

Anticipating the Future: Challenging the Barriers to Action

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Societal resilience to climate change and extreme events has declined precipitously over the past several decades. Understanding of the processes that lead to improvements in or deterioration in urban resiliency is limited, because scientific disciplines use different concepts to explain complex social-ecological systems (SES). Without a common framework to organize findings, isolated knowledge does not cumulate. Previous research suggests that the lack of a public constituency concerned about public risks and the traditional planning paradigm that is chronically deficient in addressing public risks are major challenges to building resiliency. However, some communities take action to achieve resiliency goals. Initial thinking on a general framework is used to identify subsystem variables that affect the likelihood of proactive planning and policy adoption to build a more resilient SES.