



2024

ANNUAL REPORT



GEOS

INSTITUTE





72 COMMUNITIES SUPPORTED
137 PROJECTS ADVANCED
39 JURISDICTIONS ENGAGED

Geos Institute exists to help communities deal with ever increasing and threatening climate issues.

Our goal is to ensure that all U. S. communities can access the funding, technical assistance and services to address the causes and impacts of the climate crisis, regardless of size, location or wealth.

Our solution is Climate Ready America® - a nationwide system that bridges the gap between climate services and the communities that need them, and empowers community leaders to implement locally grown, socially equitable, and ecologically sound solutions.

“The work we are doing, though sometimes incremental, has the potential to alter the trajectory of regions that have historically been overlooked.”

Navigator, Georgia Conservancy

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 2024, it is clear that this was a pivotal year—one in which the deep, often invisible work of relationship-building, trust, and planning began to pay off.

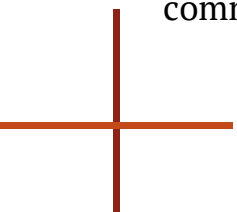


In our Southeast demonstration project, Navigators are now embedded in communities, supporting local leaders who are working tirelessly to prepare for climate impacts and cut climate pollution. These Navigators have earned the trust of the communities they serve and are now helping them make real progress toward resilience.

In Georgia, we helped launch the statewide Leadership Circle and laid the foundation for the nation's first Climate Innovation Center, which will launch in early 2026 as a one-stop-shop for local leaders working to create climate solutions in Georgia.

While our on-the-groundwork gains momentum, we've also been building something bigger: a nationwide system that can meet this moment. Climate Ready America is more than an initiative, it is a growing network of civil society leaders, climate service providers, and local champions who are stepping in to coordinate climate services where no system currently exists.

As federal investments to address the climate crisis disintegrate, the need for independent, community-driven solutions is becoming more urgent. That is where Geos shows up, with the strategy, relationships, and infrastructure to help communities not just respond, but lead.



At the same time, we have continued to build the infrastructure necessary to scale this work nationwide, which is critically important as communities continue to be asked to do more with less. The need for a civil-society-led system that coordinates climate services and provides reliable support has never been more urgent. Climate Ready America is that system.

There are no ribbon cuttings for trust. But 2024 marked the moment when many foundational pieces clicked into place—setting us up for rapid expansion in the year ahead. In 2025, we are working to:

- Launch the Georgia Climate Innovation Center
- Expand Climate Ready America across the Southeast
- Grow our team and deepen our partnerships nationwide

We invite you to stand with us in this next chapter. Your support fuels this momentum, helping us strengthen communities, scale solutions, and reimagine what resilience can look like when it's built from the ground up.

All the best,



Tonya Graham
Executive Director

About the Geos Institute

Geos Institute builds innovative systems to help communities access the support services they need to address the climate crisis regardless of their size, location, or wealth.

Our values are more than words on a page, they are the foundation of how we work, the choices we make, and the change we strive for. They guide us to prioritize ecosystems and frontline communities, ground decisions in science and local knowledge, embrace innovation, and hold ourselves accountable to results that matter in people's lives. These values are a promise to our partners, funders, and the communities we serve.

Our Values

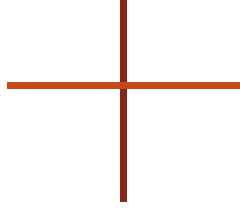
- + *Holistic Approach*
- + *Science Based*
- + *Nature Matters*
- + *Frontline First*
- + *Local Knowledge*
- + *Innovation*
- + *Results Driven*
- + *Accountability*

Why Support Geos Institute?

Donors make this work possible. Your support fuels the values-driven, system-building approach that ensures all communities - not just the most affluent ones - can effectively respond to and prepare for climate crisis. With your help, we are creating the resilient, equitable future our world needs.

DONATE





Our Approach

Climate change is the greatest systems challenge of our time. Addressing it requires new ways of working that match the scale of the problem. Geos Institute focuses on building systems of support so every community can access trusted guidance and support, regardless of size, location, or wealth.

We take a holistic approach that integrates science, ecosystems, equity, and local knowledge. Whether it is embedding Navigators in communities, helping local governments craft resilience plans, or shaping national networks of support, our role is to connect, translate, and strengthen, so communities do not face the climate crisis alone.

At its core, Climate Ready America is built to learn, using an approach designed to encourage and leverage radical collaboration, innovation, and accountability.



