



Informing local and regional decisions...

Bringing climate and land use change information to decision-makers



Contact CARA
Brandi Nagle
814.865.3143
brandinagle@psu.edu

Jim Shortle
814.865.7657
jshortle@psu.edu

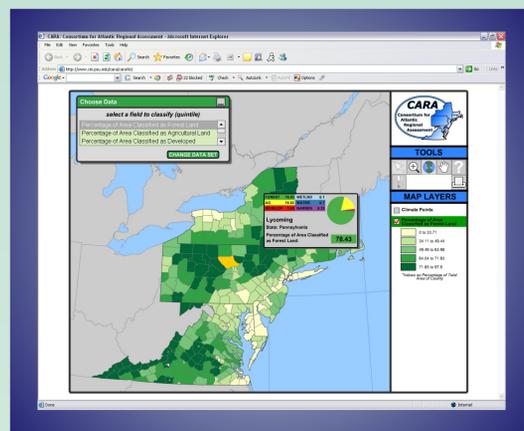
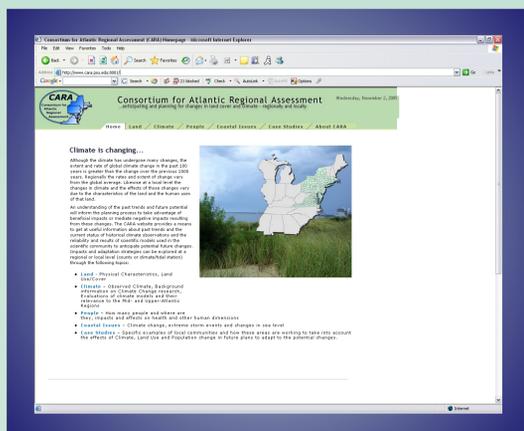
Brandi Nagle, Jim Shortle, Jennison Kipp, and Rachael Dempsey

The CARA Website

Data and information for the mid-Atlantic region

Our website houses data and information about how potential changes in climate and land use may influence sectors of our lives such as water quality and quantity, ecosystems, public health, food supply, transportation, energy, storms and flooding .

Information is organized under the major categories Land, Climate, People, Coastal Issues, and Case Studies. This allows users to quickly get to information they need and want.



Interactive tools and tutorials

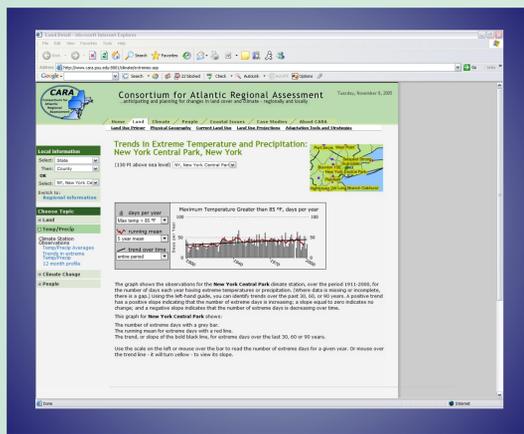
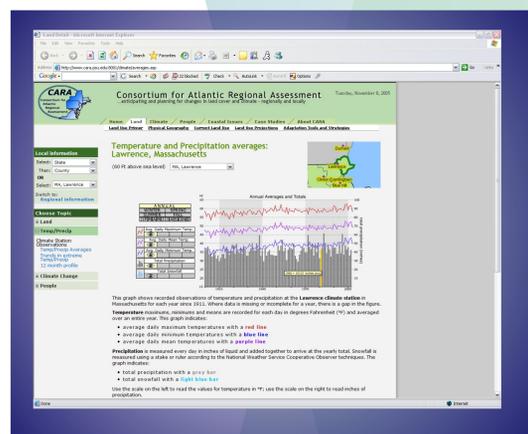
CARA presents climate and land use change information in easily accessible formats so that local and regional decision-makers can explore the information and utilize what is most important to them.

CARA Viz, pictured left, allows users to map a variety of data sets quickly and easily and displays additional information when a user mouses over any county.

Tools and tutorials currently under development:

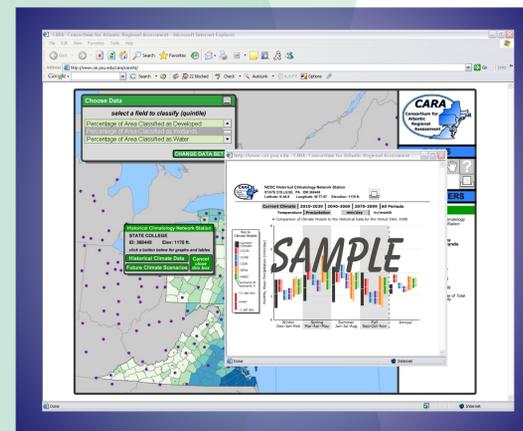
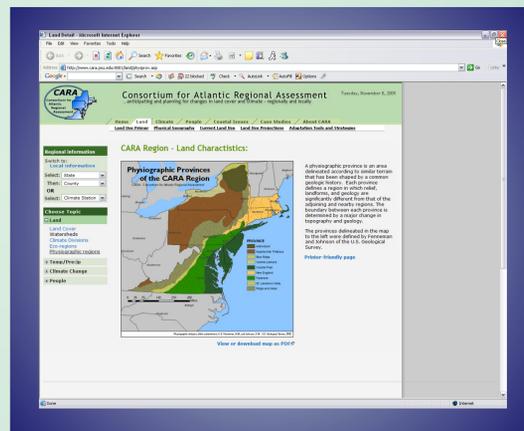
The following tools and tutorials will be available on our website by Spring of 2006: Water, Agriculture, Transportation, Ecosystem, Energy, Land, Health/Climate, and Health/Land cover.

Mid-Atlantic climate: past, present, & future



Mid-Atlantic land use: past, present, & future

The land cover projections and tool will be added to the website shortly. Right now, you can explore the characteristics of land use and land cover throughout the CARA region. We continue to develop exploratory tools to illustrate how land cover and land use patterns may change in the context of climate and population changes in the future.



Right now, the website provides detailed climate information for Historical Climate Network stations within the CARA region. You can look at temperature and precipitation averages and extremes for these stations, exploring how the climate has changed over the period of record. Soon, projections for future climate - both locally and regionally - will be up and running...allowing you to look at different projections under different emissions scenarios.

CARA case studies - science for decision makers in action

Hampton Roads, VA is a case study focusing on sea level rise and wetland loss. The vulnerability of coastal communities to changes in climate and land use are of particular interest to stakeholders in this area. The health of the Chesapeake Bay area is central to planning efforts and consideration for wetlands and commercial aquatic species is paramount in planning.

The case study at **Cape Cod, MA** has focused on three categories of potential effects of climate and land use change: 1)Groundwater issues, 2) Chronic flooding, and 3) Acute Storm Effects. The Cape Cod case study website offers videos and animated pictures to illustrate the potential damages from sea level rise and storm surges.

Cape May County, NJ's economy is based largely on tourism. Aside from being a popular beach destination for millions of tourists, it is also a prime spot for birding. As Cape May plans for the future, decision makers need to understand the potential consequences of climate change and how sea level rise may affect the region. Land use tradeoffs between birding habitat, flood risk, and local taxes and prices on goods are of great concern to local decision makers.

The **Adirondack Park** case study is the lone CARA case study not located in a coastal region. The stakeholders in this region are concerned with the future of the winter economy in the face of climate change, as well as maintaining the high environmental quality that makes this region so attractive to residents and tourists.

The websites for Cape May County and Adirondack Park are still under development.

