

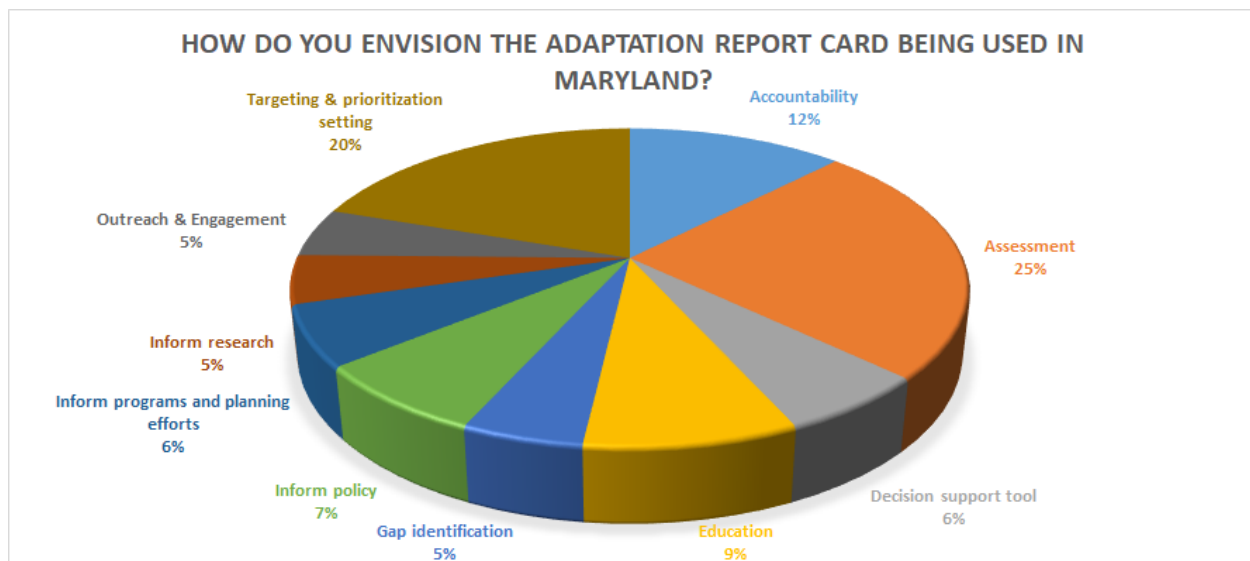
February 22 ARWG Priorities Survey Responses

This document provides a summary of the responses to the survey that was conducted during the February 22 ARWG meeting. The survey was developed to solicit input from the ARWG on specific aspects of the 6 priorities identified by the workgroup for action in 2021.

The explanation of the priorities can be found in the [MCCC Annual report](#), beginning on page 29. If you have questions or additional input you would like to provide, please email ARWG coordinator Allison Breitenother at allison.breitenother@maryland.gov

Adaptation Indicators and Report Card

How do you envision the adaptation report card being used in Maryland?



