



Presented by Rachael Shenyo  
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# DEVELOPING A CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION LEADERSHIP STRATEGY FOR UCONN

# Goals of presentation:

- Overview of reason for this discussion
- Overview of known regional climate challenges
- Existing UConn and regional expertise
- Short-term goals for these meetings
- Questions and considerations for brainstorming session



- *... and along the way, I will be sharing some entries from the Fall 2011 Sustainable Depictions Art Competition for your enjoyment*



# Climate Change Adaptation: Why is the timing right for us?

- Renewed Presidential Commitment to CAP
- Previous Focus on mitigation in CAP
- Current events: projections vs. actual observed CO<sub>2</sub> levels
- Increased demand for leadership roles in this field
- Opportunity to leverage UConn's considerable diversity in expertise
- Chance for increased outreach to regional communities



# Adaptation Vs. Mitigation: What is the difference?

- *Mitigation* has primarily dealt with local, regional, national, and international strategies for *reduction of greenhouse gases* correlated with global warming and subsequent climate change.

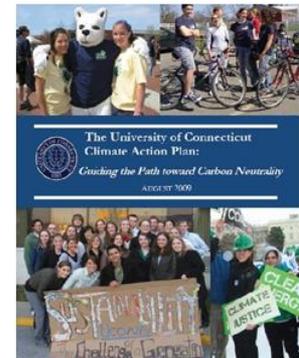
Section 3:

## Emissions Reduction Strategies



## The University of Connecticut Climate Action Plan:

Guiding the Path toward Carbon Neutrality  
August 2009



Final Draft: August 31, 2009

# Adaptation Vs. Mitigation: What is the difference cont'd:

*Climate Change Adaptation* is defined as the:

- *identification of human and ecosystem risks posed by current and projected climate change impacts;* and the
- *subsequent development of local, regional, national, and international strategies*
- *to monitor the effects of climate change* and
- *mitigate or prevent associated risks and damages.*



# [A few] Projected and Current Climate Change Challenges for New England:

## Effect of Climate change:

- Doubling or tripling of annual days over 90 degrees
- Changing rainfall patterns
- Increased heat/ ozone interaction
- More erratic snowfall
- Sea level rises
- Change in forest type

## Projected to impact:

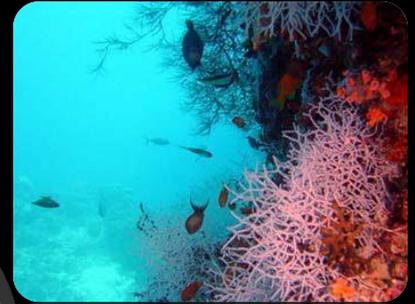
- Health/ agriculture/ electricity usage
- Flooding/ droughts/ storm water/ agriculture
- Health, agriculture
- Economic impacts, water table
- Coastal habitat and species disruptions
- Terrestrial habitat disruptions/ loss; agriculture

