Science Centers (and Aquariums, and museums…) as catalysts for climate resilience and adaptation

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Yale Climate Opinion Maps 2018

Source: Yale Program on Climate Change Communications
http://climatecommunication.yale.edu/
More than 80% of parents in the U.S. support the teaching of climate change. And that support crosses political divides, according to the results of an exclusive new NPR/Ipsos poll: Whether they have children or not, two-thirds of Republicans and 9 in 10 Democrats agree that the subject needs to be taught in school.

Source: NPR, 4/22/2019

Source: Yale Program on Climate Change Communications
http://climatecommunication.yale.edu/
Focusing on Solutions - Steps to Resilience

1. Explore Hazards
2. Assess Vulnerability & Risks
3. Investigate Options
4. Prioritize & Plan
5. Take Action

NOAA Resilience Education Grantees

Hallmarks of projects:

• Community centered, social learning
• Place-based understanding of threats
• Solutions focused
• Social, Economic, Ecological factors incorporated
• Use resilience/climate action plans, partner with planners
• Connect audiences with NOAA’s tools
• Empower community members

Funding began in 2015
22 projects
$9.2M investment
Need for investment in resilience education

Applications submitted to NOAA’s Environmental Literacy Grants Program 2015-2018:

540 applications requesting $246,154,217.

Black dots = ELP Resilience Grantees (Funded)
Grey circles = # of apps submitted from state/territory
Science Centers, ideal venues for resilience

- Trusted sources of science: 72% of public surveyed state they trust science centers
- Based in communities
- Expert in contextualizing complex information & educating the public
- A place for shared learning
- Citizen Science
“When you have more knowledgeable citizens you also have a better quality of decision making… I think that personal decisions hopefully get back to more communal decisions that then hopefully become policy.”

Drought Program Coordinator at the Arizona Department of Water Resources