

Plenary and discussion: Next steps for Michigan

- **Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts; Wisconsin's Approach to Climate Change Adaptation**
[David Webb](#), Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI)
- **Discussion**

Moderated by Mike Beaulac, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment

SESSION ABSTRACT

As Michigan moves forward in addressing climate change, one of our biggest hurdles will be the creation of a governance structure. This session will discuss Wisconsin's approach as a model, with a representative from the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI). WICCI provides not only the needed statewide climate adaptation assessment, but a potential "governance" model and focal point for funding. Considering MI's current economy, state government cannot effect the needed climate recommendations alone. All stakeholders, and especially those with expertise, will need to work together in order to succeed in our mutual efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and put into effect those actions needed to make us more energy efficient.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts; Wisconsin's Approach to Climate Change Adaptation

David Webb, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and Alison Coulson, University of Wisconsin-Madison Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies

The Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) formed from a partnership between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. It has since grown to over 60 collaborating entities including federal and state agencies, universities, municipalities, NGO's, and other groups. WICCI's mission is to assess and anticipate climate change impacts on Wisconsin's resources, industry, agriculture, and other sectors; and to develop and recommend adaptation strategies that can be implemented by managers and applicable stakeholders. WICCI develops practical information that can be used at all levels of decision making, both public and private, and it is driven by stakeholder input to ensure that the initiative's assessments meet the informational needs of Wisconsin citizens, businesses and institutions. Sources of funding for WICCI include State and Federal grants, Federal (re)allocation within DNR, local/municipal grant contribution, NGO contribution, and staff resource (re)allocation.

WICCI connects university-based climate modelers with managers and experts in the field to assess impacts at focused and relevant measures of time and space. WICCI's climate scientists used 14 global climate models to downscale future projections for Wisconsin to an 8x8 kilometer grid; a much higher resolution for use at regional and local scales. The climate data provide a range of probable climate changes using probability distribution functions, which are essential for impact assessments and risk analysis. WICCI working groups focus on a specific ecosystem, resource, activity or geographic area to assess impacts of climate change and identify adaptation strategies.

PRESENTER BIOSKETCH

David Webb

David Webb is Chief of Environmental Science Services in the DNR's Bureau of Science Services. His Section contains certification programs, laboratory services, and research. The research component of Mr. Webb's section contains various focus areas, including the following; mercury, climate change, and aquatic sciences including eutrophication and water chemistry. Mr. Webb started with the Department in 1992 and was an environmental toxicologist prior to becoming a chief. Mr. Webb has an undergraduate degree in chemistry and a master degree in environmental science, both from Indiana University.