What do we do about climate change?

Crowd-sourced solutions, and a sustainability framing of desired solutions

Sarah Burch

Geography and Environmental Management
University of Waterloo
@SarahLynnBurch sarah.burch@uwaterloo.ca
Moving From Global to Local
Four possible future worlds

1. Do Nothing
2. Adapt to Risk
3. Efficient Development
4. Deep Sustainability
Existing Condition
(Low Tide)
2020: Storm surge (3.03m)
2050: Storm surge (3.17m)
2100: Storm surge (3.48m)
2100: Raised Sea Wall
(4.23m)
2050:
Dikes + GHG Reduction
2100: Deep Sustainability
Final thoughts

• Climate change policy ≠ transformative change
• Lack of mechanisms for sharing best practices and accelerating/scaling up responses
• Enablers of success:
  – Exploring synergies between adaptation/mitigation
  – Iterative, adaptive management
  – Networks and community engagement
  – Importance of multi-level governance
• *Sustainability* framing suggests new solutions
• MOOCs, and other participatory processes, offer tools for uncovering these solutions

• Note: Visualizations created in part by David Flanders, Stephen Sheppard, and others at the University of British Columbia’s Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning