

PUTNAM COUNTY

Climate Smart Resiliency Planning

A Workshop for Putnam County

Presenters:

Sofie diTommaso, Resilience & Adaptation Coordinator
Mary Lambert, Climate Action Planning Manager



Hudson Valley Regional Council



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Workshop Agenda

- Opening Remarks from the County Executive
- Overview of the Climate Change Adaptation & Resiliency Planning Process
- Visioning Exercise
- Interactive Discussion: Evaluating Policies for Climate Resilience
- Reflections & Debrief



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Statement from the County Executive



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Background: Planning Process

Planning Process

Phase 1

Evaluate Policies for Climate Resilience:

Inventory resilience measures and gaps in existing policies & plans

Phase 2

Climate Vulnerability Assessment:

Identify climate hazards and vulnerable assets in the community

Phase 3

Climate Adaptation Plan:

Create strategies and implementation guidance to address hazards and build resilience.



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Background: Benefits

Why Conduct Resiliency Planning?



Build Resilience

Communities: Improve preparedness and ability to recover from disasters through proactive planning



Understand Risks: Equip county staff & community members with knowledge about potential threats and opportunities.



Address Social Vulnerabilities: Address social vulnerabilities that increase susceptibility to climate hazards



Reduce Damages from Hazards: Lower disaster recovery costs by reducing damages and protecting assets



Promote Health & Safety: Keep community members safe from flooding, heat exposure, and severe weather



Preserve Ecosystems: Reduce damages to ecosystems and promote nature-based solutions to climate hazards



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Vision Statement Activity

Draft Vision Statement



"Putnam County is committed to leading by example in preparing for and adapting to a changing climate. We strive to **bolster our resilience to the impacts of climate change** that are already occurring while planning for future conditions through **innovation, collaboration, and care for our natural and built environments**. Together, we will build a vibrant, thriving community that **protects what we cherish today and ensures a sustainable future for generations to come.**"



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Evaluating Policies for Climate Resilience

Purpose:

- Identifying resiliency progress and gaps in existing policies and plans in Putnam County
- Inform county-level Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Plan

Process:

Climate Smart Resiliency Planning (CSRP) Process

- Step 1. Identify climate hazards.
- Step 2. Assemble municipal plans.
- Step 3. Complete the evaluation.
- Step 4. Explore related resources.

[Steps from CSRP Guide](#)



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Evaluating Policies for Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Process

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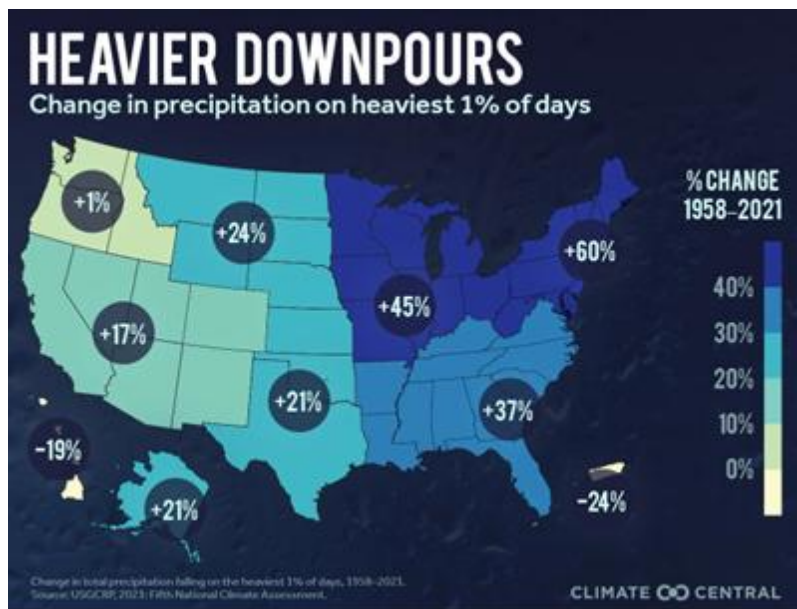
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Climate Hazards

Changing Precipitation



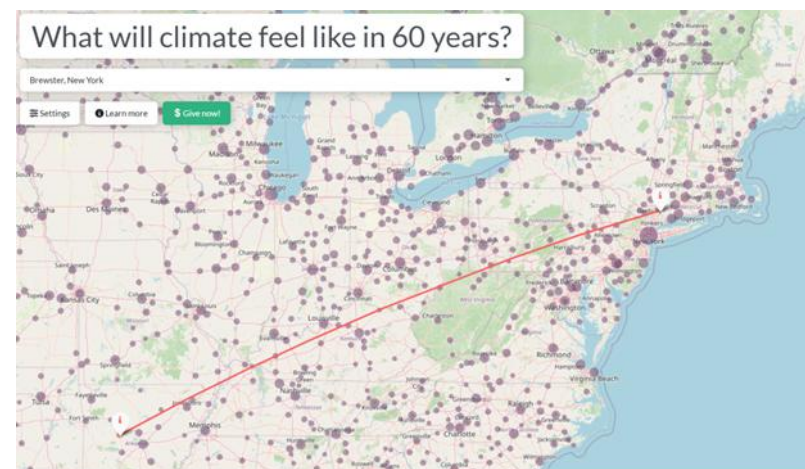
Change in precipitation between 1958 and 2021 across the United States; Fifth National Climate Assessment

Sea Level Rise



Predicted change in water level near Cold Spring during the Hudson River's high tide in 2100; Scenic Hudson.

