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NOAA Tides & Currents

## Does your community experience flooding? The Southeast Water Level Network can help.

Coastal communities are facing the compound threat of storm surge, extreme rainfall, and rising sea level.

The Southeast Water Level Network is enabling community access to local water level data that assists in monitoring flood hazards and improving community resilience. Over the next five years, more than 200 water level sensors will be installed across the southeast in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

**The Southeast Water Level Network is seeking partners to install water level sensors in their community.**

### How can a water level sensor help a local community?

For many coastal communities, the nearest water level sensor may be miles away or there might not be one at all. Having a water level sensor allows communities to better understand where flooding is occurring locally. *Data collected by water level sensors can help answer questions like, “is the road flooded today?”*

### Partnership Opportunity

Communities can partner with the Southeast Water Level Network to install a water level sensor in their chosen location and receive the data personalized for their needs.

The Southeast Water Level Network will work with each community to determine the water level height that creates problems, sometimes called the flooding threshold. A customized notification can be created for those that want alerts when the flooding threshold is exceeded, i.e. when the roads start to flood. This information can help local citizens, emergency managers, and the overall safety and resilience of the community.



*Water level sensors sit above the water and measure the distance from the water to the sensor. The height of the water is collected and relayed in real-time for access on your phone, at home, or in the office.*

# What level of participation is required to install a sensor in a community?



## Community Buy In

A \$500 payment from the community is requested to help purchase the water level sensor. Once the sensor is installed, the only ongoing cost is (very minimal) power and cell usage. The data access is free. If you are a member of a community that experiences flooding and have limited funding, the Southeast Water Level Network will work with you to meet your community's needs.



## Location Identification

Communities must identify a location for installation. Water level sensors need plenty of sunlight, access to power, and a strong cell signal. Suggestions for good locations to install include: a public or private dock with easy accessibility, a bridge with low wave energy, or a local marina.



## Permitting Assistance

The Southeast Water Level Network will acquire all of the National Environmental Policy Act permits, but community members are responsible to obtain the required local and/or state permissions or permits.



## Sensor Installation and Training

There is no experience needed to install a water level sensor. The Southeast Water Level Network would install the sensors and lead the processes of installation, operation, maintenance, and data acquisition. Community support may include reporting on any potential physical disturbances, taking photos, or restarting the system.



## On-Going Communication

Once the water level sensor is installed, community partners will be requested to work with the Southeast Water Level Network to:

- determine flooding thresholds,
- review data visualizations,
- share lessons learned, and
- communicate resilience and adaptation planning needs related to coastal flooding.

## Next Steps

Interested in installing a water level sensor? Need a question answered? Give us a call or shoot us an email. We are standing by and happy to help!

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**SECOORA**

Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing  
Regional Association

*The Southeast Water Level Network is a SECOORA funded program. SECOORA is a non-profit that works to observe, understand, and increase awareness of our coastal ocean through strong partnerships.*