

The Economics of Extreme Events; the Case for Action

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NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup
Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup

Gulf of Maine Climate Network Orono, ME September 11, 2013

Back in 2007



**Former Governor
John Lynch**

Please form a Task
Force to address
Climate Change

SURE!



**Commissioner
Tom Burack**

NH Climate Change Task Force was formed



To address climate change in New Hampshire



Their initial focus was on
reducing green house gas emissions





**Commissioner
Tom Burack**

Sherry, help the
Task Force
understand why
we have to include
adaptation

SURE!



Southwestern NH – October 2005



Central NH - May 2006



Eastern NH - April 2007



Deerfield Flooding

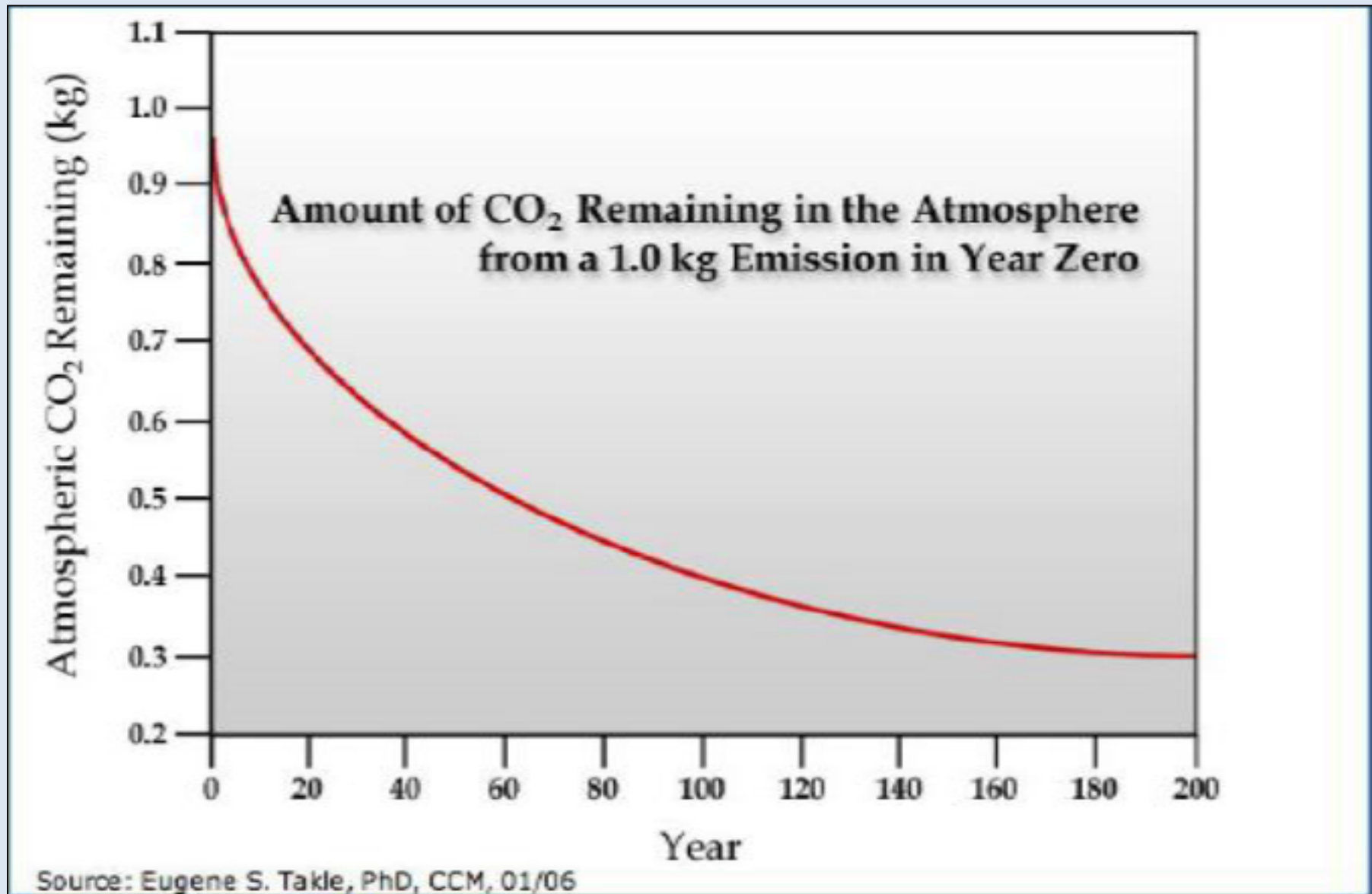
April 23, 2007



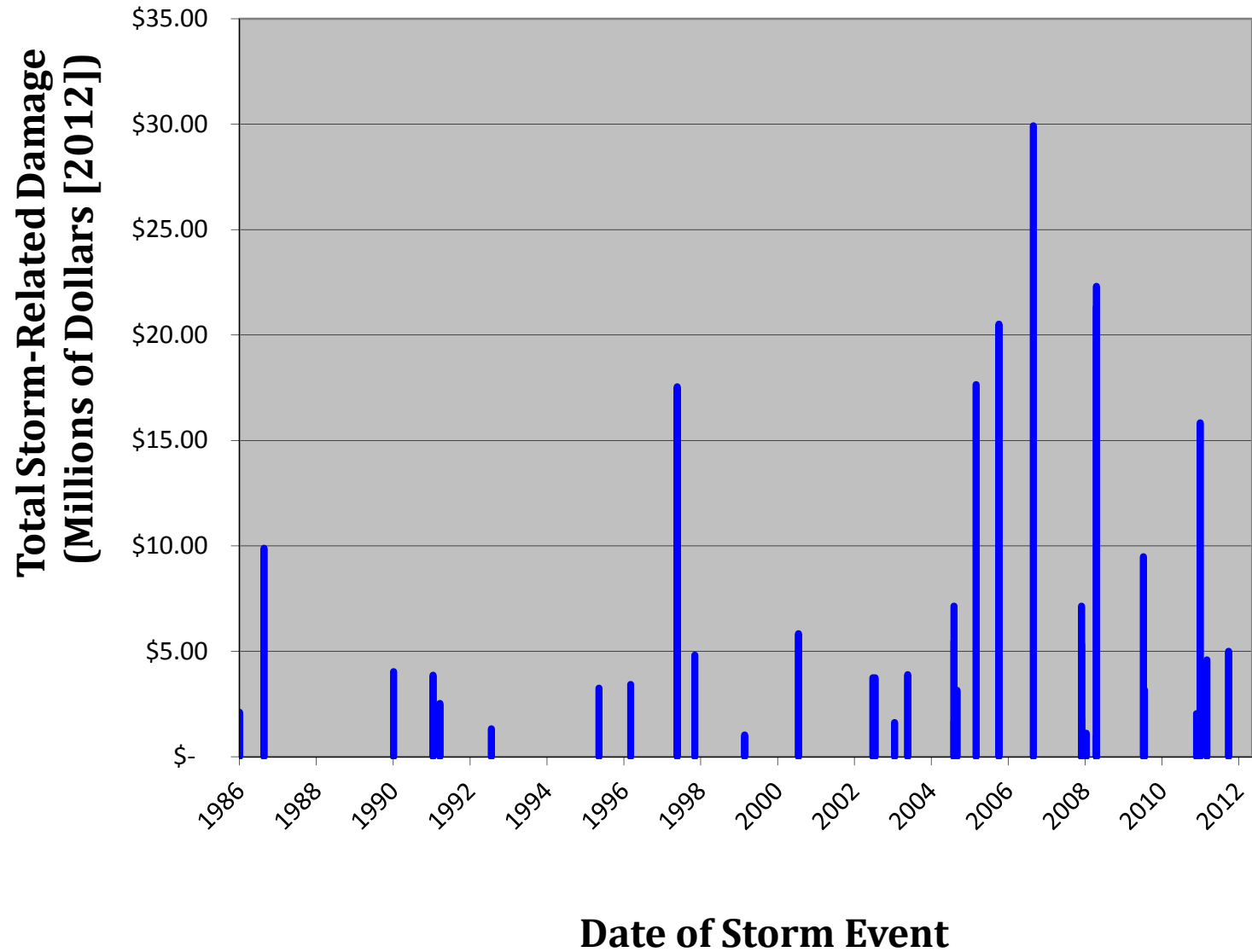
VT and Upper Valley July 2007



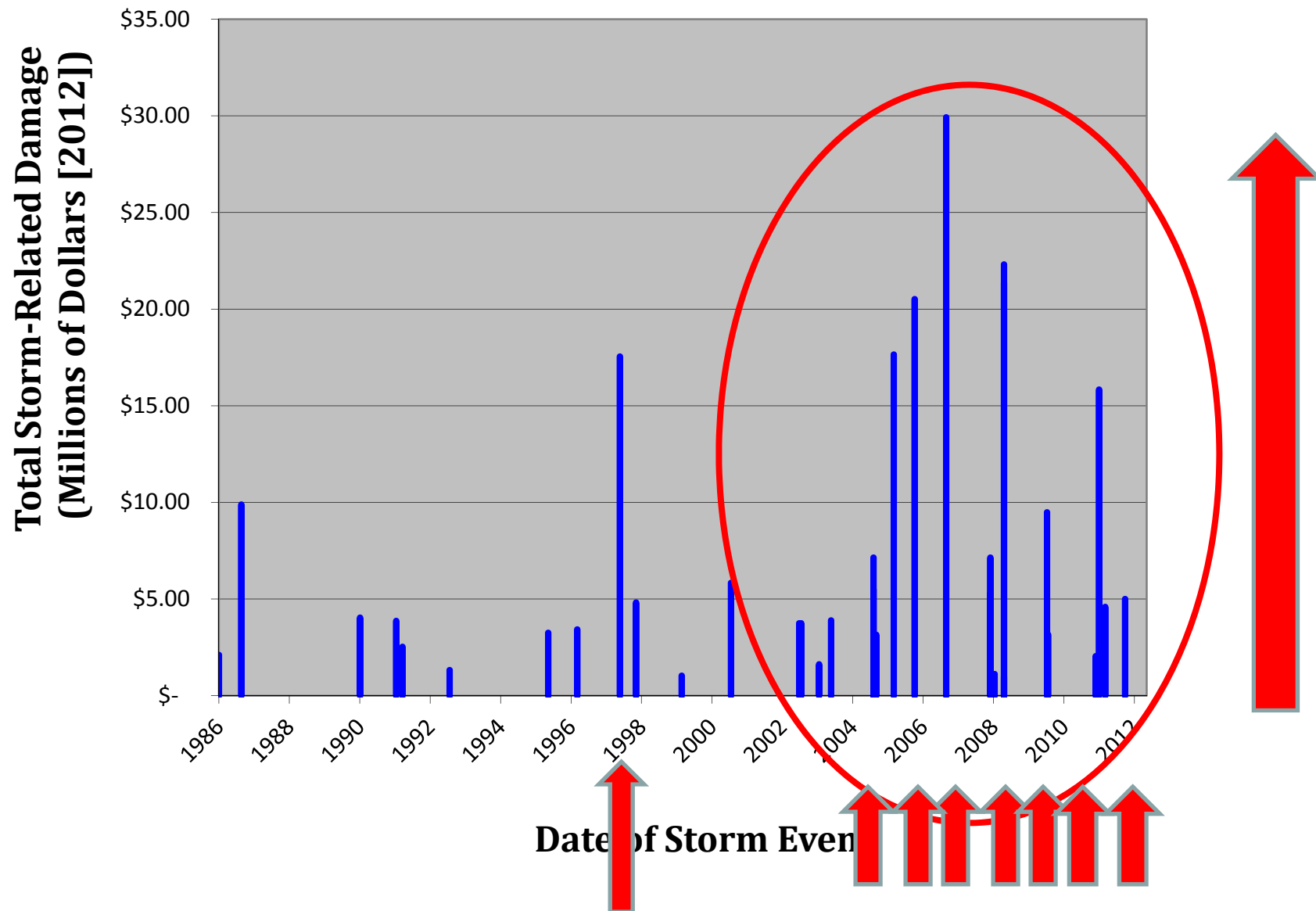
CO₂ Persists in the Atmosphere



Cost of Extreme Weather in New Hampshire (Millions \$2012)



