



# Ulster County 2021 Climate Smart Communities Recertification Documentation

## PE7: Hazard Mitigation Plan

**Background:** Ulster County initiated the process for development of its initial Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2007 and the initial plan was approved in 2009. The update of the initial plan began in 2013 and received FEMA approval in 2017, with the County and 16 of its 24 jurisdictions opting to participate.

The 2017 update included a new Climate Change section, and various Hazard Profiles included in the Risk Assessment lay the groundwork for further integration of climate change and climate resiliency planning in future plan updates.

CSC Pledge Element 7 Action: Evaluate Policies for Climate Resilience: Ulster County completed the Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool (CSRPT) and developed the accompanying *CSRPT Gap Analysis* report in the fall of 2020, which is included in the County's 2021 CSC recertification application.

The *CSRPT Gap Analysis* recommendations for the next Plan update (planned for 2022-23) include:

- Enhance integration/cross-referencing with the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan & Comprehensive Plan(s)
- The goal is for 100% participation by all local municipalities
- Evaluate if sea-level rise enhanced storm surge may be a hazard
- Integrate future Climate Resilience Plan & climate adaptation strategies
- Describe past mitigation efforts e.g., shoreline stabilization and land acquisition, along with their costs and effectiveness
- Provide a general explanation of the environmental, social and economic consequences of failing to address natural hazards
- Include municipal maps that indicate local hazard risks, such as flood zones, storm-surge and erosion rates
- Ensure that participating jurisdictions include a mitigation action(s) for each critical facility in that community to be mitigated to at least the 0.2% (500 year) flood risk level (inclusive of climate change projections)
- Ensure alignment with CSC PE 7 Action: Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates

### Documentation:

- [Ulster County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) (2017) – included as separate document in documentation packet
  - Consideration of the potential effects of climate change is included under various hazard profiles:
    - “With climate change, it is anticipated that extreme temperature events will be more common occurrences in the years ahead” (Plan PDF p. 73)
    - “The frequency and intensity of coastal storms and severe weather events is expected to increase in the future due to climate change” (Plan PDF p. 85)



- “While it is unknown how climate change will impact regional water supplies, the State Plan reports that water resources are stressed and any added stress from climate change will only increase the competition for water resources. Warmer climates increase potential drought frequency, severity, and create longer-lasting events” (Plan PDF p. 102)
- “The frequency of intense precipitation events in Ulster County is expected to increase in the future with climate change; this is likely to result in more riverine and flash flooding events” (Plan PDF p. 118)
- “future occurrences of wildfires in the County is considered to be certain, particularly if drought conditions become more prevalent in the future with climate change” (Plan PDF p. 140)
- The new *Climate Change* section (Plan PDF pp.188-192) is included under Section 3 - Risk Assessment
  - Acknowledges that “Climate change is not a hazard in and of itself; rather, it is a condition that will exacerbate the impacts of hazards. Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of natural hazards”
- **Ulster County Resolution No. 513 December 19, 2017** Approving The Ulster County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan – Ulster County Department Of Emergency Communications/Emergency Management (included in documentation packet)
- **FEMA letter** Re: Approval of the Ulster County, NY Hazard Mitigation Plan (Initial); dated January 18, 2018 (included in documentation packet)
- **Ulster County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan webpage:**
  - <https://ulstercountyny.gov/emergency-services/hazard-mitigation/draft-plan-update>
  - The New York State Hazard Mitigation Plan (2014) section on climate change is included as [Appendix 3e.2 – NYS Section 3.4 Climate Change](#)

**Approving The Ulster County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan – Ulster County Department Of Emergency Communications/Emergency Management**

Referred to: The Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee (Chairman Briggs and Legislators Fabiano, Lapp, Maio, and Rodriguez)

Chairman of the Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee, Thomas J. Briggs, and Deputy Chairman Ronald G. Lapp, Jr. offer the following:

WHEREAS, this resolution has been submitted by the County Executive on behalf of the Ulster County Department of Emergency Communications / Emergency Management; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County with the assistance from URS Corporation has gathered information and prepared the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan provides a framework to reduce damage from future events and makes Ulster County disaster resistant, and thereby a safer place to live; and

WHEREAS, the Plan identifies a full range of hazards that may affect Ulster County, identifies the assets in the County that are vulnerable to damage caused by the various hazards and establishes goals and objectives that will be used in hazard mitigation activities; and

WHEREAS, the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County has afforded the citizens an opportunity to comment and provide input in the Plan and the actions in the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the towns of Denning, Gardiner, Hardenburgh, Hurley, Kingston, New Paltz, Olive, Saugerties, Shandaken, Ulster, Wawarsing, Woodstock, and the Villages of Ellenville, New Paltz, Saugerties, and the City of Kingston partnered with the County to make this plan both broad based in scope and simultaneously specific to each municipality's needs; and

WHEREAS, having a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency allows participating municipalities to apply for hazard mitigation project grants; and