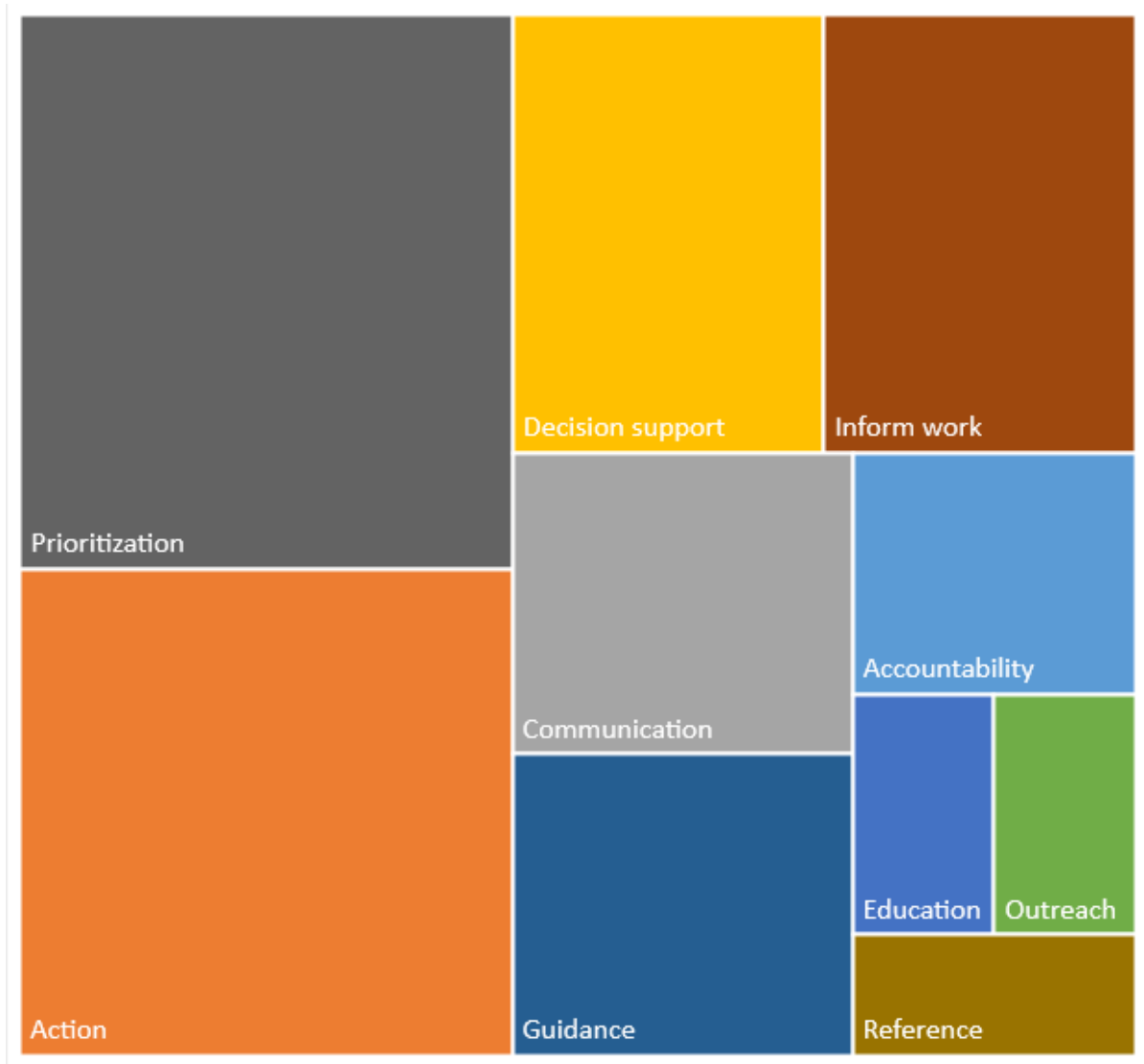
Who do you see as an end user of the report card?

ARWG provided over 80 suggestions for potential end users. The identified end users were broad in some cases, for example 'state agencies' was the most common suggestion, accounting for 15% of all results. Within the broad categories, there were quite a few specific end users identified including the Department of Health, the Department of the Environment, and Montgomery County Adaptation Planning Council. Other end user suggestions included planning departments at both the state and local level, with hazard mitigation planning called out specifically as a planning process that could benefit. Insurance, real estate and development

community were suggested by 5 attendees, while advocates, asset owners, agency leadership were all suggested two times. Citizens and legislators (state and local level) were also included in the responses are groups that should be made aware of the report card and what it means for the coast.

Adaptation Framework

How do you see this Framework being utilized in Maryland?

