

CURRICULUM VITAE OF JOSH SAWISLAK



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Nationality: United States

Josh Sawislak is an internationally recognized expert on climate and disaster resilience and sustainable infrastructure development. He drives resilient strategies to prepare communities and companies for impacts from extreme weather and other threats. He is a frequent international speaker and writer on the development, funding, and policy for resilient infrastructure in the US and globally. Sawislak has broad experience on both the public and private sector sides of infrastructure development and climate adaptation and risk management.

Sawislak recently led climate resilience efforts for one of the world's largest infrastructure services firm and previously served in the Obama Administration at the White House, leading national efforts on sustainability, climate adaptation, and resilience policy as well as working with federal agencies, cities, states, and foreign governments on project development and strategy

Work History

2018-Present

Resilience and Sustainability Advisor

- Serves as a climate and disaster resilience advisor to governments, companies, NGOs, and international organizations.
- Serves as an environmental, social, and governance (ESG) advisor to asset managers, investors, and companies on issues around climate and disaster risk management and sustainability.
- Serves as a senior advisor to NGO and academic institutions that are pursuing climate, disaster, and sustainable resilience research and policy.
- Speaks and writes on climate and disaster resilience issues globally.

2015-2018

Global Director of Resilience, AECOM, Washington, DC, London, Hong Kong.

- Served as the head of strategy and thought leadership for AECOM globally on issues related to resilience, including sustainability, climate adaptation, disaster preparedness and recovery, and risk reduction. Work closely with AECOM, client, and partner firm scientists, engineers, planners, economists, and designers to develop innovative, inclusive, and cost-effective solutions to climate and other natural and man made threats.
- Served as a subject matter expert for the Rockefeller Foundation's resilience program in support of the 100 Resilient Cities network, National Disaster Resilience Competition, and Global Resilience Academies. Also served as an expert and presenter on climate adaptation and green infrastructure/green building development at the first US-China Climate Leaders' Summit in 2015 and led AECOM's delegation to COP-21 in Paris, COP-23 in Bonn, the UN Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, and the 2015 and 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings in Malta and London.
- Worked directly with cities and national governments, NGOs and international organizations, and private sector companies in the Americas, Europe, Asia, Oceania, and Africa to develop cost-effective strategies to promote resilience and find innovative sources of funding and financing for resilient infrastructure projects. He serves as a member of a working group developing resilience metrics and has also supported work on the UNISDR resilience scorecard, AECOM's triple bottom line (TBL) tool, and other resilience planning and measurement tools.

- Supported major urban climate adaptation and resilience projects in Puerto Rico, Los Angeles, Honolulu, New York City, Miami, San Francisco, Seattle, and with corporate clients across the world.
- Internally to AECOM, he worked across the business lines and geographies to connect people and projects with new ideas in use across different sectors and regions of the world.

2014-2015

Associate Director for Climate Adaptation and Resilience, White House Council on Environmental Quality, Washington, DC.

- Led the climate adaptation and resilience policy team at the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). This role included advising the President and senior White House staff on issues related to preparing the nation for the impacts of climate change and international cooperation on climate adaptation. Also implemented the recommendations of a Presidential task force of Governors, Mayors, Tribal leaders, and County officials on climate preparedness and resilience. Led negotiations on clearance of a new policy (EO 13690) on flood risk management standards for all federal investments and supported the new executive order on sustainability and carbon reduction (EO 13693). Responsible for international climate policy issues related to the planned discussions of adaptation at the 21st Conference of Parties (COP-21) in Paris, planning for the World Conservation Congress (WCC) to be held in Hawaii in 2016, and the climate adaptation partnership at the subnational (city) level with China.

2013-2014

Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Infrastructure Resilience, US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC.

- Advised the HUD Secretary and senior department officials on issues related to resilience efforts and disaster recovery as part of national programs for resilience, energy efficiency, and smart cities and specific disasters such as Hurricane Sandy. He served as senior HUD member of several White House policy councils and task forces on infrastructure development and finance, resilience, climate adaptation, and national security. He also worked with Members of Congress and staff on funding and progress issues related to disaster recovery and infrastructure development.

2013

Senior Advisor – Infrastructure, President’s Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force, Washington, DC/New York, NY.

