Resilient Rural America Project: Meeting the Rural Resilience Imperative by Integrating Resilience into Rural Planning & Action

Resiliency Academy

from Resilient Virginia November 10, 2020





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Which best describes your role working in rural communities?



By Nicholas A. Tonelli https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6951488



1. The Rural Resilience Imperative

2. Meeting Rural Needs and Priorities

3. Leveraging Resources in the Resilience Ecosystem

4. Opportunities to Participate

The Rural Resilience Imperative

Rural Lands and Waters

Rural Agencies

Rural Economics

Rural Culture and Politics



Imperative

Priorities

Participate

Leverage

Rural Resilience:

Environmental, Social, and Economic

- Air Quality
- Water Quality and Supply
- Land and Soil
- Food and Fiber
- Public Health
- Culture

Imperative

- Recreation
- Wildlife Habitat
- Economic Systems

Priorities

Participate

Leverage



Extreme Weather Impacts

Current impacts and future risks (including climate) to natural resources and rural communities are escalating rapidly.



Bigstock 84161099

There is an environmental, social, and economic imperative for rural resilience to address these hazards and impacts.





Bigstock 5411312

Participate

Leverage

Priorities

Billion-dollar weather and climate disasters frequency mapping: 1980-2019



Extreme Weather Hazards to Natural Resources and Rural Communities

Heat – Drought - Flood – Severe Storms - Wildfire – Pests – Disease

- Increased natural disasters
- **Reduced agricultural productivity**
- Degradation of soil and water resources
- **Loss of natural habitat, recreation, livelihoods**
- □ Health challenges people, livestock, wildlife
- Damaged infrastructure
- Economic consequences at all levels
- Ulnerability of rural communities



Leverage

Participate

Priorities

Imperative

Billion-Dollar Disasters Average Annual Cost (by decade since 1980)

2010-2019: unprecedented decade of damage

\$17 billion

1980s

- ✤ Last year (2019) > \$45 billion
- ✤ Last 3 years (2017-2019) > \$460 billion
- ✤ Last 5 years (1-15-2019) > \$535 billion



Imperative

Priorities

Participate

Leverage

Chart by NOAA CPO/CEE; data courtesy NOAA NCEI

Mitigation Saves: Positive Benefit Cost Ratios (BCR)

	National Benefit-Cost Ratio Per Peril *BCR numbers in this study have been rounded Overall Hazard Benefit-Cost Ratio	Federally Funded	Beyond Code Requirements 4:1
	Riverine Flood	7:1	5:1
	Hurricane Surge	Too few grants	7:1
6	Wind	5:1	5:1
	Earthquake	3:1	4:1
1	Wildland-Urban Interface Fire	3:1	4:1



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https://www.nibs.org/page/mitigationsaves

The Climate is Changing in Virginia

- > Warming weather and heat waves
- > Rising sea level and shoreline loss
- Saltwater intrusion
- Damage to coastal ecosystems
- Storms and property damage
- > Agricultural impacts
- > Energy needs
- > Human health risks

≎EP What Climate Change Means for Virginia Virginia's climate is changing. Most of the state has warmed about one degree (F) in the last century, and the sea is rising one to two inches every decade. Higher water levels are eroding beaches, submerging low lands,

exacerbating coastal flooding, and increasing the salinity of estuaries and aquifers. The southeastern United States has warmed less than most of the nation. But in the coming decades, the region's changing climate is likely to reduce crop yields, harm livestock, increase the number of unpleasantly hot days, and increase the risk of heat stroke and other heat-related illnesses.

Our climate is changing because the earth is warming. People have increased the amount of carbon dioxide in the air by 40 percent since the late 1700s. Other heattrapping greenhouse gases are also increasing. These gases have warmed the surface and lower atmosphere of our planet about one degree during the last 50 years. Evaporation increases as the atmosphere warms, which increases humidity, average rainfall, and the frequency of heavy rainstorms in many places-but contributes to drought in others.

