

Municipal Resilience Cycle

for New Jersey Communities

Municipal resilience is the ability of a community to adapt and thrive in the face of extreme events and stresses. Municipal resilience is achieved by anticipating risk, planning to limit impacts, and implementing adaptation strategies that integrate all community systems – civic, environmental, social and economic – to support recovery and growth.

The NJ Resiliency Network is a post-Sandy initiative that matches municipal recovery and resiliency needs with resources provided by government, private, non-profit and academic organizations. Developed over the spring and summer of 2014, the Municipal Resilience Cycle presents a summary snapshot of the Network’s current understanding of the process local governments must undertake to build long term community-scale resilience. The cycle begins with encouraging municipal leaders to achieve early “wins” by shoring up their internal systems to increase their readiness to respond—and bounce back from—disasters of all kinds. The following four steps outline a traditional planning process, accentuating the importance of effective planning for the localized impacts of climate change. The cycle ends with a phase focused on iterative, data-driven management and emphasizes the importance of building a culture of learning in the face of uncertainty.

The NJ Resiliency Network will revisit and refine the Municipal Resilience Cycle to reflect new insights gathered from our network of resource providers and community leaders.

