



Tompkins County
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY

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Katherine Borgella, AICP
Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability

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Memorandum

To: Members of the Town of Ulysses Town Board
From: Scott D. Doyle, AICP, Associate Planner
Re: **Adoption of the Tompkins County Hazard Mitigation Plan: 2021 Update**
Date: November 5, 2021

Requested Action

Approve resolution to adopt the Tompkins County Hazard Mitigation Plan: 2021 Update.

Background

In 2014, Tompkins County and each of the municipal jurisdictions in Tompkins County updated the Tompkins County Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan was updated in response to The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 which requires states and local governments to prepare hazard mitigation plans in order to document their hazard planning needs, goals and strategies. By developing a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan, participating communities are then eligible for FEMA pre-disaster mitigation funding. In order to maintain this eligibility, FEMA further requires that communities update plans every 5 years to more accurately reflect changes in risk and vulnerability.

FEMA and the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) recognized the importance of multi-jurisdictional planning coordination and provided a grant to assist Tompkins County and its municipalities to work together in developing the 2021 plan update.

A consultant, Tetra Tech, Inc., worked with each of the jurisdictions in the County to develop the plan update. The plan update is available at <https://www2.tompkinscountyny.gov/planning/climate-adaptation>. Highlights of the plan update include:

- The assessment of 8 main natural hazards:
 - Disease Outbreak
 - Drought
 - Extreme Temperatures
 - Flood
 - Harmful Algal Blooms
 - Infestation and Invasive Species
 - Severe Storm
 - Severe Winter Storm

- An added goal to “Promote and Strengthen Healthy and Equitable Environments for all Residents with Special Consideration for Those Who are Socially and Physically Vulnerable.”

- Integration with development of the County Resiliency and Recovery Plan which will include:
 - An analysis of critical infrastructure vulnerability to flooding and drought;
 - Development of a plan for local community involvement in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS);
 - Development of a debris management plan; and
 - Development of key community recovery tools.

- Individual municipal plan “annexes” which analyze local hazard mitigation capacity and priorities for each for the participating jurisdictions.

- The plan also includes 5 Town mitigation and adaptation actions. Those include:
 - Update the local Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
 - Formalize mutual aid agreements.
 - Conduct a groundwater water supply analysis.
 - Replace problematic culverts.
 - Explore “living snow fence” opportunities.

Budget Implications

None. Adopting the plan does not require the County to take any specific action, yet it ensures that the Town is eligible to apply for FEMA pre-disaster hazard mitigation funding.

Contact Information

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