**Resolution No. 513      December 19, 2017**

**Approving The Ulster County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan – Ulster County Department Of Emergency Communications/Emergency Management**

WHEREAS, Ulster County have reviewed the plan and affirms that the Plan will be updated no less then every five years; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Communications / Emergency Management has requested that the Ulster County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan be approved and adopted; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan submitted to the Ulster County Legislature be approved and adopted, and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22                      NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislator Bartels)

Passed Committee: Law Enforcement and Public Safety on December 5, 2017

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
NONE

**Resolution No. 513      December 19, 2017**

**Approving The Ulster County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan – Ulster County Department Of Emergency Communications/Emergency Management**

STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is the original resolution adopted by the Ulster County Legislature on the 19<sup>th</sup> Day of December in the year Two Thousand and Seventeen, and said resolution shall remain on file in the office of said clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 21<sup>st</sup> Day of December in the year Two Thousand and Seventeen.

/s/ Victoria A. Fabella  
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature

Submitted to the County Executive this  
21<sup>st</sup> Day of December, 2017.

Approved by the County Executive this  
28<sup>th</sup> Day of December, 2017.

/s/ Victoria A. Fabella  
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature

/s/ Michael P. Hein  
Michael P. Hein, County Executive



January 8, 2018

Ms. Susan A. Picarillo  
Deputy Director  
New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services  
Building 22, Suite 101  
1220 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12226-2251

Re: Approval of the Ulster County, NY Hazard Mitigation Plan (Initial)

Dear Ms. Picarillo:

I am pleased to inform you that Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region II has approved the Ulster County, NY Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Having received one or more adoption resolutions on January 8, 2018, FEMA has approved this plan for a period of five years. This plan expires on January 7, 2023.

Our office conducted a review of the referenced plan in conformance with Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 201, *Mitigation Planning* and FEMA's *Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Review Guide*, the official guidance to develop and review updated and final mitigation plans. The Region's review is documented in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Review Tool dated September 18, 2017.

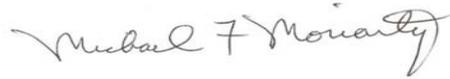
The jurisdictions for which the State has forwarded adoption resolutions to our office are identified in the enclosure along with the other jurisdictions that participated in this plan. Those jurisdictions with adopted plans are now eligible as sub-grantees for project grants under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs, including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation, and Flood Mitigation Assistance programs.

We commend Ulster County and the participating jurisdictions for taking this important step toward disaster resilience. Note jurisdictions that have approved mitigation plans are eligible for points under the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS). Additional information regarding the CRS can be found at <http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-community-rating-system> or by contacting the local floodplain manager.

Please inform Ulster County of this approval. If you have any questions, contact Laura Forrest, Hazard Mitigation Community Planner, at (718) 839-3314.

Ms. Susan A. Picarillo  
January 8, 2018  
Page 2 of 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael F. Moriarty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a distinct 'F'.

Michael Moriarty  
Director  
Mitigation Division

Enclosure

cc: Richard Lord, NY State Hazard Mitigation Officer  
New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services



## PE7 Action: Hazard Mitigation Plan

4 Points

### A. Why is this action important?

Hazard mitigation - the effort to reduce loss by lessening the impact of disasters - is what keeps natural hazards from becoming natural disasters. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), hazard mitigation is most effective when implemented under a long-term mitigation plan, which is why states and local governments are required to have hazard mitigation plans in order to receive FEMA mitigation funding. Throughout New York State (NYS), changing climate conditions are increasing the magnitude of natural hazards, such as flooding, coastal storms, drought, wildfire and extreme temperatures. To prepare, the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program encourages local governments to integrate climate projections (e.g., changes in future precipitation, sea-level rise, and extreme weather) into their hazard mitigation plans and identify specific actions to reduce vulnerability.

### B. How to implement this action

A local government must have a current FEMA approved multi-hazard mitigation plan (HMP) in order to receive FEMA funds for hazard mitigation projects. The NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) administers FEMA mitigation funds and coordinates state and local hazard mitigation planning. A jurisdiction with an HMP approved by DHSES (specifically Standard 9 - Plan for Climate Change) and FEMA already meets the requirements for CSC points under this action.

Jurisdictions that do not have a FEMA approved HMP should develop or update such a plan for approval by undertaking the process and adhering to the requirements outlined in the 44 CFR 201.6 and in the most current [NYS Hazard Mitigation Planning Standards](#). These standards augment FEMA's requirements, include both process and content-related specifications, and require that jurisdictions include projected climate change in their hazard vulnerability assessment and mitigation strategy development.

