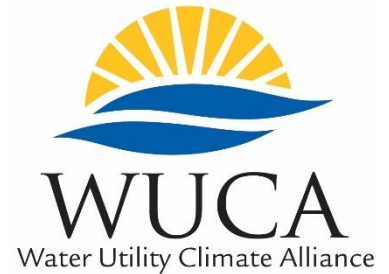


**Building Resilience to a Changing Climate:
A Technical Training in Water Sector
Utility Decision Support**



**Facilitated Discussion:
Training Participant Experience and Challenges**

Brad Spangler, Meridian Institute

Pre-Training Survey*: Group Composition

*Survey results are not statistically significant findings and should not be used for purposes beyond this presentation

- Organization Type:
 - ~50% = water sector utility representatives
 - ~35% = consultants
 - ~15% = mix of government, NGO, academic, associations
- Primary Job Responsibilities:
 - ~80% responsible for water resources/long-term planning
 - ~50% responsible for climate adaptation planning
- Other Significant Job responsibilities:
 - Water resources operations
 - Water demand / conservation
 - Engineering / capital projects
 - Environmental planning
 - Sustainability / climate mitigation



Pre-Training Survey*: Science Use & Challenges

*Survey results are not statistically significant findings and should not be used for purposes beyond this presentation

- Use of climate projections or climate change assessment information:
 - ~70% currently use information from climate models and/or climate assessments
 - ~25% do not use information currently, but may in the future
 - No participants indicated their organization does not use climate information and will likely not in the future
- Challenges integrating climate information into work:
 - ~50% identified lack of training or understanding of climate data
 - Other key challenges:
 - Funding for climate adaptation evaluations and investments
 - Other utility priorities taking precedent

Pre-Training Survey*: Learning Goals

*Survey results are not statistically significant findings and should not be used for purposes beyond this presentation

- Climate Modeling:
 - How to identify the best information for use in utility planning
 - How to communicate about the complex uncertainty inherent in climate adaptation
- Uncertainty Planning Methods:
 - A better understanding of risk approaches
 - A better understanding of robust decision-making approaches
- Communication Best Practices:
 - How to understand and address cognitive limitations when using highly uncertain information
 - Climate science communication best practices

Discussion Questions

- From what context are you approaching this training? What kind of water or wastewater utility climate adaptation planning issues are you currently working on?
- What challenges have you encountered integrating climate information into utility planning processes and/or related communications?

