Progress Towards a More Resilient Connecticut

November 12th, 2019
HUD NDRC

$46M
- Coastal Flood Defense System
- Resilience Center
- Energy Study
- Floodplain Design Guidelines

$8.3M
- Regional Resilience Planning
- Technical Support & Capacity Building
- Pilot Projects in Fairfield & New Haven Counties

Resilient Connecticut
Long-term Vision for Establishing Resilient Communities

- Focus community development around transit (resilient TOD)
- Create corridors resilient to climate change (resilient corridors)
- Create opportunities for affordable housing, preserving and enhancing the quality of life for existing affordable communities
- Develop energy, economic, and social resilience
- Increase transit connectivity
- Adapt structures and critical infrastructure in the flood zone to withstand occasional flooding
- Protect communities through healthy buffering ecosystems, where critical services, infrastructure, and transport hubs are located on safer, higher ground, and where strong connections exist between the two
Rebuild by Design
$10M
“pilot project must reduce risk to public housing in the City’s South End”
• Stormwater management
• Elevated Street for dry egress

Resilient Bridgeport
$46M
• Coastal Flood Defense System
• Resilience Center
• Energy Study
• Floodplain Design Guidelines
Resilient Connecticut

- Identify projects that towns can’t address alone
- Assess regional infrastructure challenges & opportunities
- Identify “resilience corridors” & resilient TOD opportunities
- Develop implementable plans & pilot projects with broad co-benefits
Overlapping Systems

“Zones of Shared Risk”

areas of land with groups of people who face common challenges. This can include the houses, land, infrastructure, hydrology, ecology, and social elements.
More frequent road flooding, disrupts business, e.g. RT 146
Resilient Connecticut

Planning
- Resilient Connecticut Planning Framework
- Regional Resilience Planning
- Implementation Planning for Pilot Projects

Technical Support
- Flood Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
- Climate Impact Modeling
- Adaptation Option Evaluation & Data Collection

Capacity Building
- Applied Field Research
- Climate Impacts to Public Health in CT
- Economics & Cost/Benefit Development
- Legal & Policy Recommendations

Engagement
- Resilient Connecticut Annual Summit
- Monthly Webinar Series
- Resilient Connecticut Collaborative and Working Groups
- Workshop Series
• Plan of Conservation & Development
• Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
• Coastal Zone Management

• Plan of Conservation & Development (regional)
• Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (multi-jurisdictional)
• Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Long-range Transportation Plan)
• Transportation Improvement Plan/Regional Transportation Plan
• Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

• Plan of Conservation & Development (entire state)
• Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan
• Long-range Transportation Plan
• Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (entire state)
• Coastal Zone Management Program
Community Development Block Grants-Disaster Recovery Program
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<td>1</td>
<td>Fairfield County</td>
<td>Coastal Resilience Plan</td>
<td>Plan of Conservation and Development</td>
<td>Municipal Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan</td>
<td>COG Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan</td>
<td>Floodplain Management Plan</td>
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Resilient Connecticut Workshop Summary

May 22, 2019
UConn Stamford Campus
Stamford, Connecticut

How has CT been planning for climate change?

Session A
State and regional scale resilience planning case studies

Session B
Municipal scale issues and coastal resilience plans, challenges, and barriers – case studies from New Haven and Fairfield Counties

Session C
Breakout Sessions – facilitated discussion for input and feedback on a Connecticut resilience planning framework

Resilient Connecticut Planning Framework

1. Set the Stage – Establish Project Partnerships, Goals and Regional Scope Informing Locations and Scales
2. Apply Robust Science and Technical Analysis to Planning
3. Develop Adaptation Scenarios Through Inclusive and Participatory Engagement and Effective Planning
4. Enact Equitable & Informed Prioritization of Pilot Projects
5. Develop Funding, Policy, Implementation and Monitoring Strategies with Recommendations for a Statewide Resilience Roadmap
Measurements and model projections (with no CO2 reductions) of annual mean temperature in CT – CIRCA's PSCAR report (Seth et al, 2019)

Plan for:
Sea level rise UP TO 20 inches (0.5m) by 2050
Air warming UP TO 5°F (3°C) by 2050

Four projections of annual mean sea level at the CT shore – CIRCA’s Sea Level Rise Report (O’Donnell, 2018)
Capacity to Adapt in CT

- Economic Impacts, Cost/Benefit Analysis (UConn/Yale)
- Legal and Policy Recommendations (UConn School of Law)
- Public Health Impacts of Climate Change (DPH, UConn, Yale)
- Workshops, webinars, tools, public engagement
Phase II: January 2020 – December 2020
- Regional Analysis
- Regional Engagement

Phase III: January 2021 – May 2022
- Develop Pilot Projects
- Implementation Planning
Conclusions

• Climate Change Adaptation is a process that will take decades (at least)
• Let’s work together!
• Implementation requires coordination of resources from federal, state, municipal and individuals.
Thank You!

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