

Cross-Sector Climate Adaptation Principles and New Certifications to Address the Climate Crisis

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ABSTRACT

In the face of increasingly severe climate impacts, buildings can play a significant role in protecting the functioning of communities, ecosystems, and economies. Additionally, since the building sector accounts for the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions, improvements in building practice are critical for moving from the “business as usual” emissions trajectory toward a more manageable climate future. Increased guidance and incentives are helping the building sector maximize opportunities to address the climate crisis. However, the proliferation of such resources from disparate sources, from state and local regulations to client preferences, combined with waning federal incentives, are not enough to cultivate consistency in practice, nor to move the sector forward at the required pace. USGCB’s RELi rating system is a critical leap forward, but with 102 pages of guidance it can be difficult to distill the foundational principles on which it is built. The American Society of Adaptation Professionals’ (ASAP) Living Guide to the Principles of Climate Change Adaptation (Living Guide) articulates the leading values, norms, goals, and practices which underpin climate resilience and climate change adaptation work across all sectors and professions. In this presentation we will explore how to connect RELi to this set of principles to promote cohesiveness in practice, collaboration across sectors and professions allied with the building sector, and create a stronger foundation from which to address the climate crisis through the built environment. Participants will dive into the Living Guide principles through a series of case studies, gain an understanding of how the Living Guide maps with the concepts contained in the RELi standard, and explore how to use the Living Guide to improve their own practice, projects, and investments.

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BIOGRAPHY

Rachel Jacobson is a cross-sector collaborator with over a decade of experience in the climate adaptation, resilience, and environmental fields. As Deputy Director at the American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP), she leads the development, implementation and continuous improvement of all of ASAP's member programs. She also directly oversees the Adaptation Careers and ASAP Serves programs, which provide peer-to-peer learning opportunities and advance consistency and effectiveness in the field, and leads the organization's monitoring and evaluation program. Previously, Rachel was a contractor and a Fellow at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), where she implemented two strategic initiatives: Resilience AmeriCorps and The Department of Commerce Natural Capital Business Roundtables. Rachel lives in Syracuse, NY.

Tom Eisele is the founder of Eisele Architects, a design and consulting firm in New York City. He is an urban planner, licensed architect, LEED Accredited Professional, Certified Passive House Designer, member of the American Institute of Architects and the American Society of Adaptation Professionals. He has over 37 years of professional experience on projects around the world.

As an architect and project director, Tom has managed teams producing project scopes, design packages and construction oversight for building projects totaling more than \$2 Billion in construction hard costs. He has served as QAQC officer on design projects for city and federal agencies and has reported on these projects to the client agencies and their governing bodies. His experience covers a broad range of project types including new construction, renovations and historic preservation.

Since 2010, Tom has been a senior policy advisor in the New York City Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning & Sustainability (MOS) and the Mayor's Office of Resiliency (MOR) working on a number of projects to reduce the city's risk of negative impacts from weather and other climate related events.

In the Mayor's Office, Tom managed teams developing local laws amending the city's construction codes, zoning resolution, environmental regulations, workforce development programs, and policies addressing environmental justice. He has acted as principal drafter of over 60 local laws. Tom worked with the MOS to develop

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methodologies for tracking building energy consumption and establish metrics for this purpose, including the targets for mandated Greenhouse Gas Emissions caps for buildings as part of the city's Climate Mobilization Act.

Post Hurricane Sandy, Tom served on the Technical Review Committee in the city's Housing Recovery Office (HRO) to help homeowners rebuild after the disaster. Tom served on the committee to create the NYSEERDA NYStretch Energy Code-2020. He also served on the committee to update the New York City energy code based on the NYStretch Energy Code-2020 and on the NYC Department of Buildings' committee for the current 3-year cycle update of the city's construction codes.

In collaboration with Enterprise Community Partners, Tom developed a training in resilience best practices for building owners and managers and delivered this training as part of the city's Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD) Property Managers curriculum. Tom also worked with HPD on the 2020 update to the Enterprise Community Partners' Enterprise Green Criteria and the HPD Overlay.

As a leader in the continuing evolution of a sustainable and resilient built environment, Tom is a champion for making buildings capable of supporting utility-interrupted survival in the face of climate shocks and environmental stressors. To this end he applies his vast experience in building design & construction, building sciences and project management to the ongoing mission of making communities increasingly surviving and thriving.

Nicholas B. Rajkovich, PhD, AIA is an Associate Professor at the University at Buffalo. His research investigates the intersection of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and adaptation to climate change in the built environment. Prior to earning a PhD in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Michigan, he was a Senior Program Engineer at the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Company Customer Energy Efficiency Department. At PG&E, he was responsible for designing a \$25 million Zero Net Energy Pilot Program. He was also chair of the San Francisco American Institute of Architects (AIA) Committee on the Environment.