

ADAPT IN PLACE

WORKSHOP REPORT AND SUMMARY



The Nave | Spenard
Anchorage, Alaska
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REPORT BY

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CHEVAK, ALASKA, AFTER TYPHOON MERBOK, 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction and Purpose3

Workshop Background and Planning7

Participants and Community Voices9

Workshop Structure and Key Themes10

Findings and Recommendations13

Conclusion18

References19



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Adapt in Place workshop participants.

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Climate change is a slow-moving disaster. Coastal communities in rural Alaska are reliant on federal programs for health, housing, and infrastructure. A review of federal programs and the status of rural, predominantly Alaska Native communities in Alaska underscores that it is difficult to address the impending impacts of climate change, as federal programs are designed to address a disaster after the fact, not as it is occurring or before it occurs (Korkut et al., 2022). Furthermore,



DAVIN HOLEN



a recent federal report highlighted that Alaska Native communities lack the necessary cost-sharing resources to access federal funding, and there is a lack of coordination among federal, state, and Tribal efforts (GAO, 2022). A workshop at the Alaska Forum of the Environment in April 2023 held by Alaska Sea Grant demonstrated that Tribes in Alaska have limited capacity to carry out mitigation and resilience activities due to a lack of funding for positions to put these plans into action. As one respondent said, “Don’t give the tasks for carrying out resilience plans to someone who already has too many things to do. We need new positions.”

Recently, various programs in Alaska have been working with rural coastal communities to identify options for managed retreat. This includes the Alaska Native Tribal Consortium’s Climate Initiatives

program, which recently completed a review of unmet needs in Alaska's rural communities (ANTHC 2024). Alaska Sea Grant followed up with a similar assessment of funding distributed statewide to determine whether adequate funding is being provided to communities across the state, as well as between different regions of the state (Kelly and Holen, 2024). Overall, the reports found that there is inadequate funding to move communities and that the process is complicated for rural communities to navigate.

Complete relocation of a community to a new location in Alaska is problematic. Alaska Native communities rely on a subsistence way of life that has evolved over generations within a specific environment. Moving to a new location means learning about new hunting, fishing, and gathering areas, distancing the community and culture from ancestral homelands. In addition, relocation can take years, with the gradual completion of homes and infrastructure, disrupting social and family ties within a community as residents gradually move from one location to another.

Rural Alaska is a mix of federal, state, Alaska Native Corporation, and Tribal lands. Land exchanges to move a community take time. But the major barrier to moving communities is cost. The 2003 and 2009 GAO reports on Alaska Native village relocation found that five communities in Alaska are imminently threatened, including Kivalina. The estimated cost of

moving the community of 99 households to a new location is \$100–\$400 million, or \$1–\$4 million per household (INE, 2019).

Figure 1 shows an assessment by the Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs for communities threatened by erosion, flooding, and permafrost degradation. The figure also shows the 41 communities they identified as requiring priority action. Often, communities are threatened by compounding factors, such as coastal inundation and the removal of soft soils along the coast that result from permafrost degradation.

Only one community in Alaska—Newtok—is currently in the process of moving and has had to access a variety of federal, state, and private funding to do so. The 2009 report found that 31 communities in Alaska are subject to extensive erosion and flooding, and a 2022 report found that most of these communities are experiencing compounding impacts, including, but not limited to, flooding, erosion, and permafrost thaw (GAO, 2022; INE, 2019). Only one community in the United States has received enough federal funding to completely relocate: Isle de Jean Charles in Louisiana. Therefore, moving communities is not realistic under current federal funding levels and programs. Managed retreat may be a more realistic option for many communities.

Rather than moving, managed retreat allows a community to map out its retreat from the

