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**EOS Eco-Energy Activity – Exploring Flood Plains and Climate Adaptation
Summer 2016**

Ages:

5-10 year olds

Goals:

- Learn what a flood plain is.
- Explore how water moves on the land.
- Use team work to protect small toy homes from a rainstorm using a variety of natural materials.
- Have fun in the mud and water!
- Learn about adaptation.

What you need:

- An open area with exposed dirt, soil, gravel, and a bit of a slope
- Trowels or small shovel for digging small river channels
- One small house per river (use blocks of wood, toy houses, etc.)
- Found items and fallen materials such as sticks, grasses, leaves (nothing that is still growing!)
- Bag of sand
- Bag of pebbles or gravel
- Watering cans (for the rainstorm)
- Optional: Toy trucks, bulldozers, backhoes, etc.

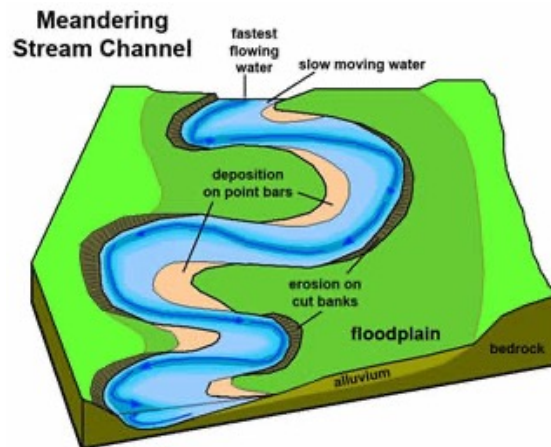
Activity:

1. Find a suitable location.
2. Dig small meandering river channels down the slope a feet apart and place a toy home near the bottom of each, along the bank.
3. Divide your group of children to about 2-4 per riverbed and house.
4. Explain that it has been quite dry lately so the river beds have run dry but a rain storm is forecasted. They must choose materials to help protect their homes from a possible flood if the river floods the surrounding area.
5. The children cannot move the river, they cannot block river either (these take expensive permits and are not usually approved!).
6. Have children scavenge the nearby area for building materials such as sand, gravel, leaves, twigs, etc. to create a dyke or earth wall to protect their homes. (Some may decide to raise their homes or move their homes back from the water too. But don't suggest this, see what they come up with.)

7. After a few minutes of building (use tiny toy trucks if you have any for added fun), announce that rain is coming. Fill the watering cans and have it rain at the top of each river. Watch the water run down the river and toward the homes. Watch what happens!

Discussion:

- What happened?
- Which homes were protected? Which ones stayed dry? Which ones got wet?
- What materials or approaches worked best? What didn't work so well? Why?
- Why are some communities vulnerable to flooding in New Brunswick? What could they do to reduce their risk and adapt?



Learn about flood plains with this fun activity from EOS.



This activity is fun in the spring, summer or fall. Add tiny pumpkins for a Hallowe'en theme!