



# PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AS A STORMWATER MANAGER



FLORIDA STORMWATER ASSOCIATION  
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# STARTING OUT

- Transparency and integrity in climate change planning is more important than ever
- Climate change challenges us big time
  - Scientifically
  - Socially
  - Financially
- Why not just jump in with infrastructure solutions?
  - Our Florida communities need to understand our risk and vulnerabilities – and then prioritize from there
  - Make best use of our \$\$

# The Top 7 Questions You Should Ask Yourself As a Florida Stormwater Manager Planning for Climate Change

*With a Delicious Dessert Theme!*

# 1. How do I get the most for my \$\$?

- Early victories
- Consider phasing your approach
- Smart and specific synergy
  - Grants
  - CRS program
  - Specific strengths of your jurisdiction
- Understand the difference
  - Sustainability versus resilience
  - Vulnerability Assessments
  - Climate Action Plans
  - Infrastructure Adaptation Plans



# EARLY VICTORIES

CRS RATING INCREASE

STAFF RECOGNITION

GRANTS

GOOD PRESS

PHASED APPROACH WITH  
EARLY KEY DELIVERABLE

*These are all real  
examples...like this photo of a  
real homemade cake!*



# POTENTIAL STRENGTHS

CHAMPIONS ON THE  
COMMISSION

STAFF SYNERGY

A PARTICULAR ASSET

STRONG GRANT WRITER

RELATIONSHIPS IN THE  
COMMUNITY





## 2. When should I involve the public and how should I do it?

- Public will ask different questions and want different outcomes (so ask early)
- Be strategic and deliberate – but it doesn't have to be expensive
- Community led approaches
- Work to ensure equitable approach

# Themes of Equitable Climate Plans

- Empowered and active participation
- Network and hub focused
- True empathetic listening (listening without your own filters)
- Realizing one size does not fit all
  - Sometimes you are not the correct messenger

### 3. How long do I need to use this study?

- Planning for climate change is not stormwater planning
- Ideally, a study helps you make better decisions and builds your data arsenal
- Resilience is a journey
- Is your budget realistic?
- Adaptation versus mitigation measures
- Transparent methodology (so you can remember later)