Increasing Temperatures



The climate of Brewster is projected to be comparable to Ola, Arkansas in 60 years under high emissions trajectory; University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences



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Evaluating Policies for Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Process

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Compiling Plans

Section 1: Community Plan Checklist	Yes	No	Adoption Year	Update Frequency	Notes
1.1 Municipal Master Plan		x			
1.2 Zoning Ordinance		x			Zoning is completed at the local-level.
1.3 Subdivision Ordinance		x			Land use decisions are made at the local-level.
1.4 Open Space Plan	x		1988	N/A	Putnam County Comprehensive Park & Open Space Plan
1.5 Natural Resource Conservation Plan		x			Putnam County does not have a Natural Resources Conservation Plan. It does have a Natural Resources Inventory from the early 2000s. Individual municipalities within the County also have Natural Resources Inventories that are available here: https://www.putnamcountyny.gov/climatesmart?highlight=WyJrZW50liwibmF0dXJhbCIsInJlc291cmNlcylslmludmVudG9yeSjd#/Natural-Resource-Inventories-(NRIs)



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Completing the CSRP Tool

Section 1: Preparing for the Assessment

- Collect policies/plans & assemble a team

Section 2: Vulnerability & Risk Assessment

- Maps of risks/vulnerabilities

Section 3: Public Engagement

- Evaluating stakeholder engagement/processes

Section 4: Planning Integration

- Incorporation of hazard information in plans/documents

Section 5: Emergency Preparedness & Recovery

- Proactive steps to reduce damage and increase recovery time

Section 6: Hazard Mitigation

- Reducing vulnerabilities to hazards



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Completing the CSRP Tool

Section 2: Vulnerability & Risk Assessments	Yes	No	Notes
2.1 Does the municipality have a localized hazard risk and vulnerability assessment?	x		Putnam County's HMP (2020) Section 5.3 assesses risk and vulnerability for a variety of hazards in the county using multiple methodologies. Severe storms and severe winter storms received the highest risk score (p. 7), although the plan specifies that there will be varying impacts from hazards amongst different locations (p. 1); Putnam County's CEMP Revision 2 (2023) Attachment 1 references a risk assessment completed in 2021. Relevant hazards in the risk assessment include ice storms, severe wind/tornadoes, severe winter snowstorms, hurricanes/tropical storms, wildfires, flooding, landslides, extreme temperature, and drought (listed in descending risk level based on likelihood and consequence) (p. 18).
2.2 Have current and future climate hazards been identified?	x		Putnam County's HMP (2020) Section 5.3 evaluates both climate risk and adaptive capacity for a variety of potential hazards (p. 3-4 include methods & p. 7 includes climate hazard scoring results). Climate Adaptive Capacity for the County is also summarized in Putnam County's HMP (2020) Section 9.1 (p. 9).

Screenshot of the CSRP Tool



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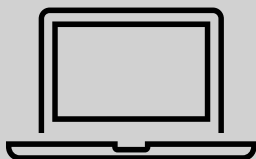
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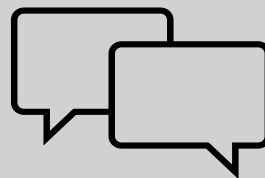
Workshop Format

Step 1



Download CSRP
Spreadsheet

Step 2



Discuss Plans &
Policies

Step 3



Review CSRP
Sections & Discuss



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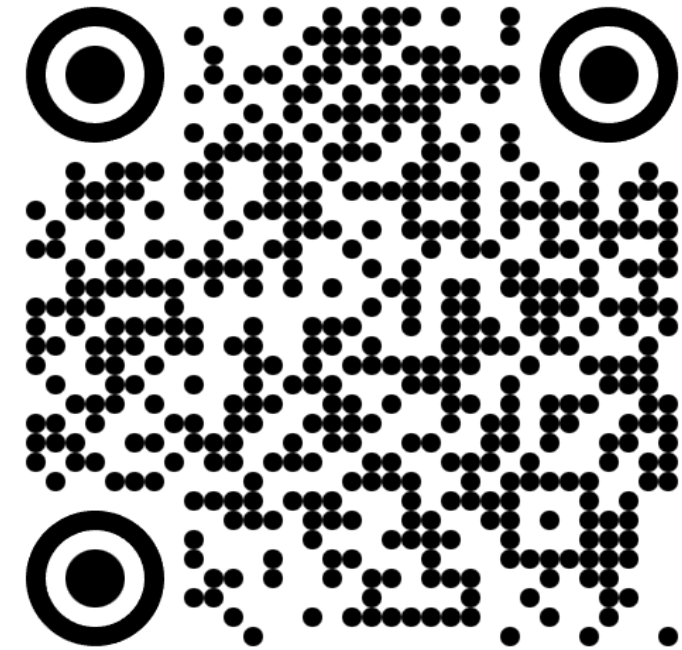
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Thank You!

**Vision Statement
Feedback Form**



Learn More:



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Thank You!

Please email any Workshop notes or comments to:

sditommaso@hudsonvalleyrc.org



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