

At the meeting, brief introductions were made and Rich Miller, Director of the OEP, outlined the goals for the meetings. After introductions, Rachael Shenyo, the UConn Sustainability Coordinator, gave a 9 minute PowerPoint presentation covering the topic of climate change adaptation as it pertains to UConn.

The group of participants was then split into two groups for dynamic brainstorming sessions with facilitators Joe McDougald and Syma Ebbin, to discuss economic, research, and outreach priorities that could define UConn's future leadership role in climate change adaptation. Participants were then asked to review all notes generated by the discussion and informally "vote" on the ones they felt were most important.

The OEP has reviewed the notes and tallied the information. That summary is found below:

Categories for Prioritization:

We found that most of the ideas fell into one of several broad categories for development of action items. We are presenting the information, therefore, along the lines of the categories apparent through the information. They are, in no particular order:

- Policy Development/ Risk Management and Emergency Preparedness
- Research Priorities/ Adverse Impact and Opportunity Assessment
- Tools/ Resources/ Programs
- Community Outreach

Recurring Themes:

There were several recurring themes, which should become apparent when you start reviewing the information. Some of the most important themes recognized by the group included:

- A desire for regional economic sustainability programs that prioritize use and promotion of local resources
- The need for regional and state land-use decisions, energy policies, and health programs to be informed by scientific and economic expertise; and for there to be centralized mechanisms for UConn to be more involved in providing that expertise to regional communities
- More layperson translations of scientific findings and recommendations for the public
- A strong interest in regional climate change impact analysis and monitoring of affected terrestrial habitats, agricultural programs, and watersheds/ ocean habitats
- An overarching request for outreach to individuals and groups at all levels of statewide communities, including between campuses and universities, k-12 education, PTAs, planning and zoning boards, economic development boards, religious organizations, and emergency services; for educating the public about the realities of climate change.

The single most important recurring underlying themes were the concepts of empowerment of decision-makers, and the education of the public; on the issues that will impact them