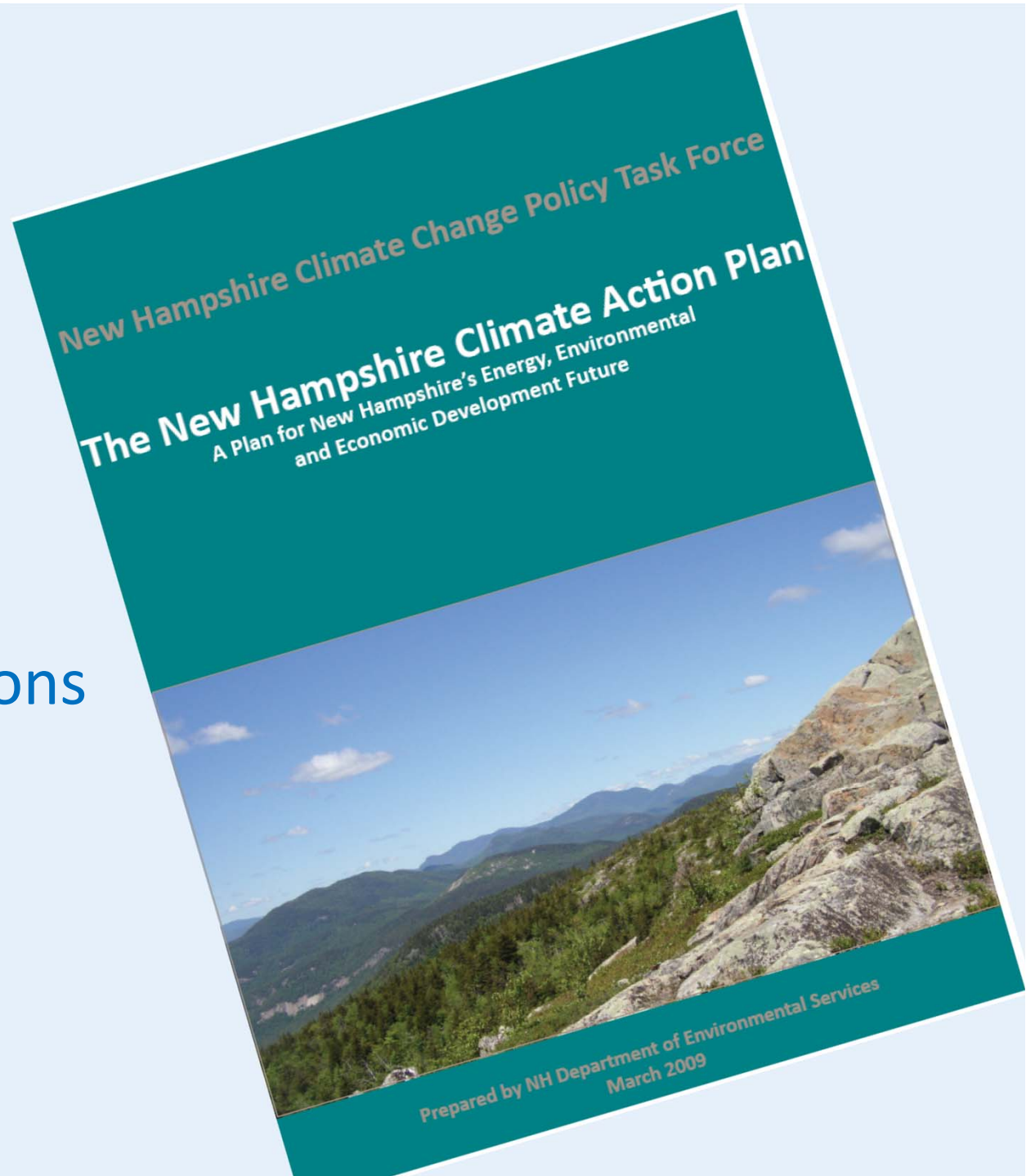
Cost of Extreme Weather in New Hampshire (Millions \$2012)



Talking about
Costs
works!

67 recommendations

8 focused on
ADAPTATION!!!



Back on the Seacoast...

In the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary

Climate Ready Estuaries Project

Utilized **COAST** model

(Coastal Adaptation to Sea Level Rise Tool)

Cost Benefit Analysis – Impacts to Critical Assets

Major findings of study:

→ Money invested to protect assets was **less than**
cumulative projected damages

→ Not all adaptation actions are necessary **NOW**
Phased approach will work!

Investments in Adaptation

It's not a question of **IF** we'll pay to adapt

It's a question of **WHEN** we'll pay

We can plan ahead & get
where we want to go

We can incur damages, clean up
the mess & live with the consequences

Anticipatory Adaptation

Green Roof Programs
in urban areas

Help Address:

- storm water runoff
- urban heat island effect
- regional warming due to climate change

OR

\$1.00

\$4.00

Reactionary Adaptation





If not now,
When?
If not today,
Then,
What happens tomorrow?