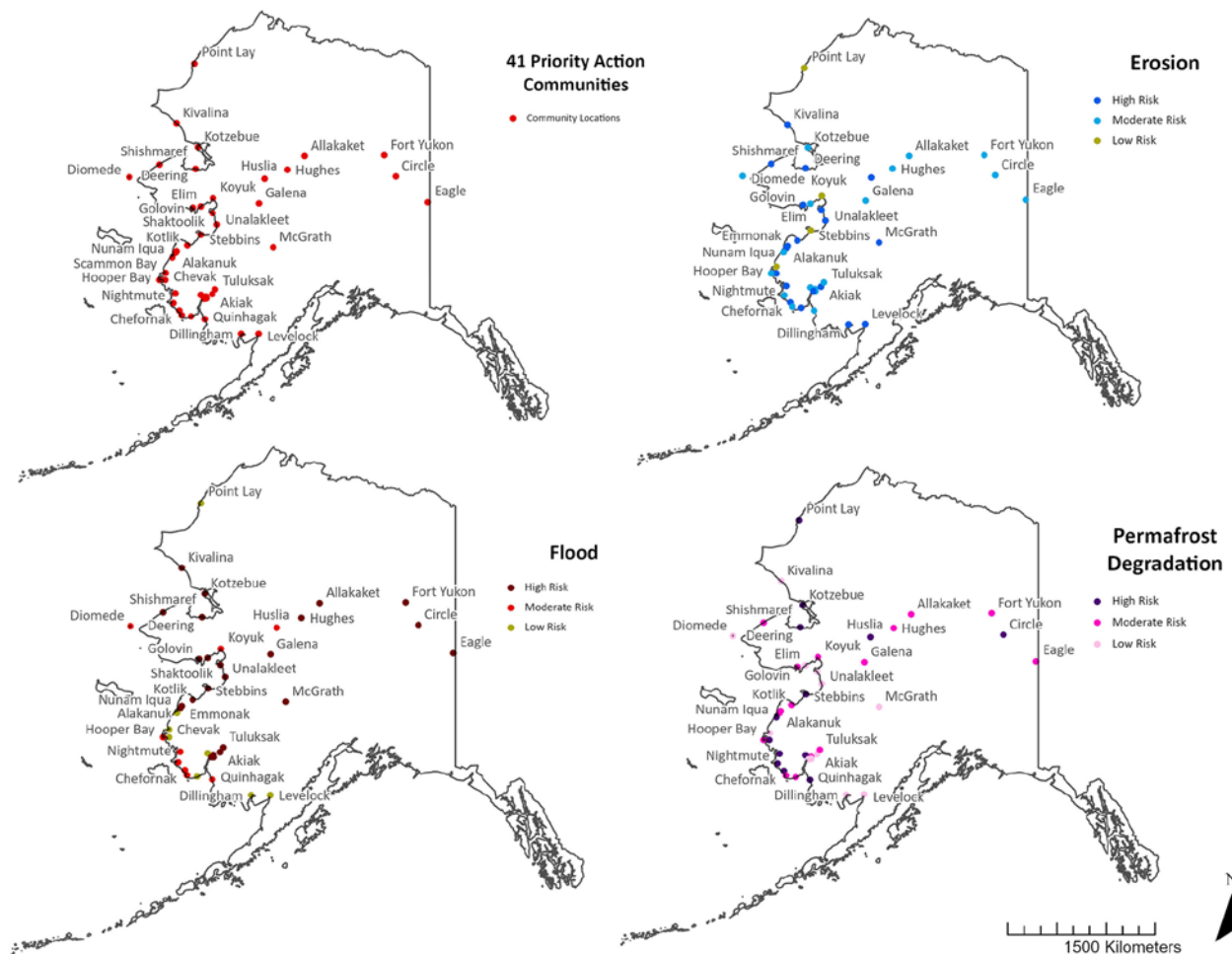


Figure 1: Communities in Alaska facing environmental threats

Communities in Alaska threatened by environmental factors. Source: Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs, Assistance to Environmentally Threatened Communities
<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra>

coast to stable ground inland, putting in place a mapped strategy, and laying out roads and utilities for where critical infrastructure will be moved when a disaster is imminent and federal funding can be accessed. New housing projects, health clinics, schools, power generation, water and sanitation, and other critical infrastructure in a community can be mapped

out to not only identify safe locations, but in the design can also offer opportunities for increased community resilience and wellbeing. This enables a community to plan for its future.

Equity in addressing climate change is a pressing challenge both in Alaska and nationally. Often, accessing funding for addressing

resilience can be a matter of the community's zip code. While some communities can leverage a wealthy tax base to fund major infrastructure for future climate scenarios, others, often Tribally managed communities that are remote and economically disadvantaged, lack the tax base to fund even the most basic of services. In rural Alaska, Alaska Native Tribal governments face numerous pressing challenges, and the inability to navigate federal programs and access funding can be a significant barrier to addressing community resilience. For example, small Tribal governments may have one person in charge of health, another responsible for child welfare, a third for housing, and one or two for addressing the environment and natural resources. The capacity to address all the federal programs needed to run a Tribal government can be challenging, and may be insufficient to access new programs.