- Served as Senior Advisor to the Cabinet officials and senior White House members of the President’s Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force. Worked closely with Members of Congress, Governors, Mayors, and senior federal, state, local, and tribal officials on plans for \$50 billion recovery efforts in New York, New Jersey, and other states impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Was the principal author of Infrastructure chapter of the Task Force’s Strategy Report to the President. Also developed new federal infrastructure resilience investment guidelines for Hurricane Sandy and future federal infrastructure spending.

2010-2012

Principal, Clio Strategies, Geneva, CH and Alexandria, VA, USA.

- Led a private consultancy focused on disaster resilience, technology, and public-private partnership development. Worked with government and private sector clients to develop strategy, implement policy, and review and assess technical feasibility of projects. Also served as the VP for Strategy for a technology startup in the cybersecurity hardware space.

2006-2010

Senior Advisor to the Administrator and Chief of Emergency Response and Recovery, US General Services Administration, Washington, DC, USA.

- Served as the lead for agency continuity planning and disaster recovery as well as co-lead (with FEMA) for all federal logistics support to major disasters. Also supported the development of US national policy on resilience and continuity of government planning. Led national security support to Presidential transition in 2008; was responsible for the facilities and support to incoming President Obama and his national security team following his election in 2008.

2004-2006

Deputy Project Director, Dulles Corridor Metrorail Extension, Northern Virginia, USA.

- Served as lead negotiator for the Commonwealth of Virginia on the \$5 billion public-private partnership (P3) contract to design and build a 24-mile extension to the Washington, DC Metrorail system serving Dulles International Airport. Managed all contracts and agreements and project staff for the project owner (Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation). Served as a project spokesperson on key issues and strategies.

1994-2004

Vice President, AECOM, Various locations.

- Lead an environmental planning practice within one of the legacy AECOM operating companies. Efforts included community and urban development, storm water management, and transportation planning projects and programs for municipalities, states, and national governments. Managed planning practices in western United States.

1992-1994

Central Artery/Tunnel Project, Boston, MA, USA

Special Assistant

- Mr. Sawislak was directly involved in the preparation and facilitation of the Supplement Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS) for the largest transportation project in the country. His role on this \$16 billion project to depress most of I-93 through the City of Boston as well as a new crossing of the Charles River and a third (Ted Williams) harbor tunnel, included managing the team preparing for the release of the final environmental approval document.

1992

Central Artery/Tunnel Project, Boston, MA, USA

Manager of Community Relations

- Mr. Sawislak managed a staff of 12 community outreach liaisons for this \$16 billion urban highway project. In this role he was responsible for the outreach efforts in 8 separate communities within the project area. The project had made over 11,000 individual mitigation commitments in the EIS, ROD, permits, and agreements with project abutters.

1987-1992

Booz Allen & Hamilton, Various Locations

Associate

- Mr. Sawislak served as a management consultant on issues including environmental planning, energy, transport, and public policy.

1985-1987

ABC News, Washington DC, USA

Production Assistant

- Mr. Sawislak served as an editorial production assistant for ABC News programs World News Tonight, Nightline, World News This Morning, and Weekend News.

Education

2008

Certificate, Infrastructure Development Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA

1986

B.A. Political Science, The George Washington University, Washington DC

Associations/Appointments

Transportation Research Board, Executive Committee Task Force on Resilience and Sustainability, Member
National Institute for Coastal and Harbor Infrastructure, Board Member

Evacuteer.org, Board Member

American Planning Association, Member

American Institute of Certified Planners, Member

Past Appointments

Expert, Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Advisory Council
Expert, US-EU Transportation Resilience Group
Member, Mitigation Federal Leadership Group
White House Liaison, President's State, Local, and Tribal Leaders' Task Force on Climate Adaptation and Resilience
Member, Federal Infrastructure Resilience Working Group
Chair, Sandy Recovery Regional Infrastructure Resilience Committee
Member, White House Policy Coordinating Committee for Resilience
Chair, Environmental Policy Commission, City of Alexandria, Virginia
Member, Transportation Commission, City of Alexandria, Virginia
Member, Recovery Support Federal Leadership Group

Personal skills and competences

Language: English

Skills: Certified Planner (AICP), Member No. 016168

Awards

- Exceptional Service Award, U.S. General Service Administration, 2010
- Distinguished Public Service Award, Security Industry Association, 2008