The plan must document how climate change may affect a community's vulnerability to flooding, wildfire, drought, and extreme temperatures. Coastal communities must also include sea-level rise. The plan must assess and document potential impacts such as power outages during summer heat waves; increased home, street, and sewer flooding due to heavy precipitation or coastal flooding events; and increased structural damage and impaired operations of critical infrastructure. The plan must identify mitigation actions that reduce these risks and vulnerabilities. Communities may find it helpful to review the following documents:

- [Responding to Climate Change in New York State \(ClimAID\)](#) is an analysis of seven NYS regions. ClimAID provides adaptive strategies to protect critical infrastructure and reduce the potential for loss of services resulting from climate change impacts. The report also includes a Climate Adaptation Guidebook that can be used in local mitigation planning to assess the vulnerability of multiple sectors and identify mitigation actions.
- [The New York Climate Change Science Clearinghouse](#) is a gateway for policymakers, local planners, and the public to identify and access documents, data, websites, tools, and maps relevant to climate change adaptation and mitigation across New York State.
- Regional sustainability plans are valuable resources that may address climate change projections, regional vulnerabilities, and suggested mitigation strategies to support a local hazard mitigation plan.

### C. Timeframe, project costs, and resource needs

Updating a municipal or county multi-hazard mitigation plan can take anywhere between six months to one year, depending on the amount of time and resources available. DHSES and FEMA recognize that many jurisdictions have inherent constraints and routinely work to provide assistance and guidance throughout the process. While funding is available through FEMA mitigation grants, there are also steps counties and jurisdictions can take without grant funding to update and maintain an HMP. Contact DHSES at [HazardMitigation@dhses.ny.gov](mailto:HazardMitigation@dhses.ny.gov) for more information.

#### **D. Which local governments implement this action? Which departments within the local government are most likely to have responsibility for this action?**

This action is applicable to all types of local governments. The department or staff members with the responsibility for leading emergency management (who have information on past occurrences and existing preparedness measures and have a direct line of communication with DHSES) often lead implementation for this action. This action can also be implemented or supported by those responsible for environmental issues or planning (who can help understand past, current, and future development trends, policies, or activities that affect development, how development affects vulnerability to hazards, and how hazard mitigation can be incorporated into various planning mechanisms).

Cross-department involvement and support is critical to successful mitigation planning, and should include those responsible for public works, transportation planning, and engineering (who can help identify current or projected infrastructure problems that can be addressed through capital improvements supported by the plan); floodplain management (who can provide information on local flood hazard maps, floodplain ordinances, repetitive and severe repetitive loss properties, and actions to continue compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program and reduce flood losses); and geographic information systems (who can analyze map data to support the planning process and communicate complex information, such as the locations of assets at risk in hazard-prone areas and estimates of damage for a particular disaster scenario). Elected and executive officials (who understand overall community needs and are able to communicate how the mitigation plan can support social, economic, or environmental conditions) should also be involved. Where gaps in expertise exist, FEMA recommends that local governments look for technical experts that live or work in their community, such as a climate change specialist at a local college or a retired planning professional who is willing to contribute. Municipal committees, such as CSC task forces, conservation advisory councils, environmental conservation committees, and watershed groups may also be able to contribute expertise.

The hazard mitigation plan may be developed and updated at a regional level, by the county or a regional organization, so long as the plan identifies the local government that is applying for credit under this CSC action as a participating jurisdiction. DHSES strongly recommends multi-jurisdictional plans as they produce better results in a more cost-effective manner. The same departments or representatives listed above should be involved in such a regional effort.

#### **E. How to obtain points for this action**

Four points are available for developing (or updating) a multi-hazard mitigation plan that meets the CSC requirements described above and adheres to the NYS Hazard Mitigation Planning Standards.

#### **F. What to submit**

Submit a copy or web address of a local hazard mitigation plan completed within the last five years. If the county government led the plan development process, the plan must identify the local government as a participating jurisdiction.

Also provide an explanation, including page references, of how the plan addresses climate change and includes climate science projections. In addition, submit proof that the plan has been formally adopted by the local government and approved by FEMA within five years prior to the application date. If you do not have a copy of the municipal adoption resolution or confirmation of FEMA approval, please contact [HazardMitigation@dhses.ny.gov](mailto:HazardMitigation@dhses.ny.gov) and that team can provide it.

All CSC action documentation is available for public viewing after an action is approved. Action submittals should not include any information or documents that are not intended to be viewed by the public.

#### **G. Links to additional resources or examples**

- [2019 NYS Hazard Mitigation Plan - MitigateNY](#)
- [DHSES, Hazard Mitigation Planning Standards and Guidance Documents](#)
- [FEMA, Multi-hazard Mitigation Planning](#)

- [FEMA, Local Mitigation Planning Handbook](#)
- [Responding to Climate Change in NYS \(ClimAID\)](#)
- [427 report, “Assessing Exposure to Climate Change in U.S. Municipalities”](#)
- [Beyond the Basics: Best Practices in Local Mitigation Planning](#)
- [Natural Hazard Mitigation Association](#)

## **H. Recertification Requirements**

The recertification requirements are the same as the initial certification requirements.