Adapting in place is a framework in which infrastructure within a specific community is relocated or renovated to prepare for extreme weather events or landscape changes. Critical infrastructure, such as housing, may be relocated inland along newly constructed roads, and microgrid energy systems can provide resilience against delays in fuel shipping and other issues. Such adaptation frameworks may also be more financially feasible than rapid large-scale relocation. Federal disaster funding has often been reactive rather than proactive;

infrastructure readiness will enable communities to respond quickly and renovate townsite infrastructure after a disaster. With an adapt-in-place framework, such resiliency efforts can ensure that communities can remain in their homelands, preserving cultural ties and allowing for the continuation of place-specific subsistence harvest activities.

Previous workshops and the organization of Alaskan climate adaptation projects, as outlined on the Adapt Alaska website, have highlighted statewide efforts to prepare communities for changing environments and extreme weather events. Previous Alaska workshops took place between 2020 and 2024 in different regions, including community members from locations along the Bering Coast and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. At these events, community members noted the need for local adaptation efforts and expressed eagerness to attend further workshops on place-based climate adaptation. The 2025 Adapt in Place workshop attempted to further these conversations and connect frontline Arctic communities as they continue to build resilience in the face of climate change and its impacts.



WORKSHOP BACKGROUND AND PLANNING

ORIGINS OF THE WORKSHOP

Some of the ideas that resulted in Adapt in Place came from a previous workshop, part of the People on the Move in a Changing Climate (PEMOCC) workshop series. PEMOCC workshops were held around the nation to understand community needs, policy considerations, and research ideas around climate-induced human migration (pemocc.org). Held in April 2023 in Anchorage, the Greater Pacific workshop was organized by Alaska Sea Grant faculty member and social scientist Dr. Davin Holen (Holen & Kelly, 2023). This workshop focused on human migration in the face of environmental change, as well as climate resilience and the challenges faced by those who relocate. Workshop participants came from rural communities in Alaska, including a large contingent from Hooper Bay, as well as representatives from Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands. The workshop consisted of multiple small-group discussions, where representatives from rural communities expressed the need for a greater say in community decision-making. Specifically, participants mentioned that elders and youth should have a say in community affairs and planning efforts (Holen & Kelly, 2023).

Many PEMOCC participants from Indigenous communities in the greater Pacific region mentioned their spiritual connection to the

land on which they reside and its resources. Many of these communities, especially in Alaska, are multi-generational with deep familial legacies in a specific place. PEMOCC attendees spoke of Elders with deep knowledge of their homelands and youth who hoped to use both traditional knowledge and innovation to serve their communities. Despite the pressure caused by a changing climate, many participants hoped to continue living and thriving in their homelands (Holen & Kelly, 2023).

Alaskan and Arctic participants of PEMOCC included several communities from Western Alaska that are experiencing land loss and coastal inundation, including those affected by the damaging 2022 storm Typhoon Merbok (Holen & Kelly, 2023). Holen heard stories of similar impacts from extreme events and rapidly changing conditions in the Canadian Arctic. Concurrently, Dr. Kearney Coupland of St. Lawrence University was working with the Canadian hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk, an Arctic community facing similar challenges to those in Alaska. These shared challenges across the North American Arctic led to the idea for the Adapt in Place workshop: a space for rural Arctic community members to come together, share experiences, foster connections, and support one another in enhancing wellbeing and resilience.

FORMAT AND CULTURAL FRAMING

The Adapt in Place workshop sought to remedy past problems stemming from community relocation by focusing on a slow migration away from the coast that is less disruptive to the communities. However, workshop planners also hoped to design an event that focused on tradition, Indigenous culture and knowledge, and the sharing of stories and community. Thus, Adapt in Place was also opened and closed with traditional songs and dances by local Yup'ik performers,

as well as a ceremony led by Yup'ik elder Valerie Tony. The workshop was held at The Nave, a historic former church and community center in Anchorage's Spenard neighborhood. The Nave is spacious yet intimate, where workshop attendees could feel at home, centering the idea of place as a prime driver of community. The novel workshop structure provided the conditions for lively discussion on adaptation efforts and plans that centered on Indigenous culture and local priorities.



