

ALLISON DEJONG, AICP

Senior Planner

Allison DeJong, AICP, is a senior planner and policy researcher at the Water Institute, where she supports people and communities adapting to climate change using frameworks and approaches from urban planning and economics. She has over 15 years of experience in interdisciplinary planning and policy research for communities, state governments, and federal agencies.

Allison leads the Institute's work on decarbonization and climate policy and supports planning and policy research projects for urban resilience, climate adaptation, water resources, alternative valuations of natural resources, hazard mitigation, and risk and vulnerability. Allison also leads the Insurance Affordability focus area of the Community Resilience Center at the Water Institute. She is an experienced facilitator, presenter, and advisor, using decision analysis methods to frame technical and scientific information for regulatory, programmatic, and planning contexts.

Prior to joining the Institute, Allison worked with small businesses in the coastal and urban stormwater sectors to grow their social and environmental impact. She spent six years as a planner at GCR, Inc., in New Orleans, where she was a key member of the community resilience team that worked with states and municipalities to secure $240 million in funding from HUD's National Disaster Resilience Competition.

Allison holds a BA in Economics from the University of Notre Dame and an MBA from Louisiana State University. She is certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019–Present: Planner, The Water Institute

2016–2019: Senior Water Manager, Propeller: A Force for Social Innovation

2011–2016: Planner/ Senior Planner, GCR, Inc.

2009–2011: Public Policy Coordinator, Second Harvest Food Bank

2007–2009: Development Assistant, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

ORGANIZATION ROLE

Senior Planner

PROJECT ROLE / FOCUS AREAS

Decarbonization

Insurance and risk

Adaptation and resilience

Decision-making under Deep Uncertainty

Structured decision making

Technical communication for non-technical audiences

EDUCATION

MBA, Business Administration, Louisiana State University, 2015

BA, Economics, University of Notre Dame, 2007

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)

SELECTED PROJECTS

Community Resilience Center at the Water Institute. *(2023-Present). Insurance Focus Area Lead.* Leading the CRC's work in Insurance Affordability and Availability, working with communities and stakeholders to explore strategies for addressing insurance challenges. Designing and implementing pilot projects to increase community resilience using risk assessments from insurers to address the design and siting of affordable housing. Piloting community-based catastrophe insurance (CBCI) and other novel, flexible insurance products in Gulf Coast communities.

Louisiana Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and Louisiana Energy Analysis Plan (LEAP). *(2023-Present). Lead Planner.* The State of Louisiana is a planning grant recipient of the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program. The Institute leads all technical analyses and modeling for these efforts. The PCAP was published in January 2024 and the LEAP will be published in late 2025.

Louisiana Climate Action Plan. *(2021–2022). Lead Policy Modeler and Planner.* Led the modeling of projected greenhouse gas emissions from proposed policies throughout the planning process and authored multiple technical memoranda. Advised the Governor's Office throughout a one-year planning process to support the Climate Initiatives Task Force in developing a roadmap and specific actions to meet the state's ambitious goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This effort engaged multidisciplinary experts across the Task Force, four Advisory Groups, and six Sector Committees, as well as the public, throughout a transparent and collaborative planning process grounded in a Structured Decision Making framework.

USACE Research and Development Strategic Plan. *US Army Corps of Engineers. (2021). Planner.* The Institute supported USACE in developing an R&D Strategy designed to catapult USACE into a new bold era of innovative solutions to the nation's toughest challenges. This first-of-its-kind product was developed in close coordination with the Director and Deputy Director of R&D and other key USACE personnel, with direct input from the Chief of Engineers.

Resilient Jacksonville. *City of Jacksonville. (2022–2023). Planner.* The Institute developed a citywide strategy using a structure decision-making process to prioritize built projects, programs, and changes to policies and operations to strengthen the city's resilience. Worked with city stakeholders to develop many of the strategy's action items, addressing systemic challenges to the built environment like building codes and development policies.

Louisiana Watershed Initiative. *State of Louisiana. (2020–2022). Policy Advisor.* Advised on technical and policy aspects of the program. Conducted economic analyses and policy research for mitigation methods and development standards, such as freeboard and no net fill, and connecting the Institute's role in LWI's data and modeling efforts to statewide policy and regulatory planning. Outlined a decision support framework for the program, including the users, uses, and decisions that need support from flood risk models or other tools.

Exploration of Emerging Methods to Assess Equity in USACE Project Planning. *ERDC and EWN. (2023–2024). Planner, Lead Author.* Developed an overview of federal guidance and literature on assessing dimensions of equity for USACE project planning. Presented six case studies examining the application of methods like dasymetric mapping and equity weighting to USACE project benefit cost analyses, with a synthesis of findings.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. Kiskaddon, E., Dalyander, P. S., **DeJong, A.,** McHugh, C., Parfait, J., Littman, A., Hemmerling, S. A., & Dausman, A. (2023). Evaluation of emission reduction and other societal and environmental outcomes: Structured decision making for the Louisiana climate action plan. *Journal of Environmental Management*, *345*(118936).
2. **DeJong, A.,** Littman, A., Fischbach, J.R., Hemmerling, S.A., Kane, P., Haertling, A., Black, V., Grismore, A., & Cowan, J. (2024). *Exploration of Emerging Methods to Assess Equity in USACE Project Planning.* The Water Institute. Produced for and funded by the USACE Engineering Research & Development Center.