

## **New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance Fellowship**

Identification of ecosystem services policy interventions to support climate adaptation. In general, states and local agencies in the U.S. articulate a strong preference for natural systems or "green infrastructure" strategies to address climate change preparedness and adaptation. However, natural systems and "green infrastructure" are often disadvantaged from a policy perspective because policy mechanisms to recognize and integrate ecosystem service value have not been developed in the U.S.

The purpose of this project is to identify specific examples of where, in the US, state and/or local decision-makers identified ecosystem service economic value and used that value as a discrete consideration in public policy. Approaches outside of the U.S. are eligible for inclusion provided they are application to developed nations and can serve as instructional. This policy analysis will include looking at policy outside of climate adaptation and preparedness policy so as to cast a "wider net" of identifying experiences in the US of integrating ecosystem service value into state and local policy-making in general. Such an approach is necessary so as to inform opportunities for policy at the state and local level to integrate ecosystem service value into climate preparedness and adaptation policy. For example, do any programs in the U.S. put a dollar value on the carbon sequestration value of natural systems and integrate that value into decision-making with regards to open space preservation.

Similarly, what is the extent to which policies in the U.S. identify flood buffering efforts of wetlands and integrate that economic value into relative decision-making with regards to "green" versus "hard" infrastructure preparedness solutions?

The Fellow will conduct a literature survey (peer reviewed and grey literature) to identify specific cases of policy at the state and local level in the U.S. where an economic value was placed on ecosystem services and then specifically integrated into decision and policy making with a particular lens on climate preparedness and adaptation policy making. The final product will be a report providing an overview of the results of the research and at least 10 case studies of specific, diverse cases of ecosystem service based policy making in the U.S.

**Location:** New Brunswick, NJ (Rutgers)

**Time commitment:** 40 hours per week, June-August

### **Outcomes:**

At the end of this project the fellow will have gained:

1. A working knowledge of concepts of ecosystem service valuation and strategies in place in the US to integrate ecosystem service economic value into decision and policymaking;
2. An understanding of climate adaptation ecosystem services that can be provided through maintenance and restoration of certain natural systems;
3. Opportunity to conduct telephone interviews with ecosystem service experts in the US;
4. Independent research experience and the opportunity to draw insights from research into development of policy recommendations;
5. Project management experience.