

# Climate Adaptation Short Course for Land Trusts

**Welcome!**  
**This document is your short course agenda**

**This course will start on October 25, and finish on November 15, 2023.**

We look forward to helping you integrate climate change information into your real-world management project.

*Through this course, you'll be able to:*

- Identify locally important climate change impacts and vulnerabilities.
- Understand a step-by-step process for considering climate change and carbon in land stewardship and management.
- Develop management actions to help your project or natural area adapt to changing conditions.
- Communicate with stakeholders and rights holders about climate impacts and adaptation responses.

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## Overview

The course runs over four weeks (that includes one break week) through Oct. 25 – Nov. 15, 2023:

- Three lecture sessions describing resources and Adaptation Workbook (1.5 hour). Weekly lectures sessions occur on Wednesday at **11a PT/12p MT/1p CT/2p ET**.
- One field session for participants to assess habitat vulnerability and discuss adaptation strategies relevant to their land trust (suggest 1-2 hour field visit) during the week of November 6- 10.

## 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 broadly across the U.S.

## Technology

You will use the print publication, [Quick Guide to Adaptation Planning for Land Trusts](#), throughout the course.

### Connection Details – All Sessions

Please join the first session a bit early; your computer may need to install a small add-on before entering the room.

**We will meet on Zoom:** <https://michigantech.zoom.us/j/86828851279>

For audio, please choose “Join with Computer Audio” when prompted. If it is not possible to use Computer Audio, please mute your speakers and dial the number below from a land line (preferred) or a mobile phone, dial: **(646) 931-3860**; Passcode: **868 2885 1279**

## Course webpage

We will provide online resources, including materials describing climate impacts for different regions and short videos to highlight key points for adaptation planning. All relevant resources and course materials will be uploaded to the [course webpage](#). Additional resources can be found at the [Adaptation & Land Trusts webpage](#).

## Course contacts

Contact Samantha Myers ([smyers3@uvm.edu](mailto:smyers3@uvm.edu)) and Mattison Brady ([mbrady1@mtu.edu](mailto:mbrady1@mtu.edu)) with any questions. This course is supported by the USDA Forest Service, USDA Climate Hubs, and the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science.

**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](#).

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## Schedule at-a-glance

Session	Session Topic	Brief Description and purpose
<b>Pre-work</b>	Course preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read <a href="#">Quick Guide to Adaptation Planning for Land Trusts</a></li><li>• Identify your project area/location</li></ul>
<b>Week 1</b> Wednesday 10/25/23  90 minutes	Course introduction	This session introduces course and the Quick Guide to Adaptation Planning for Land Trusts used throughout the course. It also reviews adaptation concepts and tools.
<b>Week 2</b> Wednesday 11/1/23  90 minutes	Assessing site-level climate change impacts	This session provides resources for participants to use to assess the impacts of climate change on their project area and determine the feasibility of current stewardship given site vulnerability and climate-related challenges and opportunities.
<b>Week 3-No session</b> Week of 11/6-11/10	<b>Field visit!</b>	In this session, participants visit their field site to complete the worksheets featured within the <a href="#">Quick Guide to Adaptation Planning for Land Trusts</a> .
<b>Week 4</b> Wednesday 11/15/23  90 minutes	Sharing adaptation projects and course wrap-up	This session provides an opportunity for participants to share their adaptation projects and provides resources to implement and monitor the effectiveness of adaptation actions.

# Weekly assignments and resources

## Course Preparation – Complete before the first session

- Read [Quick Guide to Adaptation Planning for Land Trusts](#)
- Identify your project area/location

## Week 1 – Introduction to the Short Course

October 25th: 11am PT/12pm MT/1pm CT/2pm ET

**Purpose:** This session introduces course and the Quick Guide to Adaptation Planning for Land Trusts used throughout the course. It also reviews adaptation concepts and tools.

### Topics:

- Course overview
- Instructor and participant introductions
- Introduction to adaptation concepts and planning

### Assignment Week 1:

- Read through the [Quick Guide to Adaptation Planning for Land Trusts](#) if you haven't already.
- Think about a property/project area you'd like to consider using the Adaptation Quick Guide.

### Optional/background reading:

- As needed: view [education modules](#) on climate change science and modeling, and climate change effects on forests and grasslands.
- [Look to the Land: Carbon Management in Forests and Grasslands \(pg. 25\)](#)
- **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: <https://calendar.app.google/BTK3FPLttdZiQkbv9>

## Week 2 – Assessing Site-level Climate Change Impacts

November 1st: 11am PT/12 pm MT/1pm CT/2pm ET

**Purpose:** This session provides resources to assess the impacts of climate change on your project area and determine the feasibility of current stewardship given site vulnerability and climate-related challenges and opportunities.

