

A banner image for the Alaska Climate Change Strategy. It features a landscape with rugged, brown mountains in the foreground and a large, snow-capped mountain peak in the background under a clear blue sky. A small evergreen tree branch is visible on the right side. The text "Alaska Climate Change Strategy" is overlaid in a serif font.

Alaska Climate Change Strategy

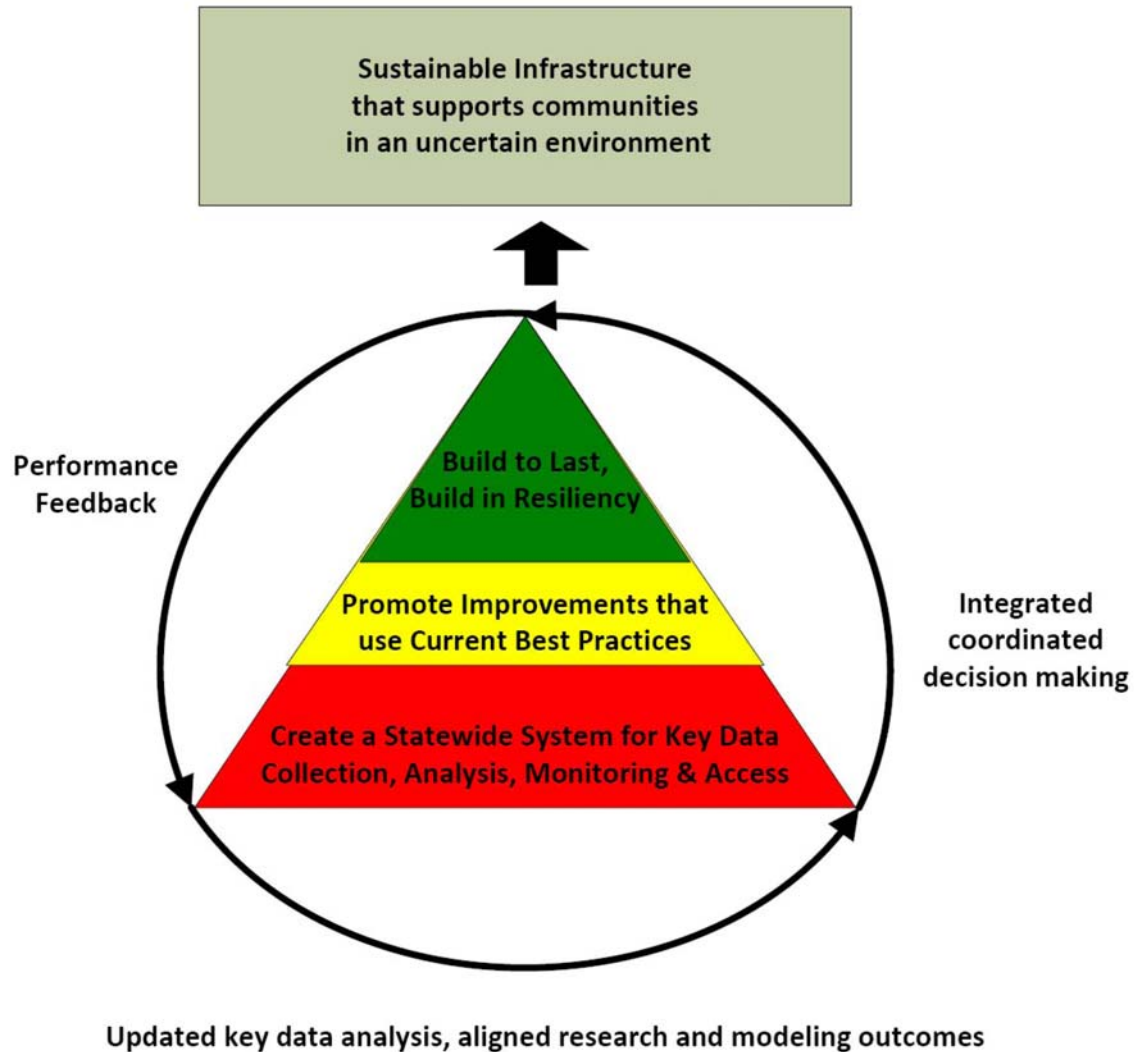
Photo: J. Hardesty

Request AAG approval of PITWG
revised Policy PI-2

Decorative graphic elements consisting of several concentric circles resembling water ripples, rendered in a lighter shade of blue, positioned in the lower right area of the slide.

- BEFORE: Promote “No Regrets” Improvements
- NOW: Promote Improvements that Use Current Best Practices.

Public Infrastructure Systems Approach



Background: April 3 AAG comments on PI-2 (No Regrets)

- “No Regrets” phrase used a lot in the Climate Change literature.
- It has a lot of connotations and ‘baggage’ associated with it; depending on the reader and their background this will influence reactions to this policy.
- The concept of “no regrets” is too idealistic.
- Using the phrase “no regrets” will be a road block to acceptance of this policy’s concepts.
- Concern that “no regrets” stifles innovation.
- If you use the term, define it.
- “No regrets” is commonly perceived to mean no risk. There needs to be experimentation and there will inevitably be regrets.
- Instead of “no regrets” use phrases like best available technology or best control technology.

Standing still while waiting
for improved forecasts of
climate change impacts on
infrastructure is not an
option, therefore...
promote use of current best
practices.

Examples

- The use of existing technology such as adjustable and/or mobile building foundation systems,
- Building foundations that use thermosiphons or thermopiling,
- Protecting facilities from flood or erosion damage, or
- Providing energy conservation upgrades.
- Long-term planning and preparedness,
- Building local capacity for operations and maintenance,
- Promoting energy-efficient technologies,
- Using alternative energy sources,
- Using water conservation and reuse upgrades, or
- Building with better materials.

Actions of IAWG also exemplify this approach.

In the case of each of the 6 imperiled coastal communities, the IAWG:

- Brought parties together, that had authority and funding, to collaborate on solutions.
- Completed overall vulnerability assessment for communities.
- Recommended a series of infrastructure improvements, tailored to each community's situation and needs, to integrate into near term plans to protect and/or extend the service life of each town site.
- Implementation of these recommendations has begun

New PI-2: Promote Improvements that Use Current Best Practices

- Focus on public infrastructure improvements that add value, regardless of future climate change.
- Use existing technology and data to:
 - Protect and extend design service life of infrastructure
 - Reduce operating costs and complexity
 - Promote sustainability in the development design and construction of new infrastructure.