



Virtual Q&A

Below are the questions recorded from the virtual Q&A session.

1. *Is the ability of Monroe County to absorb inflows of people pushed out of other areas by climate change within the scope? E.g., 5000 people moving to Rochester from Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria.*

Answer: Climate-induced displacement and associated migration is included in the vulnerability assessment and will be a component of the CARP. This will involve acknowledging and discussing key factors related to this form of migration including, but not limited to, housing, transportation, human services, and workforce development. This is intended to serve as a reference for implementing agencies as they address climate-induced migration when specific impacts can be estimated.

2. *Will the plan look into energy benchmarking or building performance standards?*

Answer: This plan is primarily centered around adaptation and resiliency from natural hazards exacerbated by climate change, such as extreme temperatures, severe storms, etc. Energy benchmarking is addressed in the Monroe County Climate Action Plan – Phases I and II. The CARP will acknowledge the significance of GHG emissions resulting from heating and cooling of buildings, but the emphasis will be on standards and associated opportunities to make our buildings more resilient and adaptable to the impacts of climate change.

3. *You mentioned landslides or mudslides. What is the risk for that in Monroe County? I don't recall that happening here.*

Answer: The CARP is intended to be as comprehensive and forward-looking as practical, and this hazard is discussed in the 2023 Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), prepared by the Office of Emergency Management. Between 2015 to 2022, only one house in Monroe County was identified as having been damaged due to a landslide in the HMP.

4. *Wetlands are a concern to me. Will this plan look at the effect of climate change on wetlands and wetland preservation?*

Answer: The CARP aims to focus on Monroe County's priority hazards, one of which is flooding. Wetlands have many benefits and can reduce flooding by absorbing, slowing, and gradually releasing excess water, while their loss increases flood frequency and severity. As a result, impacts on land and water resources, including wetlands will be included in the CARP. Strategies to alleviate flooding will be developed in the Adaptation Planning Phase of the CARP.

5. *Will the plan remain flexible to adapt to new inputs?*

Answer: The CARP will be a living document with the ability to adapt and change over time as conditions change. Monroe County Department of Environmental Services will monitor its implementation and coordinate with other county departments and community and government partners to modify and add to the recommendations of the CARP as necessary.



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6. *Glad to see an implementation framework in this plan, but there is no such thing in the CAP Phase 2. Will you be incorporating mitigation strategies into this implementation framework?*

Answer: An implementation framework will be created for those adaptation and resiliency recommendations within the County's purview consistent with what was done for the Climate Action Plan (CAP) – Phase I, which covered Monroe County operations. The CARP will identify adaptation and resiliency strategies that the County's partners – municipalities, businesses, and non-profit organizations – could consider as was done for the CAP – Phase II. As the County works collaboratively with but does not oversee and direct its partners, an implementation framework similar to that for County-led recommendations is not applicable. Per this approach, mitigation actions included in the CAP-Phase I are being implemented using the framework developed for that plan separate from but coordinated with the CARP development.

7. *Will the plan help religious organizations know how they can help with adaptation and resilience?*

Answer: The Equity & Social Impact Working Group includes representatives from religious organizations and will help to identify coordination strategies that incorporate faith-based partners to advance resilience and adaptation. If you are aware of specific religious organizations that should be considered, please let us know who as we are always interested in identifying more community partners!

8. Please consider adding Resilience Hubs to your plan. <https://www.usdn.org/resilience-hubs.html>

Answer: Thank you for the suggestion of this resource. We are incorporating resources from organizations like the Urban Sustainability Directors Network and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives into the CARP development.