

**SUSTAINABILITY**  
**SUMMIT**



# Integrating Climate Resilience into Municipal Plans

May 5, 2023

# INTEGRATING CLIMATE RESILIENCE INTO MUNICIPAL PLANS

MAY 5, 2023

11:30AM - 12:30PM

## MEGHAN LEAVEY

CLIMATE RESILIENCE  
PLANNING,  
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION



## TANYA ROHRBACH

COMMUNITY PLANNING  
MANAGER,  
NEW JERSEY FUTURE



2023 NEW JERSEY  
SUSTAINABILITY  
SUMMIT



## TRACY PRESCILLA GLOVA

PROGRAM COORDINATOR,  
POLICY AND PLANNING  
SUSTAINABLE JERSEY





# Who is here today?

By show of hands



What is your role in your community? (*now or in the past*)

- Are you a member of your town's Environmental Commission?
- Green Team member?
- Are you an elected official?
- Work on a municipal staff?
- Other agencies or nonprofit group that work with municipalities?
- Other?

# Climate change?

By show of hands

How many of you have been negatively impacted by what you consider is an event that is related to climate change? (raise hand)

- Keep your hands up if that event was more than 10 years go (2013)
- 5 or more years (2018)
- In the last 18 months?



Footage from Borough of Dunellen courtesy of Rob Rios

September 1, 2022 – Hurricane Ida

# Climate change planning?

By show of hands

- Are you aware of any planning that your municipality had undertaken to prepare for the impacts of climate change?







# Municipal Climate Resilience Planning

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Meghan Leavey, PP, AICP, GISP

Lead Planner, Bureau of Climate Resilience Planning

Resilient NJ Program Coordinator







EXECUTIVE ORDER 89:  
Scientific Report on Climate Change

“The Climate and Flood Resilience Program, under the direction of the Chief Resilience Officer, shall **develop a Scientific Report on Climate Change** based on existing data and the best available science regarding the current and anticipated environmental effects of climate change in New Jersey.”



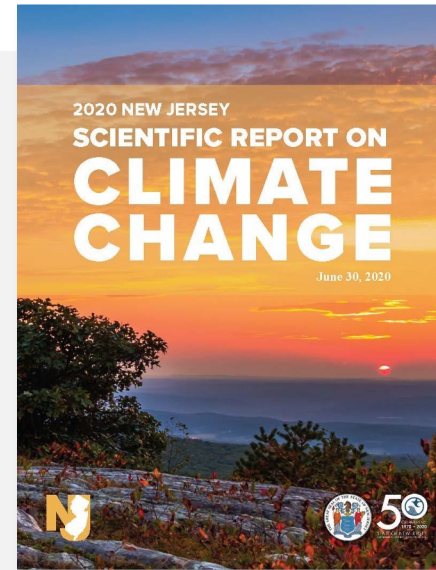
# SCIENTIFIC REPORT

on Climate Change

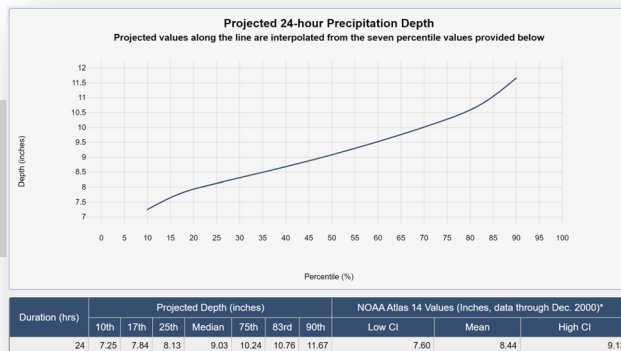
[nj.gov/dep/climatechange/data.html](http://nj.gov/dep/climatechange/data.html)

## Overview

- Comprehensive effort to synthesize the latest and most reliable scientific information on the current and predicted future impacts of climate change.
- The report is one component of the State's comprehensive strategy to both reduce emissions of climate pollutants that fuel global warming, and proactively plan and prepare for the climate impacts that New Jersey cannot avoid.



Released June 30, 2020



Nov. 2021: Updated Atlas 14 data; Extreme Event Precipitation Projections & Projection Tool



Sept. 2022: Climate Change Impacts on Human Health & Communities Addendum released







EXECUTIVE ORDER 89:  
Climate Change Resilience Strategy

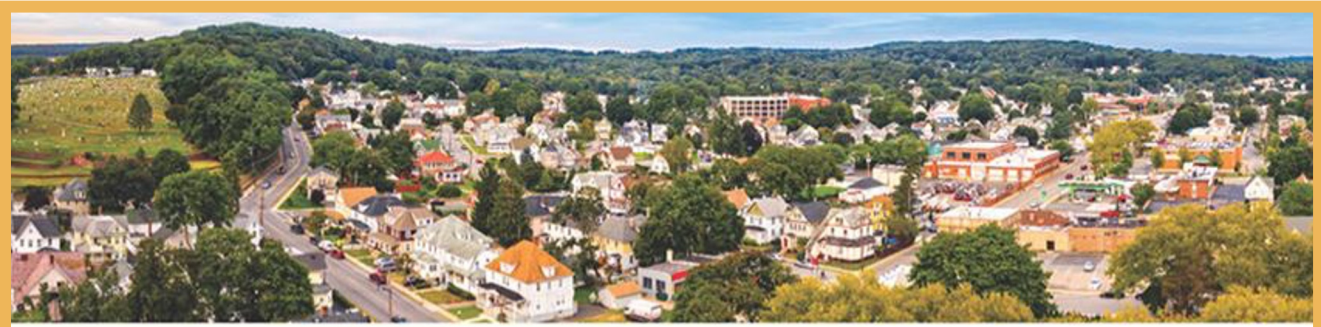
“The Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy shall include **recommendations for actions the State should take** to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change”



# CLIMATE RESILIENCE

defined

The ability of social and ecological systems to absorb and adapt to shocks and stresses resulting from a changing climate, while becoming better positioned to respond in the future.