# University of Connecticut Expertise:

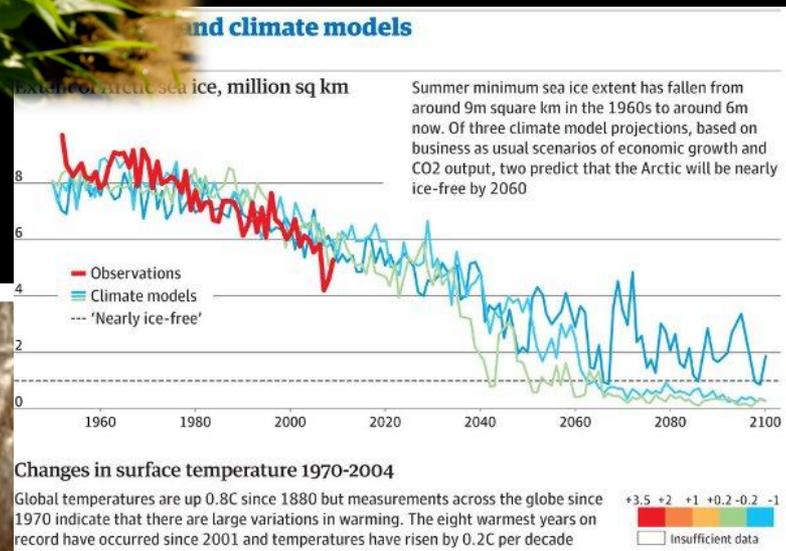
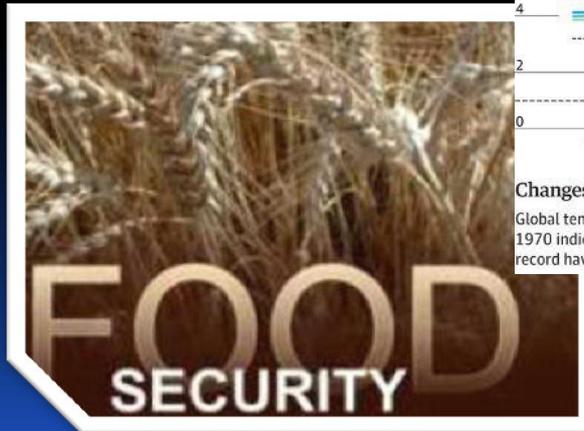
\*\*See handouts for a short list of the kind of expertise we have at UConn, and the kind of expertise we have in this room\*\*



Agricultural research and extension



Biodiversity and Ecological Adaptation



Climate and impact assessment and monitoring

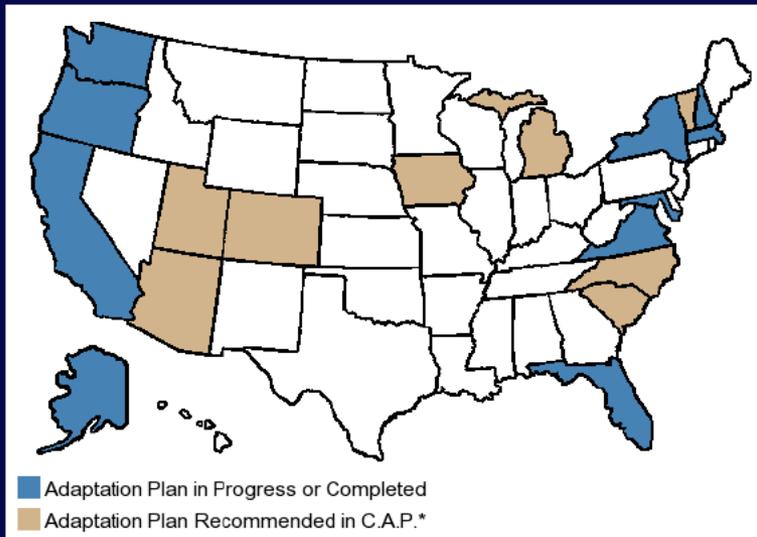
# Goals for these meetings:

- **Goal One: Define what Climate Change Adaptation Leadership at UConn could and should look like**
  - *Leadership at local, regional, national, international level- where, what, how should we prioritize?*
- **Goal Two: Fit that definition into existing framework of University Expertise**
  - *How do we leverage current diversity of experience?*
- **Goal Three: Use this information to develop a section of actionable items for the existing CAP**
  - *How do we encourage and assure continued research, collaboration, outreach, and action on this theme at all levels of University leadership?*



# What other comparable Universities are involved in:

## States with Adaptation Plans



Source: Pew Center on Global Climate Change

Borrowed from Professor Anyah's class presentation on Adaptation

## Confronting Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast



### SCIENCE, IMPACTS, AND SOLUTIONS

Prepared by the Northeast Climate Impacts Assessment Synthesis Team:

Peter C. Frumhoff  
James J. McCarthy  
Jerry M. Melillo

Thank you for attending this important meeting today

