

Broome County CSRP Assessment

The Climate Smart Resiliency Planning assessment (CSRP) is a checklist to identify gaps and opportunities in planning and evaluate opportunities to improve community resilience to climate change. The assessment reviews many long- and short- term aspects of storm and climate change preparedness by reviewing planning documents, activities, and management. Broome County first completed an assessment using the tool in 2017. Municipal staff and volunteers were engaged in the process of completing the assessment. The tool has been updated periodically since to integrate new/updated plans as available.

Plans and regulations Reviewed:

- Comprehensive Plan
- Draft Natural Resources Inventory
- Stormwater Management Plan
- Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Emergency Operations Plan
- Capital Improvements Plan
- Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study (BMTS) Long-Range Transportation Plan
- Susquehanna Heritage Area Management Plan
- Intermunicipal Waterfront Access Plan
- Agricultural Economic Development Plan
- Watershed Flood Mitigation Analysis

Municipal staff Engaged:

- Leslie Boulton, Commissioner of Public Works
- Michael Ponticello, Director of Emergency Services
- Beth Lucas, Senior Planner/Climate Smart Communities Coordinator
- Jennifer Yonkoski, BMTS Director
- Frank Evangelisti, Director of Planning and Economic Development

Key Opportunities:

The completed assessment highlights areas of opportunity for Broome County to prepare for climate change and flooding in its municipal operations and planning. Frequent flooding events have highlighted the for resiliency elements in planning and procedures. The following opportunities emerged under each of the sections of the Climate Smart Resilience Planning assessment.

Section 2 - Risk and vulnerability assessment

- Staff in Planning, Public Works and Emergency Services are well versed in the use of vulnerability assessments and maps, but training of additional staff within those departments would expand the applicability of these resources.
- Expand use of risk and vulnerability assessment tools.

Section 3- Public outreach and engagement

- Take advantage of training opportunities from federal, state and local partners to improve staff and volunteer understanding of tools available to help plan for and respond to flood emergencies.
- There is a lot of available information on storm preparedness and flood-mitigation options on the County website. Could increase outreach to direct people to the resources.
- Design and install high-water-mark signs in the waterfront area to educate the community about flood risk and provide reference to additional sources of flood preparedness information.
- We have posted the flood maps in our interactive GIS mapper. We can put more information about interpreting the flood maps online.
- Find ways to integrate more live, real-time data and information into hazard information.

Section 4 – Planning integration

- Better integrate climate adaptation into Local Waterfront Revitalization Planning efforts.
- Better integrate resiliency more comprehensively into Capital Improvement Planning
- Pursue certification of staff person(s) as Certified Floodplain Manager.
- Better assess the impacts of flooding on historic resources.
- Better integrate plan update timelines into plans, notably Stormwater Management Plan, Comprehensive Plan and Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan.

Section 5 - Disaster preparedness and recovery

- The most recent HMP and EOP includes components of a long-term recovery strategy. Integrate these components and missing components into a full Long-Term Recovery Strategy.
- Better organize resources on website and integrate real-time data for disaster information.
- An update is in progress to integrate more information regarding evacuation procedures into the Emergency Operations Plan. Ensure that the components identified in this assessment are covered.
- Conduct an assessment of roads likely to be impacted by flooding based on history and flood mapping.
- Find better ways to communicate evacuation/road closure information to public.

Section 6 - Hazard mitigation implementation

- Identify opportunities to expand existing/new County properties through acquisition of lands that have flood mitigation benefits.
- Implement recommended actions to assist local communities with participation in the National Flood Insurance Program’s Community Rating System to reduce insurance rates for residents and businesses.
- Conduct a study to analyze adaptation and relocation options for flood-risk infrastructure, including the Department of Public Works’ storage facility, Fire Department’s boathouse, pump station, and roads.
- Enhance invasive species planning efforts.