



The Policy Studies Organization

DUPONT SUMMIT 2012

..... Pressing Issues Amid the Political Maelstrom

December 7, 2012 * Carnegie Institution for Science, Washington, DC
Sponsored by the American Public University and the George Mason University

Panel Speakers

Grit Martinez, PhD, *Duke University / Ecologic Institute*
Tanja Srebotniak, *Ecologic Institute*

Topic

"Local and Regional Adaptation Strategies to Climate Change: Sharing of Good Practices and Comparative Analysis between the U.S. and Germany"

Adaptation to the consequences of climate change is a challenge and task for society as a whole. It affects a large number of stakeholders - governments, administrative authorities, the private sector, municipalities - to name a few. Particularly local stakeholders in communities are affected by the impacts of climate change. This was recently demonstrated by Hurricane 'Sandy' which caused severe damages especially in the communities along the Jersey Shore.

The practice of adaptation can be advanced through stakeholder engagements, sharing of best practice, learning by doing. Efforts to advance adaptation across the U.S. and globally point to the necessity to reduce barriers, enhance information, share good practices and establish methods to evaluate measures.

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The session will focus on good examples in the U.S. (San Francisco Bay Area, Chesapeake Bay) and in Germany (Baltic Sea Region) with emphasis on prerequisites for the acceptability of adaptation measures such as socio-cultural values, personal preferences and participatory processes.

The potential of transatlantic cooperation between coastal communities in the U.S. and Germany will be illustrated by referring to the initiative 'KLIMZUG – Managing climate change in the regions for the future' of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and especially the project RADOST (Regional Adaptation Strategies for the German Baltic Sea Coast). The project's mission is to integrate expected climate changes and the associated extreme weather forms in regional planning and development processes. Stakeholder networks have been formed, partly to increase the future competitiveness of regions, and partly to advance the development and use of new technologies, methods and strategies in regions and where appropriate, to seize opportunities resulting from climate change.