

Circular Applied Research

A New Way Forward for Resilience

UConn



A Story



UConn



In the Early 2000s

- The decision was very local, but so was the burden of all the research.
- The question of considering climate change was administratively unfeasible.
- So how do we get from there...to here....?
- What changed....everything?

Katrina?



UConn



Irene?



UConn



Sandy?



UConn



Not For Agencies....



UCONN



Mass v. EPA (2007)

- Mass v. EPA decided whether the EPA could deny ruling on whether or not CO₂ was a Clean Air Pollutant on grounds found outside of the clean air act itself.
- Could the “Considerations” include foreign policy or what other countries might do? Or whether or not it would have any effect?

The Holding

- The Court concluded that the EPA had to reconsider its decision.
- The EPA decided
 - CO2 Was a Pollutant
 - They issued an *endangerment finding*.
 - They used the CAA to regulate greenhouse gasses.
 - There's been a lot of other litigation...
 - But here's what's important....

Massachusetts v. EPA

- “A well-documented rise in global temperatures has coincided with a significant increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Respected scientists believe the two trends are related.”
– Justice John Paul Stevens, Massachusetts v. EPA.

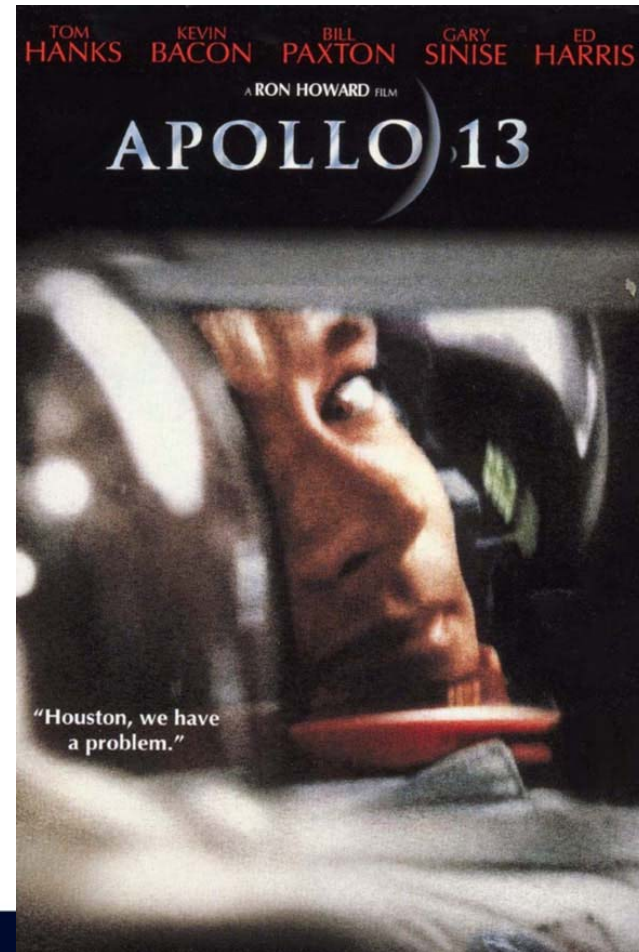


After Mass...Nothing was the Same..

- These words imply that every federal agency, every state agency, every municipality...any creature of administrative law can consider climate and not be, by subject matter, considered arbitrary, capricious, and contrary to law.

Hartford, We Have a Problem

- Climate Resilience does not care about town lines.
- Yet we have a hyper local form of government.
- How can CIRCA help bridge this gap.



UConn



Circular Applied Research

- The goal of our project, funded through a larger HUD grant, is to fill this policy gap through Inquiry, Research, Development, Proposal, and Education.

UConn



In Broad Strokes

- This Project is about a bottom up research agenda. We're going to question select municipalities about two priorities.
 - 1. What are your immediate resilience projects.
 - 2. Which of those are funded currently, next year, or will be soon.

UConn



Finding Resilience

- We have partnered with UConn CLEAR to help work with municipalities. To identify their priorities, but also to help them see projects which, when looked at on their own, might not seem like resilience. But when a pattern emerges...
- Ex. Road Subsidence....

UConn



The Legal Research



UConn



Research, Recommendation, Communication

- Once we have the municipality driven research plan, we will research best practices throughout the country.

UConn



Research, **Recommendation**, Communication

- When we have crafted some suggestions, we will:
 - Test them with some municipalities.
 - Make Legal and Policy recommendations to the legislature, DEEP, municipalities.

Research, Recommendation, **Communication**

- Critically, we will then communicate the change – or even just help to provide information of a policy or technical nature – back to the Towns.

UConn



Then Do It All Again....

- The goal is to create a circle – from municipal need, to policy development, to agency, and back to municipality – delivering results or information, and asking the next question.

UConn

