

CHANGING THE CONVERSATION:

Communicating Local Climate Change Impacts & Scenarios for the Tampa Bay Region

Libby Carnahan, Ramona Madhosingh-Hector,
Lara Milligan, Dr. Rebecca Zarger

Climate: Change the Conversation

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Assess how local residents view climate change risk and vulnerability in the Tampa Bay region and to improve participant knowledge of local climate change information



The Workshops

- ▶ 4 Workshops Conducted in Pinellas County 2013-2015
 - ▶ Weedon Island Preserve
 - ▶ St. Petersburg College, Tarpon
 - ▶ Brooker Creek Preserve
 - ▶ St. Petersburg Library
- ▶ Marketed to General Public Audience
 - ▶ Online Registration
 - ▶ Email Blasts

Climate: Change the Conversation

A Community Discussion about Issues Affecting Us Today

Thursday, Oct 24
6:30pm-8:30pm
Weedon Island Preserve
Auditorium
1800 Weedon Drive NE
St. Petersburg, FL 33702



Saturday, Oct 26
2:00pm-4:00pm
St. Petersburg College,
Fine Arts Auditorium
600 Klosterman Road
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

Register online at
<https://weedonclimate.eventbrite.com/>

Register online at
<https://climatetarpon.eventbrite.com/>

Climate change buzzwords are common in our daily lives, but do we really understand what they mean or how they will impact our lifestyles? While the science can be overwhelming, it doesn't take a degree in climatology to have an opinion about something that will affect each of us.



We want to hear from you! Join UF/IFAS Pinellas County Extension, USF Department of Anthropology, and the Tampa Bay Estuary Program for a community conversation about climate change.

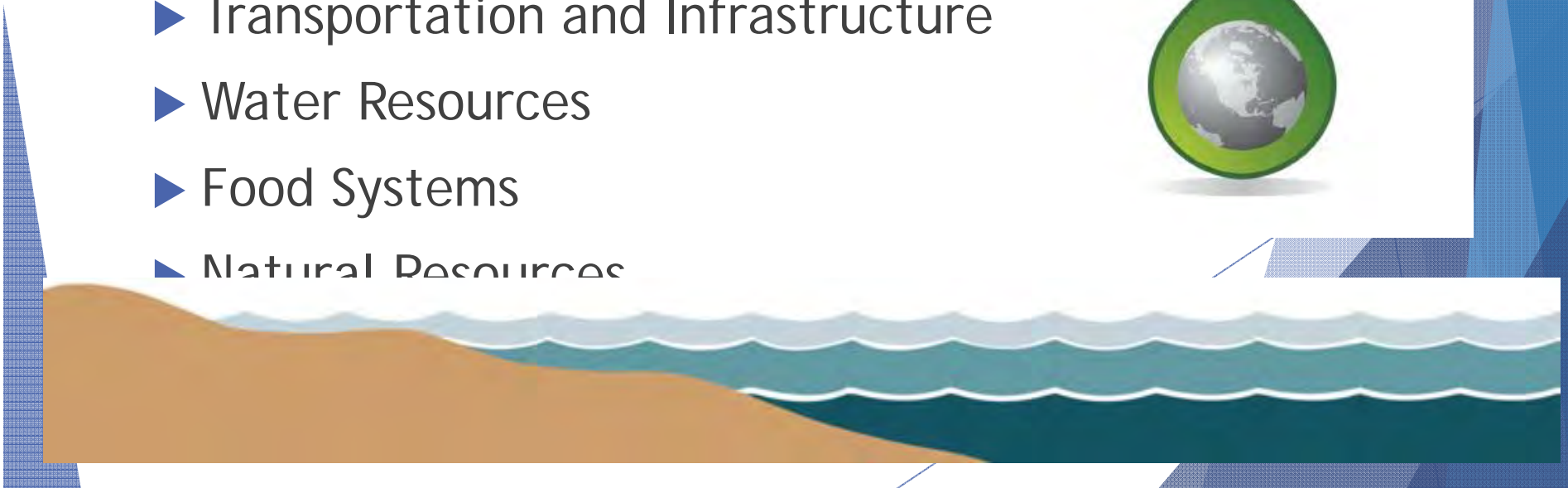
Your input will help us understand how we can better communicate with you about climate change. Light refreshments will be provided. Each participant will receive a FREE insulated shopping bag.



