Alec Bogdanoff, Ph.D. alec@brizaga.com

What's Next? Policy, Politics, and Socioeconomics



A December of the Street Street

Consider everything as a communication tool.



Flood maps
Schematics and diagrams
Internal presentations (Sunshine)

What's Next?

- Known
- Known Unknown
- Unknown Unknown

Flooding is a huge challenge for Florida. Stormwater systems are a primary flood defense for most communities and how they think about flooding.





McKinsey Global Institute

Climate risk and response

Physical hazards and socioeconomic impacts



NEW YORK (Reuters) - A climate research organization will offer access to a risk model that predicts the probability of flooding for homes across the United States, giving the public a look at the data institutional investors use to gauge risk.

We're not even close to prepared for the rising GOODBYE, M

Lauderdale

41-50

ion would se 6 feet

18

financing could collapse before the

50 CITIES MOST

From coastal flooding and sea

Sea Level Rise Will Floo of Cities in the Near Futu

CAN MIAMI BEACH SURVIVE GLOBAL WARMING?

Miami real estate is booming as never before—but rising sea levels driven by global warming might mean a major bust. The mayor, climate scientists, and other experts tackle the dilemma.

For the formation of the second lose of the sec

Unknown Unknown



Wikipedia Commons, Burmese Pythons in Florida

Let's focus on **economics** for a few moments.

The Catch-22 of Flooding & Sea Level Rise

Those communities that will require the most investment to adapt will also be hit the hardest financially by sea level rise.







Municipal Bonds

- Adaptation today (bonding projects today) will make it easier to bond projects in the future.
- Communities that wait to adapt may find it harder to bond public infrastructure projects.



Flood Insurance

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is run by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and consistently pays out more than it brings in.

Billions of Dollars

We are subsidizing bad behavior.



The Business Case for Resilience in Southeast Florida

Permanent Damages Temporary Storm Damages from Rising Sea Levels Direct Property Impacts Direct Property Impacts • Structure and content damages • Property value loss Relocation costs Business and Business and Employment Impacts Employment Impacts • Sales output loss • Sales output loss Income loss Income loss



• Job impacts

- Job impacts

Fiscal Impacts

- Sales tax loss
- Tourist development tax loss

Fiscal Impacts

- Property tax loss
- Sales tax loss
- Tourist development tax loss

Engineering analysis drives decision-making.



Which community should we **adapt**?

Both solutions offer same level of protection.



- Community A
- Cost: \$2M
- Benefit: \$4M



- **Community B**
- Cost: \$2M
- Benefit: \$2M



This is an **economic** and **socioeconomic** problem.

Which community should we **adapt**?

Both solutions offer same level of protection.



- Community A
- Cost: \$2M
- Benefit: \$4M
- Protects 500 people
- Very Affluent



- Community B
- Cost: \$2M
- Benefit: \$2M
- Protects 10,000 people
- Socioeconomically Disadvantaged



Considering Socioeconomics

- Cost-benefit biases our decision-making towards affluent areas.
- We must consider at-risk populations and those who do not have the resources to adapt themselves.
- Often in communities, the more affluent are at-risk along the coast and feel that they pay their fair share.

This requires careful, consistent messaging – and educating stakeholders on economics.



Raise the road or **abandon** it?



This is an **economic** and **political** problem.

Raise the road or abandon it?









Policy must be part of the engineering solution.

- These challenges require incremental changes over time.
- These challenges require the private residents and businesses to adapt alongside public infrastructure.
- These challenge require sustained investment over time.





Bioswale

Climate Ready Boston Report

Seawall Ordinance in Fort Lauderdale



Policy must be part of the engineering solution.

1. There are a lot of unknown unknowns out there.

- 2. We must be able to use and communicate economics, but also remember to consider people and socioeconomics.
- 3. Everything is a communication tool.
- 4. Policy is an important tool for engineers build a team.



Thank you.

An in

Alec Bogdanoff, Ph.D. alec@brizaga.com