

Benefits of Taking Action Early to Prepare for Sea-Level Rise (SLR)

- ✓ **Planning Ahead Means Adaptation Actions Can Be Strategic and Phased.** Early planning can allow coastal communities to adopt a phased approach that undertakes escalating actions when certain predetermined conditions or “triggers” are reached.
- ✓ **Undertaking Near-Term Actions Can “Buy Time” Before More Intensive Responses are Needed.** Putting certain adaptation projects and strategies in place now can help postpone and extend the period before which subsequent, more difficult-to-implement actions are needed.
- ✓ **Early Implementation Provides the Opportunity to Test Approaches and Learn What Works Best.** Acting to implement adaptation strategies in the near term will provide the opportunity to monitor, evaluate, and revise them in the coming years before SLR threats become more pressing.
- ✓ **Taking Action Earlier May Make Overall Adaptation Efforts More Affordable.** Undertaking a multiyear, multistep strategic plan for coastal adaptation can allow local governments to spread costs over a longer period of time.
- ✓ **Coming Decade Is Key Window for SLR Preparation.** Some adaptation strategies—such as fortifying certain tidal marshes—may not be effective against SLR unless they are implemented before sea levels rise to higher levels.