Resilience Hubs for a More Resilient Connecticut

Panel 1: Joanna Wozniak-Brown (OPM) / Rebecca French (DEEP) / Elle Ouimet (UConn). Moderated by John Truscinski (CIRCA)
50% Estimated % of trees that would be lost in 2023 if a “major” hurricane (Cat. 3 or higher) were to hit Connecticut.

40,000 # miles of downed power lines estimated from “major” hurricane in Connecticut.

1-2 months Time needed to restore basic services across the state.
Record Number of Billion-Dollar Disasters Shows the Limits of America’s Defenses
The country has been hit by 23 large-scale disasters since January, and hurricane season is far from over.

Your Climate Disaster Tax Bill Is Growing
The federal government’s spending on calamities related to global warming is a rapidly rising fiscal threat.

June 23, 2020
Federal Investment in climate resilience in just the last 3 years under current administration

$50 Billion

40% of that investment for environmental justice communities (Justice 40)
15% Portion of population that has basic trust in institutions of government.

Public trust in government near historic lows
% who say they trust the government to do what is right just about always/most of the time

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Takeaways

• Escalating climate and weather disruptions are stressing government resources to respond and manage

• need for transformational projects and actions to adapt to changing conditions

• historic federal investment is available and prioritized for EJ communities

• capacity and trust is at historic lows

• Money is top down, but investment needs direction from bottom up to ensure money is connected to things communities need and want
Resilience centers, or “Resilience hubs” are community-serving facilities, augmented to support residents and coordinate and supplement resource distribution and services before, during, and after a natural hazard event (Baja, 2018).
What are “resilience hubs?”

• leverage existing or newly designated community-trusted spaces or facilities
• can take many forms and scales
• 3 modes of operation:
  1. during climate disruption
  2. post-event recovery
  3. everyday operations
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