



Environmental summit draws in government leaders

More than 150 innovators gather for 2nd Leah Center Environmental Summit

BURLINGTON, Vt. -

More than 150 of our areas finest innovators kicked off the second Leahy Center Environmental Summit Friday.

"We're here at the Leahy center to talk about a group of people that are working on resiliency projects. How do they make this Lake Champlain area and the state of Vermont more resilient?" said US Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell.

Jewell and Senator Patrick Leahy addressed a crowded room Friday.

Fifteen regional teams gathered at echo to discuss innovative solutions for managing storm water events.

"You have people are very knowledgeable in their field work very hard at it," said Leahy. "Now they have the chance to talk with others in related or even different fields and even compare notes."

The group is analyzing the relationship between climate change and maintaining a healthy water system. Jewell says the north east is a sea-level rise hotspot which means it can change the weather patterns.

"The potential change in circulation patterns in the Atlantic ocean and that can change how the weather behaves," Jewell said. "So you're already seeing winds, more severe storms like what you saw in 2011. So I think having that kind of data on the ground is going to help people plan."

Senator Leahy says history has shown, keeping Vermont's water systems healthy is important for more than just Vermonters.

"One of the reasons the providence of Quebec and the state of New York has joined with us is because they know it's not a Vermont problem or a New York problem or a Canadian problem," Leahy said. "We're all in this together."

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