Climate Risk and Insurance:
Improving Equity, Enhancing Resilience, and Stabilizing Markets

September 14-15, 2023
Grossman Hall, American University’s Washington College of Law

The event will bring together a cross-sectoral group of experts to discuss the role of insurance in improving equity in disaster recovery, lowering future losses, and stabilizing climate-stressed insurance markets. The focus of discussion will be on the design and implementation of innovative solutions.

Agenda

Day 1

8:00 a.m.  Breakfast

8:15 – 8:25  Welcome and introductory remarks
•  Dean Alison Jacknowitz, School of Public Affairs, American University (AU)
•  Dean David Malchick, Kogod School of Business, AU
•  Todd Eisenstadt, Center for Environmental Policy, AU

8:25 – 8:30  Themes of the conference: Helen Wiley, SBP

8:30 – 8:45  Harnessing insurance for a more resilient and equitable future: Carolyn Kousky, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)

8:45 – 9:45  The Broader Context
•  Moderator: David Bartlett, Kogod School of Business, American University
•  Managing climate risk: Alice Hill, Council on Foreign Relations
•  Reforming disaster policy: Carlos Martín, Brookings/Harvard
•  Insurance for climate: Francis Bouchard, MMC
9:45 – 10:45  **Resilience: Policy Ideas Roundtable**  
- Moderator: Dana R. Fisher, Center for Environment, Community, and Equity, AU  
  - Fortified and insurance: Julie Shiyou-Woodard, Smart Home America  
  - Wildfire mitigation insurance incentives (or credits): Mike Peterson, CA Dept. of Insurance  
  - Nature Force: Insurers, DUC, and wetland conservation: Mark Gloutney, Ducks Unlimited Canada

10:45 – 11:00  Break

11:00 – 12:15  **Reducing Inequities in Recovery: Policy Examples Roundtable**  
- Moderator: Karina French, EDF  
  - Civics pilot: Theodora Makris, Center for NYC Neighborhoods  
  - Recovery Acceleration Fund: Reese May, SBP  
  - Microinsurance: Jonathan Gonzalez, Raincoat  
  - Insurance, heat, and communities: Jackie Higgins, Swiss Re  
  - Regulatory changes for equity: Dan Schwarcz, University of Minnesota

12:15 – 1:15  Lunch

1:15 – 2:45  **Making it Local: Challenges and Solutions**  
- Moderator: Helen Wiley, SBP  
  - Views from the ground:  
    - Silicon Valley, CA: Len Materman, OneShoreline  
    - South Carolina: Ann Roberson, SC Department of Insurance  
    - New York City: Talley Burley, NYC Mayor’s Office of Climate & Environmental Justice  
    - Southern Louisiana: Liz Russell, EDF  
    - City of Sausalito, CA: Janelle Kellman (Mayor 2022)

2:45 – 3:00  Break

3:00 – 4:00  **Community Models of Insurance**  
- Moderator: Kate Stillwell, Jumpstart  
  - Perspectives on rethinking the role of the community:  
    - Jake Clark, Guy Carpenter  
    - Charlie Sidoti, InnSure  
    - Kathy Schafer, University of California, Davis  
    - Deborah Halberstadt, CA Dept. of Insurance
4:00 – 5:00 Insurance and Local Government Financial Needs
   ● Moderator: Raghuveer Vinukollu, MunichRe
      ○ Climate-driven fiscal impacts: Penny Liao, Resources for the Future
      ○ The role of rainy-day funds and self-insurance: Shayne Kavanagh, Government Finance Officers Association
      ○ Natural disaster insurance for public entities: Katie Sabo, Aon

5:00 – 6:00 Reception

Day 2

8:30 a.m. Breakfast

8:50 – 8:55 Welcome: William Snape, Washington College of Law, American University
8:55 – 9:00 Overview of the day and introduction of keynote: Zack Rosenburg, CEO, SBP

9:00 – 9:30 Keynote “Federal Action to Support Resilient Communities for People of Modest Means”: Marion McFadden, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

9:30 – 10:30 International Roundtable
   ● Moderator: Todd Eisenstadt, American University
      ○ Challenges in small island developing states: Stacy-ann Robinson, Colby College
      ○ Global risk panorama: Jerry Skees, Global Parametrics
      ○ Caribbean insurance and climate risk: Mary Elinor Boyer, World Bank

10:30 – 10:45 Break

10:45 – 11:45 Escalating Climate Risk and Insurance Markets
   ● Moderator: Amy Bach, United Policyholders
      ○ A regulatory perspective: Steven Seitz, Federal Insurance Office
      ○ Climate risk and housing and mortgage markets: Ben Keys, Wharton
      ○ Rethinking public and private strategies for risk transfer: Doug Heller, Consumer Federation of America
      ○ Insurance demand and climate risk: Ben Collier, Temple University

11:45 – 12:20 Introduction and Moderator: John Miller, FEMA Region 2
Keynote - “Avoiding Catastrophe: Turning Risk into Resilience”: Roy Wright, President and CEO, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety
12:20 – 1:15  Lunch

1:15 – 2:30  Stabilizing Markets: Views from around the Country
  ●  Moderator: Carolyn Kousky, EDF
  ●  California
    ○  Research findings: Nancy Watkins, Milliman
    ○  On the ground perspective: Frank Frievalt, WUI Fire Institute, Cal Poly
  ●  Louisiana
    ○  Research findings: Matt Sanders, Pew
    ○  On the ground perspective: Kenneth Morgan, SBP
  ●  Florida
    ○  Research findings: Lori Medders, Appalachian State University
    ○  On the ground perspective: Galen Treuer, Miami Dade County, Office of Economic Development

2:30 – 2:45  Break

2:45 – 3:45  New Models for Flood
  ●  Moderator: Louis Hobson, Chubb
    ○  Ric: Nakita Devlin
    ○  Neptune: Jim Steiner
    ○  FloodFlash: Ian Bartholomew
    ○  Joe Flood Insurance: Joe Rossi
    ○  New ideas for NFIP: Len Shabman, Resources for the Future

3:45 – 4:45  New models for building back better
  ●  Moderator: Zack Rosenberg, SBP
    ○  Linking flood insurance to buyouts: Rob Moore, NRDC
    ○  Cost-effective mitigation grants tied to insurance: Don Hornstein, UNC
    ○  Financial benefits of building back better: Erik Olsen, Chubb

4:45 – 5:00  Concluding Remarks

5:00  Adjourn