From Hazard Mitigation Plan to Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan



Re-Mapping a Familiar Path to Resiliency While Navigating the New FEMA Policy Guidance for Local Plans



Sustainable Solutions, Stream to Shoreline



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AGENDA

- Evolution from HMP to HMCAP: Why?
 - Intersection of climate change & hazards
 - Guidance from the state and others
 - Leverage new tools
 - Leverage new funding opportunities
 - Integrate with other planning efforts like *Resilient Connecticut*
- Evolution from HMP to HMCAP: *How*?
 - Reorganizing the hazards
 - Changing the question
 - What do we hear from the towns?
 - Becoming a more "usable" plan: shopping from your HMP or HMCAP
- Lessons learned



Evolution from HMP to HMCAP: Why?

WHY EXPAND THE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN?



INTERSECTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND HAZARDS

Extreme Storms	 More intense storms with damaging winds More intense rainfall Heavier, wet snowfalls
Sea Level Rise	 Higher daily high tides, more damaging king tides More damaging storm surges when they occur Shoreline change
Rising Temps	 Longer and more frequent heat waves Landscapes more prone to wildfires
Changing Precipitation	 More frequent dry spells and flashy droughts (rapid onset) More flash floods from more intense rainfall causing washouts and dam overtopping
Earthquakes	 Older and compromised infrastructure and buildings could be at greater risk

GUIDANCE FROM THE STATE

- Number of days above 90 degrees to increase from 5 to 25 days
- Number of heat wave days expected to increase tenfold
- Average annual precipitation expected to increase 8%
- Number of days with heavy precipitation to rise from 3 to 5 days
- Maximum one-day precipitation to increase



GUIDANCE FROM THE STATE

- The upper and lower bounds of projected sea level rise diverge, but confidence is high for a planning threshold of 20 inches by 2050
- State statutes require using this figure for planning
- This is a planning threshold, not a projection
- Number of days of sunny day flooding will increase tenfold



GUIDANCE FROM OTHERS

4TH National Climate Assessment

- The dominant trend in precipitation throughout the Northeast has been towards increases in **rainfall intensity.**
- Further increases in rainfall intensity are expected, with increases in precipitation expected during the winter and spring with little change in the summer.
- Monthly precipitation in the Northeast is projected to be about 1 inch greater for December through April by end of century (2070–2100).
- Although future projections of major floods remain ambiguous, more intense precipitation events have increased the risk of some types of inland floods.

NOAA NCEI State Climate Summaries

- Annual precipitation has been highly variable, with a slight increase since 1895.
- Increases in the frequency and intensity of extreme precipitation events are projected, as are increases in winter and spring precipitation.
- Increases in total precipitation and in the number of extreme precipitation events may increase inland flooding risks.

NEW TOOL: CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY INDEX

• Statewide CCVI released by CIRCA in 2023



Flooding can be coastal, riverine, or pluvial (heavy rain)



Considers where extreme heat is more likely as well as inability to seek respite

Vulnerability =

Sensitivity X Exposure Adaptive Capacity

NEW TOOL: CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY INDEX

- Flood Climate Change Vulnerability Index (CCVI) for SCCOG region
- Online viewer available
- CCVI maps have been incorporated into the SCCOG HMCAP and the CRCOG HMCAP (in progress)



NEW TOOL: CT EJ SCREEN

- Connecticut Environmental Justice Screening Tool developed by CIRCA and DEEP
- Online viewer available
- CT EJScreen maps will be incorporated into the CRCOG HMCAP (in progress)
- CT EJScreen results can be used to target outreach to vulnerable populations



CLIMATE RESILIENCE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Increasing attention and resources are being directed at climate resiliency efforts:

- Governor's Office on Climate Change (GC3) priorities: Extreme heat, flooding, and environmental justice
- DEEP Climate Resilience Fund (DCRF)
- CIRCA's *Resilient Connecticut* Program
- Sea Grant's Long Island Sound Resilience Support
- FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC)



COORDINATION WITH OTHER PLANNING EFFORTS

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Through the Hazard Mitigation Plans, the COGs and consultants:

- *engage* with municipalities and tribes to identify concerns and priorities
- *assess* community vulnerabilities and asset
- *identify* opportunities to reduce losses
- develop hazard mitigation projects for FEMA funding

Resilient Connecticut

Through *Resilient Connecticut*, CIRCA and its partners:

- *engage* with municipalities and tribes to identify concerns and priorities
- *assess* community vulnerabilities and assets
- *identify* opportunities for increased resilience
- *develop* pilot projects to directly fund



Combined Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plans for SCCOG and CRCOG

CIRCA'S *RESILIENT CONNECTICUT* **PROGRAM**

- Version 1.0 (blue boundary) was piloted in southwestern CT.
- Version 2.0 (green boundary) was deployed in RiverCOG, SCCOG, and CRCOG, in coordination with the SCCOG and CRCOG HMCAP processes.