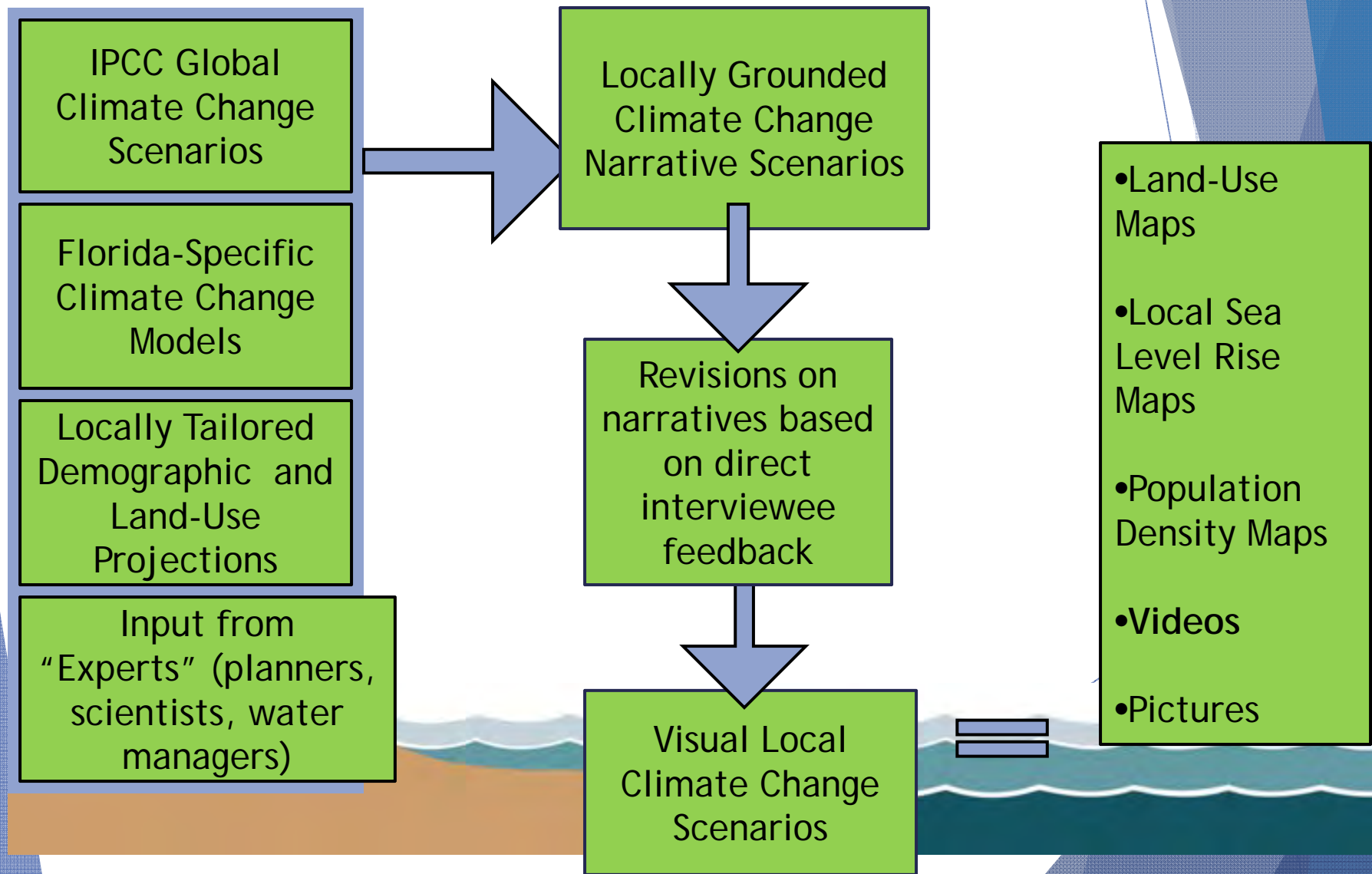
Extension programs are open to all persons without regard to race, color, sex, age, disability, religion, or national origin.

