

Elizabeth Gibbons, MUP

Executive Director American Society of Adaptation Professionals



Biography

Elizabeth Gibbons is a leading climate adaptation expert and a passionate leader in the field. Her background includes broad experience in community development, urban and regional planning, applied climate research, and professional field building. She has 20 years of experience convening community dialogue, translating data and information into useable formats and bridging disciplines and sectors to ensure communities have the resources and information they need to thrive. For the past 10 years Beth has directed her experience and skills at preparing communities for climate change impacts through the identification and implementation of adaptation strategies.

As Executive Director of ASAP Beth is responsible for strengthening the capacities of individual adaptation professionals, adaptation and resilience-oriented organizations, and accelerating the evolution of the adaptation field of practice. Her work brings her into contact with people practicing in climate field from all corners of the country and across many different sectors. She is constantly monitoring how climate data is being assessed and used in climate services and adaptation practice and, through ASAP, documents and distributes those findings on a regular basis.

As part of a public-private team, Beth has played a central role defining the ‘climate data lifecycle’, which maps how climate data moves from basic production into the hands of decision makers in local government, utilities, and business. Her keen understanding of how climate data and decision making connect comes from her previous experience as the program manager of the NOAA Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Center (RISA) of the Great Lakes Region (GLISA) and as Director of the University of Michigan’s Climate Center. During her tenure at GLISA and the University of Michigan, Beth was constantly seeking ways to bring together physical and social climate science to produce usable and useful information for decision makers across the eight states of the Great Lakes region.

In her personal life Beth is a dedicated community leader and extends her passion for resilient and just places into her service and volunteer work. She serves on the National Advisory Board of the Climate and Space Program for the University of Michigan’s College of Engineering, the National Adaptation Forum Steering Committee, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Great Lakes Advisory Committee, and previously on the International Joint Commission Climate Change Annex (Annex 9). In her personal time Beth serves her community of Ypsilanti, MI as Sustainability Commissioner and has worked closely with City staff to ensure that the plan features adaptation and mitigation strategies under each sustainability goal and includes a detailed appendix of adaptation and mitigation strategies for the City to prioritize going forward.

Education

M.U.P. Master of Urban Planning, The University of Michigan

B.A Comparative Politics, The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC

Publications & Interviews

- Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge & Competencies Framework, American Society of Adaptation Professionals August 2019
- American Society of Adaptation Professionals. “Advancing the Adaptation Field Through Regional Conferences: Reflections on the 2018 Regional Adaptation Fora.” April 2019.
- Living Guide on the Principles of Climate Change Adaptation, American Society of Adaptation Professionals April 2018
- Callewaert, et al. Partners in Local Resilience. Michigan Journal of Sustainability (2016)
- Climate Change Impacts and Potential Stormwater Responses in the Chesapeake and Great Lakes Regions -Key Takeaways from Recent Local-level Efforts (2016)
- Cameron, L., A. Ferguson, R. Walker, D. Brown, & L. Briley, 2015: *Climate and health adaptation profile report: Building resilience against climate effects on Michigan’s health*. Accessed at: www.michigan.gov/climateandhealth. (Contributing author and editor)
- <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212096315000145>
- Baule, Gibbons, Briley, Brown. Synthesis of the Third National Climate Assessment for the Great Lakes Region (2014)
- America Adapts, Podcast, <https://www.americaadapts.org/episodes/2018/10/15/5?rq=gibbons>
- The Resilience Journal, Interview (<https://resiliencejournal.com/2018/04/04/2017-and-resilience-turned-the-corner>)
- Infinite Earth Radio, Podcast (<https://infiniteearthradio.com/adaptation-professionals-asap>)

Presentations

- Adaptation & Resilience Marketplace, A 2020 Overview, Climate Leadership Conference, Detroit, MI; March 4, 2020.
- Building Resilience on America’s Freshwater Coast, United States House of Representatives Congressional Briefing, Washington, DC. February 13, 2020
- Companies, Communities, Climate Resilience, Opportunities & Alignment on Climate Change Adaptation, ILFI Building Resilience 2019 Conference
- Climate Change Adaptation, An Introduction. Ann Arbor Sustainability Forum, February 19, 2019
- Advancing the Climate Data Life Cycle, National Adaptation Forum, April 26, 2019
- Mini-Training Becoming A Principled Adaptation Professional, University of Michigan Course EAS 567
- Using Social Networks to Advance Climate Adaptation - From Boundary Organizations to Associations, NASA Interagency Forum on Climate Change Impacts & Adaptation, Presenter, 2017
- Climate data development and dissemination in the Great Lakes region, EPA Region 5 Science at Work Series, Presenter, 2016

Professional Memberships and Advisory Boards

- City of Ypsilanti Sustainability Commission, 2019 - 2022
- National Advisory Board, University of Michigan College of Engineering
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Great Lakes Advisory Committee
- Agenda Setter and Hiring Committee, Climigration Network
- Technical Advisory Committee, Southeast Sustainability Competition Fund, Southeast Sustainability Directors Network
- National Adaptation Forum (2015, 2017, 2019, 2021) Planning Committee, Member; Steering Committee, Member
- American Planning Association, Member