



5th National Climate Assessment - Summary for the Northeast An EBC Climate Change and Air Committee "Lunch and Learn"

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Virtual Program – Webinar

Program Chair

Diane Mas, PhD, REHS/RS, Chief Resilience & Sustainability Officer, Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.

AGENDA

12:00 p.m. Welcome

- Julie Eaton Ernst, Chair, EBC Climate Change & Air Committee
Climate Resilience Practice Leader, HNTB

Program Introduction

- Diane Mas, PhD, REHS/RS, CC-P, Chief Resilience & Sustainability Officer
Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.

12:10 p.m. Overview of the NCA5

- Ellen Mecray, Regional Climate Services Director, Eastern Region
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

12:20 p.m. Key Messages for the Northeast

- Paulinus Chigbu, Associate Dean for Research, Development and Graduate Education & Professor of Marine Environmental (Fisheries) Science, School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences, University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)
- Erin Lane, Deputy Director
U.S. Department of Agriculture Northeast Climate Hub
- Ellen Mecray, NOAA
- Shaun O'Rourke, Managing Director, Climate Finance, Quantified Ventures
- David Reidmiller, Climate Center Director, Gulf of Maine Research Institute
- Daniel Zarrilli, Special Advisor, Climate and Sustainability and Adjunct Professor of International and Public Affairs, Columbia Climate School
Columbia University

12:35 p.m. **Moderated Discussion**

Moderator: Diane Mas, Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.

1:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

PROGRAM CHAIR

Diane Mas, PhD, REHS/RS, Vice President, Chief Resilience Officer
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Dr. Mas is the Chief Resilience and Sustainability Officer at Fuss & O'Neill, Inc. and focuses on bringing a climate resilience framework to all aspects of Fuss & O'Neill's multi-discipline work across the natural and built environment.

She received her A.B. in Geology from Amherst College, M.S.E. from the Water Resources Program at Princeton University, and Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She has spent nearly 25 years working in the areas of water quality modeling, watershed management, and environmental impact assessment in inland and coastal environments. Her current areas of practice focus on sustainability implementation for businesses, climate change resilience and adaptation for water resources, environmental impact assessment, and the relationship between climate and public health.

SPEAKERS

Paulinus Chigbu, Associate Dean for Research, Development and Graduate Education & Professor of Marine Environmental (Fisheries) Science, School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences
University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)
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Dr. Paulinus Chigbu is University System of Maryland Wilson H. Elkins Professor of Marine Science at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). He has been Director of the NOAA LMRCSC since 2006. Since coming to UMES, he has established numerous programs for research and education in the marine sciences, which he also directs, including the National Science Foundation (NSF) CREST Center for the Integrated Study of Coastal Ecosystem Processes and Dynamics in the Mid-Atlantic Region (CREST-CISCEP) and the NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates site in Marine and Estuarine Science. He is also Project Director of the geoscience bridge program funded by NSF.

Dr Chigbu's primary research interests are fisheries and zooplankton ecology, particularly the influence of variations in climatic factors on water quality and biota, and trophic dynamics in marine and freshwater environments.

Erin Lane, Deputy Director
U.S. Department of Agriculture Northeast Climate Hub
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Erin works for the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station and is the Coordinator for the USDA Northeast Climate Hub. Her passions, and the focus of her work, lay in teamwork and collaborations. She maintains strong relationships with our land grant and other partners, and coordinates projects and activities throughout the Hub. Erin made the recent change in direction to focus on climate change after a career based in fire management. She is also a co-founder, and coordinator, of the North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange serving the fire community to advance the use of relevant fire science to harmonize fire management goals by bringing people together and addressing challenges.

Ellen Mecray, Regional Climate Services Director, Eastern Region
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
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Ellen is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Regional Climate Services Director for the Eastern Region. She focuses on the delivery and interpretation of information using networks across several critical economic sectors including health, fisheries, transportation, agriculture, and energy. In addition to providing climate expertise for her 16-state region, she also served as the Coordinating Chapter Author for the Northeast regional chapter of the U.S. Global Change Research Program's fourth National Climate Assessment, and is a leader for several federal interagency partnerships. Recently, Ellen has applied her interdisciplinary systems-level science to a oneNOAA effort describing User Engagement and its role in product and service delivery.

