“Come hear Uncle John's Band by the riverside, 
Got some things to talk about here beside the risin' tide.”

Uncle John’s Band by The Grateful Dead, 1969
Miami Battles Rising Seas

By Ban Ki-moon and Francis Suarez

Mr. Ban is the former secretary general of the United Nations. Mr. Suarez is the mayor of Miami.

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Finally, we have learned that effective adaptation is a collective endeavor. It requires a holistic, long-term approach that takes into account the needs of our citizens today and in the future. This requires robust and meticulous long-term planning, informed investment in resilient infrastructure, adapting land use and building policies to address the climate challenge, advancing new transportation solutions, educating and informing citizens about climate change, training and mobilizing volunteers during emergencies, informing private property owners of climate risks, and forging partnerships with research institutions and business innovators. As this long list makes clear, there isn’t a single aspect of our daily lives that isn’t affected by climate change.
The good news is that so many are already having the conversation and Strawberry Banke is grateful to be at the table for the opportunity to share our problem and benefit from the shared advice and expertise. The water is rising; but solutions to the very real sea level rise threatening our future are sure to come from community conversation and cooperation. It is these community wide partnerships that will help create the best solutions. And the word, share your stories, and make sure you are at your Climate Change Assessment table!

Rodney D. Rowland is Strawberry Banke Museum Director of Special Projects & Facilities.
Strawbery Banke's founding, though, may hold a clue to its future. In 1958 local citizens saved the buildings from being flattened by urban renewal. It was a bold idea, one without a road map, and it has taken years for the museum to evolve. They are just now restoring their last three buildings. Strawberry Banke will have to be rescued again, but no one knows how yet.

Change has always been a part of the story the museum tells. It was never meant to be a time capsule. “It’s one of the reasons Strawberry Banke is unique,” says Rowland. “Most museums pick a fixed period or a decade; we do 300 years because we want to show people how this neighborhood evolved over time. There’s no question in my mind that our response to sea-level rise will be part of that story.”
HOW WILL SEA LEVEL RISE AND CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT PORTSMOUTH?

How do we protect our historic City and avoid future property damage? Good news: Portsmouth was one of five communities selected for a pilot program with $30,000 in funding from the Gulf of Maine Council, through a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This grant funded a research study, The "Coastal Resilience Initiative" prepared for the City by a team of researchers from the University of New Hampshire and the Rockingham Planning Commission. This detailed, 50-page report provides the starting point for understanding the impacts of climate change and offers a number of possible adaptation measures that the City can take over time to protect private property and public infrastructure.

What does climate change mean for Portsmouth and your neighborhood?

What can you do to prepare for sea level rise and storm surge?

Below are key pieces of information that Portsmouth businesses and residents should know.
714,000KwH per year now from Renewable Energy source
Zone dampers on furnaces
LED lighting campus wide
Light timers and photo eye to reduce use
Recycling/composting
Cafe selling re-usable straws
Low water fixtures
Energy Star appliances in apartments
Interior storm windows
The Sea Level Rise Initiative is fighting to keep history above water.

Before Portsmouth was settled, Puddle Dock was a tidal estuary. By 1900, the inlet had been filled in to create additional land for the city’s growing population. Now the sea is returning.

Four of our historic structures—the Shapley-Drisco, Sherburne, Lowd, and Jones Houses—are extremely vulnerable to sea level rise and are experiencing deterioration due to salt water infiltration during storm surge and astronomically high tides.

As a member of an advisory committee for the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment on Historic Portsmouth, Strawbery Banke has joined with the City to seek a solution to this increasing threat. The Museum is also the focus of a University of New Hampshire study examining the vulnerability of coastal resources.

Philanthropic support will play a key role in saving these buildings and in launching a related public awareness initiative to showcase how science and history work together in the service of preservation.
Thank you!