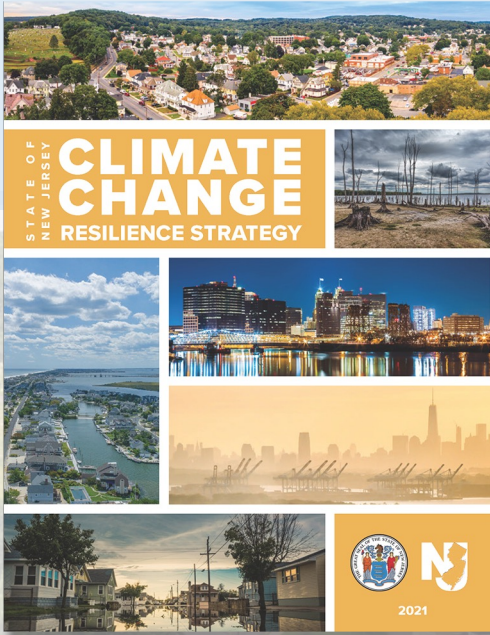
STATE OF  
NEW JERSEY

# CLIMATE CHANGE

RESILIENCE STRATEGY







**PRIORITY 1.  
BUILD RESILIENT  
AND HEALTHY  
COMMUNITIES**

1

**PRIORITY 2.  
STRENGTHEN THE  
RESILIENCE OF  
NEW JERSEY'S  
ECOSYSTEMS**

2

**PRIORITY 3.  
PROMOTE  
COORDINATED  
GOVERNANCE**

3

**PRIORITY 4.  
INVEST IN  
INFORMATION &  
INCREASE PUBLIC  
UNDERSTANDING**

4

**PRIORITY 5.  
PROMOTE CLIMATE-  
INFORMED  
INVESTMENTS &  
INNOVATIVE  
FINANCING**

5

**PRIORITY 6.  
COASTAL  
RESILIENCE  
PLAN**

6

- Integrate resilience into local and regional planning
- Increase technical assistance programs to address community resilience

- Protect valued natural lands and resources
- Incorporate natural and nature-based solutions for resilience

- Engage local governments and other partners to develop resilience solutions
- Incorporate equity and inclusion in resilience decision-making

- Incentivize and support community resilience planning
- Support movement to safer areas





# MUNICIPAL LAND USE LAW

CCRHVA Amendments

## Public Law 2021, Chapter 6 Signed in February 2021

Requires incorporation of a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment (CCRHVA) into any Master Plan Land Use Element adopted after the signing.

- CCRHVAs must rely on most recent projections and best available science.
- CCRHVAs must consider environmental effects associated with climate change and contain measures to mitigate reasonably anticipated natural hazards.
- DEP must provide technical assistance as practicable

# CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED HAZARD VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

## *Required Elements*

- Analysis of current and future threats to, and vulnerabilities of, the municipality associated with climate change-related natural hazards
- Build-out analysis of future residential, commercial, industrial, and other development in the municipality, and an assessment of the threats and vulnerabilities identified above related to that development
- Identification of critical facilities, utilities, roadways, and other infrastructure that is necessary for evacuation purposes and sustaining quality of life during a natural disaster, to be maintained, at all times, in an operational state
  
- Analysis of the potential impact of natural hazards on relevant components and elements of the master plan
- Identification of strategies and design standards that may be implemented to reduce or avoid risks associated with natural hazards
- A specific policy statement on the consistency, coordination, and integration of the climate-change related hazard vulnerability assessment with certain other plans adopted by the municipality
- Reliance on the most recent natural hazard projections and best available science provided by the New Jersey DEP





## RESILIENT NJ: LOCAL PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE TOOLKIT

- Overview
- Initiate And Engage
- **Understanding Your Vulnerability**
- Develop A Strategy
- Track Your Progress



# II. UNDERSTAND YOUR VULNERABILITY



**Asset Identification**

**Meeting MLUL Requirements**

**Self-Assessment**

- Matrix-styled assessment

**Advanced Assessments**

- Flood
- Health
- Temperature





# II. UNDERSTAND YOUR VULNERABILITY



OVERVIEW ▾

1. INITIATE & ENGAGE ▾

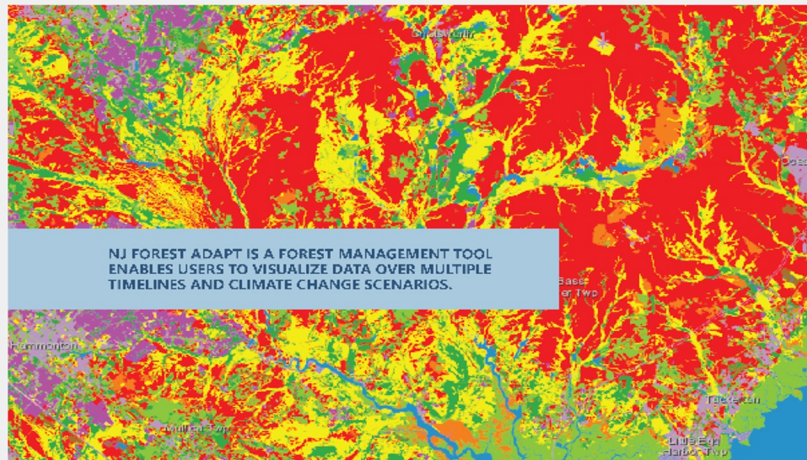
2. UNDERSTAND YOUR VULNERABILITY ▾

3. DEVELOP A STRATEGY ▾

4. TRACK YOUR PROGRESS ▾

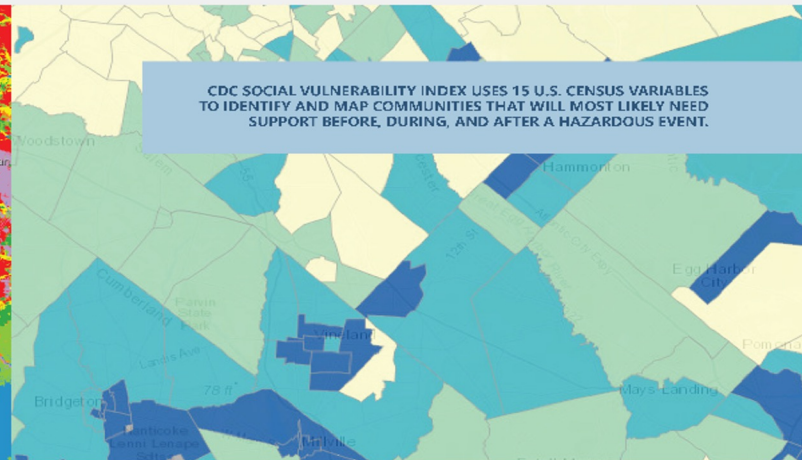
## HELPFUL TOOLS & DATA

Depending on the time and resources, a Planning Team may have to rely on tools and data gathered from other sources. There are existing maps, data, and tools available to assist communities with understanding their current capabilities and exposure to climate risks.



