

# Change Happens.

Enter:  **RASCL**  
RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE  
COMMUNITIES LEAGUE

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Delaware Sea Grant



## A Snapshot of My Presentation

- My Professional Background
- Delaware at a Glance
- Overview of RASCL
- Strategic Planning Initiative



# Sizing Up Delaware

- Lowest Mean Elevation in U.S.
- 45<sup>th</sup> Most Populous State
- Entire State in Federal Coastal Zone
- Agriculture and Tourism are Main Economic Drivers
- Rampant Development at the Coast
- Land Use and Infrastructure Planning Not Well Coordinated

## Flooding is the Top Hazard in Delaware

-State Hazard Mitigation Plan



# Sea Level Rise

- ▶ Local sea level rise is twice the global average
- ▶ Up to 2 feet of sea level rise projected by 2050\*
- ▶ Up to 400% increase in tidal flooding since 2000<sup>^</sup>



Year	Delaware SLR Planning Scenarios		
	Low	Intermediate	High
2030	0.11 m / 0.36 ft	0.22 m / 0.72 ft	0.33 m / 1.08 ft
2050	0.22 m / 0.72 ft	0.40 m / 1.31 ft	0.58 m / 1.90 ft
2080	0.42 m / 1.38 ft	0.74 m / 2.43 ft	1.11 m / 3.64 ft
2100	0.52 m / 1.71 ft	0.99 m / 3.25 ft	1.53 m / 5.02 ft

\* *Recommendation of Sea-Level Rise Planning Scenarios for Delaware: Technical Report, 2017*

<sup>^</sup> *NOAA 2018 State of High Tide Flooding and 2019 Outlook*



# Coastal Storms



Photos by Maureen Hartman and  
William Bretzger



# Heavy Precipitation Events



- Precipitation is highly variable in Delaware with slight upward trend in Autumn\*
- Nearly every indicator of extreme precipitation is projected to increase^

\* Dan Leathers, State Climatologist

^ Delaware Climate Change Impact Assessment, 2014

## ► RASCL Mission

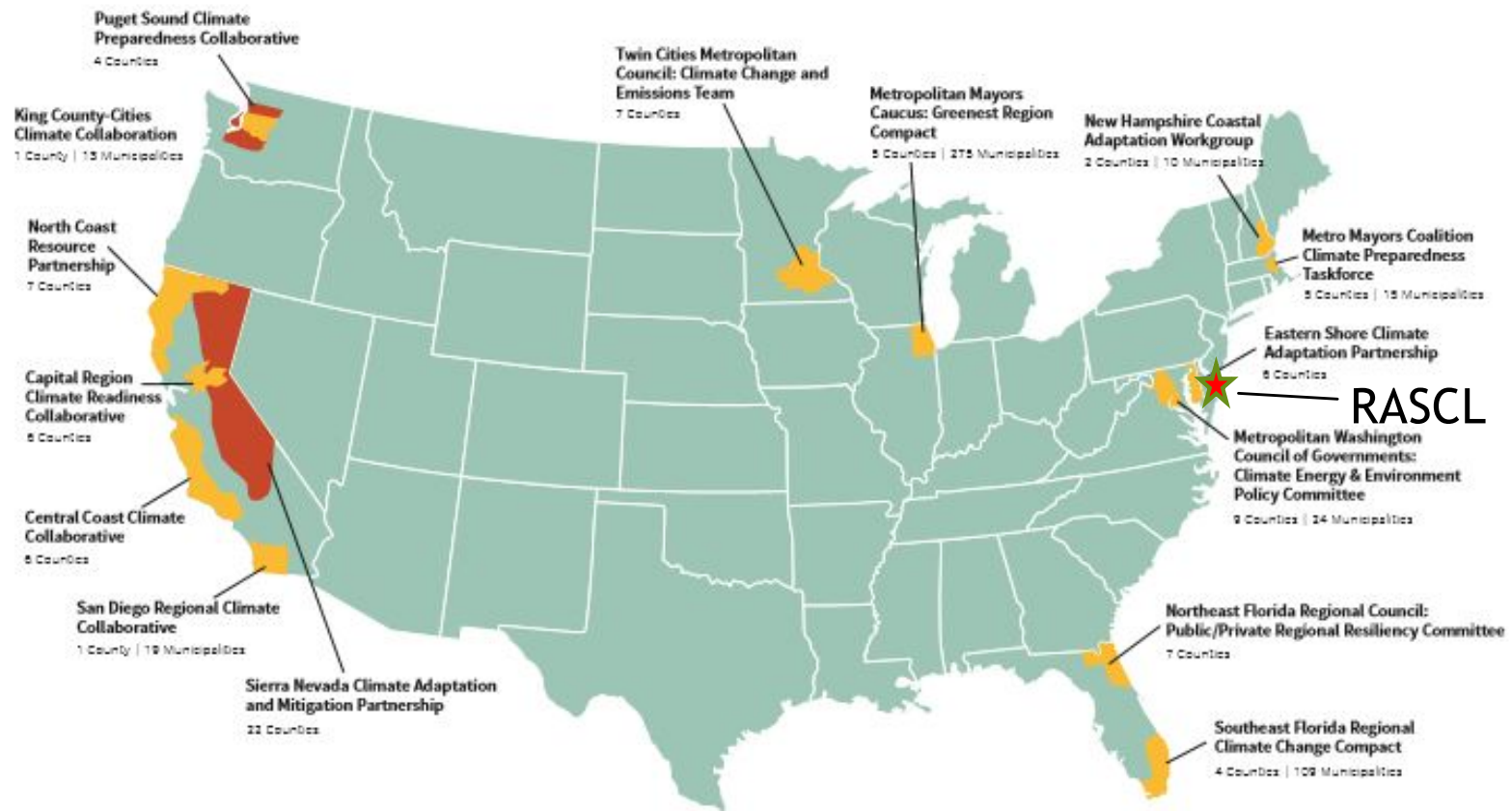
- To accelerate the capacity of all communities in the State of Delaware to become sustainable and resilient