INTEGRATE WITH COMMUNITY PLANNING EFFORTS

HMCAP may include longer term needs in a community which can be more fluidly discussed in other plans

Extreme Temperatures identifies need for a new cooling or warming center

Sea level rise is projected to perpetually inundate neighborhoods in the future Increased precipitation will continue to cause washouts at the culvert on Main Street



Integrated into a POCD

Integrated into an Open Space Plan or Coastal Resilience Plan Integrated into a Capital Improvement Plan

Evolution from HMP to HMCAP: How?

Photo Credit: Don Bell

ORGANIZING PLAN BY CLIMATE DRIVER

- Extreme and Severe Storms
 - Hurricanes and Tropical Storms
 - Tornadoes and High Winds
 - Severe Winter Storms



- Sea Level Rise
 - Coastal Flooding
 - Shoreline Change
 - Tidal Connecticut River Flooding
- Changing Precipitation Patterns
 - Riverine and Pluvial Floods
 - Droughts
 - Dam Failure

- Rising Temperature
 - Extreme Heat
 - Wildfires
- Earthquakes
 - Not affected, but addressed in the plan as always



CHANGING THE QUESTION IN LOCAL MEETINGS

Previous Approach:

- Asking for examples of projects that were appropriate to address individual hazards
- Asking what towns would do if funds were unlimited
- Sometimes led to towns getting caught up in specific hazards rather than seeing the big picture.

New Approach

- Asking which climate-driven challenges are most urgent or apparent.
- Allows towns municipalities to identify their needs first without getting caught up in specific hazards. Subsequently, the proposed hazard mitigation and climate adaptation actions can be developed from those needs.

WHAT DO WE HEAR FROM THE TOWNS?

"WHAT ARE YOUR CLIMATE-RELATED CONCERNS?" (SCCOG)

SCCOG Town	Climate Concern #1	Climate Concern #2	Climate Concern #3
Bozrah	Livestock and chickens	Fitchville Dam condition	
Colchester	Vulnerable seniors (heat & flood)	Tree trimming/removal budget	Stream crossings
East Lyme	Water and sewer infrastructure	Limited egress in some areas	
Franklin	Drought impacts to agriculture	Drought impacts to private wells; lack of public water systems	Stream crossings
Griswold & Jewett City	Vulnerable seniors (heat & flood)	Lake Road septic systems	
Groton City	Coastal roads that flood	Impervious surfaces (heat and flood)	Urban forestry
Groton Town	Mystic density, flooding, etc.	Underpasses	Sewer pumping stations
Lebanon	Chicken farms	Tenmile River cutting off road	
Ledyard	Lantern Hill Road/Whitford Brook	Cooling center needs generator	
Lisbon	Newent Road flooding in 2022	Vulnerable seniors (heat)	Droughts
Montville	Expand public water systems	Stream crossings	Age restricted housing clusters
New London	Flooding related to drainage systems	Fort Trumbull development	Urban forestry interests
North Stonington	Lack of shelter inside the town	Private wells / lack of extensive PWSs	Lantern Hill Road/Whitford Brook
Norwich	Redevelopment of mill buildings in flood zones	Impervious surfaces (heat and flood)	Sewer separation
Preston	Power outages from storms	Water and sewer expansion	
Salem	Having appropriate response capabilities	Livestock and chickens	Stream crossings
Sprague	Senior housing AC does not run on generator	Paper Mill, Versailles Dams owned by town	Water and sewer infrastructure
Stonington Town	Mystic density, flooding, etc.	Three WWTPs	Masons Island & other causeways
Stonington Borough	Direct coastal flooding	Limited egress for Borough	WWTP
Waterford	Elderly and access to cooling	Areas that can be cut off by flooding	
Windham	Lack of standby power for town facilities	Willimantic Reservoir/WTP challenges	

WHAT DO WE HEAR FROM THE TOWNS?