Navigator Success

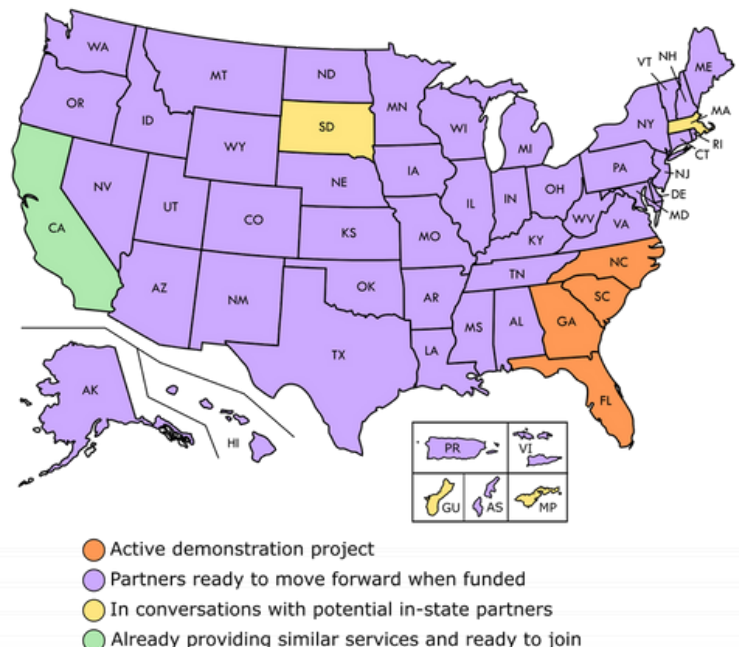
Working with the Liberty Countywide Planning Commission and Project IN-CORE, the Georgia Navigator is analyzing the economic impacts of flooding to better engage residents. In partnership with the Seabrook Village Foundation, a living shoreline is being designed to protect the historic Gullah Geechee community center. Three successful grants are funding these efforts.

CLIMATE READY AMERICA®

Climate Ready America ensures that local leaders across the U.S. can access the information and support they need to implement effective climate strategies. It is our primary focus and now serves as the framework under which all Geos Institute programs align.

Geos Institute engaged with Climate Ready America partner organizations across the country in 2024, laying the foundation for a nationwide climate services system.

- 6 State governments
- 11 Extension & Sea Grant offices
- 12 Non-land-grant Universities
- 16 Nonprofit organizations
- 2 Regional Planning Councils
- 2 For-profit service entities
- 3 State climatologist offices
- 1 Climate Adaptation Science Center



“Our Navigator has been a catalyst for work that otherwise would not be happening in SC. Now, because of our navigator, we just hosted a full day workshop of about 50 community leaders to discuss how to re-engage with resilience work across Beaufort County. I believe there is renewed momentum on a number of resilience issues in Beaufort. With the help of our navigator’s work, I think we’re playing a role in elevating extreme heat as a direct threat to human health.”

**Shi Institute for Sustainable Communities, Furman University,
South Carolina Navigator Host Organization**

Related Programs

CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES®

Climate Ready Communities helps small and mid-sized communities prepare for the climate crisis. By the end of 2024, our free guide had been downloaded 2,261 times. In 2025, we are updating the program to help communities develop comprehensive climate resilience plans that include both adaptation and greenhouse gas emissions reductions.



