
Focus Area Updates

- Implementation update: Rutgers has compiled a Together North Jersey implementation update report, which can be made available to the task forces when completed.

Strategy 10.1: Identify the region's vulnerabilities to extreme weather and climate change

- Riverine flooding
 - NJ Climate Adaptation Alliance and USGS have convened experts on riverine flooding.
 - NJ DEP and NJTPA are also interested in riverine assessment and vulnerability.
- Flood projections
 - Study of current and future flood vulnerabilities in the Passaic River Basin that will overlay projections with land use, environmental justice, and transportation to yield strategies for transportation resilience.
 - The Task Force should reach out to USGS regarding the new projection methods they are developing
 - Flood projections should account for localized increases in precipitation rates. NJDEP asked AECOM to include this information in their flood modeling.
- Resiliency assessment: NJDEP's Coastal Management Program created a Getting to Resilience Tool that provides practitioners with a suggested resiliency assessment process.

Strategy 10.2: Adapt communities and infrastructure to be resilient to extreme weather events and the impacts of climate change

- The NJ FRAMES project will create a regional coastal resiliency plan for the Two Rivers region in Monmouth County
 - They have just wrapped up a series of community outreach events to collect and identify assets in the region.
 - The project plans for three water levels that represent sea level rise combined with different types of flooding.
- While FRAMES is Monmouth County focused, NJDEP worked with Matt Campo at Rutgers to come up with total high water levels any community might plan for.
- The Monmouth County Community Rating System (CRS) Users Group is being successfully replicated in other counties.
 - Middlesex County held a very successful Users Group Meeting. They leveraged county-level resources, like GIS services, to guide municipalities through the CRS application process.
 - Cape May and Ocean counties have a joint group.
- Somerset County is promoting CRS in a different way because the county does not experience flooding at the same scale as other counties. The county works one-on-one with municipalities that do have flooding problems. Somerset also included a flood and energy resilience framework to an upcoming hazard mitigation plan.

Strategy 10.4: Use green infrastructure solutions to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather and climate change

- Sustainable Jersey is working with Jersey Water Works to create two new Sustainable Jersey qualifying actions. They should be online in several months.
 - One task is an impervious coverage assessment using Rutgers modeling
 - The other task is short and long term planning goals to decrease impervious coverage and to use green infrastructure to mitigate storm water runoff.
 - Over the next 18 months, Sustainable Jersey is developing a gold star certification program in water that would incentivize these complicated tasks even further.
- Jersey Water Works has been very active and produced a report on parks and storm water mitigation. There was a suggestion to contact Kandyce Perry, the facilitator for JWW's green infrastructure task force to discuss potential collaboration with Together North Jersey.
- Highway widening and stormwater mitigation—monitoring of facilities along major highways to track how well they work and opportunities for using green infrastructure

Training Institute Ideas

- CRS Users Groups
 - There is need to improve the distribution of information to municipalities so they can effectively implement CRS programs in their community. Many of them are not aware that this program exists.
- Impervious surface inventory
 - Somerset County is looking to conduct a countywide impervious surface inventory.
 - Chris Obropta of Rutgers has been doing these assessments around the Raritan River.
 - Newark as a very comprehensive impervious surface plan
- Green infrastructure and some key instrumental players
 - In suburban areas, stormwater systems are often owned by homeowners associations. They have resources and their rules do not preclude them from retrofitting. There is an untapped potential in reaching out to these groups.
 - The JWW green infrastructure committee released a guidance manual for citizens and public officials.
- Green infrastructure monitoring and maintenance
 - NYC rolled out much green infrastructure over past several years and is now running into problems with ongoing maintenance.
 - Many rain gardens were simply donated to a municipality by a community organization and are not maintained
 - Other states have created videos about maintenance of green infrastructure for residents and public officials.
 - NJDEP met with DPW superintendents in the Meadowlands to discuss stormwater management and the implementation and maintenance of green infrastructure. DPW said there is an issue with staffing levels in implementing the policies/ideas for green infrastructure. There is a need for maintenance training and funding.

- Provide training to municipal officials on benefits of green infrastructure as they are the ones who oversee maintenance departments.
- Green infrastructure and citizen science monitoring
 - CDM is creating a public dashboard for green infrastructure in NYC.
 - NYC has found that the best way to sustain green infrastructure is by having an informed public. The city school system has a strong curriculum so that kids are knowledgeable about their environment.
 - Green infrastructure should have clear signage so that the public understands its purpose, benefits, and that they should contact the municipality if there is a problem.
 - Citizen scientists play an important role in monitoring green infrastructure through Philadelphia's Green City Clean Waters program. Camden has an active program that was strongly informed by Philadelphia. The task force may want to review what is working with these programs.
 - Master Gardeners are a citizen science resource. Team up with universities and green teams.

Advancing the Focus Areas

Focus Area 13: Improve the stewardship of natural lands, agricultural lands, open space, parks and historic resources

- Focus Area 13 has little representation among Task Force members. Is the Resilient Task Force the right group to address this Focus Area?
- NJ Conservation Foundation, The Nature Conservancy and GeoLab at Rowan University created New Jersey Conservation Blueprint <https://www.njmap2.org/>, a tool for identifying land conservation opportunities as they relate to water quality, ecology, agriculture, and community green space. TCNJ is working with them. They would appreciate if members of the Task Force could review the tool.
- Trails
 - Regional Plan Association is working on a unified, regional green trail as part of their 4th Regional Plan.
 - NJTPA is working on the Morris Canal Greenway.
- Information on ecosystem services should be included in the resiliency tool kit.
 - The EPA just released guidance.
 - The Nature Conservancy has studied dune ecosystem services
- Combine the topics of ecosystem services and trails by doing a pilot project. Possible corridors are the Morris Canal extension, the Henry Hudson Trail in Monmouth County, or trails within the East Coast Greenway system. Select a corridor that is also highlighted in RPA's plan.

Focus Area 10: Enhance the resiliency of the region's communities and infrastructure

- Resiliency tool box
 - Should be interactive and allow updates from users.
 - The Task Force will develop the framework for the tool box, which will be filled in by Rutgers graduate students.

- The tool can be demonstrated at a TNJ Resilient Task Force workshop.
 - In the future, consider budgeting resources to maintain and upgrade the Task Force's work, such as database and implementation updates.
- Have Rutgers graduate students review green infrastructure manuals
- What can the Task Force produce that is unique from what JWW and others are already doing?
 - Green infrastructure training workshops with both institutional and O&M aspects