The Workshops

- ▶ Climate Science Overview
- ▶ Video visualizing 3 possible climate futures for the Tampa Bay region
- ▶ 5 interactive listening stations
 - ▶ Sea Level Rise
 - ▶ Transportation and Infrastructure
 - ▶ Water Resources
 - ▶ Food Systems
 - ▶ Natural Resources



Creation of Local Climate Change Scenarios



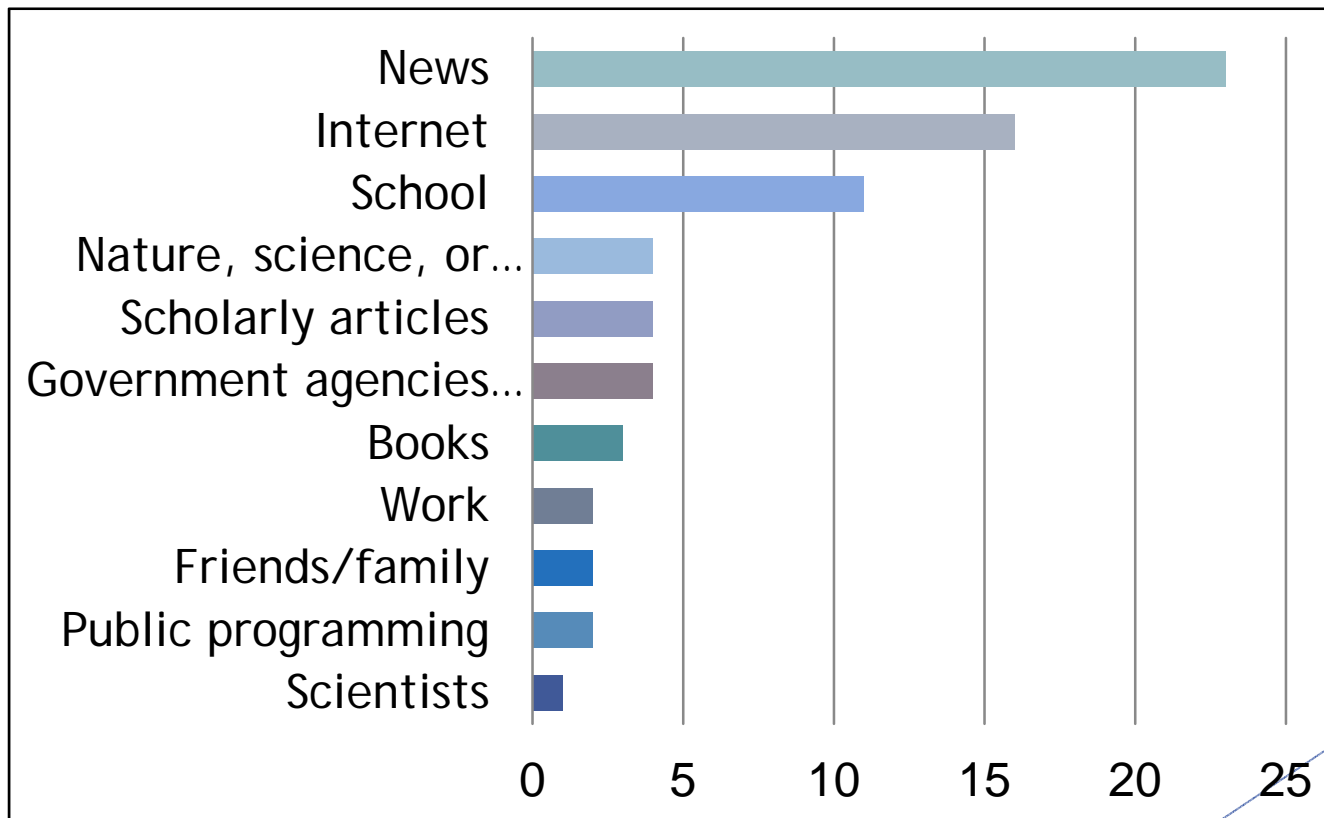
The Video



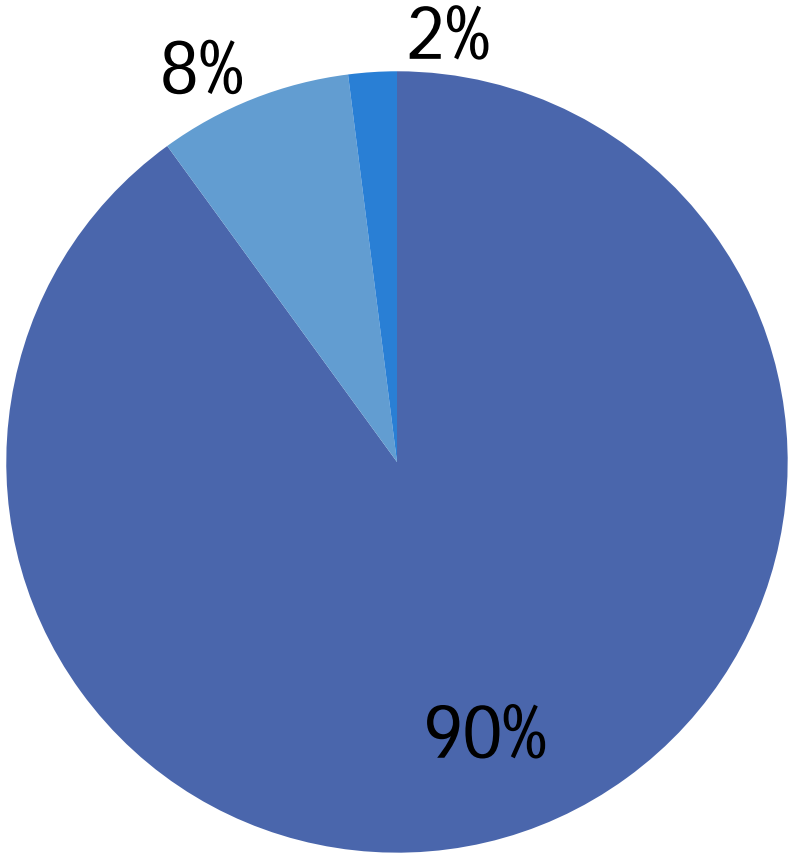
Aeries
Pisces
Virgo



Where did workshop participants get information on climate change?