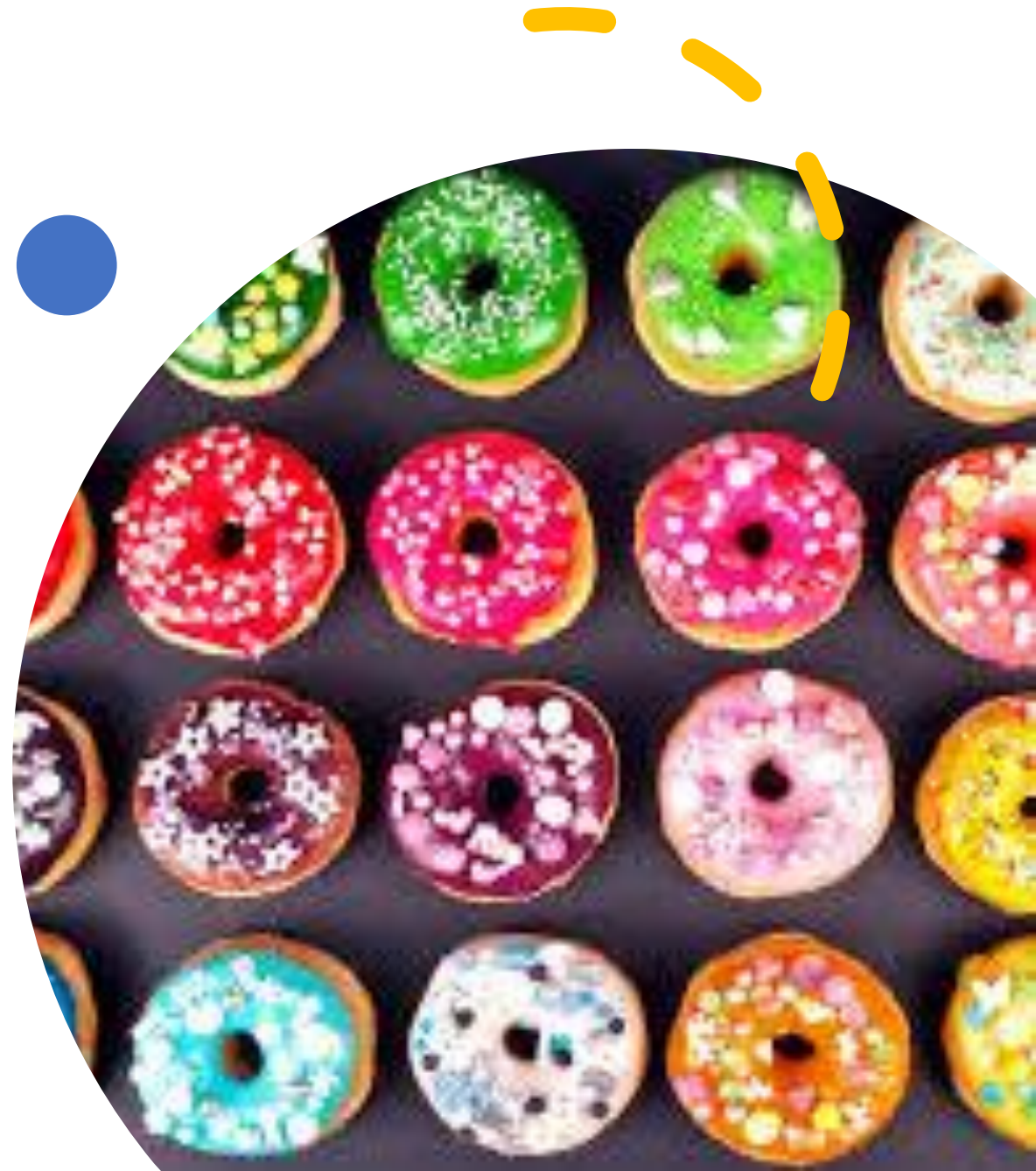
# 4. Do I have the right data?

- Data can take years to develop
- Federal versus local data
- Data on future conditions is scarce
- Special Note – F.S. 380.093:
  - You probably need to evaluate many storms and scenarios
  - Consider inundation mapping if you do not have H&H models
  - Use H&H models if you have them
  - I do NOT recommend ignoring rainfall induced flooding



# 5. Where are the targets I need to hit?

- At the end of your study – what is the Mayor and Commission going to ask you? Did you scope your study to answer those questions?
- Do you have the data and then methodology to answer those questions?
- How specific do your adaptation strategies need to be?
- Do you need to involve subject matter experts and if so, for which threats?



## 6. Which climate threats should I study?

- There are a lot of threats – you probably need to prioritize
  - Public involvement?
  - Staff and/or elected official involvement?
- Check your LMS for top threats
- Threats INTERACT
- Consider non-water AND water quality threats
  - Extreme Heat
  - Wildfire
  - Pest & Disease
  - Harmful Algal Blooms





# Threats vs Stressors



## 7. How does my future self want to interact with this information?

- Interactive tool?
- GIS Data or maps?
- Public access to data?
- How technical does my report need to be?
  - ADA compliance made this issue more complex



# REPORT OPTIONS

- Report card (a few pages, graphically intense)
- Executive summary (a few pages to 40 pages)
- Executive summary + detailed report
- Several technical memos

Whatever you do: Declare your metrics and timeline!

*Again, these are all real examples...like this photo of a real homemade cake!*





# The Seven Questions

1. How do I get the most for my \$\$?
2. When should I involve the public and how should I do it?
3. How long do I need to use this study?
4. Do I have the right data?
5. Where are the targets I need to hit?
6. Which climate threats should I study?
7. How does my future self want to interact with this information?



# Then What?

- Implement in a phased and deliberate approach
  - Dive deeper on specific categories of adaptation strategies
    - Policy might be the easiest first bite
  - Take your public engagement a level deeper
  - Look for the next set of early victories
  - Realize this is a phased issue
  - Hold your team accountable for the metrics you set and keep the vehicle in motion
  - *Have dessert!*

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