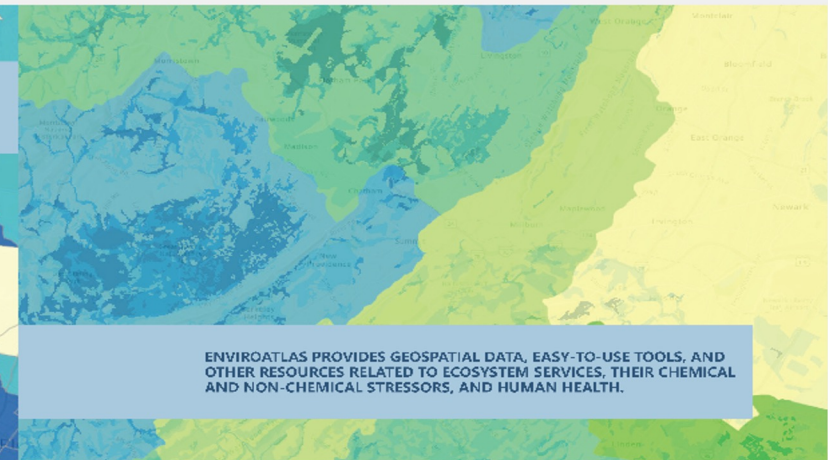
### IDENTIFYING CLIMATE RELATED HAZARDS

- [NJ Adapt](#): a suite of online tools designed to provide data to planners and others addressing climate change in New Jersey.
- [Stockton University New Jersey Beach Profile Network Profile Viewer](#): shoreline change mapping tool (shorter, more recent timescale)
- [NOAA Digital Coast](#): Federal climate data mapping clearinghouse



### ASSESSING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

- [CDC Social Vulnerability Index](#)
- [NJ Adapt Municipal Snapshots](#): These snapshots provide access to information about people, places, and assets that are at risk from climate impacts in each of New Jersey's municipalities.
- [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit – People & Communities](#)
- [New Jersey Environmental Justice Mapping Tool](#)



### ASSESSING ECOSYSTEM VULNERABILITY

- [EPA EnviroAtlas](#): Data on ecosystem services including Climate Stabilization and Natural Hazard Mitigation
- [Climate Ready Estuaries](#): The Climate Ready Estuaries program works with the National Estuary Programs and the coastal management community to assess climate change vulnerabilities, develop and implement adaptation strategies, and engage and educate stakeholders. CRE shares NEP examples to help other coastal managers and provides technical guidance and assistance about climate change adaptation.





# Resilient NJ:

Resilience Guidance & Assistance Program

## Resilience GAP – “Fill the Resilience GAP”

- Facilitated by NJDEP and FEMA
- Design, develop, and deliver a comprehensive package of guidance, tools, and trainings for municipal governments to incorporate climate resilience into their regulatory program
- Technical assistance program for support
- Coordinate, organize, and direct NGOs and academic institutions in this effort

Develop uniform guidance and criteria for municipal resilience planning

Guidance should be:

- Consistent with the most accurate, up-to-date climate science
- Consistent with NJ rules and regulations
- Easily accessible and developed with the intention of building capacity

# RESILIENT NJ

## REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM



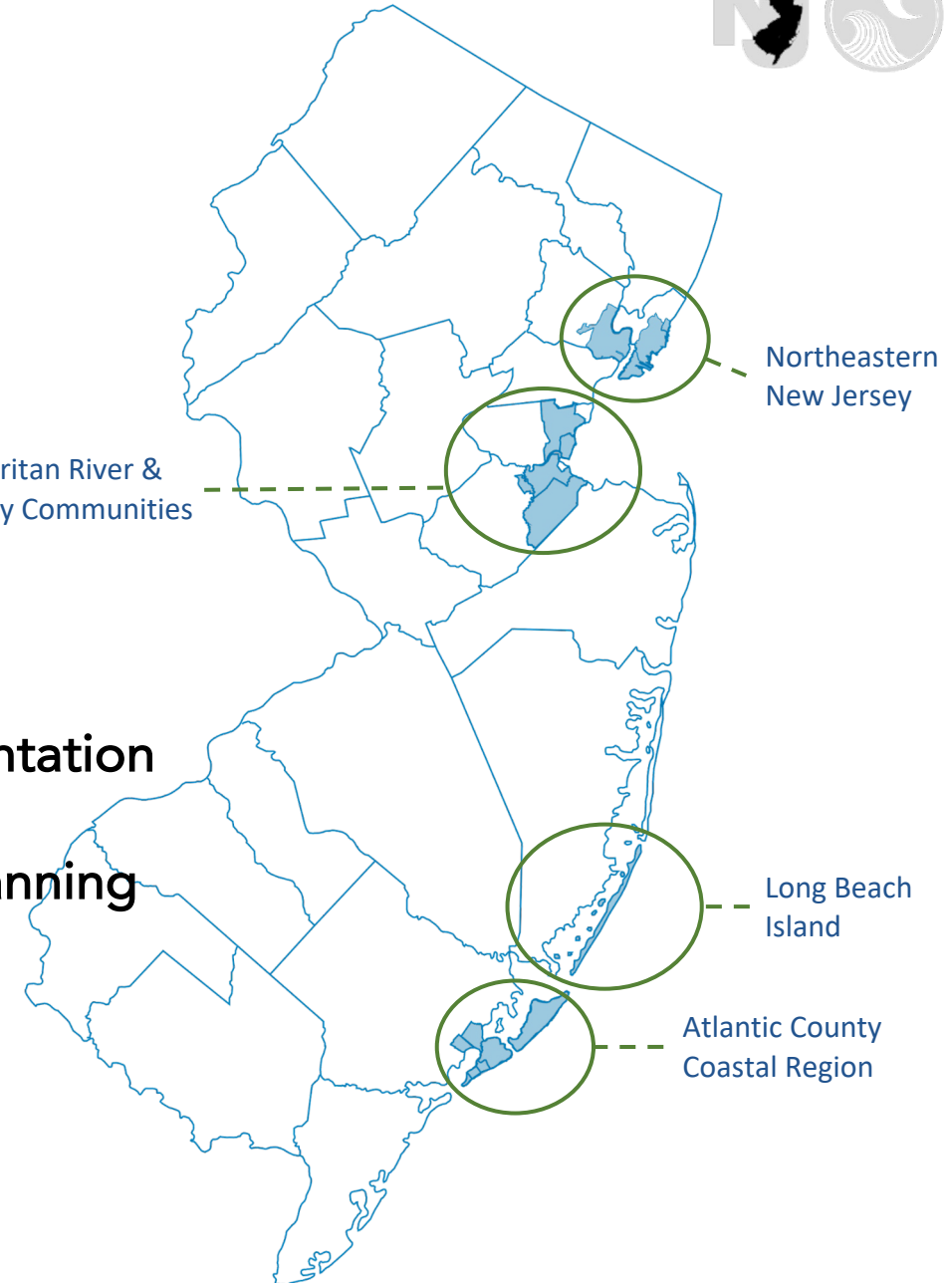
Launched in 2020 by DEP

Four regional planning projects

**Goal: Produce community-led climate resilience & adaptation action plans**

### NEXT STEPS:

- **\$4.8 million** re-allocated from Sandy CDBG to fund **implementation of priority planning actions** across the four regions
- **\$5 million** in Ida CDBG to fund **another round of regional planning projects**



*Providing Science and Data*



*Supporting Engagement*



*Assessing Vulnerability*



*Identifying Solutions*



# RESILIENT NJ



## MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- Direct resilience planning assistance to individual municipalities in the coastal zone for development of a local climate resilience strategy and/or climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment
- Inaugural funding award: \$400,000 across five municipalities:
  - Ocean Township (Ocean County)
  - Salem
  - Stafford Township
  - Trenton
  - Upper Township





# RESILIENCE ACCELERATOR

- Direct technical assistance and expertise to local communities on specific resilience goals and projects
- Workshops and partnering sessions create space for high-level education *and* tailored, one-on-one assistance
- Six riverine communities in first cohort
- Five residential coastal communities in second cohort



*Partnership of  
federal & state  
agencies*



**FEMA**





    @newjerseydep  @nj.dep

# Contact

Meghan Leavey, PP, AICP, GISP

Lead Planner, Bureau of Climate Resilience Planning

[meghan.leavey@dep.nj.gov](mailto:meghan.leavey@dep.nj.gov)





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# Integrating Climate Resilience into Municipal Plans

Model Climate Vulnerability Assessment

2023 NEW JERSEY SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT







**NEW JERSEY**

**FUTURE**





# MODEL CLIMATE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT (CVA)

Help municipalities comply with the MLUL amendment requiring that a “climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment” be included in the land use element of their master plans.