Recent Presentations

- Natural Hazards Workshop, Panel on Climate Risk, Broomfield, CO, July 2018
- HOOPP Sustainability Forum, Remarks on Valuing Resilient Real Estate, Toronto, June 2018
- GRESB Conference, Keynote on Resilience and Land Use, Washington DC, May 2018
- Mayors Forum, Remarks on Urban Resilience, New Orleans, LA, May 2018
- Commonwealth Business Forum, Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Island Resilience Remarks, London, April 2018
- Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, State Fragility Ministerial, London, April 2018
- GLOBE Sustainability Forum: Resilient Cities panel, Vancouver, March 2018
- CalPoly Resilience Symposium, Lecture on Climate Adaptation and Resilience, San Luis Obispo, CA, February 2018
- Puerto Rico Recovery Convening, New York, NY, December 2017
- Reef Resilience Workshop, Facilitator, New York, NY, November 2017
- COP-23, EDRB Panel on Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions, Bonn, November 2017
- COP-23, Launch of WWF Resilience Screening Report, Bonn, November 2017
- COP-23, US Climate Action Center Discussion of Corporate Action on Climate Mitigation and Adaptation, Bonn, November 2017
- Energy Exchange, Panel on Resilient Power for Federal Facilities, Tampa, FL, August 2017
- US Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting, Panel on Miami Beach Resilience, Miami Beach, FL, June 2017
- eMerge Americas, Panel on Resilient Cities, Miami Beach, FL, June 2017
- Climate Leadership Conference, Panel on Climate Adaptation, Chicago, IL, March 2017
- VerdeXchange: Building Resilient Cities panel, Los Angeles, CA, USA January 2017
- National Governors Association: Expert panel on resilience, Washington, DC, January 2017

- Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Advisory Council, Miami, FL, USA, January 2017
- American Society of Adaptation Professionals Webinar on Climate Adaptation Business Case, January 2017
- NOAA Environmental Information Systems Working Group presentation on the business case for resilience and data needs, Silver Spring, MD, USA, December 2016
- White House Roundtable Discussion on Climate Resilience, Washington, DC, USA, November 2016
- US Conf of Mayors/Alliance for a Sustainable Future panel discussion on climate and clean energy, New York, NY, USA, September 2016
- HUD Disaster Resilience Advisory Meeting, participant, Washington, DC, USA, August 2016
- US-EU Transport Resilience Symposia (US private sector delegate), Brussels, Belgium, June 2016
- Pacific Cities Sustainability Initiative, moderated panel on climate resilience, Jakarta, Indonesia, May 2016
- Rockefeller Foundation Global Resilience Academy (facilitator), Semarang, Indonesia, May 2016
- Governor's Resilience Summit: Private Sector Experience with Resilience Investments, Denver, Colorado, USA, May 2016
- White House Symposia on Resilient Building Codes, served as expert based on building code recommendations in Sandy Task Force report, Washington, DC, USA, May 2016
- Climate Action 2016 Summit, spoke about the business case for resilient infrastructure finance, Washington DC, May 2016
- Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce Sea Level Rise Symposia, Miami Beach, FL, USA, April 2016
- Houston-Galveston Coastal Resilience Symposia, Presenter on federal funding opportunities, Houston, TX, USA, April 2016
- Climate Leadership Conference: Business Case for Climate Adaptation, Seattle, WA, USA, March 2016
- RES/CON Conference, , spoke on the business case for resilient infrastructure, investment and the HUD National Disaster Resilience Competition, New Orleans, LA, USA, March 2016
- Fourth Annual Meeting of the San Giorgio Group: Expanding Green, Low-Emissions Finance, Panel on Finance, Risk, and Vulnerability, Venice, Italy, February 2016..
- City Resilience and Risk Symposia, Speaking on business case for resilient investments, Washington, DC, USA, February 2016
- CDP Panel on Resilient Cities at COP-21, Speaking on resilient cities, Paris, France, December 2015
- SE Florida Climate Leadership Summit, speech and moderating panel on SLR strategies, Key West, FL, USA, December 2015
- Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), Commonwealth Environmental Investment Platform (CEIP), Presentation and panel on Climate Adaptation and Resilience, Valletta, Malta, November 2015
- Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), Commonwealth Business Forum, Presentation and panel on Island Resilience, Valletta, Malta, November 2015.
- Chongqing University, Chongqing, China, Lecture on resilience planning, November 2015
- Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Workshops, Moderated panels and served at SME on resilient recovery strategies, Denver, CO and Chicago, IL, USA, August and September 2015
- Tongji University, Shanghai, China, Lecture on resilience planning, November 2015
- World Ocean Council, Sustainable Ocean Summit, presentation and panel on the business case for resilient infrastructure in the blue economy, Singapore, November 2015
- Association of Climate Change Officers, Rising Seas Summit, moderate two panels on climate change/SLR and Federal Programs, Boston, MA, USA, November 2015

