

Building Local Resilience to Climate Change

A Workshop on Resilience Tools & Sustainable Jersey Actions for Communities

May 17, 2016 - 9:00 am to 11:30 am
Middlesex County Fire Academy
1001 Fire Academy Drive
Sayreville, NJ 08872

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

The Challenging Path Towards Resilience

Linda Weber, AICP, PP, *Resiliency Director*, Sustainable Jersey

- Climate change impacts in New Jersey: Where are we at now?
- Municipal Resilience Cycle
- Challenges in planning for a (very) long-term horizon

Existing Resilience Tools & Sustainable Jersey Actions

Nathaly Agosto Filión, *Resiliency Manager*, Sustainable Jersey

- Extreme Temperature Event Plan
- Online Tools, e.g. CREAT, Coastal Explorer Mapping Tool, Climate Central, NJ Adapt
- Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risk (“Getting to Resilience”)
- Coastal (and Tidal) Vulnerability Assessments

Caroline Ehrlich, *Chief of Staff*, Woodbridge Township

- Woodbridge Coastal Vulnerability Assessment

Lauren Skowronski, *Program Director for Community Engagement*, Sustainable Jersey

- Emergency Communications Planning
- Vulnerable Populations Identification for Emergencies

Upcoming Resilience Tools & Sustainable Jersey Actions

Nathaly Agosto Filión, *Resiliency Manager*, Sustainable Jersey

- Urban Heat Island Reduction
- Climate Adaptation Public Awareness
- Environmental Justice & the Community
- Riverine Flooding Vulnerability Assessment
- Natural and Nature-Based Mitigation Solutions

Open Discussion

- What other tools do communities need to be better prepared for, and adapt to climate change? What are the key challenges and issues?
- Questions and Answers

Speaker Bios



Linda Weber, AICP, PP, Resiliency Director, Sustainable Jersey

Linda Weber is a licensed, professional planner with 25 years of planning experience in the public and private sector. Linda's work experience is in municipal planning where she specializes in master plans, urban design, historic preservation, disaster recovery and resiliency. As director of Sustainable Jersey's resiliency program, Linda works with partner organizations and state agencies to develop tools and resources to help communities strengthen their resilience to the current and future impacts of climate change. She also oversees a municipal outreach program that provides support and technical assistance on resiliency initiatives. In 2013, Linda was a Community Recovery Specialist for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), assisting NJ communities in long-term disaster recovery. She also served as Chair of the Hazard Mitigation and Recovery Planning Committee of the American Planning Association - New Jersey Chapter, and was a member of the Urban Land Institute Sandy Task Force, New Jersey- Philadelphia Region. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree (BA) in Urban Studies at Rutgers University, and a Master in City Planning degree (MCP) and Certificate in Urban Design at the University of Pennsylvania.



Lauren Skowronski, Program Director for Community Engagement, Sustainable Jersey

As Program Director for Community Engagement, Lauren supports our grassroots regional hubs across the state with leadership development, capacity building and technical assistance. Lauren also heads our *Community Information & Civic Engagement* initiative which provides strategies to improve municipal infrastructure through more accessible public information and increased community engagement. Prior to joining our team, she served as State Campaign Director of The Citizens Campaign for over ten years, where she focused on increasing civic engagement through education and grassroots organizing efforts, as well as collaborated with local, county and state officials on issues such as government reform, transparency and open government, environment, economic development, public safety and education. Lauren assisted Green Teams and environmental advocates across the state with strategies to interface with government officials on policy development. Lauren holds a Master's degree from the School of Social Work at Monmouth University, where she concentrated in International and Community Development.



Caroline Ehrlich, Chief of Staff, Woodbridge Township

Caroline Ehrlich is the chief of staff to Woodbridge Township Mayor John E. McCormac and executive director of the Woodbridge Township Redevelopment Agency. Carol serves as treasurer on the Sustainable Jersey Board and leads the Sustainable Jersey Certification Standards Committee, she spearheaded efforts to designate Woodbridge Township a Sustainable Jersey community and was instrumental in creating the Greenable Woodbridge program. Under Caroline's leadership, Woodbridge Township received a 3-STAR Community Rating for national leadership in sustainability – a designation that places Woodbridge among the top sustainable cities and communities in the nation. Woodbridge Township has received the Sustainable Jersey Sustainable Champion award six times for achieving the most certification points and has been certified at the silver-level certification for six years.



Nathaly Agosto Filión, Resiliency Manager, Sustainable Jersey

Nathaly Agosto Filión serves as a Resiliency Manager with the Sustainable Jersey Resiliency Program. In this capacity, Nathaly will be working with Sandy-affected communities across North Jersey connecting municipal leaders with long-term recovery and resiliency planning resources and technical assistance. Prior to joining the Resiliency Team, Nathaly worked as a Program Officer with the U.S. Climate Adaptation Program at the Institute for Sustainable Communities where she supported the development, design and delivery of national and regional capacity building programs for and in partnership with municipal climate and sustainability practitioners. Nathaly has also worked as a local climate action planning consultant, community organizer and environmental educator. Nathaly holds a master's degree in Natural Resources from the Rubenstein School for Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Vermont, where she concentrated in ecological planning and completed coursework for a graduate certificate in ecological economics from the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics.