

## Sustainability

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### Next Up: Adaption

May 25, 2017 | Madelaine Sinclair

Earlier this month in St. Paul, professionals from around the country came together at the National Adaptation Forum to discuss the need for adaptation as climate change progresses. Topics ranging from equity to Climate Action Plans were deliberated. A frequent issue faced by people and especially professions who focus on combating climate change is when to shift focus from preparing for to adapting to the changing climate. This switch in focus then becomes climate resilience.

Climate resilience opens up a natural bridge between municipalities and universities. Scenario-based planning helps participants have a better understanding of what the changing climate means for specific communities and keeps community members prepared and all on the same page. Many resources and examples of successful partnerships are available and can be helpful in getting these important conversations started in every community. For a close to home example, we can look at our friends at the University of Minnesota Morris who have partnered with key community members to for the Morris Model. This model focuses on climate resilience, energy conservation, and clean energy pathways for the community. The [website \(https://www.morrismodel.org/\)](https://www.morrismodel.org/) states: “through the sharing of ideas, strategies, and goals we build our community on the foundation of sustainable initiatives to ensure a safe, clean, and healthy future.”

Adaptation and resilience include something as simple as planting more edible landscapes to thinking about what the future of weather in the area will be when updating and replacing equipment. While making adjustments to these changes and considering what is to come, it is important to keep in mind other community members who may not typically have a voice at the table and engage them



Maddie Sinclair, Finance and German student, represented UMD at the National Climate Adaptation forum, May 2017.

from the very beginning. Many different resources are available for planning climate resilience in your community. To get a start, check out this [toolkit \(https://toolkit.climate.gov/\)](https://toolkit.climate.gov/) from NOAA.

## Tags

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