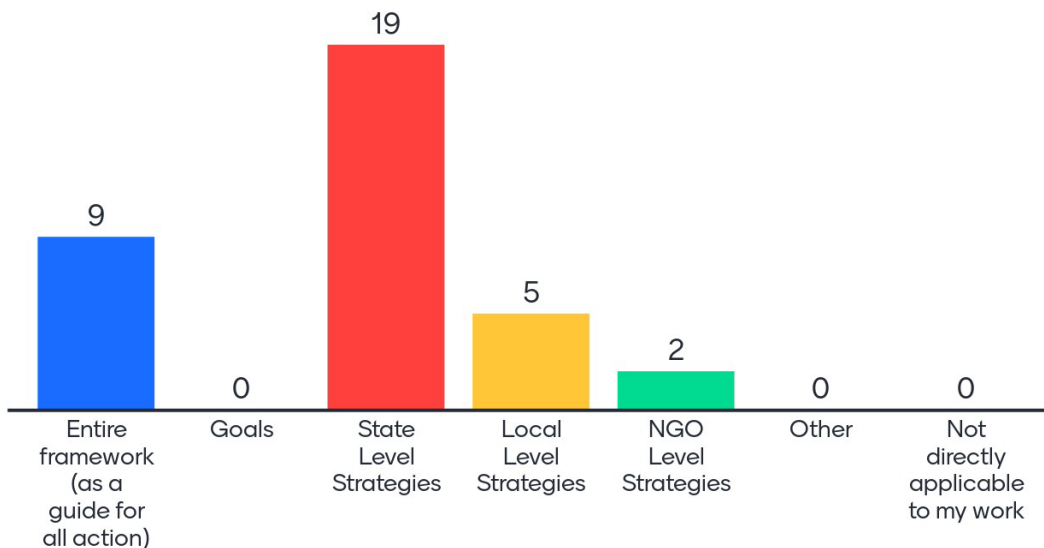


The suggestions for how the Framework could be used are reflected above, with prioritization being the most common use representing 24% of the results, closely followed by Action with 21%. The prioritization suggestions covered using the framework to prioritize funding, targeting areas of highest priority for climate benefits, prioritizing strategies and programs among others.



Action suggestions included action at an agency level as well as in specific programming in Maryland. Decision support (12%) and informing work (12%) were the next most common. While both of these could be rolled into Action, as they are necessary steps to taking action they remained their own categories due to the specificity of the suggestions provided and the intent to not overly simplify the suggestions. Communication (9%) and guidance (9%) were next and addressed the need to inform all stakeholders in Maryland on the need for climate adaptation, what Maryland is doing and provide guidance or a lead by example approach to encourage adoption of best practices. Remaining categories, education, outreach, reference, etc. while not as common are important uses for this framework and will be considered as the Framework continues to develop.

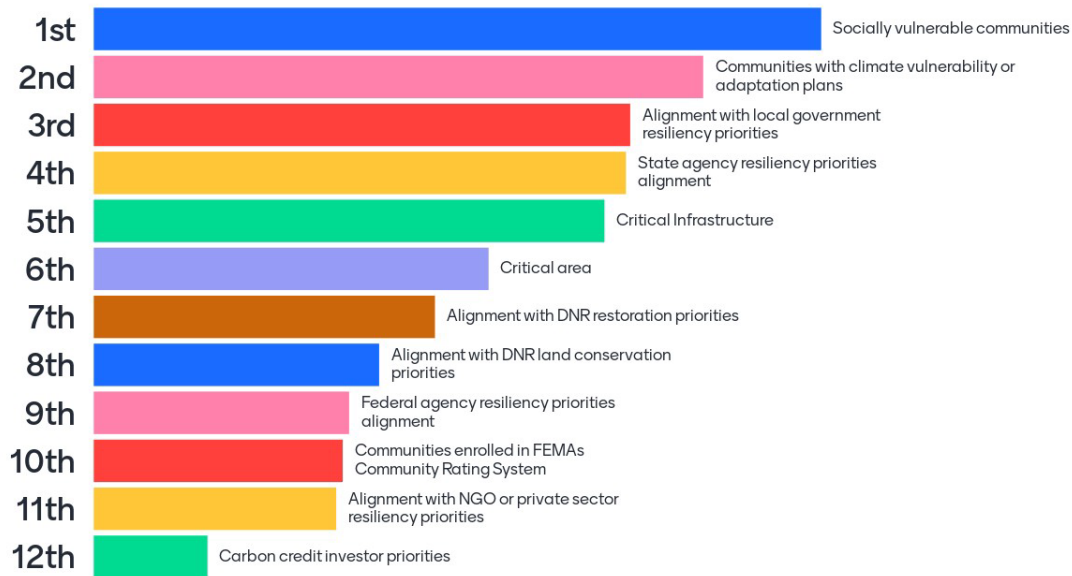
What component of the Framework can you see being most applicable to your work?



