



Climate Ready Communities Beta Review Program

In an effort to help local leaders build climate resilience in their communities at an affordable cost, the Geos Institute announced its Climate Ready Communities program at the 2017 ICMA annual conference in San Antonio, TX on Oct 22, 2017. The program is currently seeking interested communities to serve as beta testers for the program in exchange for a free pilot phase subscription.

At the Geos Institute, we work to keep communities whole in the face of climate change. Our goal for this new program is to ensure that communities of all sizes in the US and Canada have effective climate resilience programs in place to protect their people, natural resources, infrastructure, and culture.

The Climate Ready Communities program will include a downloadable, comprehensive Guide to Climate Resilience Planning that will be available at no cost. This Guide is based on 9 years of experience helping communities understand and adapt to changing climate conditions, and the proven framework known as Whole Community Resilience developed during time.

This framework uses a cross-sector, multi-stakeholder approach that is adaptive over time and creates multiple benefits across the community. The framework aims to not only develop a plan, but also to strengthen local adaptive capacity, which ensures that communities have the skills necessary to update their climate resilience plans over time.

In addition to the Guide, the Climate Ready Communities program includes an annual subscription service to provide support to communities as they move through the 7 steps in the Guide, as well as several add-on services, such as additional consulting hours, local climate projections, and on-site facilitation.

The Climate Ready Communities subscription service includes the following:

- ✓ Templates for most tasks within the 7 steps of the Whole Community Adaptation process
- ✓ Video tutorials to provide information on related topics and instructions for use of the templates
- ✓ Access to a monthly 60 minute live call-in forum
- ✓ Access to an on-line electronic community forum
- ✓ Unlimited email inquiries to the Geos Institute to resolve technical questions
- ✓ 2 hours of phone consulting per year

Timing for the Guide and Subscription Service

Pre-beta, September, 2017 (completed)

Beta review, mid-January – mid-February, 2018

Commercial pilot* begins operation – March, 2018

Beta Communities will:

Review full content of the Guide

Review all templates and tutorials

Review website from which content is accessed and that includes other support for subscribers

Complete an on-line survey which asks for feedback on the above items

Beta Communities will receive:

Substantial learning about the climate resilience planning process

A no cost, 1 year subscription to the commercial pilot program upon completion of the beta review. Beta communities will be eligible for the same benefits (including the additional 3 hours of consulting time) as the paid subscribers in this program.

Beta Program Details

Estimated time required for review and survey: 10-15 hours

Requested response time once content is made available for beta reviewers: 4 weeks

Enrollment: a beta testing legal agreement is executed by the community. The focus of this agreement is to ensure the confidentiality of Geos Institute content. The agreement does not require a commitment by the community to do the actual review.

For more information about becoming a Beta Community, please contact Geoff Weaver, at geoff@geosinstitute.org. or 503-781-7888, or Christina Mills at christina@geosinstitute.org

** Along with the Climate Ready Communities program, the Geos Institute announced a commercial pilot program for the subscription service. The Geos Institute is accepting applications through February 28, 2018 to be one of the 15 communities in this pilot program. These 15 communities will each pay the \$2,499 annual fee and they will gain an additional 3 hours of consulting time at no cost (for a total of 5 hours of consulting time). The Geos Institute will limit participation for the first 6 months of pilot operation to these 15 communities plus the beta reviewers who opt to take advantage of their free subscription during the pilot phase.*