"WHAT ARE YOUR CLIMATE-RELATED CONCERNS?" (RIVERCOG)

RiverCOG Town	Climate Concern #1	Climate Concern #2	Climate Concern #3
Chester	Chester Creek corridor	Private dams	Dock Road elevation
Clinton	Sea level rise affecting septic systems	Private dams	
Cromwell	FD and PD flooded in 2021	Underpasses that flood	Shadow Brook and Cromwell Creek
Deep River	Fire house next to Deep River	School is regional shelter; access risks	
Durham	Microgrid for town center	Hosting migrants from shoreline	
East Haddam	Succor Brook corridor, Goodspeed, and WWTP	Rural road challenges	
East Hampton	Algal blooms closing Pocotopaug beach	Critical facilities next to Pocotopaug Creek	Private wells not running during outages
Essex	Ferry Street flooding	Bridges along Falls River	Choke point at Route 9
Haddam	Convert school to cooling center	Move DPW from floodplain	
Killingworth	Washouts into PWS reservoirs	Making the regional shelter more resilient	
Lyme	None!		
Middlefield	Flooding at small and blocked culverts	Debris in Coginchaug River floodplain	
Middletown	Sumner Brook corridor	Isolation risks for critical facilities in Mile Lane area	
Old Lyme	Sewer system expansions in beach communities	Swan Brook flooding and beach outfall	Underpasses and low roads
Old Saybrook	Coordinating many private beach actions	Underpasses that flood	Making "the loop" more resilient
Portland	Critical facilities that flood downtown	Fairground flooding and erosion	
Westbrook	Clearing clogged creeks	Wrights Pond Dam	Stormwater outfalls in tidal waters

WHAT DO WE HEAR FROM THE TOWNS? "WHAT ARE YOUR CLIMATE-RELATED CONCERNS?" (CRCOG)

CRCOG Town	Climate Concern #1	Climate Concern #2	Climate Concern #3
Andover	Stream crossings	Generators for critical facilities	limited egress for senior housing
Avon	Critical facilities in a floodplain	Tree management	Generators for critical facilities
Berlin	ТВО	ТВД	TBD
Bloomfield	Drainage-related flooding	Generator for cooling center	Maintenance of Park River flood control systems
Bolton	Power outages from storms	Stream crossings	DEEP-owned and privately owned dams
Canton	Tree management	Microgrid for critical facilities	Dams
Columbia	Stream crossings	Stormwater infrastructure	Limited egress for specific subdivision
Coventry	Harmful algal blooms in Coventry Lake	Tree management	Stream crossings and stormwater management
East Granby	Generators for critical facilities	"Wind corridor"	Stream crossings
East Hartford	Shelter capacity	Hockanum River flooding	Generators for critical facilities
East Windsor	Generators for critical facilities	Stream crossings	Agricultural fields (tobacco)
Ellington	Stream crossings	Generators for critical facilities	Limited egress for specific neighborhood
Enfield	Stream crossings	Agriculture	Historic resources
Farmington	Riverbank stabilization	Stream crossings	Backup Emergency Operations Center
Glastonbury	Stream crossings	Assisted living and low-income populations	Uranium in wells
Granby	Riverbank stabilization	Power outages from storms	Tree management
Hartford	Stormwater flooding	Flood management systems already in place	Shelter management challenges
Hebron	Water quality	Private wells	Sewer system
Manchester	Stream crossings	Stormwater infrastructure	Tree management

WHAT DO WE HEAR FROM THE TOWNS? "WHAT ARE YOUR CLIMATE-RELATED CONCERNS?" (CRCOG)

CRCOG Town	Climate Concern #1	Climate Concern #2	Climate Concern #3
Mansfield	Power outages from storms	Road flooding/washouts	Public water and sewer systems
Marlborough	Stream crossings	Tree management	Vulnerable populations (elderly)
New Britain	Stormwater Management	Riverbank stabilization	Reservoir levels during droughts
Newington	Stream crossings over railroad	Stormwater infrastructure	Hotels that people are living in
Plainville	Power outages from storms	Unpredictable intense short-duration storms	WWTP
Rocky Hill	Shelter capacity	Vulnerable populations (assisted living, elderly)	Road elevation (Beach Rd)
Simsbury	Riverbank stabilization	Stream crossings	Stormwater infrastructure
Somers	Power outages from storms	Stream crossings	Tree management
South Windsor	Stream crossings	Power outages from storms	Generators for critical facilities
Southington	Flash flooding of roads	Properties in Quinnipiac River flood zones	Hotels without backup power
Stafford	Stream crossings	Generators for critical facilities, elderly housing	Fire station in floodplain
Suffield	Limited egress for specific neighborhood	Power outages from storms	Sewer system
Tolland	Unpaved roads	Stream crossings	Geographically-influenced winter weather
Vernon	Stormwater management	Generators for critical facilities	Sewer system
West Hartford	Stream crossings	Power outages from severe storms	Winter storms
Wethersfield	Stream crossings and stormwater management	Generators for critical facilities	Hotels that people are living in
Willington	Stream crossings	Generators for critical facilities	Treetop debris on ground
Windsor	Erodible soils with increasing precipitation		
Windsor Locks	Stream crossings and stormwater management	Many critical regional assets and infrastructure	Hotels that people are living in