Greenhouse gases are also changing the world's oceans and ice cover. Carbon dioxide reacts with water to form carbonic acid, so the oceans are becoming more acidic. The surface of the ocean has warmed about one degree during the last 80 years. Warming is causing snow to melt earlier in spring, and mountain glaciers are retreating. Even the great ice sheets on Greenland and Antarctica are shrinking. Thus the sea is rising at an increasing rate.



Rising temperatures in the last century. The eastern half of Virginia has warmed more than the western half. Source: EPA, Climate Change Indicators in the United States.

Rising Seas and Retreating Shores

Sea level is rising more rapidly along Virginia's shores than in most coastal areas because the land is sinking. If the oceans and atmosphere continue to warm, sea level along the Virginia coast is likely to rise sixteen inches to four feet in the next century.

EPA 430-F-16-048



Oceanfront houses in Virginia Beach are wulturable to severe storms fooding, and coastal erosion. @ James G. Titus; used by permission.

As sea level rises, the lowest dry lands are submerged and become either tidal wetland or open water. The freshwater wetlands in the upper tidal portions of the Potomac, Rappahannock, York, and James rivers build their own land by capturing floating sediments, and they are likely to keep pace with the rising sea during the next century. But most salt marshes along the brackish portions of those rivers and along Chesapeake Bay are unlikely to keep pace if sea level rises three feet. The wetlands of Back Bay and the North Landing River are even more vulnerable and may be lost if the sea rises two feet.

Beaches also erode as sea level rises. A higher ocean level makes it more likely that storm waters will wash over a barrier island or open new inlets. The United States Geological Survey estimates that Virginia's barrier islands could be broken up by new inlets or lost to erosion if sea level rises two feet by the year 2100. Beach erosion will threaten the oceanfront portion of Virginia Beach, unless people take measures to offset the erosion. Rising sea level also threatens bay beaches and tidal flats.

Saltwater Intrusion

As sea level rises, salt water can mix farther inland or upstream in bays, rivers, and wetlands. Because water on the surface is connected to ground water, salt water can also intrude into aquifers near the coast. Soils may become too sailty for farms or forests. For example, some of the freshwater swamps along the York River's tidal tributaries have standing dead trees that were killed by saltwater intrusion made possible by rising sea level.

www.epa.gov/climatechange

National Climate Assessment 2018 Southeast Region

Key Messages:

- > Urban Infrastructure and Health Risks
- > Increasing Flood Risks in Coastal and Low-Lying Regions
- > Natural Ecosystems Will Be Transformed
- > Economic and Health Risks for Rural Communities

Ch. 19 | Southeast



https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/downloads/NCA4_Ch19_Southeast_ExecSum.pdf



National Climate Assessment 2018

- More heat waves across \triangleright the southeast
- Summer temps since 2010 warmest on record
- Warmer nights >75°F \succ have doubled in VA & SE
- Impacts human health & \triangleright agriculture significantly





https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/downloa ds/NCA4 Ch19 Southeast ExecSum.pdf



- > Increasing annual number of days with greater than 3 inches precipitation
- Bars on Left: averaged by decade (1900-2016)
- > Dots on Right: individual station trends (1950-2016)

Fig. 19.6: Potential Abundance of Disease-Carrying Mosquito

The map shows current suitability for the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito in July in 50 different cities. *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes can spread several important diseases, including dengue fever, chikungunya, and Zika fever. The Southeast is the region of the country with the greatest potential mosquito activity. Warming temperatures have the potential to expand mosquito habitat and disease risk. *Source: adapted from Monaghan et al. 2016.*³⁰



Virginia Population 2020

8,626,210



1980 – 5.3 Million 2000 – 7.1 Million 2020 – 8.6 Million

Growing Population



https://worldpopulationreview.com/states/virginia-population



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Virginia#/media/File:Virginia-Density.svg



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Virginia#/media/File:Virginia-Density.svg

Largest populated areas along coastline

Prepare rural development rules for migration away from coasts in future decades



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Virginia#/media/File:Virginia-_Largest_cities.svg

