide
- Targeted pieces for specific audiences
- Materials on implementation
- Further updating over time
 - As science improves
 - As experience grows
 - As federal policies & funding are decided

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**Influencing
Action**

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What does this mean to me?

At the Federal Level

- Policy Guide is the official position of the APA organization
- Use in discussion & advocacy on legislation
- Share relevant sections with legislators
- Establish APA leadership role among professional and interest organizations involved nationally

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At the State Level

- Share relevant sections with Governors, State legislatures, state agencies
- To support specific legislation
- As planning input for state-level climate change action plans
- Establish APA leadership role among professional and interest organizations in your state

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At the Local Level

- As the basis for education of elected & appointed officials & citizens
- To support efforts to include climate change in municipal, county, regional plans
- To support action on local initiatives
- For planning leadership within your community or region

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Within the Planning Community

- Share information about science & policy issues
- Basis for Chapter and Section programs, policies, training sessions, communications
- Starting point for additional discussion & sharing of 'best practices' for action




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**Making great
communities
happen ...**

... means planners should use their
expertise to take a leadership role on
this critical issue



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**The Climate
Change Policy
Guide gives
planners a basis for
action and a tool for
influence.**

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