NIST
National Institute of Standards and Technology
U.S. Department of Commerce

Community Resilience, Adaptation, and Sustainability Planning: Experiences and Expectation of Local Staff and Officials

OMB Control No. 0693-0078
Expiration Date: 07/31/2022

Thank you very much for participating. This survey was developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Community Resilience Program in an effort to better understand the experiences and expectations of community staff and officials regarding *resilience*, *adaptation*, and *sustainability planning*. It will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

The information you provide will help NIST understand the needs of communities like yours, and inform the shape and direction of support from federal agencies and other groups.

We are interested in hearing from people who have had professional experience with community resilience, adaptation, or sustainability planning in the past 10 years. Does this apply to you?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Your responses will be confidential and results will only be reported in aggregate. By selecting "Yes" below, you consent to your responses being used as part of this effort.

- ○ Yes, I consent to my responses being used confidentially in this research.
- ○ No, I do not consent to my responses being used, even confidentially, in this research.
  (Note: Selecting this option will cause you to exit the survey.)

NIST
National Institute of Standards and Technology
U.S. Department of Commerce

Community Resilience, Adaptation, and Sustainability Planning: Experiences and Expectation of Local Staff and Officials

Definitions

Thank you. As you may be aware, definitions for *resilience*, *adaptation*, and *sustainability* can vary, and there may even be some overlap. For this survey, we are interested in the ways these concepts are applied in the context of *community planning*. The following definitions, derived from NIST and the American Planning Association (APA), are used:

● **Community *resilience* planning** includes the processes and actions undertaken to prepare for hazards and changing conditions, and to resist and rapidly recover from disruptions; it may include activities related to disaster preparedness, prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery. For resilience ["R"], think: *prepare, resist, recover*.

● **Community *adaptation* planning** includes the processes and actions involved in modifying the natural or built environment, or behavior, for the purpose of safeguarding human and environmental health, making the community better suited to changing conditions, reducing risks, and preparing for projected impacts. For adaptation ["A"], think: *modify for future conditions*.

● **Community *sustainability* planning** includes the processes and actions through which communities meet the needs of current and future generations without compromising the systems upon which they depend by balancing social, economic, and environmental resources, and linking local actions to regional and global concerns. For sustainability ["S"], think: *balance resources for the future*.

(Note: The hints in blue can be recalled later in the survey by hovering over the underlined phrase in the question text.)

In general, how well do these definitions align with your understanding of the concepts of resilience, adaptation, and sustainability, as related to community planning?

Definitions do not align at all			Definitions slightly align			Definitions somewhat align			Definitions align perfectly
☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆	☆

What would you change in the above definitions to align them more closely with your preferred definitions of community *resilience*, *adaptation*, and *sustainability* planning?

NIST
National Institute of Standards and Technology
U.S. Department of Commerce

Community Resilience, Adaptation, and Sustainability Planning: Experiences and Expectation of Local Staff and Officials

Background

What is the name of the community (e.g. city, county) and the organization or agency where you are currently employed?

Community

Organization or agency

Which of the following categories most accurately describes your current position?

- [ ] Urban planning
- [ ] City management/administration
- [ ] Emergency management
- [ ] Economic development
- [ ] Parks and recreation
- [ ] Community resilience office
- [ ] Community sustainability office
- [ ] Elected official
- [ ] Public works
- [ ] Other (please specify)

About how much of your time at work is spent on community resilience, adaptation, and/or sustainability planning?

- ( ) Almost all
- ( ) More than half
- ( ) About half
- ( ) Less than half
- ( ) Almost none

How many years have you worked in a capacity related to community resilience, adaptation, or sustainability planning?

- ○ 10 years or more
- ○ More than 5 but less than 10 years
- ○ Between 1 and 5 years
- ○ Less than 1 year

Does your community currently employ a Chief Resilience Officer, a Sustainability Coordinator, or equivalent—someone whose primary job is to coordinate across agencies or government units and generally promote issues of resilience, adaptation and/or sustainability? (This could include yourself.)

- ☐ Resilience Officer/Coordinator/Director/Manager
- ☐ Adaptation Officer/Coordinator/Director/Manager
- ☐ Sustainability Officer/Coordinator/Director/Manager
- ☐ Certified Climate Change Professional (CC-P)
- ☐ Not sure
- ☐ None of these

Other (please specify)

Does your community currently have any **plans** (or sections/chapters of plans) devoted to community resilience, adaptation, and/or sustainability?

	Yes (completed and adopted)	In progress or planned	No	Not sure
Community **resilience**	○	○	○	○
Community **adaptation**	○	○	○	○
Community **sustainability**	○	○	○	○

NIST
National Institute of Standards and Technology
U.S. Department of Commerce

Community Resilience, Adaptation, and Sustainability Planning: Experiences and Expectation of Local Staff and Officials

Prioritization and effectiveness

How would you rate your community's **prioritization** of resilience, adaptation, and sustainability planning?