DAVIN HOLEN

PARTICIPANTS AND COMMUNITY VOICES

Adapt in Place was Tribally led with representatives from four communities in Western Alaska and one from Arctic Canada. Representation at the workshop was diverse; each community was welcome to invite elders, youth, community leaders, and climate adaptation planners. Other community members who had relocated to regional hub communities, including Anchorage, were present to provide unique perspectives on regional adaptation and the continuation of culture in a time of change.

Communities represented at Adapt in Place were:

HOOPER BAY

A coastal community in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta of approximately 1,300 residents.

NAPAKIAK

A community in Southwestern Alaska on the Kuskokwim River of approximately 350 residents.

TUKTOYAKTUK

An Arctic coastal community in the Canadian Northwest Territories of approximately 1,000 residents.

NEWTOK-MERTARVIK

A community that has relocated in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The new location of Mertarvik has approximately 250 residents.

NELSON LAGOON

A Bristol Bay community on the Alaska Peninsula of approximately 100 residents.

Additionally, a limited number of invited representatives from Alaskan and Canadian agencies and organizations that assist in climate adaptation planning were present to support Tribal efforts and provide expertise where needed.

The organizing committee consisted of:

Jake Cohen

Alaska Sea Grant State Fellow
Lead organizer and facilitator

Davin Holen

Alaska Sea Grant
Project PI and facilitator

Sean Kelly

Alaska Sea Grant
Facilitator

Kearney Coupland

University of Guelph
Facilitator

Laura Eichelberger

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
Cultural planning

Valerie Tony

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
Cultural activities lead

WORKSHOP STRUCTURE AND KEY THEMES

WORKSHOP PURPOSES

The stated purposes of Adapt in Place were to:

- Facilitate an exchange of culture, food, and environment between communities in Alaska and the Canadian Arctic
- Share adaptation challenges, successes, and strategies among community-level adaptation practitioners
- Develop community-based networks for adaptation planning and implementation
- Learn from and support the efforts of others facing similar environmental challenges
- Provide an opportunity to engage a network of practitioners who can support community-driven adaptation efforts

WORKSHOP OPENING

To achieve the stated purposes, Adapt in Place was divided into sessions. With all participants in a circle, Valerie Tony and Yup'ik dancers from Anchorage opened the workshop with dance, song, and ceremony. This unique opening was meant to center Arctic indigenous culture as key to adaptation and community wellness, as well as to welcome a diverse group of communities to Anchorage. Anchorage has long been a migration hub for residents of rural Alaska; the continuation of Yup'ik traditions in a location separate from their origins highlights the endurance of community and culture despite changes in place and climate.

Workshop organizers met with Tony to discuss the meaning and intention behind the opening ceremony. She emphasized that managing changes and community retreat was part of the ancestral tradition in the Arctic, a necessary adaptation to a changing landscape. Many Alaskan communities had, in the time after colonization, migrated towards the coast to access barges. Previous community relocation decisions would focus on the ability of people to conduct subsistence activities. Tony mentioned that many Arctic communities traditionally have a bird or song that would signal to people when and where to go, with each community having a past and a future in mind when traveling through the area. Current efforts on relocation primarily focus on relocating infrastructure and addressing other modern issues. However, Tony continually emphasized that adaptation and retreat are deeply ingrained in the lives of Indigenous peoples in the Arctic.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

The workshop organizers provided a loosely structured framework for each day. There were no presentations or panel discussions planned, as you might find at a more conventional workshop. This structure was designed to prioritize and foster sharing among participants from the five communities. This was in

the form of small group discussions, sharing maps or other planning material, videos, and short presentations. Long breaks and lunch were planned to encourage conversation. Participants were prompted by the organizers to bring materials of their choice that were indicative of their resilience projects or planning processes, such as planning docu-

ments, photos, maps, and videos. While guiding discussion questions were provided, the sharing of materials prompted a variety of conversations, oftentimes extemporaneous, between participants from different communities. Throughout, workshop organizers adjusted the schedule and topics in response to the conversations.



Aerial image source: Google Earth July 2021. Napakiak Retreat Project Phase 1. March 2022.