Virginia Agriculture at a Glance

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	Economic Impact: \$70B Annually	Farmland covers 8.1M acres 32% of Virginia	Agriculture creates nearly 334,000 jobs in Virginia	
Vi	rginia's Top 10 Agricultural Counties	Virginia's Top 10 Agricultural Commodities		
			Crop / Livestock	Farm Cash Reciepts
			Broilers	\$918M
			Cattle & Calves	\$714M
			Milk	\$478M
			Turkeys	\$326M
			Greenhouse, Nursery & Other Crops	\$298M
			Soybeans	\$259M
			Corn & Grain	\$219M
			All Other Animals ⁺	\$216M
			Нау	\$119M
	ortof Intra 9	Tobacco (Unprocessed Leaf)	\$117M	
		¹ Misc. Crops includes Greenhouse/Nursery, roughly 90 percent of the total, plus mushrooms, sunflowers, rye, sorghum, seed crops and other field crops.		

*All Other Animals includes horses, aquaculture and all other livestock.

Source: 2014 USDA NASS and ERS data figures rounded to the nearest million dollars.

Total Flood Losses by County, 1996-2019



https://www.hazarddata.org/

Severe Weather Losses

2003: Hurricane \$31.7 M

2012: River floods \$18.8 M

2016: Winter weather \$3 M

2020: Winter weather \$8 M





https://www.hazarddata.org/

"Rural Americans matter—a lot to the fate of U.S. environmental policy. Not only do farmers, ranchers, and forest owners manage huge portions of American lands and watersheds, but rural voters also have an outsized impact on national policy."

https://www.cakex.org/documents/understanding-rural-attitudes-towardenvironment-and-conservation-america



Understanding Rural Attitudes Toward the Environment and Conservation in America

Authors: Robert Bonnie, Emily Pechar Diamond, and Elizabeth Rowe





Rural Attitudes and Framing: Overall Caring & Knowledgeable

Who Prefer local and state gov't oversight. Trust other farmers & ranchers, university scientists, & agency scientists

- What Recognize impacts of severe weather
- How Appreciate being engaged in the dialogue

Skeptical view of federal government science & policies

Skeptical of climate & agriculture connections

Concerned about climate regulations

Imperative > Priorities > Leverage > Participate



Population Changes and Poverty Rates in Rural Counties

https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/ecosystems



Imperative Priorities

Leverage > Participate >

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Estimated % of adults who think global warming is already harming people in the US now or within 10 years, 2018





1. The Rural Resilience Imperative

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A free online training program to help rural communities become more resilient to extreme weather and changing climate conditions.

GOAL

The Resilient Rural America Project (RRAP) accelerates rural resilience by understanding rural needs and priorities, co-producing training resources, and strengthening the ability of resilience service providers to meet the needs of underserved rural communities.

GAPS

Address lack of staff, resources, and technical capacity Promote focus, coordination, synergy, and efficiency

ACTION

Collaboration and co-production of training module series

Participate

Leverage

Meeting Rural Needs

Rural communities have specific needs, gaps, and constraints that are obstacles to resilience.

Understanding rural priorities and needs is key to success.



Co-Production Process:

- Collaboration
- User Input
- Recruit Beta Testers and Advisors
- Update Module Periodically



ICMA 2015 Sustainability Research 576 <u>Nonmetro</u> Local Governments

- 30% have adopted a sustainability plan; less than 4% have a climate mitigation and/or adaptation plan
- 50% lack any sustainability staff, task force, goals, or committees
- 77% have experienced a major disaster in the last 15 years (flooding + winter storms most common)
- Biggest motivations of sustainability efforts: fiscal savings, local electeds, funding opportunities
- Biggest barriers: funds/funding restrictions, staff capacity & information

35

Initial Surveys

178 Rural Users

Who works on resilience
Local risks and impacts
Status of actions
Support needed
Training preferences



56 Service Providers

□ Top risks

□ Gaps in capacity for rural communities & providers

□ Effective strategies

Leads on resources and funding sources



Imperative

Priorities

Perception of Current Local Climate Risks



Severe: 6%

Imperative > Priorities > Leverage > Participate > 37
Current Status of Resilience Efforts (n=178)



