



Melissa Roberts

Executive Director, American Flood Coalition

Melissa Roberts is the Founder and Executive Director of the American Flood Coalition, a nonpartisan group of more than 500 municipalities, elected officials, military leaders, businesses, and civic groups, plus more than 50 Federal Champions in Congress. As the first and largest grassroots coalition of its kind, AFC brings together leaders from both sides of the aisle to drive adaptation to the reality of higher seas, stronger storms, and more frequent flooding through national solutions that support flood-affected communities and protect the nation's residents, economy, and national security.

Under Melissa's leadership, AFC has grown to represent over 10 million people across more than 20 states, with \$8 billion invested in statewide flood resilience to date. AFC supports its members in developing local adaptation solutions, and the growing coalition has successfully passed legislation in multiple state capitols and Congress. In recognition of her work to advance responsible and equitable adaptation to higher seas and more frequent flooding, Melissa was named a Forbes Social Impact Leader in 2020.

Melissa regularly comments on natural hazard resilience, adaptation, and flood issues, and has been mentioned in USA Today, The Washington Post, E&E News, NPR, Science News Magazine, Miami Herald, The Gazette, The New York Times, Tampa Bay Times, and Post and Courier. She has also been a featured speaker at convenings hosted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Aspen Institute, the Milken Institute, Keystone Energy Board, the Metcalf Institute at the University of Rhode Island, and others.

Prior to her current role, Melissa was the Director of Strategy at First Street Foundation, a research and technology nonprofit that quantifies and communicates America's changing flood risk. Previously, Melissa was an Engagement Manager at McKinsey & Company, where she specialized in infrastructure finance and planning, working with national governments, cities, major foundations, private sector investors, and developers. She was a lead author on the publication "Financing Change: How to Mobilize Private Sector Financing for Sustainable Infrastructure."

Melissa holds a B.A., summa cum laude, in History from the University of Pennsylvania, where she was a Benjamin Franklin Honors Scholar.