

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

General University of Maine Publications

University of Maine Publications

1-31-2021

A piece of the puzzle: Lydia Horne's contribution to Mitchell Center's community-based climate planning project

Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/univ_publications



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [History Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions, "A piece of the puzzle: Lydia Horne's contribution to Mitchell Center's community-based climate planning project" (2021). *General University of Maine Publications*. 1029.

https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/univ_publications/1029

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in General University of Maine Publications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.



Recent UMaine Research News



Ishaq links gut health to social equity, advocates for policy discussion

Published: February 1, 2021



UMaine aquaculture researcher receives funding for COVID-19 relief project

Published: February 1, 2021

Featured image for UMaine Graduate School records all-time high student enrollment

UMaine Graduate School records all-time high student enrollment

Published: February 1, 2021



UMaine MARINE – Enhancing Social, Environmental and Economic Wellbeing

Published: January 14, 2021



A piece of the puzzle: Lydia Horne's contribution to Mitchell Center's community-based climate planning project

Published: January 13, 2021



Researchers find possible link between drinking water and mysterious kidney disease

Published: November 2, 2020



Graduate School Reaches Record-High Enrollment

Published: November 2, 2020



UMaine Research - **IMPACT** MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Don't forget to subscribe to our monthly newsletter to learn more about interesting UMaine Research that impacts you!



A piece of the puzzle: Lydia Horne's contribution to Mitchell Center's community-based climate planning project

January 13, 2021 | [Current Research News](#)

Lydia Horne recently graduated from the Ecology and Environmental Sciences program advised by Dr. Sandra De Urioste-Stone. She has since become a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Northern Colorado, but is continuing to collaboratively lead a project with fellow NRT students funded by the Mitchell Center, entitled "Developing a Transdisciplinary Participatory Framework as a Tool for Community-Based Climate Change Planning."

This project has grown from participating in the National Science Foundation's Research Traineeship Program (NRT), which is led by De Urioste-Stone, a Faculty Associate at the Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions. The program got its start in fall 2018 and is funded as a five-year, \$2.9 million grant. According to Horne, climate change is a complex issue that is already impacting the state of Maine.

"Our project is trying to build community capacity to alleviate the negative impacts Maine communities might face from climate change while also taking advantage of new opportunities," Horne explained in a recent interview.

One of the project's main goals is to help Maine communities become appropriately prepared for climate change. "By co-developing adaptation strategies with community partners, we hope to find ways to forward that work with community resources, values, and visions," Horne said.

In 2019, Maine's tourism industry supported more than 116,000 jobs and saw approximately \$9.7 billion in economic contributions (Maine Office of Tourism). Maine communities dependent on tourism are being connected with climate data as a result of this project. In addition, Horne and her fellow graduate students who are a part of the project, including Valeria Briones, Asha DiMatteo-LePape, Alyssa Soucy, and Gabriela Wolf-Gonzalez, are working to create a framework for climate adaptation by utilizing a strategy known as "scenario planning."

This involves forecasting future conditions that can help stakeholders make important decisions. This



Lydia Horne recently graduated from the Ecology and Environmental Sciences program and has since become a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Northern Colorado.



research could not only directly impact the communities being studied, but also help inform the ways in which similar communities, as well as those invested in forestry, fishing, and agriculture, operate.

“We believe this framework will help many communities throughout the state that are dependent on natural resources [and are] initially focusing on pilot communities that rely heavily on tourism and outdoor recreation.”

At the center of the project is a series of workshops the team developed in order to help community members learn about the challenges and opportunities climate change may present as well as what resources or solutions may be available. “We want to make sure the research is actually useful,” Horne adds.

“We thought this would be a good opportunity to further connect the university with Maine communities,” Horne says. “There is this narrative that academics live in the proverbial ivory tower and their research is purely for scientific inquiry. Our Mitchell Center project hopes to achieve the opposite effect, where our participatory workshop framework is co-developed with community partners to directly help communities plan for environmental change.”

Share this:



UMaine Research
5703 Alumni Hall
Orono, Maine 04469

Tel: 207.581.1506
research@maine.edu



[Apply](#)

[Student Resources](#)

[Nondiscrimination notice](#)

[Clery Safety and Security Report](#)

[COVID-19 Risk Statement](#)

[Emergency](#)

University of Maine | Orono, ME 04469 | 207.581.1865

