

SUSTAINABLE COASTAL DEVELOPMENT

Goal 1: *Healthy coastal economies that include working waterfronts, an abundance of recreation and tourism opportunities, and coastal access for all citizens.*

Rewritten as long-term outcome:

Coastal communities and industries will have healthy economies that include working waterfronts, an abundance of recreation and tourism opportunities, and coastal access for all citizens.

Leads for Discussions: Jim Falk, Tom Murray, Stephanie Showalter

Marine resources and coastal amenities sustain local and national economies through fisheries and aquaculture, seafood processing, trade, energy production, tourism, and recreation enterprises. Urban ports and waterways continue to accommodate expanding international trade, staging areas for off-shore industries, growth in tourism and recreational boating, and changes in fishing fleets. At the same time, changing development patterns along the coast are threatening to displace traditional water-dependent industries and cut off water and beach access for coastal residents. Vacant industrial buildings and obsolete infrastructure facilities can be recaptured for new marine enterprises, public access, and planned mixed-use developments that bring enjoyment to residents and visitors alike. Sea Grant's long-standing relationships with coastal communities and industries make it ideally suited to provide information, tools, and techniques to support working waterfronts, responsible energy development, the development of accessible recreation and tourism activities, and adoption of sustainable development practices.

Strategies

- Support research and outreach activities that provide local communities with information and techniques to help them enhance their waterfront-related economic activities such as commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture, tourism, and energy and port development, without diminishing the long-term health of the natural coastal environment.
- Support local, regional, and national efforts to preserve and increase public access to the nation's beaches and waterfronts through assessment of access needs, analysis of legal issues, and technical assistance.
- Use Sea Grant extension and education capabilities to engage coastal communities in planning processes that support the efforts of community leaders to identify and pursue sustainable economic development policies and programs.

Goal 2. Coastal communities that make efficient use of land, energy and water resources and protect the resources needed to sustain coastal ecosystems and quality of life.

Rewritten as long-term outcome:

Coastal communities make efficient use of land, energy and water resources and protect the resources needed to sustain coastal ecosystems and quality of life.

Leads for Discussions: David Hart, Marty Jaffe, Mike Spranger

The biggest challenge facing many coastal cities and towns today is how to manage growth in ways that do not diminish the health of the ecosystems these communities depend on. One way this is reflected nationally and internationally is in the high-level of concern about climate change and its associated effects. To respond to the challenges of growth at a local and regional level, communities are looking for ways to use land and water, generate energy, and dispose of waste that will preserve environmental health and economic vitality. Determining the amount of the land, water, and other natural resources needed to sustain healthy communities is an essential first step in establishing sustainable policies and growth practices. Only when the dimensions of this environmental footprint are identified can coastal communities understand what their carrying capacity is and what will be needed for generations to come. Sea Grant and its university partners are in a unique position to conduct research and develop models and forecasts that will help communities with this process.

Strategies

- Strengthen Sea Grant's research activities and extension capacity to help coastal communities determine the sustainable carrying capacity of their land, water, and other resources through resource assessments, scenario building, modeling, and other techniques.
- Support innovative research on land-use practices and building designs that promote energy and water conservation, coastal-ocean related renewable energy technologies, and the creation of other tools to help communities grow in sustainable ways.
- Work with NOAA's Climate Program Office, coastal programs, and other partners to help communities evaluate their ecological footprints and grow in environmentally sustainable ways.

Goal 3. Coastal citizens, community leaders, and industries that recognize the complex inter-relationships between social, economic and environmental values in coastal areas and work together to balance multiple uses and optimize environmental sustainability.

Rewritten as long-term outcomes:

Coastal citizens, community leaders, and industries recognize the complex inter-relationships between social, economic and environmental values in coastal areas.
and

Coastal citizens, community leaders, and industries work together to balance multiple uses and optimize environmental sustainability.

Leads for Discussions: John Carey, Ross Heath, John Jacob, Kristen Whiting-Grant, Sarah Van der Schalie

According to NOAA's "Population Trends Along the Coastal United States: 1980-2008," coastal counties constitute only 17 percent of the land area of the U.S. (not including Alaska) but account for 53% of the population and are among the most rapidly growing areas in the country. The pressures on our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes resources continue to grow. Citizens and decision-makers have an urgent need for tools that will help them evaluate the implications of land-use changes, coastal development pressures, and increased resource use in approaching the policy and management decisions they face. Regional cooperation and coordinated land-use and watershed planning are essential. Sea Grant's well-established role as a trusted broker among a wide range of interests makes it a key player in providing sound information for decision-makers, convening stakeholders to seek common ground, and facilitating the development and implementation of new coastal policies, plans, management approaches, and consensus-building strategies.

Strategies

- Work with NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management and Coastal Services Center, EPA's Offices of Smart Growth, and other federal, state and local partners to disseminate assessment tools, model plans and ordinances, best management practices, alternative development approaches, and other techniques that will enable the citizens of our coastal zones to develop their coastal economies in environmentally-sound ways.
- Build local capacity to evaluate cost-benefit trade-offs in the coastal zone through a greater emphasis on socio-economic research, impact studies, and other methods of evaluating alternative future scenarios for coastal communities.
- Foster regional cooperation and partnerships among local government officials, community stakeholders, and regional planning organizations to promote sustainable growth plans and strategies that protect local and regional natural resources that will ensure an abundance of these resources is available to serve future generations.