



## Overview:

The [National Adaptation Forum](#) gathers the adaptation community to foster information exchange, innovation and mutual support for a better tomorrow. Created by a group of professionals from the private and public sectors; the Forum is the preeminent national climate change adaptation event for the innovation of new solutions, sharing of tested approaches, and building societal capacity to prepare for and respond to the effects of climate change.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> National Adaptation Forum took place on May 9-11, 2017 in Saint Paul, MN and gathered **1065** participants from 48 states, the District of Columbia, two territories, three Canadian provinces, and five additional countries. Practitioners represented all levels of government, non-governmental organizations, community groups, academia and private industry.

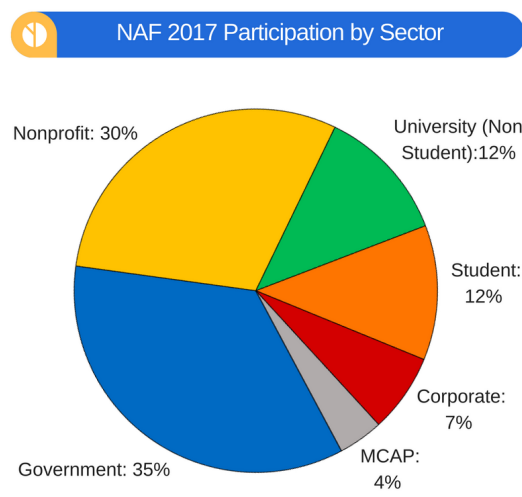
The Forum's host cities partners were instrumental in its success and we were thrilled to have Mayor Coleman, City of Saint Paul, Mayor Hodges, City of Minneapolis and Senator Franken kick-off the 2017 Forum during the opening plenary. Anne Hunt, Environmental Policy Director, Saint Paul's Mayor's office was key to Forum Coordinators building relationships with city leaders. She was recognized with the Hometown Hero Award by the Visit Saint Paul Visitor's Bureau in the fall of 2016 for her efforts to secure the Forum in Saint Paul.

The 2017 National Adaptation Forum once again offered a diverse, robust and action-oriented program. The 2017 Program included the following opportunities for participants:

- [2017 Forum Welcome](#)
- 88 symposia
- 121 posters and 20 decision making tools
- 13 training sessions
- 15 working groups
- 5 plenaries ([Municipal](#), [Community](#), [Business](#), [Natural Resources](#) and [Holistic](#))

## Pre-Forum Partners

We are pleased to share that once again a dozen partners met for pre-Forum meetings (working groups, trainings and leadership discussions). Our committed adaptation partners were participants, presenters, sponsors and exhibitors from across the nation and around the globe. Many of these partners also hosted pre-Forum events in 2015 and combined in 2017 hosted nearly 450 participants. Pre-forum partners included: American Society Adaptation Professionals, Broward County SE Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy, Institute for Sustainable Communities, The Kresge Foundation, National Disaster Preparedness Training Center, NOAA's Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments, NOAA's Sea Grant, United Nations Environmental Programme/Global Adaptation Network, Urban Sustainability Directors Network, and US Army Corp of Engineers.



### Forum Host City Partnerships:

Our goal was to acknowledge our host city partners and raise the adaptation efforts taking place to a national level. The Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership Conference (MCAP) partnered with the Forum and hosted their annual conference concurrently with the opening of the Forum on May 9, 2017. All MCAP participants had access to not only MCAP session but all Forum sessions offered on opening day including the Forum Networking Reception, Poster Sessions and Tools Café . This partnership resulted in 227 Minnesota participants attending the Forum!

### Travel Offset Community Outreach:

We also recognize that traveling to a climate change meeting is an existential challenge. As with years past, we made an effort to create an opportunity for Forum participants to engage in a Travel Offset activity and donate to a community project. This year's beneficiary was the Mississippi Park Connection, an area nonprofit, collaborating with the City of Saint Paul Forestry Program and the Science Museum of Minnesota for a gravel bed, nursery-raised tree planting adaptation project, which took place Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Replacement trees adapted for a changing climate were planted to replace climate change compromised ash trees. Saint Paul Mayor, Chris Coleman along with 50 Forum volunteers participated in the 2017 Travel Offset tree planting activities and planted 40 trees along the Mississippi River. Forum participants donated \$2100 to continue the planting of resilient trees along the Mississippi River.

We look forward to working with our next host city partner to bring the 4<sup>th</sup> National Adaptation Forum to our committed adaptation partners from across the nation and beyond. We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

WendyKay, Alex, and Lauren  
The National Adaptation Forum Planning Team



Mayor Chris Coleman participating in the Forum's community tree planting event.

## Thank you, 2017 National Adaptation Forum Sponsors