Proposal

# Topic

The subject of this work will be qualitatively assessing the direct and indirect economic impacts of climate change on South Carolina communities, focusing on coastal towns while addressing possible effects on areas more upstate. The project will be primary covering issues that are the most directly caused by climate change, such as rising temps and sea levels (and their effects), as they are less abstract to average people, but might expand into more indirect effects such as storms or flooding. If it ends up being feasible enough, or if there is already credible work done on it, a quantitative analysis on climate change’s economic impact in South Carolina could be done

Using the Port of Charleston as an example case, if that port alone had a major disaster, it would have major repercussions, as 1 in 11 South Carolina workers have a job supported by the Port.

During and/or after the presentation of the information on the risks, policy solutions will be recommended to mitigate the aforementioned risks that is impactful, easy for a layperson to understand, and politically viable.

# Data Collection

The first plan of action is to find data on the environmental factors that would affect South Carolinians. Estimates for temperature rise throughout the state, how much higher sea levels would rise, wildlife loss, 100-year flood estimates, et cetera. Using those risks, I would find the most impacted industry by them, and their importance to the SC economy, such as amount of jobs they employ, how dependent other industry is on it, and how much money it brings in to South Carolina.

Based off those risks, recommendations and analyses will be collected from different agencies, universities, and think tanks about what policies could be implemented to mitigate risks, from infrastructure policy to policy diversify the SC’s economy to sustain itself in the event of catastrophic climate change.

To create a compelling story, Google Earth will be used in conjunction with geomaps, and social media posts collected from the Social Media Listening Center, in addition to standard photographs, to highlight the real-life connection to repercussions of climate change and the people it would hit.

# Plan of communication

GIS Story Maps will be used to present the information in a linear presentation that combines visual maps with texts. The audience is laypeople who are either disinterested in climate change, whether it be people who don’t think it’s a concern, to people who fully understand the effects of climate change but don’t feel it’s an imminent threat to their everyday life and community. The intent is to provide perspective of how it does, and motivate them to somehow adjust their lives how they see fit, whether it be political motivation, or just

have them try to reduce their carbon footprint.