DEVELOPING A CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION LEADERSHIP STRATEGY FOR UCONN

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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 CO2 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.
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.
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
Thank you for attending this important meeting today