Create a best practice model so that the process is standardized across the state.

Provide a step-by-step guide and set of resources that will facilitate the implementation of climate change adaptation actions.



# CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED HAZARD VULNERABILITY

**Exposure** - The extent people, places, or systems are touched by or in contact with or disturbed by a hazard.

**Sensitivity** - The extent that they can experience harm from that exposure.

**Adaptive Capacity** - The extent people or systems can respond to and learn from disturbances to mitigate the causes and the impacts of climate-related hazards.





# CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED HAZARDS AND IMPACTS

## CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES



### Flooding

- Harms people
- Damages homes, infrastructure, and businesses
- Interferes with movement of people and goods



### Extreme Weather

- Damages property
- Disrupts traffic and business



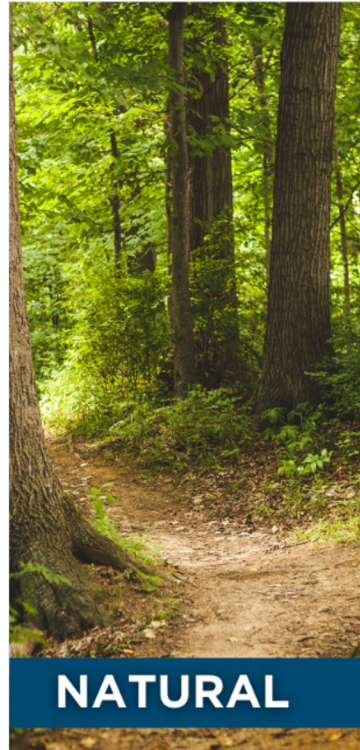
### Drought

- Damages crops and ecosystems



### High Temperatures

- Worsens air quality to increase asthma and other health conditions
- Increases pests that can damage crops
- Increases disease outbreak to people and natural ecosystems
- Hotter, drier conditions increase wildfires



NATURAL



BUILT



ECONOMIC



SOCIAL



GOVERNANCE

# CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED VULNERABILITY - SOCIALLY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- ▶ Underserved communities with a low socioeconomic status
- ▶ Populations of color
- ▶ Tribal and First Nation communities
- ▶ Gender and gender identity
- ▶ Individuals experiencing homelessness or displacement
- ▶ Rural communities
- ▶ Older and younger populations
- ▶ Limited English proficiency
- ▶ Service workers and migrant laborers
- ▶ Limited cognitive or physical abilities
- ▶ Institutionalized populations, such as those in prisons and nursing homes
- ▶ Renters
- ▶ Transportation dependent or car-less populations


**CDC Social Vulnerability Index (CDC SVI)**  
 A tool to identify socially vulnerable communities

**CDC Social Vulnerability Index**

**What is social vulnerability?**  
Every community must prepare for and respond to hazardous events, whether a natural disaster like a tornado or disease outbreak, or a human-made event such as a harmful chemical spill. A number of factors, including poverty, lack of access to transportation, and crowded housing may weaken a community's ability to prevent human suffering and financial loss in a disaster. These factors are known as **social vulnerability**.

**What is CDC Social Vulnerability Index?**  
ATSDR's Geospatial Research, Analysis & Services Program (GRASP) created databases to help emergency response planners and public health officials identify and map communities that will most likely need support before, during, and after a hazardous event.

CDC SVI uses U.S. Census data to determine the social vulnerability of every census tract. Census tracts are subdivisions of counties for which the Census collects statistical data. CDC SVI ranks each tract on 15 social factors, including poverty, lack of vehicle access, and crowded housing, and groups them into four related themes. Maps of the four themes are shown in the figure below. Each tract receives a separate ranking for each of the four themes as well as an overall ranking.



Hurricane Sandy - Breezy Point, NY  
Photographer - Pauline Tran

**How can CDC SVI help communities be better prepared?**

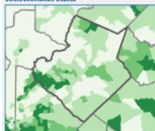
CDC SVI can help public health officials and local planners better prepare for and respond to emergency events like hurricanes, disease outbreaks, or exposure to dangerous chemicals.

CDC SVI databases and maps can be used to:

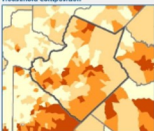
- Estimate the amount of needed supplies like food, water, medicine, and bedding.
- Help decide how many emergency personnel are required to assist people.
- Identify areas in need of emergency shelters.
- Plan the best way to evacuate people, accounting for those who have special needs, such as people without vehicles, the elderly, or people who do not understand English well.
- Identify communities that will need continued support to recover following an emergency or natural disaster.

**SVI Themes**

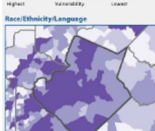
Socioeconomic Status



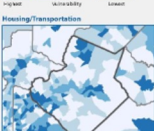
Household Composition



Race/Ethnicity/Language



Housing/Transportation




Maps show the range of vulnerability in Guinnett County, Georgia for the four themes.

For more information, please contact the CDC SVI Coordinator ([svi\\_coordinator@cdc.gov](mailto:svi_coordinator@cdc.gov)).