**Guest Instructors:** Regional USDA Climate Hub staff will be present at this session to share regionally relevant climate change resources, and to field questions in a break-out activity.

### Topics:

- How to assess vulnerability
- Summary of climate-related resources
- Overview of adaptation menus
- Site visit assignment

### 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 - California](#)
- [Climate Resources – Hawai'i and Pacific Islands](#)
- [Climate Resources – Pacific Northwest and Alaska](#)
- [Climate Resources – Rocky Mountain and Intermountain West](#)
- [Climate Resources – Southwestern U.S.](#)
- [Urban Forest Vulnerability - Multiple cities](#)
- [Wetlands vulnerability resources](#)
- Select a property/project area to use for your field activity.
- Download or print the worksheets at the end of the [Quick Guide to Adaptation Planning for Land Trusts](#) for your field activity/visit.
- Download or print adaptation menus that may be relevant for your project here: <https://forestadaptation.org/adapt/adaptation-strategies>
- Complete the Step 1 worksheet in the [Quick Guide to Adaptation Planning for Land Trusts](#)

#### **Optional/background reading:**

- As needed: view [education modules](#) on climate change science and modeling, and climate change effects on forests and grasslands.
- View forest carbon management resources including forest carbon adaptation menu, landowner communication resources, and examples of adaptation projects with carbon-related goals: <https://forestadaptation.org/focus/forest-carbon-management>
- Read the recent Northern Woodlands article on forest carbon management: <https://northernwoodlands.org/articles/article/managing-forests-carbon>
- **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: <https://calendar.app.google/BTK3FPLttdZiQkbv9>

### **Week 3 - Field Activity (self-study - no lecture)**

Visit your field site during the week of November 6-10.

**Purpose:** In this session, participants visit their field site to complete the worksheets featured within the [Quick Guide to Adaptation Planning for Land Trusts](#).

#### **Topics:**

- This week: Visit your property/project area on your own time!
- No session.

#### **Assignment Week 3:**

- Visit your field site and complete all the worksheets from the [Quick Guide to Adaptation Planning for Land Trusts](#)
- Share your location, a picture of your field site and a brief summary of your project here: <https://padlet.com/smyers318/2023-land-trust-short-course-jxin5g9okex1j8qx>.
- Get ready to share your project information and adaptation ideas during the final session (November 15).

### Optional/background reading:

- Browse additional adaptation menus (<https://forestadaptation.org/adapt/adaptation-strategies>) or browse the online compendium of adaptation strategies (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/ccrc/climate-projects/adaptation-approaches>) to gather more ideas for Step 4 of the Quick Guide.
- **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: <https://calendar.app.google/BTK3FPLttdZiQkbv9>

## Week 4 — Sharing Adaptation Projects and Course Wrap-Up

November 15th: 11am PT/12pm MT/1pm CT/2pm ET

**Purpose:** This session provides an opportunity for participants to share their adaptation projects and provides resources to implement and monitor the effectiveness of adaptation actions.

### Topics:

- Sharing your adaptation projects
- Moving forward on your adaptation work
- Additional resources

### Assignment Week 4:

- Complete course evaluation (link TBD)

### 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!
- Climate change communication resources:
  - Land Trust Alliance Communications Guide: <https://climatechange.lta.org/recommendations-for-communicating/>
  - NIACS climate change communication resources: <https://forestadaptation.org/learn/resource-finder/forest-adaptation-webinar-series-climate-change-communication>
  - Climate action scorecards: <https://forestadaptation.org/learn/resource-finder/forest-and-climate-action-scorecards>
  - MassConn landowner outreach resources: <https://forestadaptation.org/learn/resource-finder/massconn>
  - Massachusetts and Rhode Island “Caring for your Woods” landowner guides: <https://forestadaptation.org/learn/resource-finder/caring-your-woods-landowner-guides>
  - Tribal adaptation menu: <https://forestadaptation.org/tribal-climate-adaptation-menu>
  - Yale Climate Opinion Map: <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data>
- Additional Land Trust adaptation resources: <https://forestadaptation.org/land-trusts>
- Upcoming NIACS workshops/trainings: <https://forestadaptation.org/trainings>