

Great Lakes Climate Adaptation Network (GLCAN)

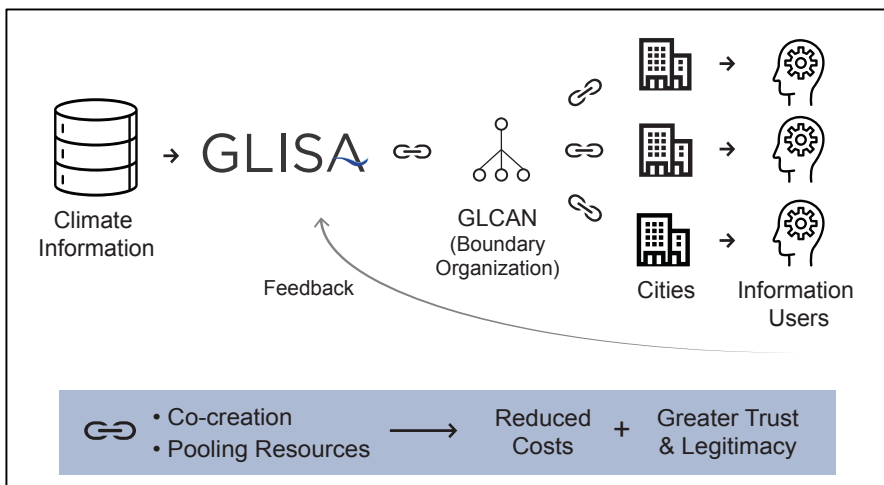
Partnership Snapshot

- **What is GLCAN?** A network of local government staff that collaborate to identify and act on climate adaptation challenges in the Great Lakes region.
- **Research Partners:** GLCAN and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN).
- **Numbers Engaged:** Two boundary organizations (GLCAN; Huron River Watershed Council) and five Great Lakes cities (Ann Arbor and Dearborn, MI; Indianapolis, IN; Cleveland, OH; Evanston, IL).
- **Continuing Impact:** After developing the Vulnerability Assessment template, pilot cities will improve adaptation planning while saving resources. The publically-available template will be further distributed to GLCAN's 26 member cities and through USDN's nine regional networks.

The Great Lake Climate Adaptation Network (GLCAN) is a peer-network of local government staff that work together to identify and act on climate adaptation challenges in the Great Lakes. GLCAN formed, in part, as a result of GLISA's work in the Great Lakes Adaptation Assessment for Cities (GLAA-C) project, funded in 2011-2014 by the Kresge Foundation and the Graham Sustainability Institute. The city partners in the GLAA-C project found great value in working across their cities and discussing common challenges and successes. GLCAN collaborates with GLISA to create climate information to support adaptation decision-making and build capacity for community resiliency efforts in member cities.

In this model of engagement, GLCAN and GLISA act as a *boundary chain* that moves climate information to and from producers at universities to users in cities. This model delivers usable information efficiently, minimizing transaction costs (such as human and financial resources) while building trust and legitimacy between partners (links in the chain). These types of interactions between producers and users play a critical role in increasing the integration and use of climate knowledge for adaptation.

In one example of the success of the boundary chain model, GLCAN and GLISA are currently working with the Huron River Watershed Council and five Great Lakes cities (Ann Arbor and Dearborn, MI; Indianapolis, IN; Cleveland, OH; Evanston, IL) to develop a universal vulnerability assessment template. The goal is to mainstream the adaptation planning process and integrate climate-smart and equity-focused information into all types of city planning. In addition to improving adaptation planning, the publically-available template will reduce municipal workloads and save resources by mainstreaming planning domains (e.g. natural hazards, infrastructure, climate).



The Boundary Chain

In a *boundary chain* model climate information moves through different *boundary organizations*, such as GLCAN, to connect science to users. By co-creating information and pooling resources, trust and legitimacy is built and costs decrease.