Geospatial Research, Analysis, and Services Program (GRASP)  
Division of Field Epidemiology and Human Health Sciences, ATSDR

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
 Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

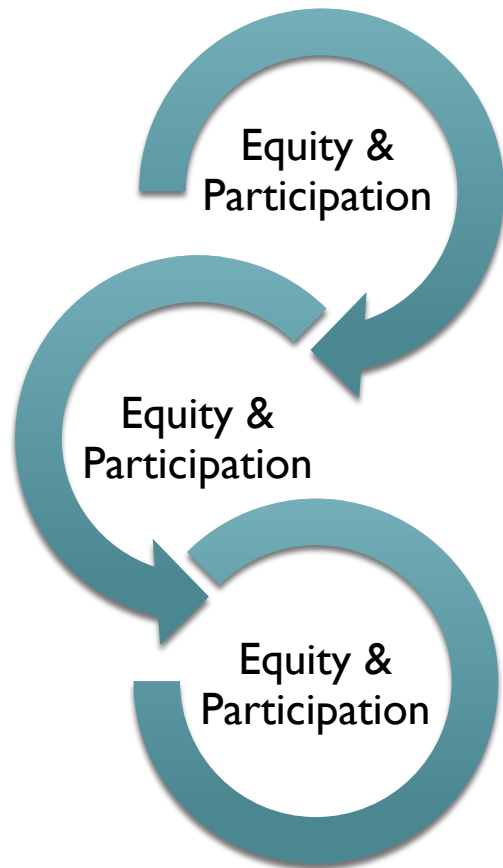


## Guide to Expanding Mitigation

MAKING THE CONNECTION TO EQUITY

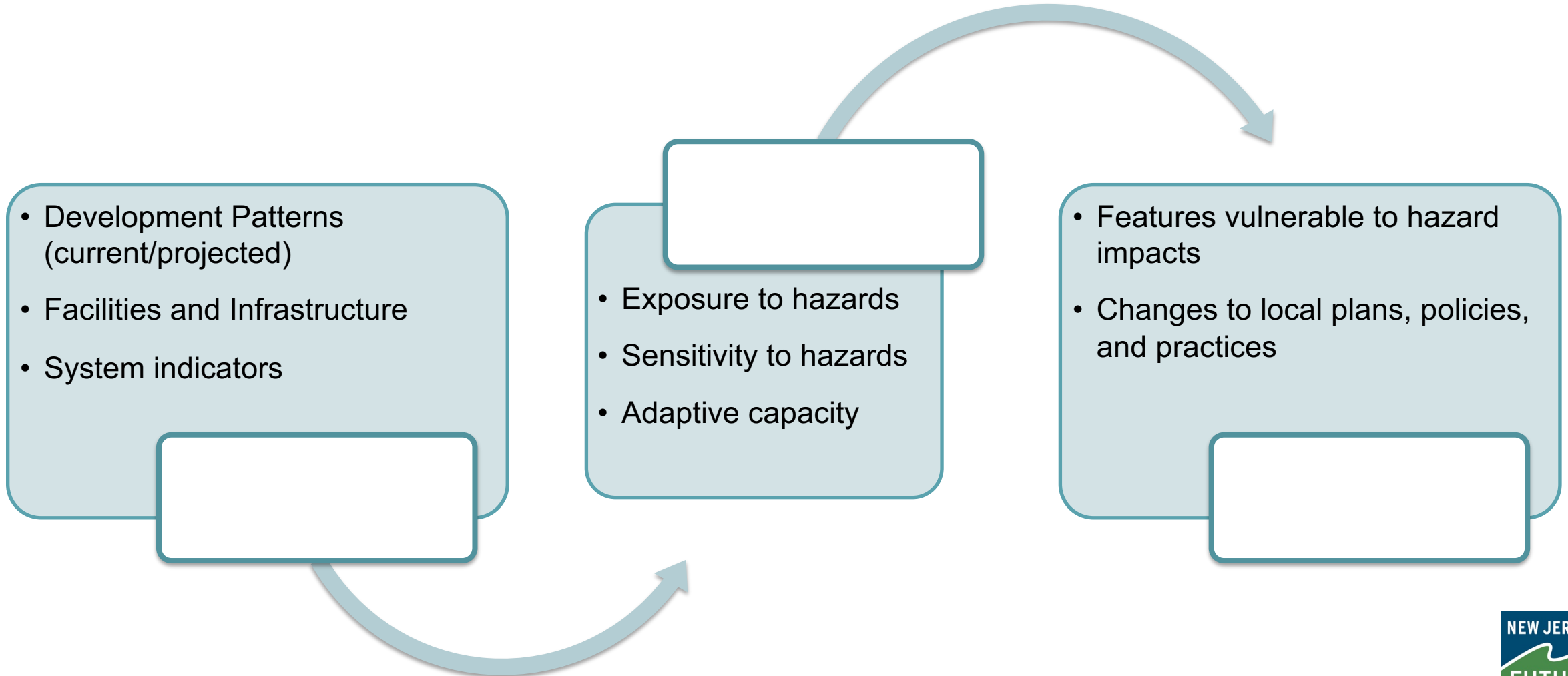


# PHASES OF THE CLIMATE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT



01	Initiate and Contextualize	Steps to designate a lead and initiate the process
02	Explore Data and Resources	Steps to gather data about the community, climate hazards, stakeholders, and partners
03	Activate Community Engagement	Steps to set up a team and a community engagement plan
04	Analyze Vulnerability	Steps to characterize existing and potential community features and evaluate the vulnerability of systems supporting the community
05	Develop Strategies	Steps to prioritize strategies and create a plan
06	Maintain Climate Readiness	Steps for implementing, evaluating, and updating the plan and other local plans, through ongoing practices and policies

# PHASE 4: ANALYZE VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE HAZARDS







# EXAMPLE: NATURAL LANDS RESOURCES

**INDICATORS** (to assess vulnerability of natural lands resources):

Protected Natural Lands and Buffers for Migration

Biodiversity and Connectivity

Urban Ecology

## **KEY CLIMATE HAZARDS:**

- Increased/Extreme Temperature
- Drought
- Coastal Flooding
- Riverine Flooding
- Flash Flooding
- Urban Flooding
- Storm Surge
- High Winds/Hurricanes
- Salt Water Intrusion
- Ocean Acidification
- Mudslides/Landslides
- Heavy Snow and Ice
- Wildfire
- Vector-Borne Disease
- Ecological Disease/Agricultural Pests

**ANALYSIS** (to assess vulnerability - impact due to exposure and sensitivity):

- Overlay natural lands and buffer areas with mapped spatial hazards (exposure)
- Identify priority lands without development protection (sensitivity)
- Assess biodiversity and connectivity (tree regeneration, deer population, wildlife corridors) (sensitivity)
- Assess urban ecology (tree canopy rewilding) (sensitivity)



# EXAMPLE: WATER SOURCE RESOURCES

**INDICATORS** (features to assess vulnerability of water source resources):

Water Quality

Water Quantity

## **KEY CLIMATE HAZARDS!**

- Increased/Extreme Temperature
- Drought
- Coastal Flooding
- Riverine Flooding
- Flash Flooding
- Urban Flooding
- Storm Surge
- High Winds/Hurricanes
- Salt Water Intrusion
- Ocean Acidification
- Mudslides/Landslides
- Heavy Snow and Ice
- Wildfire
- Vector-Borne Disease
- Ecological Disease/Agricultural Pests

**ANALYSIS** (to assess vulnerability-- impact due to exposure and sensitivity):

- Contamination from hazards.
- Water testing.
- Low reserves – depletion risk
- Impervious surface - recharge

# CLIMATE HAZARD IMPACT

Vulnerability = Impact of Hazard = Exposure x Sensitivity

*Key is provided for assigning a score.*

Level 1 = Climate hazards impose a negligible impact

Level 2 = Climate hazards impose a LOW impact

Level 3 = Climate hazards impose a MODERATE impact

Level 4 = Climate hazards impose a HIGH impact

Level 5 = Climate hazards impose a VERY HIGH impact

		Hazard Impact Score Matrix				
		Exposure				
		Negligible	Low	Moderate	High	Very High
Sensitivity	Negligible	1	2	3	3	3
	Low	2	2	3	3	4
	Moderate	2	3	3	4	4
	High	3	4	4	4	5
	Very High	4	4	4	5	5



# CLIMATE VULNERABILITY SCORE

Vulnerability Score = Hazard Impact x Adaptive Capacity

Key is provided for assigning a score.

