

# How to Build Climate Change Resilience

By Chip Kline and Simone Maloz

Louisiana's comprehensive fifty-year master plan for mitigating the impact of extreme weather on vulnerable coastal communities can provide guiding principles for every region.

The climate crisis has reached every corner of our country. As rivers run dry, fires consume neighborhoods, and coasts disappear, state and local leaders are grappling with how to address an emergency of seemingly impossible proportions. In many states, developing and investing in effective policy that matches the scale of the problem has understandably felt just as daunting. Just recently, new research projected that vast new swaths of the country will be at risk of hurricane-force winds in the coming decades.

Fortunately, the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act are offering all-too-rare opportunities for state and local governments looking to bolster their resilience to climate change—but only if they have a clear plan of action.

Those looking for inspiration should turn to Louisiana, which is investing record amounts of funding in climate change resilience projects. You may know the Pelican State for its natural beauty, its petroleum and fishing industries, or for the spectacle of Mardi Gras, but you may also know it for the fact that its coastal wetlands are vanishing faster than almost any place on the planet. But what you may not know is that Louisiana is a global pioneer in taking action to mitigate the impacts to its communities from the climate crisis. Louisiana's \$50 billion, fifty-year comprehensive plan offers a critical blueprint for how state governments can plan for the future by harnessing the latest science and preparing to make the most out of investments in climate resilience and adaptation.

For too long, actionable and measurable plans to bolster vulnerable coastal areas and protect communities from worsening climate impacts have been framed largely in terms of their short-term economic costs. Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan takes a different tack, putting coastal communities, along with engagement with and feedback from



the people who live in them, at the center of its approach. The unique circumstances of these coastal communities today and in the future are front and center, with strategies designed to prioritize investments to address the needs of vulnerable

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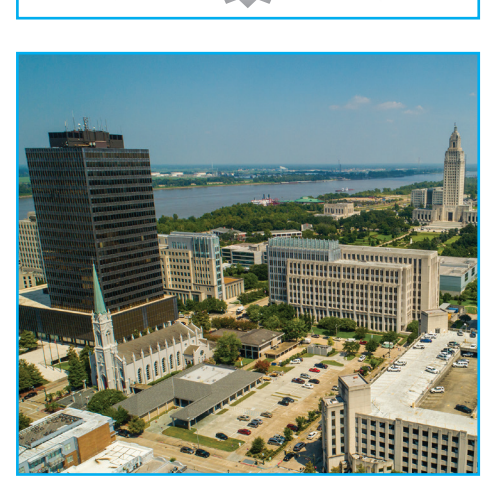
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**Federal Contracting: Veteran Small Business Certification Program Webinar**  
Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 12:00 pm–1:00 pm CDT Online  
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
Contact: Jo Eckert, 319-362-6405, [jo.eckert@sba.gov](mailto:jo.eckert@sba.gov)  
Fee: Free; registration required  
Learn about SBA's new Veteran Small Business Certification program. Certification has been transferred from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to SBA as of January 1, 2023. Certification with SBA allows service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs) to compete for sole-source and set-aside federal contracts across the federal government. Certified veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs) have additional opportunities to pursue sole-source and set-aside contracts at the Veterans Administration (VA) under the VA's Vets First program. Register for this free webinar at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/veteran-small-business-certification-vetcert-program-tickets-619255007397>

**8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar**  
Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 9:30 am–10:30 am CDT Online  
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, [illinois.do@sba.gov](mailto:illinois.do@sba.gov)  
Fee: Free; registration required  
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Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/8a-orientation-sam-registration-tickets-518989961947>

**Selling to the Federal Government Webinar**  
Thursday, May 25, 2023, 12:00 pm–3:00 pm CDT Online  
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, [george.tapia@sba.gov](mailto:george.tapia@sba.gov)  
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