## ► Vision

- Vibrant and prepared communities that thrive in the face of changing environmental conditions



# How Do We Compare to Other Regional Collaboratives?





A member network that promotes capacity building through:

Information Exchange  
Technical Assistance  
Networking Facilitation

Organization Characteristics:

- Administrative and fiscal agent
- Limited funding and in-kind support
- Consensus-based leadership model

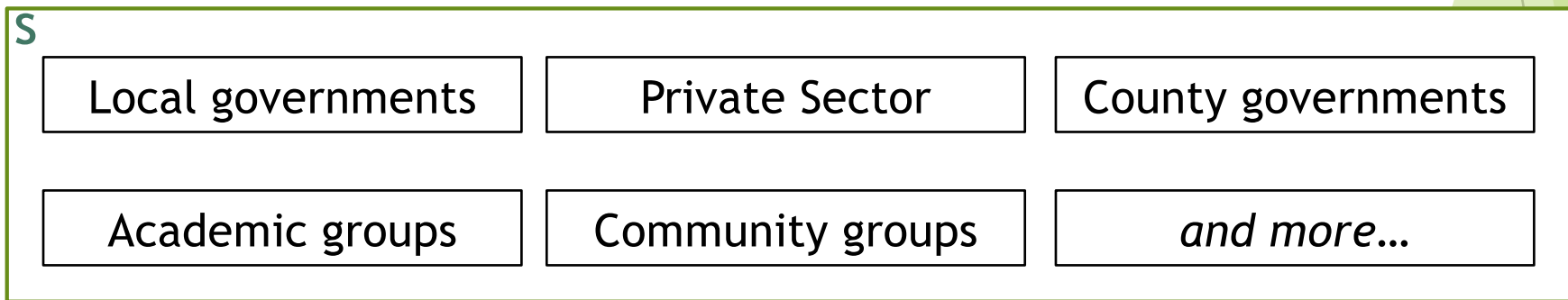


# RASCL Structure

## Members



## Stakeholder



# RASCL Initiatives

## Technical Assistance: Tools

### ► Delaware Database for Funding Resilient Communities



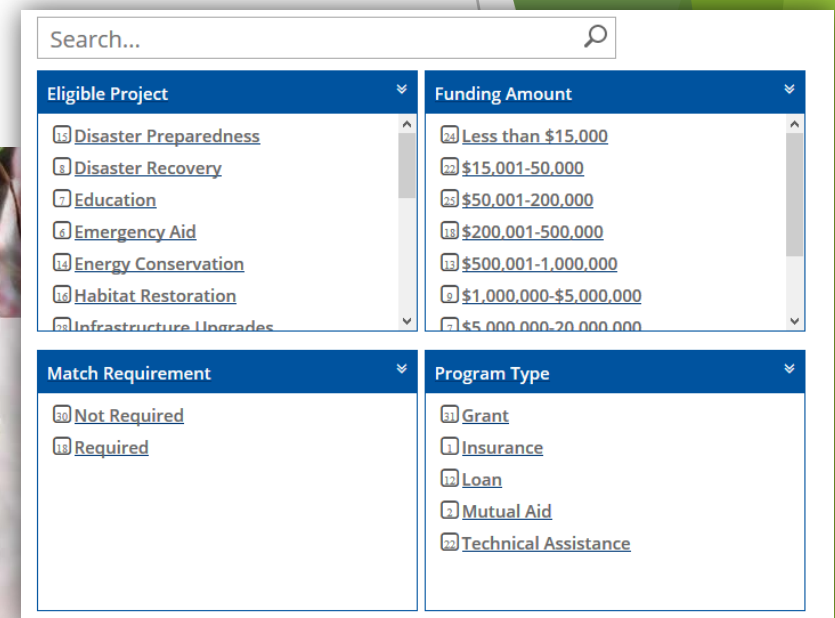
**Resilience Funding Database**

**Delaware Database for Funding Resilient Communities**

The University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration (IPA), with support from Delaware Coastal Programs, has compiled relevant financial assistance programs into a searchable web database that can be used by communities to support climate change adaptation and resilience projects in areas of:

- disaster preparedness
- disaster recovery
- education
- emergency aid
- energy conservation
- habitat restoration
- infrastructure upgrades
- planning
- stormwater management
- vulnerability assessments
- wetlands protection
- and more!

[Click here to visit the Funding Database!](#)



Search...	
<b>Eligible Project</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Disaster Preparedness	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$15,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Disaster Recovery	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15,001-50,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001-200,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200,001-500,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001-1,000,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Habitat Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000-\$5,000,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Upgrades	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000,000-20,000,000
<b>Match Requirement</b>	<b>Program Type</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Grant
<input type="checkbox"/> Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance
	<input type="checkbox"/> Loan
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mutual Aid
	<input type="checkbox"/> Technical Assistance

<https://www.derascl.org/funding-database>



# Technical Assistance: Tools

## ► Climate Resources Hub

<https://www.declimateinfo.org/>

Order By Most Recent ▾

Keywords

Hydrology (2) ▾

Resource Types

Tools & Applications (2) ▾

Resource Levels

Local/Municipal ▾

Agencies/Organizations

-- Select One ▾

Start Date 

Keyword(s): Hydrology Type: Tools & Applications Level: Local/Municipal



### Watershed Resources Registry- Delaware

 Tools & Applications


The Watershed Resources Registry is an interactive online mapping tool that prioritizes areas for preservation and restoration of wetlands, riparian zones, terrestrial areas, and storm water management control across an entire state. The tool is helpfu ...

LEARN MORE >

VISIT WEBSITE 



### Coastal Flood Monitoring System

 Tools & Applications

The Delaware Coastal Flood Monitoring System (CFMS) is a web-based tool and alert system designed to provide emergency managers, planners, and others the information needed regarding upcoming coastal flood events. The CFMS covers the Delaware Bay coast ...