BECOMING A MORE "USABLE" PLAN

 Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plans can be used to identify projects for the state's "Project Pipeline" (Executive Order 21-3 of December 16, 2021):



- All municipalities are part of COG-based multijurisdiction plans
- SCCOG and CRCOG are covered with new "hazard mitigation and climate adaptation" plans that were developed in parallel with *Resilient Connecticut* and deployment of DCRF





New
summary
sheets can
provide
ideas

/hat are ne Town's op limate	Flooding: The Yantic River flows through the town and poses risk to Stockhouse Road. Trading Cove Brook in the southeastern corner of the town is also a concern. The Town is concerned with dam conditions throughout Bozrah.
hange oncerns?	Extreme Heat: The Town has increasing concerns about the effects of extreme heat events on chicken and other agricultural and livestock operations. Avian flu and other health-related cascading impacts of extreme heat events.
	Others: The Town wishes to address remaining needs related to critical facilities that are needed to help address impacts of climate change.
'hich azard litigation nd	Flooding: Partner with CT DEEP's Dam Safety team to deliver a unified message to dam owners that inspections and risk communication are necessary. Target year 1 for working with DEEP and year 2 for the messaging to dam owners.
imate daptation ctions	Extreme Heat: Partner with chicken farms and other facilities to develop reliable, drought- resilience water supplies and standby power that is capable of operating cooling equipment.
ill Idress imate ange oncerns?	Others: Pursue American Red Cross certification to make Fields Memorial School the primary shelter and a cooling center, and additional certifications for the back-up shelters which include both Bozrah Moose Lodge 950 (alternate shelter) and the Volunteer Fire Company.

What are the Town's Top Climate	Flooding: The wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and a sewer pumping station are at risk of future riverine flooding which is projected to continue or worsen even with an upstream flood control dam in place.
Change Concerns?	Extreme Heat: The Town has a large socially vulnerable population that cannot be without access to viable cooling centers. The Town Hall and Senior Center, which are cooling centers, need standby power such as generators.
	Others: The Town's water utility, Windham Water Works, has a complex set of climate change challenges related to sedimentation, water quality, the reservoir dam, and power redundancies.
Which Hazard Mitigation and Climate	Flooding: Compare elevations of WWTP assets and the pumping station to the base flood elevations associated with the Natchaug River and Willimantic River plus applicable freeboard (likely two feet); and determine if funds should be set aside for resiliency projects.
Adaptation Actions Will	Extreme Heat: Acquire generators for the Town Hall and the Community Center/Rec Center/Senior Center. Ensure that cooling centers are accessible using transit or alternate transportation options.
Address Climate Change	Others: Execute the FEMA BRIC Scoping Grant for Windham Water Works and determine appropriate next steps for climate resiliency strategies, whether related to sediment removal,



Funding sources listed

Acronym or Name	Description
CIRCA MRG	Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) Municipal Resilience Grant
CWSRF	Clean Water State Revolving Fund
DEEP Climate Resilience Fund	DEEP Climate Resilience Fund - new for 2022-2023; anticipated for 2023-2024
DWSRF	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
EPA 319	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants through Section 319 water quality programs
ННМР	Rehabilitation Of High Hazard Potential Dam Grant Program
HMA	Hazard Mitigation Assistance
BRIC	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
FMA	Flood Mitigation Assistance
HMGP	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
IIJA	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
AOP	National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grants (Culvert AOP Program)
BIP	Bridge Investment Program
BBFP	Buses and Bus Facilities Program
RFPBR	Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants - may have been 2022 only
SLCGP	State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program
LISFF	Long Island Sound Futures Fund
LOTCIP	Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program
Municipal CIP Budget	Municipal Capital Improvement Program or equivalent local program
Municipal Operating Budget	Staff time or operational budgets
NOAA/NFWF	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grants administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
NPU	Norwich Public Utilities
Save the Sound	Save the Sound is a resource for partnering to seek grant funds; Save the Sound also has some funding available
seCTer	Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
STEAP	Small Town Economic Assistance Program
Transit District	The local transit district (this can vary from community to community, such as Southeast or Windham Region)
USDA/NRCS	U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
WWW	Windham Water Works

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LESSONS LEARNED

- Go from a "plan we have to have" to "a plan that could maybe possibly be more useful"
- Having conversations that communities feel they cannot tackle because of the timeframe
- Lean on the plan more when looking to integrate information with other plans
- ✓ Setting communities up for additional funding sources

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QUESTIONS?



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