

ACCO Climate Leadership Summit

November 8-9, 2010 | Hyattsville, Maryland

Marriott Inn & Conference Center, University of Maryland University College
(The nation's first LEED certified conference center)

ROUNDTABLE NOTES

Track 2: Adaptation

Session 3: Developing Regional Adaptation Strategies

Moderators: Brad May, Mike Fanning, David Hampton

Takeaways:

For someone making a decision, whether an individual, a company or a government at any level, they must consider the environmental implications of climate change (ex: agriculture, invasive species, etc.). This is where communication comes into play, it is important to convey this need for climate change consideration to decision makers.

Regional downscaling is also important when looking at where decision makers can affect change. Issues involving energy infrastructure, water quality, weather patterns, sea level rise implications, etc. are mostly local/regional problems.

So how do we take global climate models and translate them into a decision aid for a local actor?

Next Steps:

Establish a working group involving municipal and state executives that establishes best practices and lessons learned related to adaptation. Areas of focus can include developing workshops, white papers, blogs and/or a wiki and should include:

- **Establishing a Standardized Lexicon:** A standard operating language that permeates the industry. Simple misunderstandings of what the language means could be highly detrimental.
- **Developing Regionally Focused Resources:** Identifying resources from local governments and establishing a library or wiki with easily referenced regional climate adaptation plans, etc.
- **Conducting Outreach:** Getting people knowledgeable on what exactly adaptation is. Not only educating about climate change problems, but also solutions.
- **Conducting Exercise Scenarios:** Workshops on what is needed to adapt to various scenarios.