

Changing Climate Preparedness, Adaptation, and Decision Support



Abt Associates has extensive knowledge of adaptation and experience with helping a wide array of clients prepare for climate change. Our capabilities include preparing **adaptation strategies**, designing approaches for **vulnerability assessments**, conducting **resiliency analyses**, identifying **adaptation actions** and setting priorities, developing **policy implementation guidance**, and monitoring and evaluating **adaptation policies**.

Introduction

Adaptation efforts include planning for multiple plausible climate futures, enhancing adaptability and flexibility in management practices, mainstreaming climate considerations into existing decision processes, and taking action now on policies that reduce existing climate vulnerability.

Abt brings a spectrum of tools to assist in adaptation decision-making, including vulnerability assessments, the adaptation decision matrix, benefit-cost analyses, triple bottom line economic analyses, multi-criteria analyses, risk analyses, and many others. We also bring expertise in qualitative information elicitation, including focus groups, structured and semi-structured interviews, surveys, content analyses, and more.

Municipal-Level Adaptation Experience

U.S. Community-Based Adaptation

Abt led an effort for the Kresge Foundation to review community-based adaptation in the U.S. Abt conducted research in 17 communities to assess their tangible actions to reduce climate change vulnerability and build resilience. The final report includes 17 case studies, key findings and recommendations.



Adaptation Plan for Salinas, Puerto Rico

Abt conducted a vulnerability assessment and evaluated potential adaptation strategies to address high-risk vulnerabilities under Puerto Rico's Department of Natural and Environmental Resources. Abt's methodology was modified from our NREL work.

Water Utility Climate Alliance Support

Abt has worked with several major water utilities across the United States, including the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, the Portland Water Bureau, Seattle Public Utilities, and Tampa Bay Water, among others, to explore how climate change information can be improved, used in decision-making, and evaluate how models and climate information can support water management decisions.

State-Level Adaptation Experience

Incorporating Colorado Vulnerability Study into the state of Colorado's Natural Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) Grant Process

Abt supported the Colorado Resilience and Recovery Office in developing funding proposals for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's NDRC. This included stakeholder facilitation, climate vulnerability identification, and cost-benefit analyses.

Management of Statewide Adaptation Planning Efforts

In Alaska and Florida, we worked with stakeholders, including government officials, environmental organizations, communities, and others. We guided them through a process of identifying climate change risks, adaptations to reduce those risks, evaluating adaptations, priority setting, and preparing adaptation strategy reports. We also analyzed vulnerabilities and developed comprehensive potential adaptation lists.

National-Level Adaptation Experience

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Resilience Toolkit

Abt developed an interactive toolkit for HUD to support Community Development Directors in assessing risk of current and future climate hazards, and identifying resilience actions to address them.

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Resilience Action Plan for the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL)

Abt supported the Department of Energy's NREL by developing a methodology to assess vulnerabilities to NREL's site, facilities, operations, and mission activities and developed a resiliency action plan to prioritize potential solutions. Abt conducted a background literature review, engaged a steering committee, conducted workshops and interviews, and developed a state-of-the science report. This work earned NREL a 2016 Department of Energy Sustainability Award.

Adaptation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Abt has supported several initiatives to promote adaptation to climate change. We developed a climate module for the CREAT tool to assist water utilities in analyzing climate change and the effectiveness of adaptation alternatives. We also analyzed best practices of water utilities to address climate vulnerability and adapt to climate change, and organized workshops on water resources adaptation and adaptation in the southeastern United States.

Federal Adaptation Report

Abt led the report, *Adapting to Climate Change: A Call for Federal Leadership*, with the Pew Center. The report recommended how the federal government could be organized to develop a national adaptation program.

International-Level Adaptation Experience

Support for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Abt staff have played key roles in helping USAID develop its approach to incorporate climate change into development work, from USAID's initial 2007 guidance manual to the 2014 climate-resilient development framework to current efforts on National Adaptation Planning and Finance Strategy. We have provided advice to the water sector, coastal zones, governance and marginalized populations, and have led related fieldwork in Honduras, Mali, South Africa, Peru, the Philippines, the Central Asian Republics, and the Marshall Islands, among others.

Support for the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

Abt staff provided technical assistance to CDB to increase capacity to access an EIB Climate Adaptation Line of Credit, to support climate-resilient development. Our work helped determine existing capabilities, provided implementation recommendations, and prepared projects in Belize, Bahamas, and St. Lucia for funding.

Integrated Water Management in La Mojana region of Colombia

Abt supported the United Nations Development Program in developing a climate change adaptation project proposal for the Government of Colombia's application for funding from the Green Climate Fund. Abt staff conducted cost-benefit analyses of proposed water resource management and climate change adaptation projects in the La Mojana region.

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Abt Associates is a mission-driven, global leader in research and program implementation in the fields of health, social and environmental policy, and international development. Known for its rigorous approach to solving complex challenges, Abt Associates is regularly ranked as one of the top 20 global research firms and one of the top 40 international development innovators. The company has multiple offices in the U.S. and program offices in more than 60 countries.

