

# Webinar Summary Report: Built Environment, Urban Systems, and Cities National Chapter

## Introduction

The Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4), currently in development, will assess the science of climate change and its impacts across the United States. It will document climate change-related impacts and responses for various sectors and regions, with the goal of better informing public and private decision-making at all levels.

To ensure that the assessment is informed by and useful to stakeholders, engagement activities were planned for many of the 17 National Chapters. These activities provided stakeholders an opportunity to provide input to and exchange ideas with the chapter author team on key message formulation, share relevant resources, and give individual feedback on issues of importance to the chapter topic.

## Webinar Structure

National chapter webinars were organized and hosted by the coordinating lead authors (CLA) and chapter leads (CL) with coordination from NCA4 staff from the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP). Invitations to the webinars were distributed by the hosts, author team, and USGCRP staff to their stakeholder networks.

## Built Environment, Urban Systems, and Cities Engagement Webinar

On March 27, 2017, the NCA4 Built Environment, Urban Systems, and Cities chapter team held a public engagement webinar. The objectives of the webinar were to gather input from stakeholders, including authors of the regional chapters, to help inform the writing and development of NCA4 and to raise awareness of the process and timeline for NCA4.

## Chapter Author Team

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#### *USGCRP Support Staff*

Fred Lipschultz, NCA Regional Coordinator  
Katherine Weingartner, NCA Program Coordinator

## Overview and Topics of Discussion

Katherine Weingartner opened the webinar before introducing Fred Lipschultz, Senior Scientist and Regional Coordinator for the NCA, who gave an overview of USGCRP, the structure of NCA4, and the timeline for its completion.

Keely Maxwell provided information on the development and structure of the current chapter outline which included discussion of:

- Key messages from the Urban Systems, Infrastructure, and Vulnerability chapter of the Third National Climate Assessment
- NCA4 guidance for national chapter development
- The overarching approach to the NCA4 urban chapter
- Section 1: Overview of national “state of the sector” as it relates to climate change
- Section 2: Regional roll-up to national level
- Section 3: National-scale Key Messages

## Key Takeaways

Participants raised questions and provided comments that focused on suggestions for chapter content as well as stakeholder engagement. Key takeaways include:

### Content Suggestions

- Benefits of discussing different opportunities for adaptation and mitigation at different scales in the urban environment, including for buildings, neighborhoods, and larger urban areas
- The importance of evaluating how different populations are vulnerable to different types of risks
- The need to address: (1) the varying adaptation response capacities across cities for adaptation, (2) differences between resiliency and large-scale adaptation - e.g., transformative adaptation, and 3) the challenges associated with metropolitan-level adaptation

### Stakeholder Engagement

- Call participants stressed the importance of addressing the climate change needs of architects and others (e.g., civil engineers) who have to integrate adaptation and mitigation measures into their work
- Participants were very willing to help identify knowledge needs for their industries, particularly in civil engineering and architecture. Those in consulting were also interested to see how they could contribute information and provide support to the chapter. USGCRP staff directed them to this website, where the public can submit ideas, resources, case studies, etc. on an ongoing basis: <http://www.globalchange.gov/content/nca4-outline>.