Small Group Activity for Climate CoP 2016 - Summaries

**Topic 1: Coastal Flooding (3 Subgroups)**

**Group A: Impacts to Infrastructure**

Coastal flooding causes broad impacts throughout our communities. This group will examine how coastal flooding impacts our infrastructure and built environment. These challenges include: sea level rise and storm surge impacts; subsidence; building codes – including affordability; impacts to stormwater systems; inundated roads; and design and mitigation techniques for new and existing development.

**Group B: Impacts to the Natural System**

Coastal flooding can significantly impact the natural environment. This group will focus on how those impacts create challenges for our natural systems and develop solution concepts for some of the challenges. These challenges include: sea level rise and storm surge impacts; increased storm intensity; subsidence, erosion, and land loss; beach renourishment costs; and adaptation planning strategies.

**Group C: Impacts to the Economy**

Along with impacts to built and natural systems, coastal flooding can significantly impact our economies. This group will explore the ways that coastal flooding intersects with our economy. Challenges include: the cost of flood insurance; business interruption costs due to nuisance flooding; mitigation and adaptation costs; and impacts of increased flood insurance on coastal development.

**Topic 2: Saltwater Intrusion**

**Group D: Impacts to Natural and Built Environments**

Saltwater Intrusion causes a myriad of problems for both infrastructure and natural systems. This group will explore impacts to marine resources (i.e. oyster beds, fish stocks) as well as built infrastructure. Challenges for this group include: increased stormwater volumes due to sea level rise and increased precipitation causing damage to key infrastructure; salinity changes that stress natural systems beyond their capacity; poor runoff filtration causing loss of revenue due to beach closures.

**Topic 3: Communication**

**Group E: Climate Communication**

Communicating risk is a key challenge to climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. This group will focus its efforts on tackling some of the challenges to clear and effective communication of risk. Challenges for this group include: motivating a community to recognize the risk; communicating options for adaptation planning; and communicating the costs and benefits of mitigation and adaptation.