High Score: Major damage and/or disruption is likely

Moderate Score: Some damage and/or disruption is likely

Low Score: Minimum damage and/or disruption is likely

		Vulnerability Score Matrix				
		Hazard Impact				
		1 Negligible	2 Low	3 Moderate	4 High	5 Very High
Adaptive Capacity	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High	High
	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	High
	High	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High

# ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

Planning

Regulatory

Ecological

Economic

Social

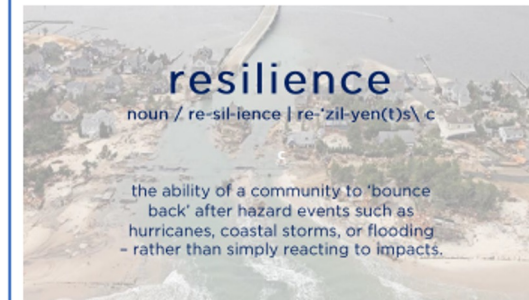
Communication/Outreach/Education

4/2019

## Local Options/Local Actions

### Resilience Strategies Case Studies

PREPARED FOR THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION





# PLANNING STRATEGIES

- Master Plan
- Climate Action Plan
- Open Space Plan
- Floodplain Management Plan
- Downtown Revitalization Plan
- Green Infrastructure Plan
- Hazard Mitigation Plan



# REGULATORY STRATEGIES

- Zoning
- Subdivision and site plan regulations
- Special overlay districts
- Stormwater and green infrastructure
- Floodproofing and elevation of structures





# ECOLOGICAL STRATEGIES

- Blue Acre buyouts
- Land preservation
- Nature-based solutions
- Marsh migration and natural area buffers
- Restoration and ecosystem function



# ECONOMIC STRATEGIES

- Understand revenue loss and tax base loss
- Stormwater utility
- Transfer of development rights
- Sustainable agriculture practices
- Eco-tourism
- Integrate green infrastructure and pedestrian spaces into business districts
- Prioritize infrastructure projects





# SOCIAL STRATEGIES

- Relocation
- Affordable housing siting and design
- Establish lifelines
- Get involved and ensure there's equitable involvement in climate planning



# COMMUNICATION / OUTREACH / EDUCATION

- Flood risk disclosure
- Use NJDEP's Local Planning for Climate Change Toolkit and other resources
- Connect with partners





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# THANK YOU!

**TANYA ROHRBACH**  
**TROHRBACH@NJFUTURE.ORG**



# SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT



## Integrating Climate Resilience into Municipal Plans

May 5, 2023

Tracy Prescilla Glova | Sustainable Jersey



HAZARD VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT OF THE LAND USE PLAN ELEMENT