**climate smart
communities**
initiative

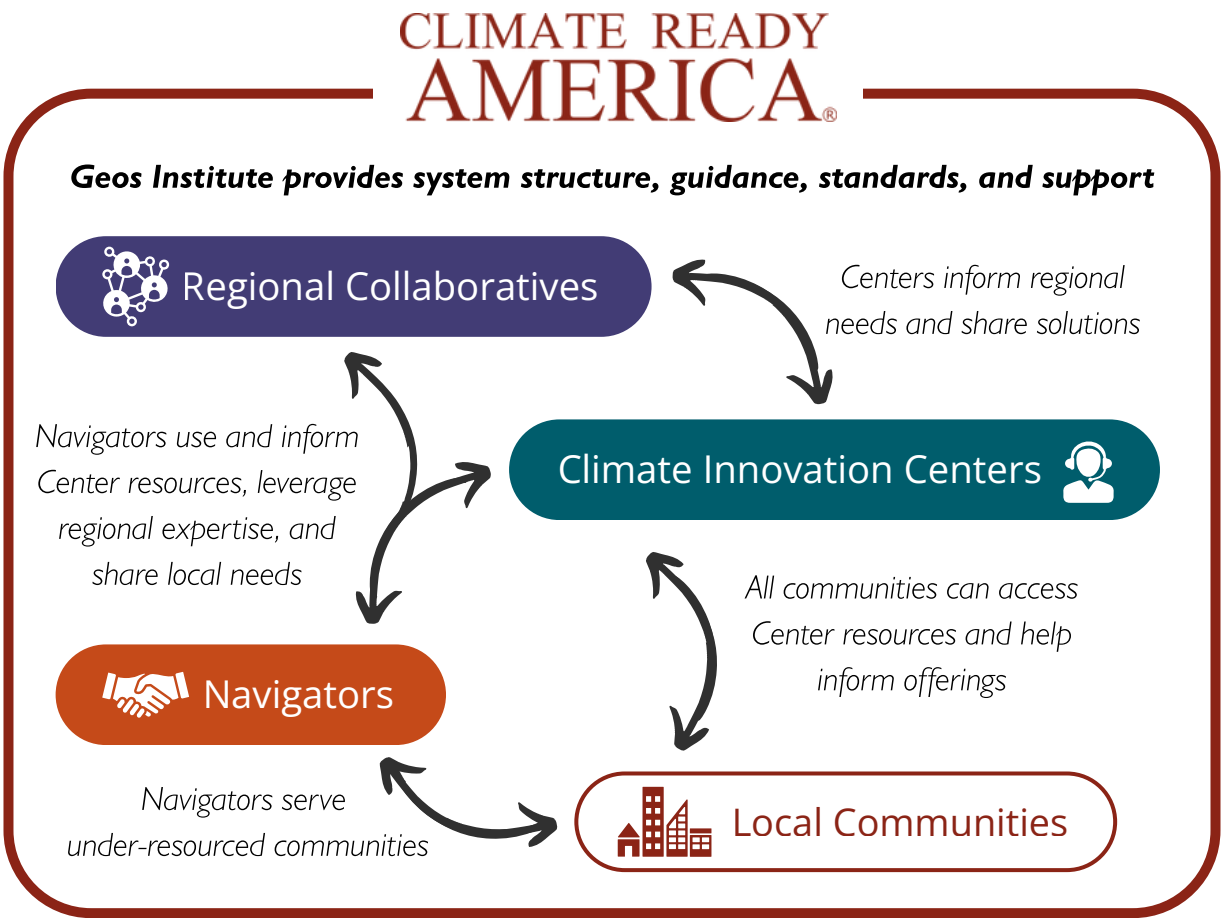
As a member of the Core Team, we supported 11 community-led resilience projects, while supporting development of the Adaptation Practitioners Registry and Help Desk.

CLIMATE WISE®

Our ClimateWise team completed the climate resilience planning element of the updated comprehensive plan for the City of Sandy, Oregon in 2024. We continue to integrate what we learn from our work with communities into the Climate Ready America structure.

DRINKING WATER PROVIDERS PARTNERSHIP

For nine years, this program funded watershed projects that protected ecosystems and community drinking water. In 2024, federal funding was withdrawn, and the program is now on hold pending renewed commitments.



Geos Institute

We provide the necessary structure, support, and accountability, ensuring all components of Climate Ready America work together toward shared goals.

Regional Collaboratives

Networks of climate resilience experts who strengthen regional resilience and solve shared multi-state challenges by scaling what works and addressing local needs.

Climate Innovation Centers

One-stop-shops for climate action in each state and territory. Each Center is led by local experts who understand community needs, fill service gaps, and provide tailored support.

Navigators

Trusted guides who work directly with under-resourced and frontline communities, helping them access tools, funding, and planning support to drive locally led solutions.

Demonstrating Success in the Southeast

At the Geos Institute, we know communities face urgent climate threats but often lack the resources or systems to respond effectively. Our job is to change that. Through Climate Ready America, we provide the structure, expertise, and partnerships that make climate resilience possible even for the smallest, most under-resourced communities.

In October 2023, with the support of the Walmart Foundation, Geos Institute launched the first demonstration of the Climate Ready America system in the Southeast. **Spanning Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina**, this project is designed to help under-resourced communities—especially those with Community Disaster Resilience Zone (CDRZ) designations—build lasting climate resilience.

In this demonstration project, we helped our in-state partners in Georgia complete the strategic launch plan to develop the first Climate Innovation Center in the country, which we expect to launch in early 2026.

We also brought together organizations from across the southeast in a Regional Collaborative that is helping to address complex challenges that cross state boundaries.

And we worked with our in-state partners to place Navigators in each state to serve as trusted partners to CDRZ communities.

