

Three Key Strategies for Adapting to Sea-Level Rise (SLR)

PROTECT

Place hard or soft barrier between development and the sea to reduce exposure to flooding or erosion. Hard protection (“armoring”) consists of constructing physical structures to keep water back, such as seawalls, groins, revetments, and levees. Soft protection consists of efforts to enhance natural infrastructure’s ability to buffer against the water, such as building up sand dunes, adding sand to beaches, and expanding wetlands.



ADVANTAGES

Can allow existing development and infrastructure to remain in place. Can be less costly than other alternatives.

DISADVANTAGES

Hard protection can contribute to beach erosion and increased flooding in adjacent areas. Soft protection likely will become a less viable strategy once sea levels rise to the higher stages of projected levels.

ACCOMMODATE

Modify or design development in ways that will withstand SLR without damage, such as by elevating buildings or infrastructure, floodproofing structures, and building on floating structures.



ADVANTAGES

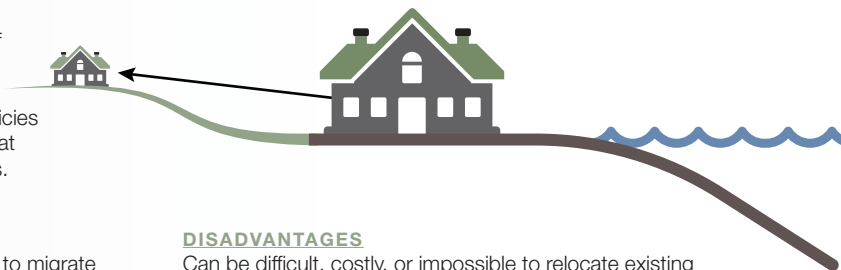
Can allow existing development and infrastructure to remain in place once modified. Can allow for new development in areas that may face flooding in the future.

DISADVANTAGES

Can be difficult and costly, especially to modify existing development.

RELOCATE

Remove or move existing development to less risky areas and limit the construction of new development in vulnerable areas. This could include physically moving an asset or facility that is at risk, or adopting zoning policies that prohibit new development or require that it be “set back” from potential hazard zones.



ADVANTAGES

Can provide space for beach and wetlands to migrate inland as water rises. Ensures development locations are/will be safe from flooding.

DISADVANTAGES

Can be difficult, costly, or impossible to relocate existing development. Renders certain parcels of land unavailable for development.