Borough of Seaside Heights, Ocean County, New Jersey





# 198

## MUNICIPALITIES CERTIFIED

# 68

SILVER  
CERTIFIED

# 130

BRONZE  
CERTIFIED

# 64%

of NJ public school districts  
registered with Sustainable  
Jersey for Schools

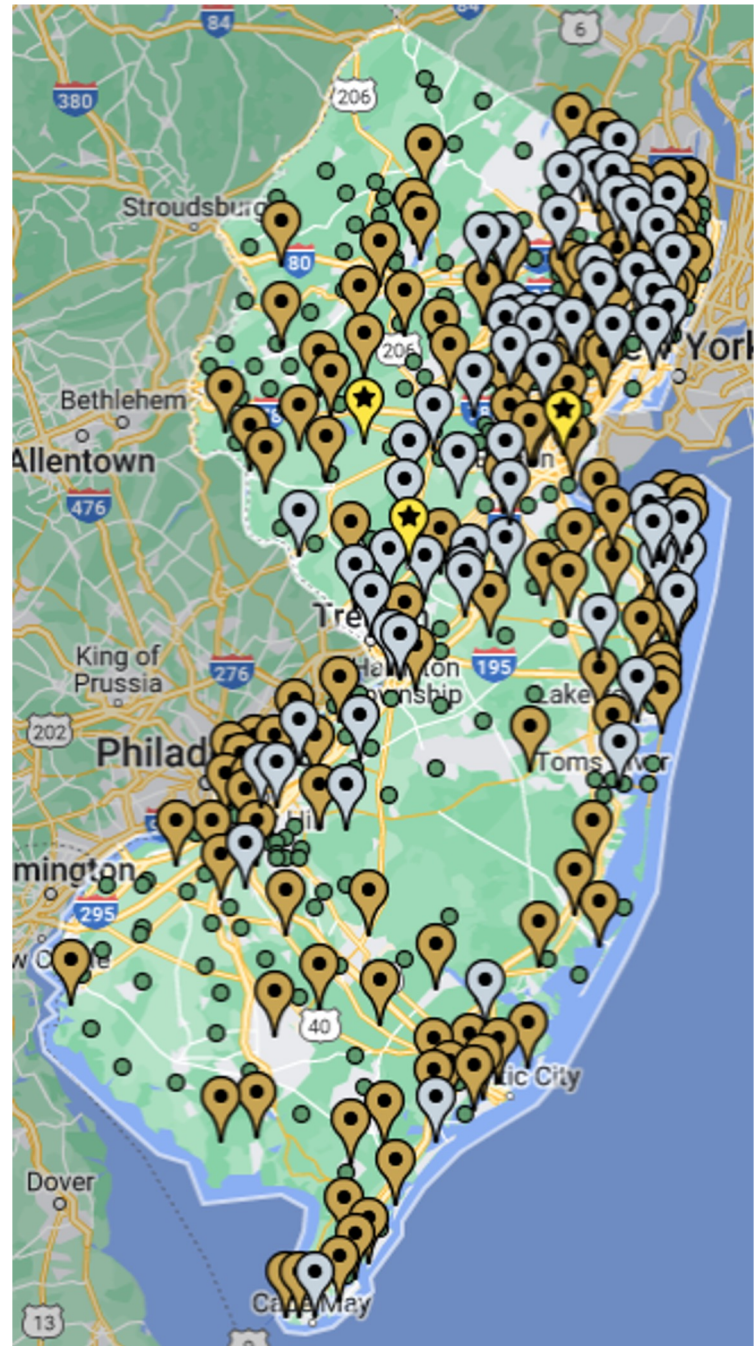
# 82%

OF MUNICIPALITIES  
**PARTICIPATING**



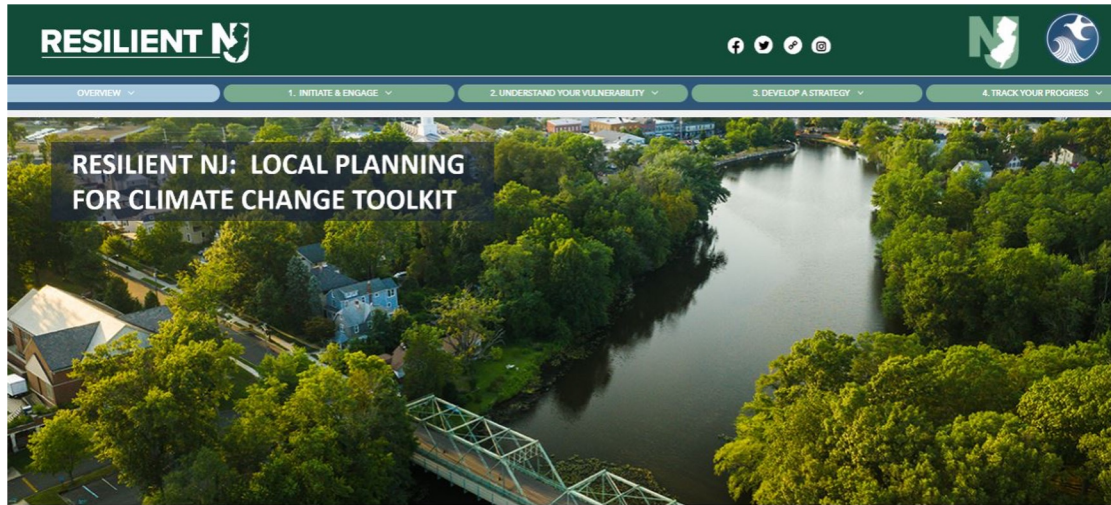
# 91%

OF NJ POPULATION LIVES IN A  
**REGISTERED OR CERTIFIED COMMUNITY**



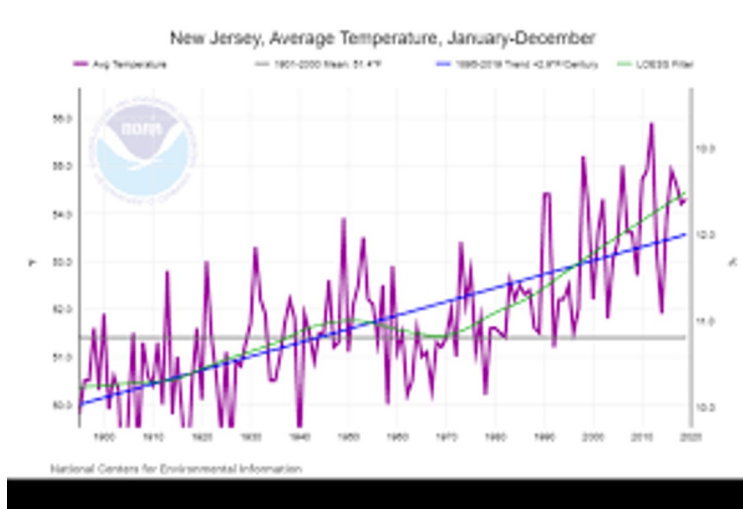


# How can a municipality be climate ready?





# Understanding Vulnerability



[Heat Island Assessment Action](#)



[Build Out Analysis Action](#)



[Community Equity and Diversity Profile Action](#)

# Adaptation: Reduce Impervious Cover



[Green Infrastructure Planning Action](#)



[Green Infrastructure Implementation Action](#)



# Adaptation: Reduce Impervious Cover

## Want to Get Ahead of Flooding? Use NJF's New Tool, the Enhanced Model Stormwater Ordinance

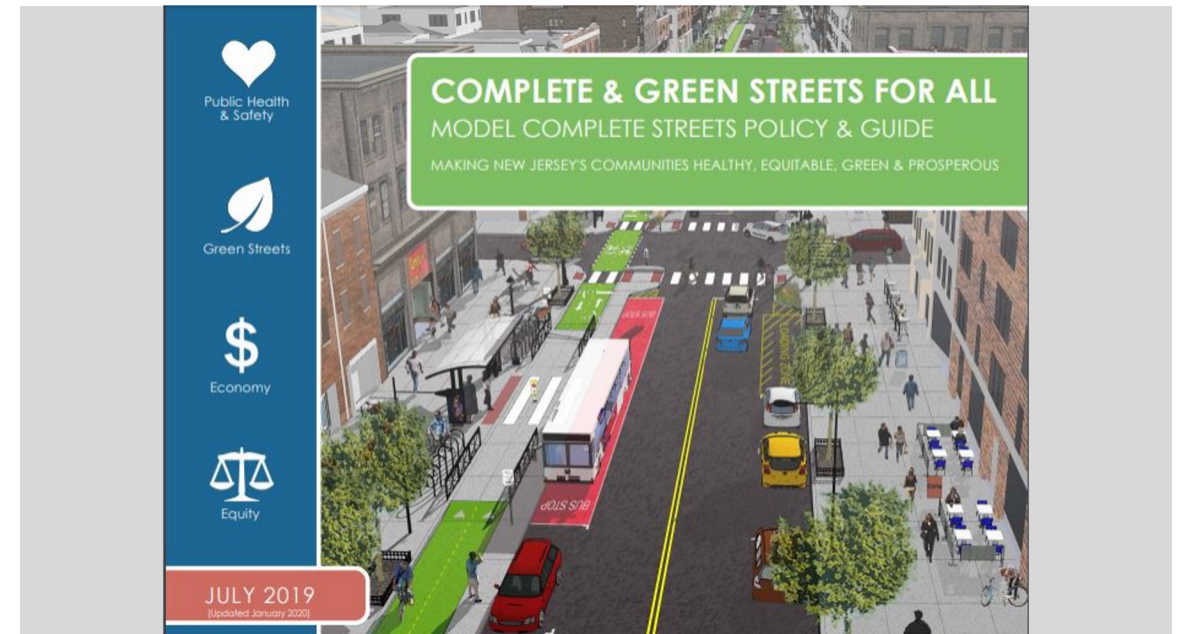
February 9th, 2021 by Andrew Tabas

[Recommend 10](#) [Tweet](#) [Share](#)

Stormy days ahead call for strong municipal stormwater ordinances. Climate change is bringing increased rainfall and flooding to New Jersey which, if ignored, will damage property, threaten public health, and pollute waterways. Municipal governments' responses to this challenge will define the quality of life in their towns for generations. Fortunately, municipalities have a strong device to promote responsible and resilient development: stormwater ordinances. The stormwater ordinance is key to implementing public and private green infrastructure, a group of practices that mimic the natural water cycle to capture rainwater where it falls. Municipal leaders should use New Jersey Future's new tool to update their town's stormwater ordinance as soon as possible to increase green infrastructure and reduce flood risk.