These Navigators:

- + **Ensure that resilience efforts are grounded in local needs and priorities**
- + **Connect communities with technical experts and capacity-building support**
- + **Share knowledge and collaborate across state lines to address regional challenges**
- + **Help local leaders identify funding opportunities and apply for resources**

Our Southeast Partners



Climate Access
Community Engagement and
Equitable Processes

Project IN-CORE
Resilience Modeling and Cost-
Benefit Analysis

The Resiliency Company
Financing Resilience Projects

Alloy Fundraising
Grant Proposals

Resilient Cities Catalyst
Resilience Planning Workshops and
Strategic Guidance

Florida Climate Institute
Florida Navigator Host

**North Carolina Office of
Recovery and Resiliency***
North Carolina Navigator Host

Georgia Conservancy
Georgia Navigator Host & Climate
Innovation Center Convener

**The Shi Institute for Sustainable
Communities, Furman University**
South Carolina Navigator Host

**NCORR was our partner in 2024, and the
Navigator team is now part of the Department of
Environmental Quality*

Our Impact

From small towns like Fellsmere, Florida, working to tackle chronic flooding, to historic communities like Seabrook Village, Georgia advancing nature-based shoreline protections, Climate Ready America proves what is possible when communities have guides they trust, partners they can rely on, and resources they can access.

**Climate Ready America
delivers real, measurable
resilience outcomes.**

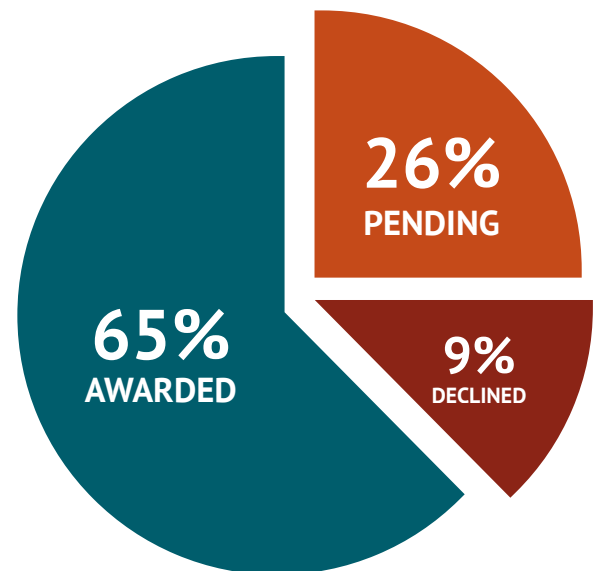
AWARDS & HONORS

2021- 2025: Tonya Graham, FEMA National Advisory Council (Vice Chair, Climate Subcommittee)

2023: Lightship Prize for Climate Action, JFF Foundation

2025: Oregon Achievement in Community Engagement Award for “Envision Sandy 2050”

NAVIGATOR SUPPORTED PROJECTS
(137 TOTAL)





Creating Systemic Change

Geos institute has long been a leading pioneer in building systems that support climate planning and implementation. Climate Ready America, our highest priority, provides an organizing framework which brings together climate adaptation and mitigation - and connects climate services to local communities in a way that creates immediate impact and systemic change.

“The structure of the (Geos Institute) Southeast Navigator Network is an effective tool for engaging CDRZ (Community Disaster Resilience Zones) communities and building their capacity for climate resilience. The resources and support obtained through the Navigator Network led to effective and ecologically sound resilience projects.”

EcoAdapt
Measurement and Evaluation Partner

“Providing space to step back and consider the impending threats and risks of climate change and then working towards initial ideas for solutions has been inspiring. I have been inspired by the depth and breadth of climate and resilience work underway throughout the state. The ability to support the people and organizations leading the charge in this state has been inspiring and rewarding.”

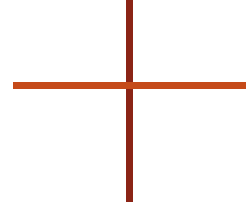
Georgia Conservancy
Navigator Host Organization



*Geos Institute staff and North Carolina Navigators
visiting communities in the Outer Banks*

“Being a Navigator Host Organization has given us the opportunity for learning what multiple communities are facing for climate hazards. This informs our entire work agenda because it’s made clear where there are some gaps in the resources and programs that we offer.”

North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency
Navigator Host Organization



Join Us in Building a Climate-Ready Future

At Geos Institute, we are building the systems that make climate resilience possible for every community. Your involvement ensures we can continue developing innovative solutions, supporting frontline communities, and leading the way toward a more equitable, sustainable, climate-ready future.



DONATE



Make a gift today to help expand Climate Ready America and ensure every community has access to climate resilience support.



PARTNER



Work with us to build Climate Innovation Centers, support Navigators, or provide technical expertise.



JOIN OUR NETWORK



Stay connected by signing up for our monthly newsletter for updates, resources, and opportunities to take action.



SHARE OUR STORY



Spread the word about our work by sharing this report or following us on social media.

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE RESILIENCE POSSIBLE FOR EVERY COMMUNITY.





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Kim Adams, Organization & Strategy Analyst

Aga Dixon, Administrative Associate

Tonya Graham, Executive Director

Patricia Johnson, Finance Director

Christina Mills, Deputy Director

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