- Verge Cities Conference, moderated session on resilient infrastructure, San Jose, CA, USA, October 2015
- National Science Foundation Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience research agenda development. Keynote on Disaster Resilience, Arlington, VA, USA, October 2015
- US-China Climate Leaders' Summit. Two panels, green infra and climate adaptation/resilience, Los Angeles, CA, USA, September 2015
- Natural Hazards Workshop, panel on climate adaptation, Boulder, CO, USA, August 2015
- Florida Governor's Hurricane Conference, Keynote on Disaster Resilience, Orlando, FL, USA, June 2015
- SIFMA Investment Linked Securities Conference, Speech on Climate Resilience, New York, NY, USA, February 2015
- Ala Wai Watershed Adaptation Symposia,. Speech on White House Resilience Efforts, Honolulu, HI, USA, January 2015
- Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Workshops, Moderated panel and served at SME on resilient recovery strategies, Washington, DC, USA, December 2014
- Panel Discussion on Resilience at COP-19, Warsaw, Poland, November 2013

Articles

<https://www.aecom.com/without-limits/article/resilience-in-a-shifting-world/>

<https://www.aecom.com/blog/resilient-commonwealth-prosperous-commonwealth/>

<https://www.aecom.com/blog/does-anyone-have-poseidons-number/>

<https://www.aecom.com/blog/mayors-and-innovation-there-is-much-to-do-and-they-want-help/>

<https://hyperloop-one.com/blog/future-proof-technology-will-support-cities-sustainability-and-resiliency-goals>

<https://www.dailynews.com/2015/07/30/el-nio-rainout-in-california-think-of-it-more-like-a-wrecking-ball-guest-commentary/>

<https://www.aecom.com/without-limits/article/learning-adapting/>

<https://www.aecom.com/without-limits/article/six-steps-improving-infrastructure-resilience/>

<https://www.aecom.com/blog/new-orleans-a-story-of-survival-and-resilience/>

<https://www.aecom.com/blog/bula-from-bonn-knowledge-sharing-and-partnership/>

<https://www.aecom.com/blog/companies-x-factor/>

<https://www.aecom.com/blog/climate-action-heroes/>

<https://www.aecom.com/blog/notes-from-paris-cop-21-sunday/>

Interviews

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/christopherskroupa/2017/06/26/looking-ahead-at-climate-resiliency-following-paris-aftermath/#35ec0eba387d>

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/infrastructure/a18198479/future-machines-2100/>

<http://infrastructureweek.org/around-the-world-in-almost-80-resilience-projects/>

<https://www.enr.com/articles/44633-why-another-hurricane-can-devastate-puerto-rico-and-texasagain>

<http://www.govtech.com/em/disaster/US-Disaster-Recovery-10-Year-Bill-300-Billion.html>

http://en.archina.com/2015/people_1229/117.html

<https://therealdeal.com/miami/2016/04/07/miami-beach-property-values-may-fall-as-sea-levels-rise-experts/>

Events

<https://www.facebook.com/usclimateaction/videos/287228438451976/>

https://www.theceip.com/Home/Announcement/Be_resilient_take_immediate_action_for_the_worlds_greatest_single_challenge_Commonwealth_told_at_international_Climate_Challenge_Conference%23ce9afaac-1609-42ac-8f40-79ae3031e9d3

<https://www.iamagazine.com/viewpoints/read/2016/03/16/why-city-resilience-matters-for-businesses-like-yours>

<https://wagner.nyu.edu/news/story/nyu-wagner-hosts-cross-sector-discussion-how-cities-are-addressing-climate-change>

<https://youtu.be/gYCxHAq7cFE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uh3clSmhFIM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98vlf5fGGLs>

<https://patch.com/florida/miami/miami-beach-gives-mayors-front-row-look-climate-change>

<https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/event/promoting-resilience-and-cross-sector-collaboration-sustainable-future>

<https://adaptationprofessionals.org/corporate-insights-on-climate-action/>

Webinars

<https://www.hudexchange.info/trainings/courses/critical-infrastructure-resilience1/>

<https://www.c2es.org/event/resilient-infrastructure-for-a-secure-future/>

<https://vimeo.com/118061602>