DAY ONE: APRIL 15, 2025

After the opening ceremonies, participants were divided into small groups for introductions and preliminary discussions focused on their communities. In small circles, people were invited to share stories about the places they came from, including how their regions were changing and how they participated in subsistence harvests. After a follow-up discussion with all participants and a brief break, the groups reconvened to discuss climate adaptation efforts undertaken so far in their communities.

DAY TWO: APRIL 16, 2025

Tony again opened the second day with ceremonies honoring the place and Arctic Indigenous tradition. The first morning session separated participants into new groups to discuss climate change in their communities. Notes were recorded on large poster boards, with participants identifying similarities and differences that influenced their experiences adapting to climate change.

The second discussion focused more closely on community climate adaptation efforts. Participants shared their experiences, challenges, and successes in working on climate adaptation projects. For clarity and impact, some communities brought maps and images of their villages and environmental planning efforts. This session began in small groups and was followed up by sharing among the entire group.

The third session of the day focused on community engagement in climate adaptation. Questions posed during this session concerned engaging different sectors of each community, including elders, youth, and Tribal government. Crucially, members of all three groups were present at Adapt in Place to ensure a diverse range of perspectives from the communities they represented. The workshop also attempted to incorporate various modes of communication and media to tell the stories of each community. Speeches were given by elders, while one community had a youth participant show a music video they made describing why they did not want to relocate.

Questions posed during this final session included:

- What is something unique to your community's culture and traditions?
- What are/were some of the risks to culture and traditions from climate change and adaptation, and/or, what are some of the opportunities to promote culture and tradition in adaptation?
- How can these be supported through/throughout adaptation?
- What needs to be prioritized?
- How can this be communicated (to the community, to government, to industry, etc.) in developing adaptation plans?

DAY THREE: APRIL 17, 2025

The final day of Adapt in Place focused on maintaining conversations and connections beyond the workshop's conclusion. One small-group discussion was held in the morning, focusing on the future of Arctic coastal communities. Questions posed during this discussion included:

- What did we learn from one another that will help our community move forward?
- How can we maintain our unique and shared cultures?
- How can we ensure the wellbeing of our communities and youth while building partnerships to maintain momentum?

Final group reflections focused on future communications and connections while supporting peer communities in their climate adaptation efforts. Potential inter-community visit opportunities were discussed before a closing ceremony led by Tony.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

MAIN FINDINGS

Both small-group and plenary discussions yielded important insights into the nature of climate adaptation in the Arctic. The broad themes that emerged are discussed below.

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND PLANNING

All the communities present at Adapt in Place are seeing their lands, communities, and livelihoods impacted by environmental and landscape changes. Communities had previously engaged in discussions, planning, and infrastructure projects focused on climate adaptation. These planning efforts have often emphasized the importance of place-based and traditional approaches to adaptation, with many encouraging active participation from community members, including elders and youth. Planning documents, including zoning bylaws, land administration rules, housing strategies, and hazard mitigation plans, can all help guide climate adaptation. However, they should be paired with cultural insight and approaches focused on traditional ways of life and knowledge, including the importance of subsistence harvest.



RESILIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Communities attending the Adapt in Place event have adopted various methods of adaptation to mitigate the impacts of permafrost degradation, erosion, flooding, and other climate-driven changes. Newtok fully relocated to the new community site of Mertarvik, while other locales focused on managed retreat of infrastructure and other localized adaptation efforts. Much of this work has been undertaken without adequate funding. Future climate readiness efforts should prioritize preparedness of infrastructure such as roads, airports, evacuation centers, and housing. Some older infrastructure sites may need to be decommissioned, with some items (e.g., transformers) salvaged for reuse. Personal and community needs, such as health, sanitation, drainage, protection of grave and sacred sites, elder care, and harbor access, should be addressed during climate readiness projects. Some communities may consider renewable energy projects such as solar, wind, geothermal, and run-of-the-river hydropower to decrease both rural emissions and reliance on imported energy sources.

YOUTH, ELDERS, AND CULTURAL CONTINUITY

Climate adaptation efforts should be undertaken with full community buy-in to ensure the continuity and preservation of place-based traditions and ways of life. The lessons of elders and the hopes of youth are central to future resilience. Some cultural continuity programs initiated by communities include land-based learning, storytelling sessions with elders, culture camps, hunting, and language revitalization. Community youth programs, such as youth clubs, arts education, and cultural camps, can help students remain connected to their cultural roots while developing leadership skills. Indeed, investments in new schools and educational infrastructure are crucial to community continuity and revitalization, as some communities have lost schools due to disasters. Similarly, the voices of elders shape planning and offer a long-term perspective. An intergenerational and whole-community approach can ensure that culture is preserved and passed on during intensive adaptation efforts.

COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY OFFERINGS

Communities can build local capacity through training programs, job shadowing, and involving residents in grant applications for infrastructure and cultural projects. Such efforts will empower community members and help people develop self-reliance and resilience.

Communities can partner with organizations such as Alaska Sea Grant, the University of Alaska, and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium to access the expertise needed in areas like engineering, hydrology, grant writing, and behavioral health. The experience of Newtok/Mertarvik offers many lessons around grant and large-project management, barge logistics, adaptation plans, personal wellbeing in a time of change, and coalition building. Communities will each bring important values such as kindness, storytelling, and care for the land, as they engage in a holistic approach to adaptation.

URGENCY AND PATHS FORWARD

All communities mentioned a shared sense of urgency, with some noting that planning should have begun 25 years ago. Some participants were frustrated that, in some locations, decades of erosion had passed without intensive action. Late or retrospective responses to disasters are often compounded by administrative capacity limitations and the post-disaster nature of funding pathways. Despite sometimes limited resources and logistical hurdles, communities have found creative ways to adapt, including through phased adaptation plans, modular housing units, and the integration of traditional knowledge and expertise. Protecting land, culture, and people during adaptation efforts and infrastructure readiness projects is essential to cultural continuity and long-term wellbeing.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CASE STUDIES

Arctic communities are disproportionately affected by slow-moving environmental change interspersed with disasters. Such threats include landscape shifts such as erosion, flooding, and permafrost thaw. To effectively facilitate adaptation efforts, communities may benefit from greater investment in Tribal capacity. These positions, which can be drawn from a talent pool within a community, can identify funding sources and prepare grants to be leveraged after a disaster declaration has been made. Personnel specifically focused on climate resilience will help Tribes to develop



and manage adaptation efforts, coordinate with agency and organizational partners, and access available funding more effectively. Beyond community planners and adaptation specialists, Tribal members may benefit from technical training and education, which will prepare them to support community energy and infrastructure projects.



Communities can learn from each other's adaptation efforts and successes. The experience of Newtok/Mertarvik offers many lessons for other communities. Newtok/Mertarvik Tribal leadership advanced a large relocation project through a phased master plan conducted in tandem with managers, engineers, and funders at organizations including the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Newtok/Mertarvik plan was a living document, evolving in response to shifting priorities, including housing and



electricity needs, managing transportation, and townsite and utility decommissioning. While other communities may not have the funding or interest warranted for full townsite relocation, the intensive effort successfully undertaken by Newtok/Mertarvik provides many lessons for the rural Arctic.

Communities will need technical tools and skills that are both accessible and community-driven. Adapt in Place participants from Napakiak discussed incremental retreat in response to erosion and to infrastructure losses including schools and health clinics. This case-specific and place-based adaptation strategy is being managed by short- and medium-term plans that integrate retreat with immediate infrastructure needs. This ongoing project management is supported by technical efforts such as mapping, flood projections, and erosion modeling tools, which are provided by partners such as the State of Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys. Such tools are useful for communities to visualize threats and plan accordingly, and may help guide other community adaptation plans and efforts.

Climate resilience infrastructure projects may be supplemented with the integration of microgrid renewable energy systems. Renewables such as run-of-the-river hydroelectric turbines, solar, wind, and geothermal can be harnessed to meet community energy needs

and provide needed energy security while reducing locally produced emissions. Disasters and infrastructure projects can require diversified energy systems, especially during events when importing new supplies is difficult. For instance, Newtok/Mertarvik had to contend with unexpected increases in power demand when relocating to their new townsite. Novel energy system projects, including requirements for contractors to bring in energy supplies and the salvage of usable items such as transformers, can lead to community resilience in a future where the availability of various energy sources may fluctuate. Programs such as the Alaska Sea Grant Climate-Ready Workforce Development Program can help train community members in the emerging field of renewable energy infrastructure.

Throughout all efforts at climate adaptation and community resilience, rural communities in Alaska and Arctic Canada will benefit from involving youth, elders, and other community members in efforts to center cultural wellbeing and traditional practices. These elements may be built into grants, adaptation plans, community goals, and project stages and implementation timelines.



