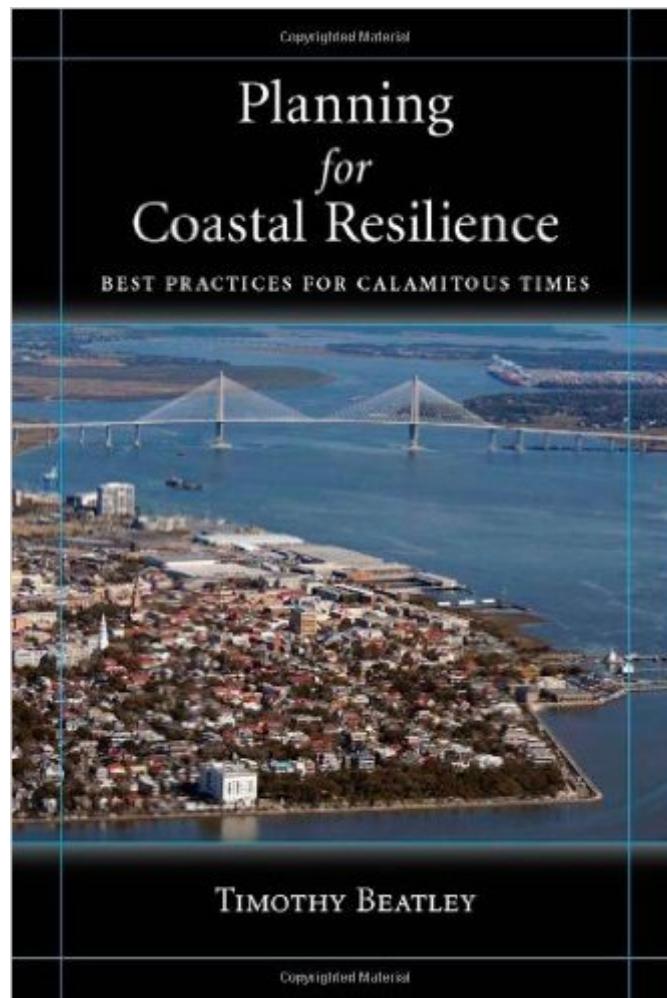


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# Planning For Coastal Resilience: Best Practices For Calamitous Times



## Synopsis

Climate change is predicted to increase the frequency and magnitude of coastal storms around the globe, and the anticipated rise of sea levels will have enormous impact on fragile and vulnerable coastal regions. In the U.S., more than 50% of the population inhabits coastal areas. In *Planning for Coastal Resilience*, Tim Beatley argues that, in the face of such threats, all future coastal planning and management must reflect a commitment to the concept of resilience. In this timely book, he writes that coastal resilience must become the primary design and planning principle to guide all future development and all future infrastructure decisions. Resilience, Beatley explains, is a profoundly new way of viewing coastal infrastructure; an approach that values smaller, decentralized kinds of energy, water, and transport more suited to the serious physical conditions coastal communities will likely face. Implicit in the notion is an emphasis on taking steps to build adaptive capacity, to be ready ahead of a crisis or disaster. It is anticipatory, conscious, and intentional in its outlook. After defining and explaining coastal resilience, Beatley focuses on what it means in practice. Resilience goes beyond reactive steps to prevent or handle a disaster. It takes a holistic approach to what makes a community resilient, including such factors as social capital and sense of place. Beatley provides case studies of five U.S. coastal communities, and resilience profiles of six North American communities, to suggest best practices and to propose guidelines for increasing resilience in threatened communities.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Focusing mainly on America, the author explores the hazards associated with climate change for coastal communities. Half of USA's population lives on coasts, he says, and sea defences can be inadequate in the face of today's more severe storms, while luring people to live more densely in areas where they feel secure but are not. This book was grant-aided by North Carolina, but photos include storm damage from Hurricane Katrina and we hear about other coastal communities worldwide. Diagrams of hazard management and disaster mitigation and recovery are presented, as produced by expert thinkers in the field. We're told that a resilient world needs to have: Diversity, ecological variability, modularity, acknowledging slow variables, tight feedbacks, social capital, innovation, overlap in governance, ecosystem services, according to Walker and Scott. This means that, for instance, we should move to prevent loss of wetlands which help to reduce the damage of hurricanes. A community's resilience is partly determined by social networks and disaster management preparation. Coastal natural hazards are listed in a table which include such events as mudslides, tsunamis, lightning strikes and hail, so it's not just sea rises and storms which are a concern. Seasonal or second homes, and retirement homes, add to the population and housing density in coastal areas and increase the hard surface sprawl of homes and roads. Ethnic and demographic variables, such as not owning a car, being elderly, or not speaking English, can increase a person's or a community's hazard risk. Industry is also at risk. Energy might be dearer in the future, so wetlands and berms should be put into place before the building becomes prohibitively expensive.

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