

4th Annual LIS Partnership Sustainable & Resilient Communities Workshop



LONG ISLAND SOUND
PARTNERSHIP



Session 1 – Resilience 101: Helpful Tools & Strategies for Building Community Resilience

Guest Speaker (CT Breakout Room):

Presentation Title: *Sustainable CT, Climate Resilience, and Resources for Your Community*



Kate Richard (she/her) is a Program Director at Sustainable CT, where she works on their municipal certification program and framework of sustainability best practices. Kate has a background in climate change resilience and adaptation, sustainability outreach, and urban planning. She comes to Sustainable CT from the NYC Department of City Planning, where she worked on flood resiliency and land use. Previously, she worked at the University of Maryland on campus greenhouse gas reductions, sustainability education, and food security programs. Kate has a BS in Environmental Science and Policy and a BA in English from the University of Maryland, and a Master of Environmental Management from Yale University. In her free time, she enjoys reading, gardening, and crafting.

Guest Speakers (NY Breakout Room):

Presentation Title: *NYS Climate Smart Communities Program*



Sofie diTomasso (she, her, hers) joined Hudson Valley Regional Council (HVRC) in 2025. She works as HVRC's Resilience & Adaptation Coordinator to support local governments on the Climate Smart Communities Certification program and climate vulnerability and adaptation planning projects. She previously worked at Emory University's Office of Sustainability Initiatives as a Climate Solutions Fellow to support climate action planning and engagement efforts across the university. She has also held an internship at the Natural Resources Defense Council focused on state-level multimodal transportation policy in Colorado. Sofie received her Master of Environmental Management from the Yale

School of the Environment and bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Emory University.



Mary Lambert serves as HVRC's Climate Action Planning Manager, overseeing HVRC's resilience and adaptation initiatives. Her work included two year-long municipal cohort programs, one supporting the development of greenhouse emissions inventories and climate action plans and another supporting the development of vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans, as well as providing ongoing technical assistance related to adaptation planning to municipalities participating in NYS's Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Program. She also manages a US Environmental Protection Agency-funded Landfill Biofilters Project to mitigate methane and support ecosystem restoration on 13 landfills in the Mid-Hudson Region. A former member of the Board of Trustees and Co-Chair of the CSC Task Force for the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Lambert earned her BA from Yale University and her MBA from Columbia University.



Sarah Oral is a Senior Associate overseeing the Traffic Engineering and Planning Groups at IMEG in Woodbury. Sarah is a professional engineer with 22 years of experience encompassing the fields of transportation, planning and sustainability planning, design, and analysis. Sarah is currently serving as Long Island Director for the Climate Smart Communities program for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Clean Energy Communities program for the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), in which she assists local governments in completing actions that reduce energy reliance, increase resilience, and adapt to our changing climate. Sarah has served as a Trustee in the Village of Roslyn since 2013.

Presentation title: *MyCoastNY: A Free Tool for Documenting Coastal Hazards and Change*



Jessica Kuonen (she/her) is the Hudson Estuary Resilience Specialist for New York Sea Grant. Based out of Kingston, NY, she serves the 10 counties that border the tidal Hudson River and works with waterfront communities on issues related to coastal hazards, climate change, and environmental health.