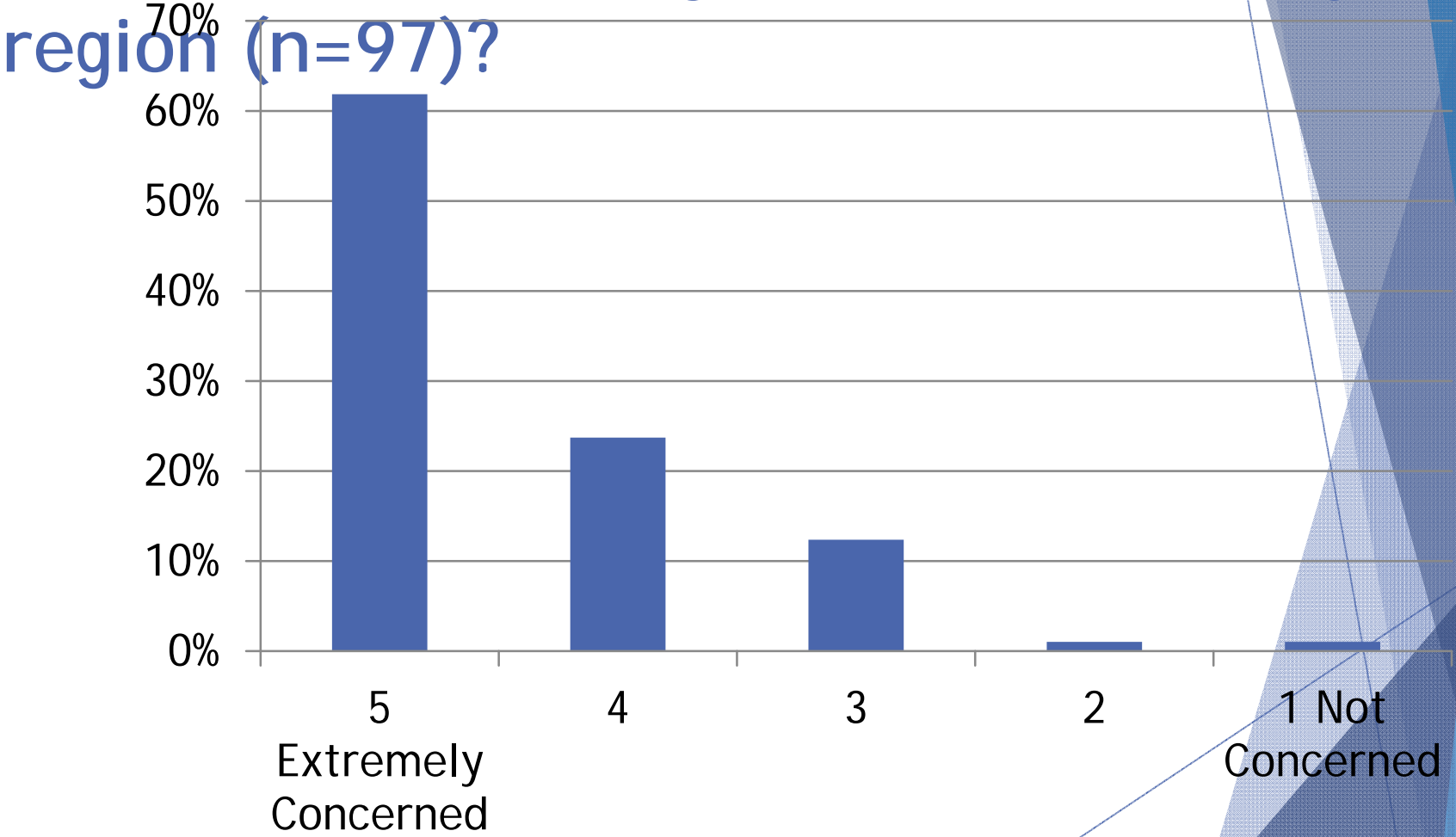


Do you think the Climate in Your Area is Changing (n=106)?



- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

On a scale of 1-5, how concerned are you about Climate Change in the Tampa Bay region (n=97)?



