

Climate Adaptation Short Course for Land Trusts

JUNE 2021 Course

Course Learning Objectives

- Understand how climate adaptation and mitigation fit into the goals and responsibilities of your land trust.
- Identify locally important climate change impacts, challenges, and opportunities.
- Use the quick start guide to adaptation planning for land trusts to consider climate change and carbon in land stewardship and management.
- Develop actions to help a specific natural area adapt to changing conditions.
- Communicate with stakeholders about climate impacts and adaptation responses.

Audience

This online short course is designed for land trusts actively working on stewardship projects in rural, suburban, and urban forests, forested watersheds, and wetland systems.

- Land trusts can participate as individuals or in groups.
- Climate vulnerability and management information will be targeted to ecosystems in the Eastern U.S., however groups or individuals from other regions are welcome to register if space allows.

Schedule At-A-Glance

Date/Time	Session
Wed. June 9 th 3:00pm E / 2:00pm C	Virtual Session 1: Introduction to short course and adaptation resources (90 min)
*Wed. June 16 th 3:00pm E / 2:00pm C	Virtual Session 2: Understanding climate change impacts and vulnerabilities in your area (90 min)
*Week of June 21 st	Field Activity: Visit your field site to complete the adaptation Quick Guide
Wed. June 30 th 3:00pm E / 2:00pm C	Virtual Session 3: Sharing adaptation projects (90 min)

** Office hours available throughout week – set up a 30-minute meeting with course instructors as needed*

Connection information

Zoom: <https://michigantech.zoom.us/j/89524611032?pwd=Ym41eElQSfZWRkxbkpkjZ1NOQkkvUT09>

Passcode: 189722

Course Contacts

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Agenda

Session 1 – Wednesday, June 9th, 3:00pm ET / 2:00pm CT

Topics:

- Introductions, course objectives, instructors, and agenda
- Introduction to the Adaptation Workbook and [Adaptation Quick Start Guide](#)
- Example(s): considering climate change in natural resources management projects
- Activity: climate impacts most relevant to your region

Assignment Week 1:

- Read through the [Adaptation Quick Start Guide](#).
- Think about a property/project area you'd like to consider using the Adaptation Quick Start Guide.

Optional/background reading:

- As needed: view modules on climate change science and modeling and climate change effects on forests and grasslands (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/ccrc/education>).
- [Look to the Land: Carbon Management in Forests and Grasslands \(pg. 25\)](#)

Session 2 — Wednesday, June 16th, 3:00pm ET / 2:00pm CT

Topics:

- Considering climate change impacts and vulnerabilities in your projects
- Components of ecosystem vulnerability
- Resources for understanding climate change impacts and vulnerability
- Adaptation concepts and using adaptation menus
- Activity: breakout groups on climate impacts
- Tips for picking a property/project area for the week 3 field activity

Assignment Week 2

- Review climate vulnerability resources for your region:
 - [Forest vulnerability - Midwest and Northwoods](#)
 - [Forest vulnerability - New England & New York](#)
 - [Forest vulnerability - Mid-Atlantic region](#)

- [Forest vulnerability - Central Hardwoods region](#)
- [Climate Resources – Southeastern U.S.](#)
- [Climate Resources - Intermountain West and Colorado](#)
- [Urban forest vulnerability – multiple cities, Midwest and Northeast](#)
- [Wetlands vulnerability resources](#)
- Select a property/project area to use for your field activity
- Tell us about your plans for visiting your field site using this [short online form](#).
- Download or print the [Adaptation Quick Start Guide](#) for your field activity/visit.

Optional:

- Set up an appointment with instructors during office hours to discuss your project. If scheduled office hours don't work for your group, contact an instructor directly to set up a meeting.
 - [Sign up for an appointment time here](#)
- As needed: view module on responses to climate change (adaptation concepts - <https://www.fs.usda.gov/ccrc/education>).

Session 3 - Field Activity (self-study - no lecture), week of June 21st

Topics:

- Visit your property/project area on your own time

Assignment Week 3

- Visit your field site and complete the worksheets from the [Adaptation Quick Start Guide](#).
- Share your field site location, a picture of your site, and three keywords that describe your project using this [Google Map](#). Need instructions? [See this tutorial](#).
- Get ready to share your project information and adaptation ideas during the final session.

Optional:

- Set up an appointment with instructors during office hours to discuss your project. If scheduled office hours don't work for your group, contact an instructor directly to set up a meeting.
 - [Sign up for an appointment time here](#)
- Share a copy of your worksheets if you would like feedback from the NIACS team in the month following the course. (Label your worksheets with your name and upload them to this [google drive folder](#)). If you have trouble, send us an email!

Session 4 — Wednesday, June 30th, 3:00pm ET / 2:00pm CT

Topics:

- Sharing your adaptation projects
- Activity: full group sensing/polling on adaptation projects
- Activity: breakout room discussion and condensed storytelling by region/theme

- Moving forward on adaptation actions: communication, project implementation, other resources

Assignment Week 4

- Complete the [course evaluation](#)

Optional/background reading:

- Share a copy of your worksheets if you would like feedback from the NIACS team in the month following the course. (Label your worksheets with your name and upload them to this [google drive folder](#)). If you have trouble, send us an email!
- Land Trust Alliance Communications Guide - Coming soon!