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Current Status of Resilience Efforts - Storms and Floods (n=178)



Survey Findings

□ Extreme weather top risk

- Flexible self-guided learning with time limits
- Integrate resilience into existing comprehensive and hazard mitigation plans

□ Use actionable information

Identified advisors and beta testers



Imperative Priorities

Participate

Leverage

food systems	flooding	Flooding and erosion	
ecosystem impacts	Flooding	drought	
Food security.	Energy security	Flash flooding	

public health impacts	wildfires	Flooding, high temperatures	
Warmer days and nights	er days and nights Flooding, wind, power loss		
-Disruption to food system increasing access concerns- Local food production disruption	Drought	Coastal flooding	

Ecosystem impacts	increased floodingloss of buildable landdroughtagricultural growing seasons & crop selection	food security	
Wildfire	Energy security	frequent severe storms and extreme weather that cause flooding and wildfires; economic challenges, population loss	
flooding	Water supply	terrados	

insect spread	Drought	Energy security	
Power loss, energy instability	flooding impact on infrastructure	Flooding	
Flooding	Food security	Reduced chill time in winter	

species shift (invasives, ag pests, and disease vector insects)

Extreme weather

Flooding, higher temperatures, major hurricanes greater than cat 3

Weather undtable

Inceasing heat, impacts to other species. Collapse of our ecosystems that sustain us.

Collpase of civilized society

My greatest concern is agriculture, and its vulnerability to erratic weather. My concern is that soil health to curb effects of drought and floods is not yet part of resilience planning.

Mentimeter

resource related violence, food insecurity related to agricultural impacts, horrible treatment of climate migrants (but I'm not typical of my area)

forgot to mention, human health and inequitable impacts of climate change with poor rural health workforce and closing of hospitals, etc.

did I mention transportation is a lifeblood for living rural and yet fuels climate crisis and is already a health access problem here. We need to shore up food systems to be resilient to disruptions, whether pandemic-related or climate-related or civil strife-related. See Future Harvest's https://www.futureharvestcasa.org/resilient-crisis-readyfood-system-rcr



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(Module #1) Rural Resilience to Extreme Weather Integrating Land Use Strategies in Comprehensive Plans

Project information: <u>www.mfpp.org/rrap</u>

Free Training Module <u>www.resilientruralamerica.org</u>

A free online training program to help rural communities become more resilient to extreme weather and changing climate conditions.



OFFICI

NOAA Climate Program Office

www.mfpp.org/rrap

- Begin where you are in your planning
- Online training module
- > 100 page Workbook of step-by-step instructions
- Links to literature, tools, resources from partners
- Worksheets to guide you through critical decisions
- Aligned with U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit Steps to Resilience

Participate

Leverage



Climate Change Adaptation through Local Comprehensive Planning: Guidance for Puget Sound Communities

Lara J. Hansen, Stacey Justus Nordgren & Eric E. Mielbrecht

February 2017



Bainbridge Island, WA www.EcoAdapt.org

Streamlined Training Using a Tested Framework

- 1. Prepare
- 2. Explore Hazards
- 3. Assess Vulnerability & Risk
- 4. Identify Options for Action
- 5. Update Comprehensive Plan
- 6. Take Action on Resilience Strategies



Priorities

Imperative

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Have you viewed the Steps to Resilience videos on the U.S. CRT?





0 I don't know what you're talking about



Explore Hazards

https://toolkit.climate.gov/steps-to-resilience/explore-hazards













https://pnwcirc.org/science/socialscience

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Imperative

Priorities

Leverage > P





Does extreme weather represent a hazard to assets you value?





<u>Assess Vulnerability</u> and Risk

https://toolkit.climate.gov/steps-to-resilience/assess-vulnerability-risks



Sensitivity: timing of planting, fertilizer application, harvesting , fallow, ...

Rockingham County

Imperative > Priorities >

Leverage > Participate

Adaptive capacity: silviculture and understory management (e.g., controlled burn)

Leverage

Participate





Can you accept the risk that climate presents to your assets?





