

A vision for safe and thriving COASTS AND WATERSHEDS

Climate change pushes communities on coasts and rivers to the brink:

Resilient coasts and watersheds are vital to our country's communities, economy and environment.

But these communities, infrastructure and ecosystems are at increasing risk from rising seas, intensifying storms, and shifting precipitation patterns.

These risks are not distributed equally, as racial inequities and systemic practices, such as redlining and climate gentrification, place communities of color and under-resourced communities at greater risk of flooding and pose serious environmental justice concerns.

The flooding will increase. The human and economic toll is going to get worse. Our strategies address the risk of these impacts.

We can build vital coasts and watersheds for people and nature around the world.



*Research indicates flood risk for Black communities in the United States will climb by at least **20%** by **2050**.*

Our vision for climate resilient coasts and watersheds:

EDF seeks to ensure that climate resilient and healthy communities and ecosystems along coasts and rivers can thrive with water, and are safe, equitable and prosperous places to live, work and play.

Our approach:

By harnessing nature's protective power, supporting communities most at risk and catalyzing research, finance and policy, we're creating a more resilient, equitable and prosperous future, despite climate threats.

We must proactively protect communities from all the ways climate change is increasing flood risk – sea level rise, stronger hurricanes, more extreme rainfall by:

1. Advancing comprehensive planning that addresses flood risks today and in the future.

We marshal a whole-of-government approach to confront this crisis with proactive, comprehensive resilience planning and strategies at all levels of government.

2. Investing in nature as a vital buffer for resilience.

We advocate for investments in natural solutions, such as restored wetlands and floodplains, to provide a vital buffer for communities from flooding.

3. Increasing equity. All communities are not the same.

We address disproportionate flood risk with policies and solutions that advance equity and resilience for all communities.



Creating climate resilient coasts and watersheds across priority regions:

EDF staff are working with community and NGO partners, policymakers and stakeholders across the Eastern seaboard, Gulf Coast, Caribbean and Mississippi River Basin to achieve our mission.

At the local, state and national levels, EDF is working to advance policies that direct funding to natural infrastructure and other climate resilience priorities.



Our Impact:

EDF has advanced priorities across key geographies, showcasing opportunities to expand these solutions to more places. Our work has included:

United States: Federally, EDF is pushing leaders in the Biden Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take a comprehensive, whole-of-government approach to address growing flood risk. By leveraging and connecting common experiences across states, EDF advocates for policies and programs at the federal level that focus on new and existing resources — including significant funding from the recent Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act — on increased flood risk reduction and coastal resilience.

New York/New Jersey: EDF is working in the region to secure equitable investments in nature-forward climate resilient infrastructure; to promote comprehensive planning; and to conduct research on resilience metrics and the intersections between environmental justice, climate impacts, and land use policy that will support and inform sound policy and advocacy efforts. This work includes strong partnerships and coalitions that work together to advance shared goals.

Louisiana: EDF is shaping and advancing the implementation of a bipartisan 50-year, \$50 billion Coastal Master Plan to slow land loss and secure a more resilient and sustainable Mississippi River Delta through investments in natural infrastructure.

Virginia: EDF, in partnership with local organizations, is advocating for comprehensive, research-based and equitable flood resilience planning and policies in Virginia, ensuring resilient communities and ecosystems as the Commonwealth adapts to a changing climate.

North Carolina: EDF advocated for a statewide Flood Resilience Blueprint to understand and address growing flood risks now and in the future. Through these efforts, state leaders have made historic investments in natural infrastructure in recent years to build flood resilience.

Caribbean: Building on decades of fisheries work within Cuba, we are creating knowledge sharing opportunities for leaders from across Cuba, the Caribbean and beyond to connect on shared coastal resilience priorities.

Florida: EDF is developing and implementing locally supported solutions that engage communities from the ground up and governments from the top down by using science-based solutions.

Mississippi River Basin: EDF is developing a new, holistic and transformative approach for how we collectively manage the Mississippi River for people and nature.



Support our work:

Your support of our program can have a big impact to help communities along coasts and watersheds thrive despite climate change. **To learn more, visit www.edf.org/coastalresilience.**

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