LEARN MORE >

VISIT WEBSITE 

# Information Exchange & Networking: RASCL Coffee Hours

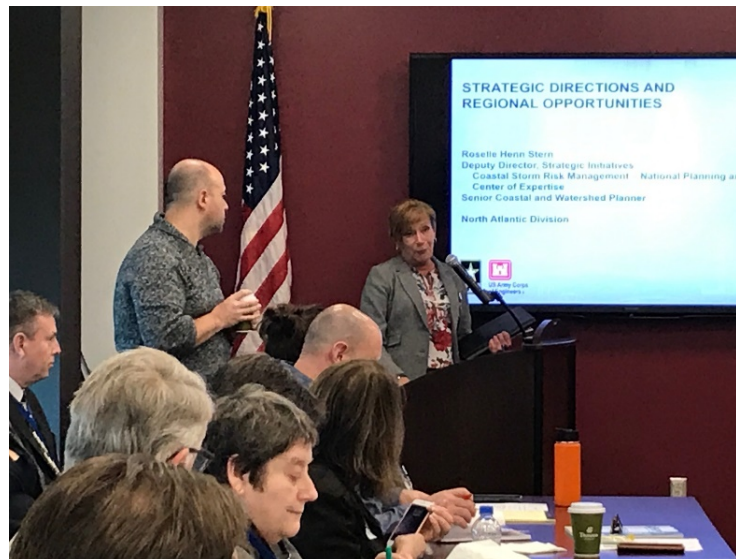
*Great ideas start  
with good  
coffee.*

Join us for conversations  
on community resilience  
and sustainability



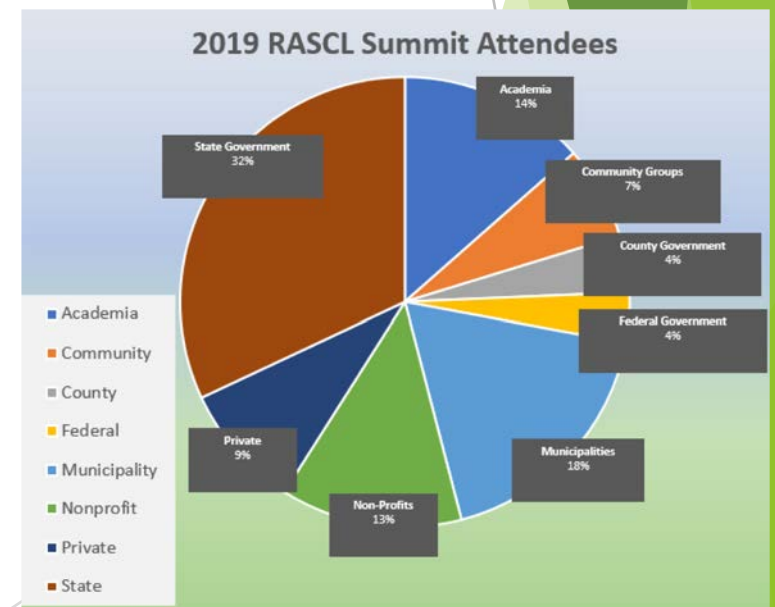
## Army Corps 101

Sponsored by  
Senator Carper (D-  
DE)





# RASCL Summit





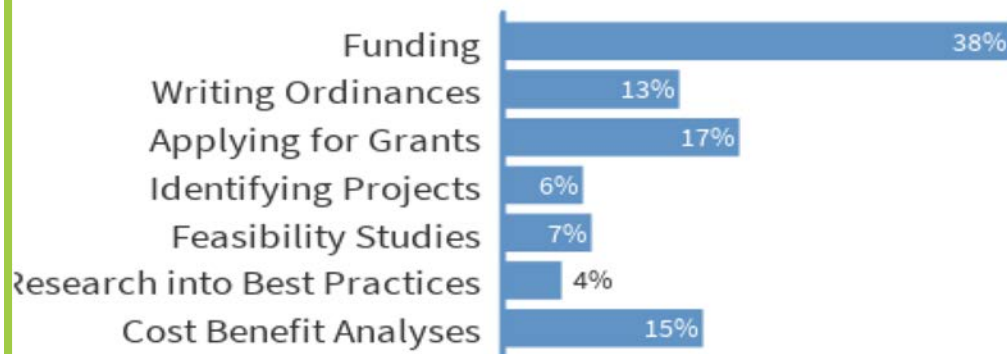
# RASCL Summit

**Name 1 step you will encourage your community, client, or organization to take to promote resiliency and/or sustainability.**