Investigate Options

https://toolkit.climate.gov/steps-to-resilience/investigate-options

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Identify options that target different aspects of vulnerability and risk (brainstorm)



REDUCE SENSITIVITY

IMPROVE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Priorities

Participate

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Adaptive Land Use Strategies for Extreme Weather Resilience

- ✓ Smart Growth Management
- ✓ Floodplain management
- ✓ Shoreline management
- ✓ Stormwater codes & ordinances
- \checkmark Green infrastructure practices
- \checkmark Extreme heat and cold mitigation
- \checkmark Drought mitigation / water conservation
- \checkmark Green space conservation
- ✓ Regenerative agriculture practices
- ✓ Sustainable forestry practices
- ✓ Wildfire mitigation development rules



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Integration of resilient land use strategies into all plans and management practices is the most cost effective pathway to increase rural resilience

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/documen ts/essential_smart_growth_fixes_rural_0.pdf



Are your active stakeholders committed to the options you generated?





Prioritize & Plan

https://toolkit.climate.gov/steps-to-resilience/prioritize-plan



Integrate Resilient Land Use into Comprehensive Plan

GOAL: Recommend policy updates with prioritized resilient land use strategies

PROCESS: Analyze each comprehensive plan element for potential climate resilience objectives



Land use is a FEMA Priority 1 Hazard Mitigation Strategy for both Floods and WUI Wildfire Resilience

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Climate Change Adaptation through Local Comprehensive Planning: Guidance for Puget Sound Communities

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Bainbridge Island, WA www.EcoAdapt.org

Comp Plan Elements

Existing conditions
Goals and objectives
Implementation
Future land use maps

Optional elements

- Housing
- Water
- Transportation
- Environment
- Health
- Infrastructure

Priorities

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Leverage

• etc.

Imperative

Analytical Worksheets to Guide Strategy Development

- ***** Comp Plan Elements & Climate Impacts
- ***** Extreme Weather Implications
- ***** Goals and Policy Updates for each Element

***** Comp Plan Elements & Climate Impacts

PLAN ELEMENT	IMPACTS		
	Temperature	Precipitation	Sea Level Rise
Water Resources	Higher temps increase water demand	More intense rainfall increases stormwater volume	Increase risk of saltwater intrusion
	Increased evaporation	More flooding events	Increased shoreline erosion
	Reduce water quality	Reduced water quality	Reduced water quality

Participate
***** Extreme Weather Implications

IMPACT	PLAN ELEMENT
	Land Use Implications
Precipitation: Changing patterns and extremes, long duration and greater intensity	 Changing patterns may affect function of infrastructure: Stormwater inundation and localized flooding Chronic nuisance floods, erosion, landslides Increased maintenance needed
	Changing patterns and extreme cause shifts in vegetation types and habitat
	Groundwater recharge diminished and further reduced by impervious surfaces

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Participate

***** Goals and Policy Updates for each Element

PLAN ELEMENT	Actions that Support Mitigation	Actions that Support Adaptation	Implementation / Toolkit Actions
Land Use	Conserve energy and ecosystem functions by preventing sprawl	Locate all new growth outside of hazard zones	 Develop a certificate for resilient land use criteria to fulfill: Identify lands suitable for development Align with hazard mitigation plans Promote compact development patterns

Priorities



Will your plan protect what you value?

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Take Action on Comprehensive Plan

https://toolkit.climate.gov/steps-to-resilience/take-action

Imperative > Priorities > Leverage > Participate

Action and Outcomes for Resilience Integration

- Planning provision changes
- Policy/codes/ordinance changes
- On-the-ground practice changes
- Budget / investment changes
- □ Health and safety improvements
- Measurable environmental changes
- Socioeconomic benefits
- Learning, attitude, behavior changes
- Other outcomes?





Does your county address climate resilience?