EVALUATION AND POST-EVENT FEEDBACK

As Adapt in Place was a unique event centered around community needs, a survey was distributed to all participants to collect feedback on the workshop (full evaluation in Appendix 2). Overall, 15 of approximately 30 participants (50%) responded to the evaluation. Most participants reported satisfaction with Adapt in Place, with evaluations reporting that the workshop was conducted in a manner that allowed participants to get to know each other and was a good use of people's time. All respondents to the evaluation agreed that "starting the workshop with traditional song and dance was a great way to set the stage for the workshop." Many attendees also agreed that Adapt in Place provided an important forum for discussion related to climate resilience; all poll respondents agreed that "the small group discussion on day two was a good use of time and helped us share issues related to coastal resilience in our communities." Respondent evaluations were mixed on some aspects of workshop structure; while most people approved of the event's duration and presentation/discussion, some indicated that the workshop could have been slightly shorter or had more time for community presentations. Overall, our evaluations show that Adapt in Place participants found the event useful in community building and future efforts at adaptation planning.

Participants were asked to report, in a short-answer format, what they liked most about the workshop. While responses varied, most focused on the connections built between participants from different communities, including the ability to learn from peer communities facing similar issues and connect with others in a loosely structured workshop environment. One participant responded succinctly, stating that the highlight of Adapt in Place was "the people, 100%." When asked about recommended next steps for the workshop, most respondents indicated that they hoped to continue the conversations and connections built in Anchorage. Specifically, many hoped to follow up with community visits where they could share more details and concrete plans about actions they could take to build adaptive capacity in their homelands. Such visits would enable stronger bonds to form between participants and facilitate the transition of ideas generated at Adapt in Place into on-the-ground plans in the Alaskan and Canadian Arctic.



CONCLUSION

Landscape and environmental shifts in response to a changing climate will impact communities around the Arctic. In previous years, workshops in Alaska have focused on technical and managerial responses to community climate adaptation, including efforts to engage in the relocation of communities, as seen in the case of Newtok/Mertarvik, and to hub communities in Alaska, such as Bethel, or to urban centers like Anchorage or Fairbanks. Most discussions have focused on relocating infrastructure, rather than on how to maintain a sense of community and connection to place.

Relocation has proven to be difficult, both in terms of overall financial cost and in the emotional toll that moving from one's homeland and disruption of social and family ties can have on community members. Adapting in place provides a framework that enables communities to build resilience in the face of long-term climate change and natural disasters while remaining in their traditional homelands and maintaining community and cultural continuity. Such efforts may enable the preparation of infrastructure and funding requests before a disaster strikes, thereby ensuring resilience in the face of inevitable change.

The 2025 Adapt in Place workshop sought to move beyond previous climate adaptation workshops in Alaska, both in its emphasis on an adapt-in-place framework for northern community resilience and in its incorporation

of ceremony and Indigenous culture into the event itself. The event also emphasized being community-led, rather than facilitator-led. Participants in Adapt in Place joined from across the Alaskan and Canadian Arctic, bringing unique traditions and perspectives in the face of a collective challenge.

Workshop hosts hoped that the focus on place, ceremony, and culture would create a welcoming space for discussion and connection between communities. Initial feedback indicates that attendees of Adapt in Place felt this to be true. One attendee commented after the workshop that they “really enjoyed learning about how different cultures are impacted by climate change and the importance of protecting them through resilience and relocation efforts. It was fascinating to see how integrating cultural considerations can lead to more inclusive and sustainable solutions.” Another mentioned that they “liked meeting rural community leaders, especially [in] small talk during the breaks. I loved seeing the Tuk website, the Napakiak video, and Hooper Bay’s permafrost assessment.” This feedback, and others, indicates the value of cross-community connection and collaboration. These relationships between communities will endure beyond the Adapt in Place initiative, providing ongoing support and examples as Arctic communities adapt to a changing climate and landscape in their homelands.

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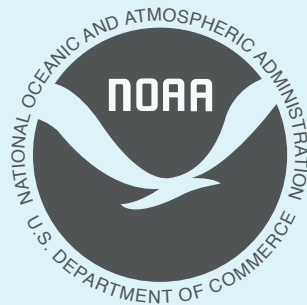
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