How do you think your local community OUGHT to respond to a changing climate

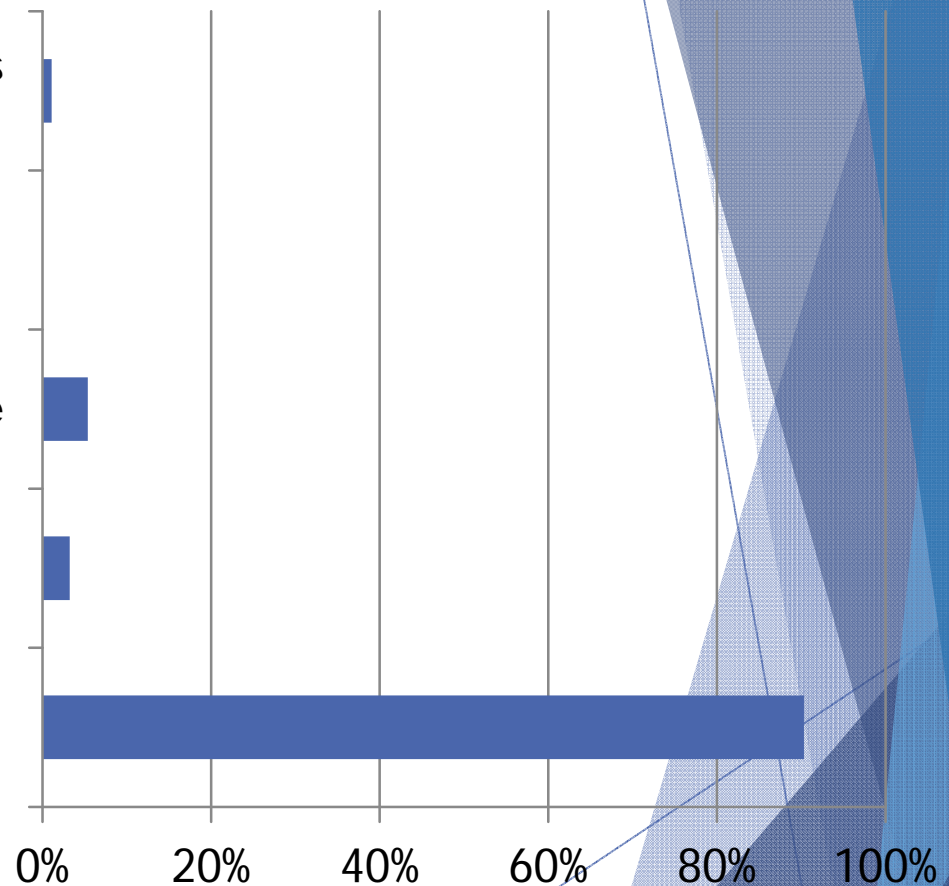
(n=93)?

We should not change what we do; there is no need

We should wait to make any changes until we have better information

We should take only actions that will benefit us whether or not climate change occurs.

