Incentives for Community Resilience

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As the cost of disasters is rising, the gap between uninsured and insured losses is also widening. Government aid makes up this gap.

Source: Swiss Re sigma 1/2014
Timeline of activities

Regional Climate Convening 2014
September 2014

Aspen Summit
May 2015

UN Conference of Parties 21
December 2015

FOCUS15 at the French Embassy
March 2015
What was the Role of the National League of Cities?

- Support the effort of the US Delegation to join an agreement
- Demonstrate leadership of US cities
- Help get 100 cities to sign the Compact of Mayors, pledging to create and implement climate action plans
The National League of Cities & the U.S. Green Building Council Presents

RESILIENT CITIES SUMMIT

May 3 — 5 | Aspen Institute
Themes for Discussion

1. The complexity of resilience
2. Resilience as a leadership opportunity
3. Lessons in city resilience
4. Making the next resilience investment
5. Transforming conversation into action
6. The global implications for U.S. city leadership
Outcomes

Knowledge

- Resilience is still a niche topic for leaders, voters
- Many still need basic information
- Procurement rules can hinder assistance, slow progress

Connections

- Local Leaders found broad range of previously unknown resources
- Resilience is not about providing new services, but providing current services better

Experience

- Participants indicated the time spent was valuable
- The format is effective, but not replicable or scalable
- Attendees wanted a safe forum to present ideas and policies for input
COMPACT OF MAYORS
THE BIGGEST COLLABORATION TO ACCELERATE CLIMATE ACTION

Resources for Phase 1
Register Commitment

Resources for Phase 2
Take Inventory

Resources for Phase 3
Create Targets and Metrics

Resources for Phase 4
Establish an Action Plan
Measuring Up 2015
How US Cities Are Accelerating Progress Toward National Climate Goals
• 54% reduction from baseline
Reviewing Incentives

• “The MMC and CFIRE realized that the definition [of resilience] is not as important as determining ways to incentivize building owners and operators... to implement the recommendations to their properties”

  — Invitation letter from NIBS
Reviewing Incentives

• Enhanced Ratings?
  – Downgrades for poor performance are more likely

• Federal/State Grants?
  – Overall a marginal effect
  – Sustainable Jersey a good model. Tie eligibility to overall sustainability efforts

• Building Code Programs?
  – Not realistic in most communities
Reviewing Incentives

• Green Bonds
  – "I have a finance background—I’m not a climate expert. But I’ve learned so much working on green bonds and we see a similar process with many of the bond portfolio managers we meet... It’s just becoming an additional aspect they look at when they invest.” - *Heike Reichelt, Investor Relations, World Bank*

• PACE
  – Energy savings => resilience upgrades

• Zoning
  – Out of harms way
  – **Better development pattern**
Barriers

• Real Estate Finance & Tax Incentives
  – Longer Term CRE loans

• Lack of planning coordination
  – THIRA
  – Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan
  – Community Health Assessments
  – All based on questionable assumptions
  – None are coordinated
THANK YOU

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