Shaun O'Rourke, Managing Director, Climate Finance
Quantified Ventures
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Shaun O'Rourke joins Quantified Ventures with more than 15 years of climate leadership in the public, private, non-profit, and academic sectors. Most recently, he was the Managing Director at Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, where he led all program and business development, and was responsible for closing over \$100 million in loans and grants annually.

Shaun was appointed by former Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo as the state's first Chief Resilience Officer and led the development and implementation of the climate resilience action strategy, Resilient Rhody. The strategy resulted in over \$45 million in new, dedicated funding for climate resilience projects during the first four years. Additionally, Shaun worked closely with Rhode Island's congressional delegation and state legislature to advocate for priority projects and direct federal funds for clean energy and climate resilience projects.

Prior to joining Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, Shaun served as the National Green Infrastructure Director at The Trust for Public Land and was Director of Sustainable Design and faculty member at the Boston Architectural College. He has also worked at AECOM in New York City as an Ecological Designer focusing on public sector infrastructure projects and firm-wide promotion of nature-based solutions.

Shaun is passionate about working with municipalities, counties, and states to accelerate implementation of nature-based solutions to solve multiple problems at once. He and his family live at 2100 feet in Northern Vermont and in his free time, Shaun can be found playing in the mountains.

David Reidmiller, Ph.D., Climate Center Director
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Dr. Dave Reidmiller is the Director of the Climate Center at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) where he leads a team focused on delivering climate services to coastal and marine stakeholders. He is currently serving as

Chair of the Department of the Interior's Federal advisory Committee on Climate Adaptation Science and is a member of the National Academies Committee to Advise the U.S. Global Change Research Program. Soon after moving to Maine in mid-2020, Dave was appointed as a climate advisor to the Biden-Harris Presidential Transition Team. Prior joining GMRI, Dave served in a number of climate science policy positions in the federal government, including as Director of the Northeast & Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Centers at the U.S. Geological Survey, Director of the Fourth National Climate Assessment with the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy, and as Chief Climate Scientist at the State Department where he led U.S. negotiations on science and technology for the Paris Agreement. Dave also served as a Fellow in the U.S. Senate working on energy and natural resource issues, as well as a Mirzayan Fellow at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. He received his Ph.D. in atmospheric sciences from the University of Washington, his BA in chemistry from Colgate University, and is a native of Rochester, NY.

Daniel Zarrilli, Special Advisor, Climate and Sustainability and Adjunct Professor of International and Public Affairs, Columbia Climate School
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Daniel Zarrilli is the Special Advisor for Climate and Sustainability at Columbia University where he is supporting the creation of its new, world-leading climate school and advising on pathways to achieve the university's deep decarbonization goals. He joined Columbia University from the NYC Mayor's Office, where he served most recently in the role of Chief Climate Policy Advisor.

With senior climate and resilience appointments from Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Mayor Bill de Blasio over eight years, Daniel positioned New York City as the global leader in the fight against climate change. Notable successes include launching a comprehensive \$20 billion climate adaptation program, aligning the city's greenhouse gas emission reductions with the 1.5C target of the Paris Agreement, divesting the City's pension funds from fossil fuel reserve owners and investing billions into climate solutions, committing to end the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure serving New York City, and launching a ground-breaking program to embed environmental justice into the City's decision-making.

Under his leadership in 2019, New York City released its updated long-term strategic plan, OneNYC 2050, which included bold new actions to confront our climate crisis, address health and wealth inequities, and strengthen our democracy. He also served on NOAA's advisory committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment, concluded a 3-year term on FEMA's National Advisory Council, and advised the State of Louisiana on its 2017 Coastal Master Plan update. He is currently an author on the Fifth National Climate Assessment, a member of the New York Independent System Operator's Environmental Advisory Council, an advisor to the C40 Centre for City Climate Policy and Economy, and serves on the NYC Water Board.

Previously, he was Senior Vice President for Asset Management at the New York City Economic Development Corporation and spent five years with Bechtel Infrastructure Corporation. Daniel is a licensed Professional Engineer in New York, a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and holds an MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from MIT and a BS in Civil Engineering from Lehigh University. He resides in Staten Island with his wife and three children.