



EPA's Climate Change Adaptation Resource Center (ARC-X): Responding to the Needs of Local Communities

**Presentation for
EPA/CETESB/US Consulate Sao Paulo Event**

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September 1, 2021



EPA's Goal in Support of Local Communities

Build and strengthen the capacity of
all 40,000 communities and *all 574 tribes* across the nation
to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to the impacts of climate change.



Central Elements of EPA's Efforts

- EPA is supporting its partners by providing:
 - ✓ **Training**: increasing awareness of ways climate change may affect their ability to implement effective programs
 - ✓ **Tools and technical assistance**: providing necessary data, information, tools and technical assistance
 - ✓ **Financial incentives**: supporting climate-resilient investments in communities across the country



Some Communities are Already Acting: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

- Redesigned and upgraded the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plan in Boston Harbor (1989-1998)
- \$3.8 billion investment!
- Anticipated impacts of climate change and sea level rise over lifetime of the facility (2050)
- Raised key portions of the facility by 2 feet in anticipation of future increases in sea level





Many Communities Are Still Struggling to Adapt

- Particularly challenging for middle- to smaller-sized communities
- The challenges:
 - ✓ Often lack technical expertise and experience with adaptation
 - ✓ Limited resources to devote to adaptation
 - ✓ Overwhelmed by huge volume of information about climate adaptation, much of which is irrelevant to their community
 - ✓ Challenging to integrate available information into a single package that will provide them with a complete recipe for how to evaluate and prepare for the risks posed by climate change

“We don’t need any more stinkin’ tools. What we need is the technical assistance to understand which tools are the right ones for us to use given the issues of concern to us, and the technical assistance to understand how to use the tools.”



EPA's Climate Adaptation Resource Center (ARC-X) Meets These Challenges.

Unlike any other resource currently available to the public.

www.epa.gov/arc-x



EPA's Adaptation Resource Center (ARC-X): Responding to the needs of local communities

- EPA's Adaptation Resource Center (ARC-X) is an interactive resource to help **local government officials** effectively deliver services to their communities even as the climate changes.
- Using the ARC-X, decision makers can obtain an integrated package of information ***tailored specifically to their needs.***
- Once users select the areas of interest to them, they will find information about:
 - ↪ the risks posed by climate change to the issues they care about
 - ↪ adaptation strategies they might consider implementing
 - ↪ case studies illustrating how other communities have successfully adapted to those risks
 - ↪ tools to replicate the successes of other communities (**the relevant tools & technical support!**)
 - ↪ available training
 - ↪ sources of funding
 - ↪ EPA contacts & state websites



State-Level Versions of the ARC-X System

- ARC-X is a national system (to share information across all 40,000 communities in all 50 states)
- Unable to do “deep dive” into any one state
- Fostering development of state-level versions by “host universities”
 - ✓ **Provide code and content *free of charge***
 - ✓ **Provide technical support**
- Examples of systems being developed:
 - ✓ Indiana (<https://eri.iu.edu/erit/index.html>)
 - ✓ New York & Puerto Rico
 - ✓ Virginia
 - ✓ Louisiana
- **Opportunity to share with CETESB & Sao Paulo!**



Demonstration of the ARC-X