Water Quality and Climate Change Resiliency Portfolio

Please rank the following selection criteria in order of importance.





1. Socially vulnerable communities
2. Communities with climate vulnerability or adaptation plans
3. Alignment with local government resiliency priorities
4. State agency resiliency priorities alignment
5. Critical infrastructure
6. Critical area
7. Alignment with DNR restoration priorities
8. Alignment with DNR land conservation priorities
9. Federal agency resiliency priorities alignment
10. Communities enrolled in FEMAs Community Rating System (CRS)
11. Alignment with NGO or private sector resiliency priorities
12. Carbon credit investor priorities

Please provide other indicators

ARWG meeting attendees provided over 20 additional criteria to be considered in the water quality and climate change portfolio assessment. An indicator that captured the specific community characteristics made up 47% of the submissions. It included communities that will be totally inundated, or isolated due to transportation avenues being inundated; those most vulnerable, those with the most at risk septic or water systems due to sea level rise or saltwater intrusion. Overwhelmingly, members support additional indicators and decision considerations that focus on the specific communities characteristics and the subsequent risk or vulnerability they experience. Other suggested indicators included prioritizing actions that have an observed or measurable co-benefit to water quality and habitat goals, cost-benefit analysis, and identifying where contaminated soil or areas are and prioritizing those.



Saltwater Intrusion Plan

For coastal resiliency easements effort within the SWIP, what particular actions or tasks do you feel need to happen to make this project successful?

Responses to this question included the identification and expansion of funding sources available, increased and expanded communication efforts to educate, inform, and encourage participation with farmers and landowners, and expanding outreach and communication into the real estate industry, property insurance underwriters and the like. A need for more mapping of where saltwater intrusion is occurring was mentioned multiple times. Capacity needs, and innovative thinking were also identified as actions necessary to make the project successful.

For the wetland adaptation plan component of the SWIP, what particular actions or tasks do you feel need to happen to make this project successful?

Survey responses identified a need for increased funding as well as a more coordinated and consistent approach across partners, agencies and programs. Outreach, education, training needs and capacity support were also identified as necessary actions to support the wetland adaptation plan component of the SWIP. While mapping was not explicitly indicated like it was for the coastal resiliency easement effort, many responses included outcomes that could be achieved by an expanded or more collaborative mapping effort.

Maryland Climate Leadership Academy

The survey asked these two questions 1) **What specialized training or resources would you like to see created?** 2) **What audiences should we target outreach to for MCLA offerings.**

Responses for the two questions overlapped and sometimes answered the other question, so we have combined the responses below.

In addition to audiences and sectors identified, responses included an ask to develop a clearinghouse or repository for all training available in Maryland around climate, to include information on the federal initiatives of the Biden administration, expand training to non-coastal areas and finally to develop the trainings with an interdisciplinary team to ensure the trainings are developed with all audiences necessary in mind.

Audiences:

Specific audiences identified included: young professionals, elected officials, citizens (specifically homeowners), stormwater managers, planning commissions, agencies that participate in the MCCC, county climate and sustainability planners, school teachers, and groups working as 'connectors' in climate change in Maryland, for example University Extension.