[Enhanced Stormwater Management Control Ordinance Action](#)



[Complete and Green Streets for All Policy Action](#)

# Preparedness



[Extreme Temperature Event Plan Action](#)

The screenshot shows the website for the State of New Jersey Office of Emergency Management. The header includes the state logo, the office name, and contact information. A navigation menu is visible with options like Home, About Us, Plan & Prepare, How to Help, OEM Coordinators, and Programs. The main content area is titled 'Access & Functional Needs' and features a sub-section for 'Emergency Management Resources For Individuals with Access/Functional Needs and the Organizations Which Serve Them'. This section contains a list of resources, including a link to the 'Register Ready' registry and a list of 'Register Ready brochure' documents in English, Spanish, Arabic, and Chinese.

State of New Jersey  
Office of Emergency Management  
NJ State Police Division Headquarters | P.O. Box 7068, West Trenton, NJ 08628

Home | About Us | Plan & Prepare | How to Help | OEM Coordinators | Programs

Home / Plan & Prepare / NJ Residents / Access & Functional Needs

## Access & Functional Needs

### Emergency Management Resources For Individuals with Access/Functional Needs and the Organizations Which Serve Them

- "Register Ready – New Jersey's Special Needs Registry for Disasters" allows NJ residents with disabilities or access and functional needs and their families, friends and associates an opportunity to provide information to emergency response agencies, so emergency responders can better plan to serve them in a disaster or other emergency.
- Register Ready brochure
  - English [pdf - 978kb]
  - Spanish [pdf - 825kb]
  - Arabic [pdf - 1.02mb]
  - Chinese [pdf - 856kb]

[Vulnerable Population Identification for Emergencies Action](#)



# Program Updates

## Sustainable Jersey Actions

- Actions Updates
  - Resource sections have new information
  - Interim guidance document
- Gold Star in Resilience

## Sustainability and Resiliency: Guidance on Creating Climate-Ready Communities



### PREFACE

This guide presents 10 strategies that municipalities can implement to foster climate-resilient communities. These strategies are Sustainable Jersey "actions" that score points in the [municipal certification program](#). These actions make sense to implement now - and will still be relevant in the future as a new, more comprehensive climate resilience framework is being developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. This guide goes beyond the traditional reactive mindset in emergency management and encourages municipalities to prepare for the worst of climate change impacts and adapt as seen necessary by the community as a whole.

Sustainable Jersey has numerous Emergency Management & Resiliency actions to help municipalities prepare for and respond to climate change. They address a variety of climate hazards, including sea level rise, increased precipitation, and extreme heat. These impacts damage infrastructure, overwhelm utility systems, and disrupt vital ecological and agricultural processes, which, as they progress in severity, will only increasingly impact New Jerseyans' everyday lives. Thus, communities are turning to these actions - now more than ever - as climate change progresses in the Garden State and around the world.

Municipalities stand at the forefront of climate change adaptation. New Jersey's Home Rule Act (1917) grants municipal governments authority to enact ordinances and regulations to promote and improve environmental public health. Municipalities are in charge of land use practices, stormwater management, and energy. They also possess the ability to address social inequality and create mechanisms that foster equitable and resilient communities.

### CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY ENVIRONMENT IN NEW JERSEY

In 2020, Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 100 asking the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to begin a regulatory reform effort to help reduce greenhouse gas and other climate pollutant emissions while making the natural and built environments more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

On February 4, 2021, Governor Murphy signed into law P.L. 2021, c6, amending the [Municipal Land Use Law](#) to require municipalities to incorporate a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment into any Master Plan Land Use Element. These assessments will need to analyze current and future threats associated with climate change-related natural hazards, including increased temperatures, drought, flooding, hurricanes and sea-level rise.

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# Thank You

Session slides will be available on [sustainablejersey.com](https://sustainablejersey.com) by 5/12.



# Sustainable Jersey Underwriters and Sponsors

## PROGRAM UNDERWRITERS



## GRANTS PROGRAM



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# Upcoming Events and Opportunities

## FREE ENERGY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOLS AND MUNICIPALITIES IN ELIZABETHTOWN GAS, NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS, AND SOUTH JERSEY GAS SERVICE TERRITORIES

Free technical assistance to identify and apply for utility incentives and New Jersey's Clean Energy Program (NJCEP) incentives for energy efficiency audits and facility upgrades. This technical assistance is funded by Elizabethtown Gas, New Jersey Natural Gas, and South Jersey Gas.

For more information please visit: [bit.ly/EnergyTAforMunisandSchools](http://bit.ly/EnergyTAforMunisandSchools)

## 2023 MUNICIPAL CERTIFICATION CYCLE

The next deadline to apply for certification is **May 12, 2023**. The final application deadline is **July 27, 2023**. View the full cycle timeline on the 2023 Certification Cycle page.

For more information please visit: [bit.ly/MuniCertCycle](http://bit.ly/MuniCertCycle)

## 2023 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM

Atlantic City Electric and Sustainable Jersey are pleased to offer **\$50,000** to support municipal environmental stewardship and resiliency projects in Atlantic City Electric's service territory. Municipalities are encouraged to work with local organizations on applications, which are due **June 29, 2023**. An informational webinar will be held on **May 15, 2023 from 1:00pm - 2:00pm**.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.bit.ly/SustainableCommunitiesGrantProgram>

## TRI-COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY GENERAL MEETINGS

This Sustainable Jersey Regional Hub will host virtual meetings on a variety of sustainability topics throughout the year. The next meeting is **May 31, 2023 from 7:00pm - 8:00pm**.

For more information please visit: <http://www.bit.ly/Tri-CountySustainability>

## 2023 SCHOOL CERTIFICATION CYCLE

The final deadline to apply for certification and Digital Schools Star Recognition is **June 15, 2023**. View the full cycle timeline on the 2023 Certification Cycle page.

For more information please visit: <http://www.bit.ly/SchoolsCertCycle>

## TREES FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAM, TREE-PLANTING GRANTS FOR NJ PUBLIC SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The Trees for Schools program will provide **\$2.5 million** in grants to New Jersey public school districts, county colleges and state colleges and universities to fund the planting of trees on campuses across New Jersey. Competitive grants of **\$10,000 to \$500,000** will fund costs associated with planning, site preparation, trees, planting, watering, monitoring and related expenses over a three-year period. Applications are due on **July 13, 2023**, for spring 2024 plantings. An informational webinar will be held on **May 18, 2023 from 3:00pm - 4:30pm**. The Trees for Schools program is a collaboration of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, The College of New Jersey and Sustainable Jersey.

For more information please visit: [bit.ly/TreesforSchools](http://bit.ly/TreesforSchools)



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