We Should Consider Potential Climate-Related Effects in ALL Relevant Decisions



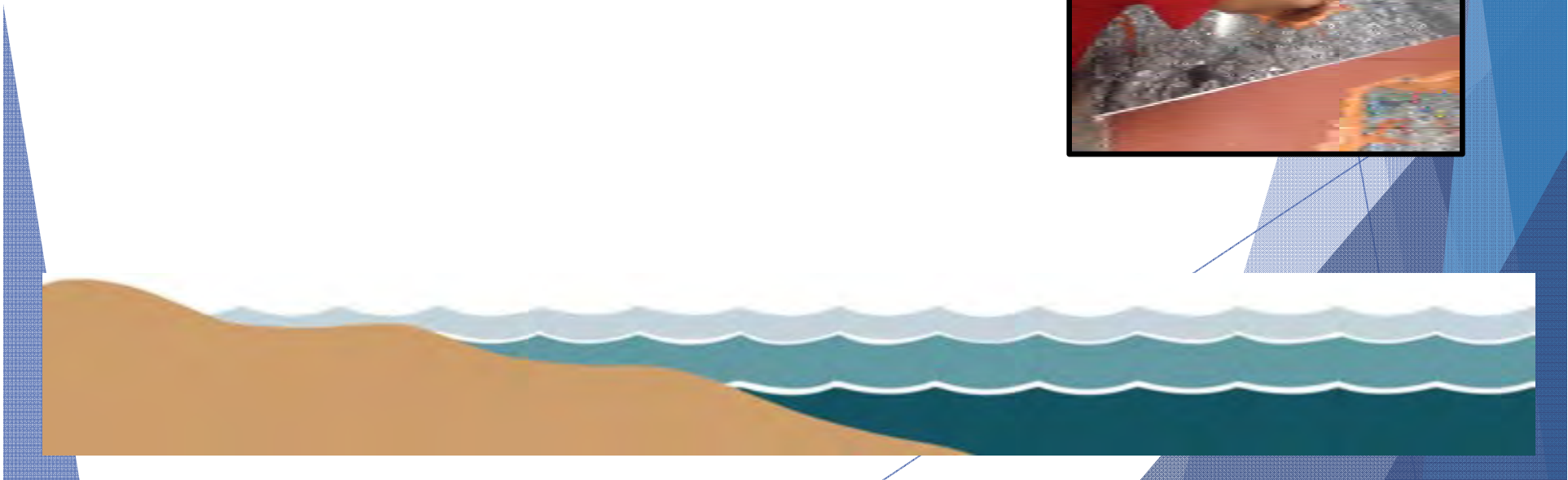
Knowledge Gain

- ▶ 82% Demonstrated Knowledge Gain listing 2 or more facts learned (n=92)
 - ▶ Natural Resource Impacts
 - ▶ Climate Change
 - ▶ Regional Adaptation Planning
 - ▶ Health/Lifestyle Changes
 - ▶ Food/Agriculture Impacts
- ▶ 83% surveyed pledged to modify behavior based on information learned (n=24)



Conclusions & Lessons Learned

- ▶ Workshops well-received
- ▶ Results support program objectives
- ▶ Participants CHOSE to attend workshop which implied subject matter interest
- ▶ Feedback will be incorporated into future climate change programming



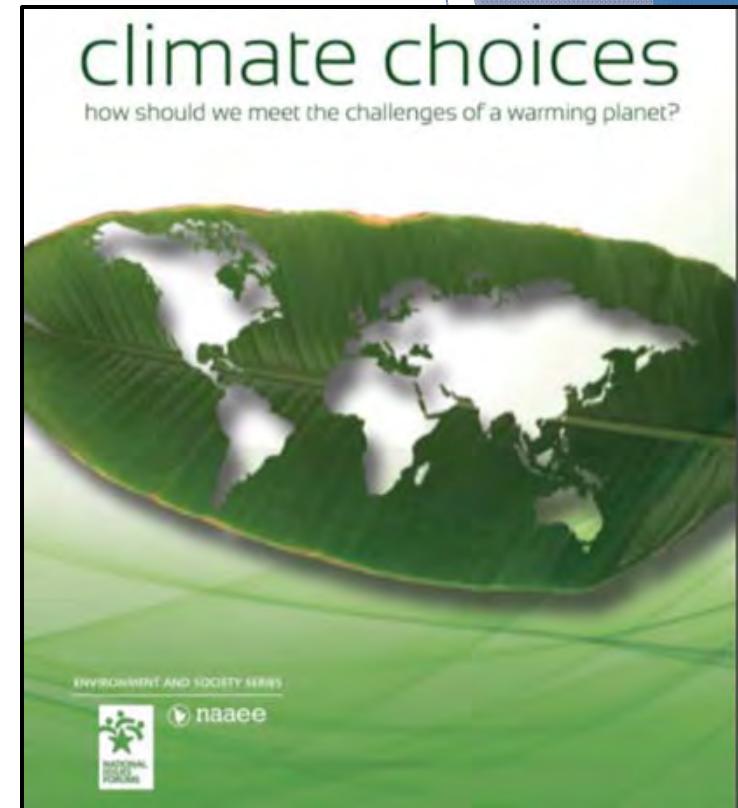
Next Steps

▶ National Issues Forum

- ▶ Kettering Institute

▶ Work Directly with Municipalities

- ▶ Inform cities of public perception and concerns
- ▶ Expand to neighboring counties



Questions?



Libby Carnahan

lcarnahan@ufl.edu

727-453-6522