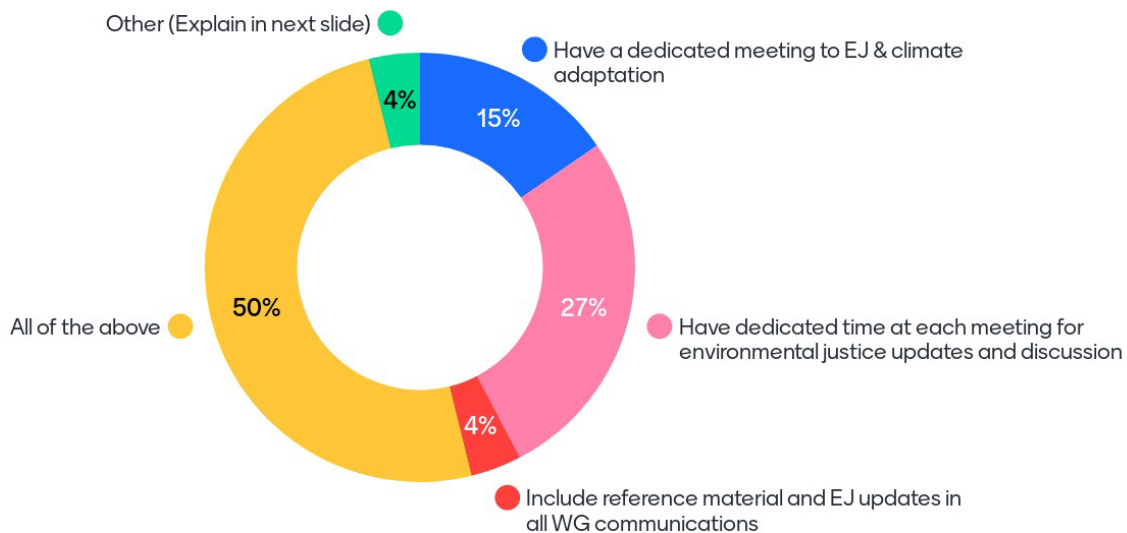
Audiences were identified as either needing additional outreach and engagement for participation in the MCLA offerings, or as a group that previously had not been targeted.

Sector or content specified training:

ARWG meeting attendees identified the following specific content areas for training to be developed for: procurement officials at the state and local level, compliance officers specifically at MDE, training on grants and technical assistance available, behavior change, energy sector, tools available and how to use them (ex: Coast Smart Climate Ready Action Boundary, CS-CRAB), health impacts, and MDOT business units.

Environmental and Climate Justice

How would you like the workgroup to approach this recommendation?



What topics related to Environmental Justice and Adaptation would like the workgroup to cover during meetings and include in our work plan?

Some of the topics suggested to be covered by the workgroup include: hearing from people working in the EJ space, how environmental justice manifests and can be addressed in the farming community, outreach - both how to do it and who to talk to, health topics were mentioned multiple times, as well as risk assessment and understanding best practices for prioritizing which of the vulnerable communities should receive support first. Multiple people identified a need to understand how environmental injustices are manifesting in existing systems so that we can begin to address them in the systems and not just on the backend. Collaboration or engagement with the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) and developing a common definition or framework were both mentioned



more than once. Both of these efforts are being tackled at the MCCC level and the workgroup will be kept apprised of the progress and any outcomes that occur from that effort.

Please provide any suggestions about approach to and integration of environmental justice and climate adaptation for ARWG.

Responses to this question included expanding ARWG membership to more accurately reflect the communities that we serve, to invite more community groups and members, as well as NGOs working in environmental justice to participate in meetings and provide testimonials. Ensuring that communities are involved throughout a process and not just at the end was identified as a key component to any integration efforts. The need for multilingual communication and outreach materials were identified, as was the need to understand the history of environmental injustice in Maryland to be better in the future. A concern was raised that the environmental justice portion of the agenda would not be given it's due and instead be rushed through to keep on time.

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We thank all participants for their insightful, honest, and robust responses to these questions. We are integrating this feedback into the 2021 Workplan and using it to develop the meeting agendas for the remainder of 2021.

If you have anything additional to add, please send feedback, suggestions and input to Allison Breitenother, allison.breitenother@maryland.gov