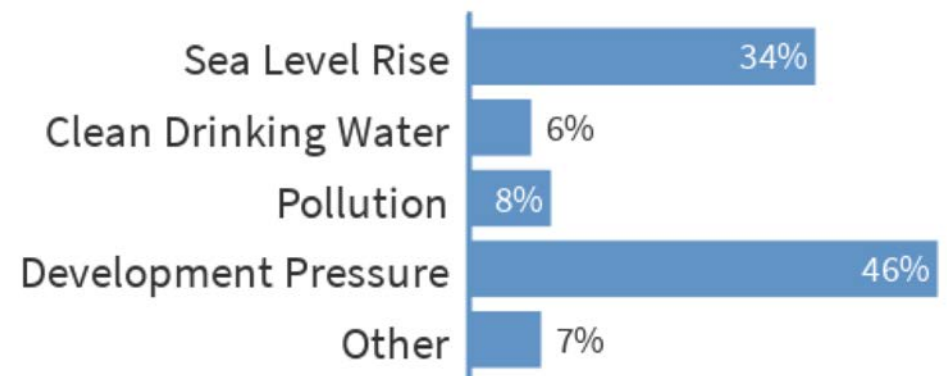
 **Poll locked.** Responses not accepted.

“Community engagement” “Advocacy” “Beach conservation” “Awareness” “Fema regs versus reality” “Climate conservations”  
“Political support” “Mitigation planning” “Advocate” “Hold Strategic Doing Community Workshops” “Define risks” “Partnership”  
“Be creative and tenacious” **“Follow RASCL”** “Targeted outreach” “Prioritize” “Sustainability-Plan” “Be involved”  
“CRS REVIEW” “Collaborative grant applications” “First I need to find the right people to talk with.”  
“Education” “education” “Invite More Partners to Mitigation Planning Meetings” “Achievable implementation goals”

**What impediments exist that may prevent communities from doing these projects? Select all that apply.**



**What is your community's most pressing water quality or land use issue?**



# Gaining Traction

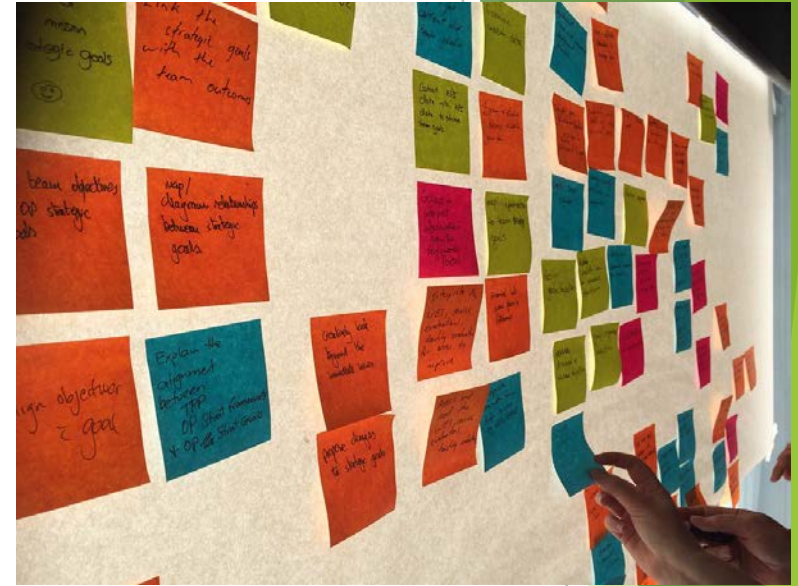
- ▶ Debuted RASCL to a national audience
- ▶ Nominated for a Governor's Award
- ▶ Unveiled new website: [www.derascl.org](http://www.derascl.org)
- ▶ Stakeholder demand growing

*"GMB came away from the RASCL Summit with so many new ideas regarding vulnerability and resilience. We especially enjoyed the climate adaptation strategies ...the entire wetland buffer panel discussion, and the wetland mitigation bank presentation..."*

- Charlie O'Donnell, Sr. Vice President,  
GMB Architects/Engineers

# Next Steps: "Strategy"

- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> comprehensive strategic planning effort
- ▶ Target completion by Spring 2020
- ▶ How do we evolve and meet the growing demand for RASCL services?





# Let's Collaborate!



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<https://www.derascl.org/>