Strongly agree



- 1. The Rural Resilience Imperative
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- **4. Opportunities to Participate**

RRAP #1 – Opportunities to Participate

RRAP Module #1: **Rural Resilience to Extreme Weather: Integrating Land Use Strategies in Comprehensive Plan Updates**

- Use as guide to your next plan update (Comp, HMP, Watershed, etc.)
- Organize a local team or a cohort of local communities for a 4-6 week facilitated module training process
- Share information with colleagues and stakeholders

www.resilientruralamerica.org



The Rural Resilience Training Series

RRAP Module #01

Rural Resilience to Extreme Weather: Integrating Land Use Strategies in Comprehensive Plans



Imperative > Priorities > Leverage > Participate

RRAP Module #2. Rural Resilience to Extreme Weather: <u>Implementing</u> Resilient Land Use Strategies

Goal: Translate resilient land use strategies into specific **action steps** that address **local impacts and future risks**

Project-Based Training: A learning guide thru 2-3 resilient land use action projects.

Imperative

Priorities

- Analyze project climate-readiness
- Conduct an economic analysis
- Communicate to leaders, residents, and landowners
- Integrate land use policy change
- Update codes and ordinances
- Modify natural resource management practices
- Secure **funding sources** for incentives and project execution

www.mfpp.org/rrap

Leverage

Participate



https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/documen ts/essential_smart_growth_fixes_rural_0.pdf



https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-01/documents/2009_essential_fixes_0.pdf

Adaptive Land Use Strategies for Extreme Weather Resilience

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- ✓ Floodplain & shoreline management
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- ✓ Drought mitigation / water conservation
- ✓ Green space conservation
- ✓ Regenerative agriculture practices
- ✓ Sustainable forestry practices
- \checkmark Wildfire mitigation development rules







Is your policy or project resilience-ready?

Use the CCAC Tool for decisions that: ✓ Use public funds

- ✓ Have life cycle beyond five years
- \checkmark Impact the public good

Such as, fiscal expenditures, capital planning, permitting, infrastructure design and siting, farm or forest management upgrades

Climate Change Adaptation Certification (CCAC) Pathway to Climate Savvy Planning



Objectives of CCAC Tool:

- ✓ Evaluate future conditions for project function and longevity
- ✓ Understand long-term sustainability of project at funding or permitting phase
- ✓ Reduce community risk from actions today that may become liabilities under future conditions
- \checkmark May also enhance funding success

https://www.cakex.org/tools/climate-change-adaptation-certification-tool

Potential Mixture of Action Topics

- Planning— comprehensive plans, hazard mitigation plans, regional open space plans, etc.
- Regulatory-zoning, floodplains, building codes, setbacks, development regulations, rebuilding restrictions, subdivision rules, armoring permits, coastal management
- Finance, Tax, & Markets— incentives, TDRs, capital improvement programs, acquisitions & buyouts, conservation easements (static or rolling)
- Natural Resource Management

 regenerative agriculture, sustainable forestry, soil
 restoration, green infrastructure, etc.
- Communications Engagement, outreach, & messaging

RRAP Module #2: **Rural Resilience to Extreme Weather:** <u>Implementing</u> Resilient Land Use Strategies

Module development in progress now:

- Complete & share <u>2020 Rural Resilience Survey</u>
- Volunteer as Beta Tester or Project Advisor

Project information: Survey: www.mfpp.org/rrap

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VXCVTGV



comprehensive plan

Leverage

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What land use implementation topics or skills do you want to learn more about or put into action ?

forest management in a changing climate	Flood mitigation	considerations around solar farms
Biodiversity conservation	housing	Role of soil health
creative zoning/code approaches to nudge toward resilience	integrating local comprehensive plans and hazard mitigation plans to reach mitigation goals	

Mentimeter

By Nicholas A. Tonelli Northeast Pennsylvania, USA https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6951488

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Remember:

Land use is a <u>FEMA Priority 1</u> Hazard Mitigation Strategy for both Floods and WUI Wildfire Resilience

Integration of resilient land use strategies into all plans, policies, and management practices is the <u>most cost</u> <u>effective pathway</u> to increase rural resilience



Collaboration and Co-Production of Training Module



Rural Beta Testers & Project Advisors

Two rounds of funding









THANK YOU!

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By Nicholas A. Tonelli Northeast Pennsylvania, USA https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6951488