	Not a priority at all	Low priority	Medium priority	High priority	Very high priority	Not sure
Community **resilience** planning	○	○	○	○	○	○
Community **adaptation** planning	○	○	○	○	○	○
Community **sustainability** planning	○	○	○	○	○	○

How, if at all, has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your community's prioritization of resilience, adaptation, and sustainability planning?

	Generally ***negative*** effect (lower priority now, compared to before)	Neutral (some negative and some positive effects)	Generally ***positive*** effect (higher priority now, compared to before)	No effect	Not sure
Community **resilience** planning	○	○	○	○	○
Community **adaptation** planning	○	○	○	○	○
Community **sustainability** planning	○	○	○	○	○

Would you care to elaborate on the effects that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on your community's prioritization of resilience, adaptation, and/or sustainability planning?

In general, how **effective** do you believe your community has been in the pursuit of resilience, adaptation, and sustainability planning?

	Not at all effective	Minimally effective	Moderately effective	Very effective	Extremely effective	N/A (my community does not pursue this type of planning)	Not sure
Community **resilience** planning	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Community **adaptation** planning	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Community **sustainability** planning	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

If you care to elaborate, in what ways do you feel your community has been effective or not effective in pursuing resilience, adaptation, and/or sustainability planning?

NIST
National Institute of Standards and Technology
U.S. Department of Commerce

Community Resilience, Adaptation, and Sustainability Planning: Experiences and Expectation of Local Staff and Officials

Barriers

Which of the following have been **barriers** to your community's pursuit of resilience, adaptation, or sustainability planning? Check the boxes in each row to indicate that a barrier impeded your community resilience, adaptation, and/or sustainability planning efforts.

	Resilience planning	**Adaptation** planning	**Sustainability** planning	Not a barrier to any of these	Not sure
Funding (e.g. city budget, grants)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Politics (e.g. lack of official support, perceived controversy)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Process issues (e.g. coordination, planning)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Technical issues (e.g. data or resources, uncertainty)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Timing (e.g. planning or election cycles, state or national trends)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public and stakeholders (e.g. aversion, other priorities)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Staffing (e.g. size, expertise)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Are there any **other barriers** that have prevented your community from pursuing resilience, adaptation, and/or sustainability planning? (Or is there anything you'd like to clarify about your answers above?)

Would you care to elaborate on **how** these barriers prevented resilience, adaptation, and/or sustainability planning in your community?

Community Resilience, Adaptation, and Sustainability Planning: Experiences and Expectation of Local Staff and Officials

External information and support

Now, thinking about **external information and support** for community resilience, adaptation, and/or sustainability planning, please indicate whether your community sought information/support for each of the following at some point in the past 10 years, and whether you received that support.

	Sought *and received* external information/support	Sought *but did not receive* external information/support	Did not seek external information/support	Not sure
Data about my community (e.g. economic, infrastructure, social)	○	○	○	○
Data about relevant hazards, including projections of future conditions	○	○	○	○
Analytical models for hazard impact analysis	○	○	○	○
Decision support tools to optimize solutions or strategies	○	○	○	○
Planning process guidance (e.g. getting started, facilitation)	○	○	○	○
Funding resources for planning	○	○	○	○
Funding resources for implementation	○	○	○	○
Public education and outreach	○	○	○	○

Are there any **other types of external information/support** for community resilience, adaptation, and/or sustainability planning that your community sought in the past 10 years? Did you receive this support?

For each of the following, what was the **source** of the external information/support?

	Federal government	State government	Educational institution	Nonprofit organization	For-profit organization	Other	Did not receive support for this	Not sure
Data about my community (e.g. economic, infrastructure, social)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Data about relevant hazards, including projections of future conditions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Analytical models for hazard impact analysis	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Decision support tools to optimize solutions or strategies	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Planning process guidance (e.g. getting started, facilitation)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Funding resources for planning	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Funding resources for implementation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public education and outreach	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other types of external information or support (as specified above)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Community Resilience, Adaptation, and Sustainability Planning: Experiences and Expectation of Local Staff and Officials

External information and support -- future

Now, please indicate the importance of each of the following external information/support types to your community's **future resilience, adaptation, and/or sustainability planning**.

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important	Not sure
Data about my community (e.g. economic, infrastructure, social)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Data about relevant hazards, including projections of future conditions	○	○	○	○	○	○
Analytical models for hazard impact analysis	○	○	○	○	○	○
Decision support tools to optimize solutions or strategies	○	○	○	○	○	○
Planning process guidance (e.g. getting started, facilitation)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Funding resources for planning	○	○	○	○	○	○
Funding resources for implementation	○	○	○	○	○	○
Public education and outreach	○	○	○	○	○	○

Are there any **other types of information/support** for community resilience, adaptation, or sustainability planning that your community is interested in receiving **in the future**?

Based on your experience, what is the **most important single action** that an external supporting organization could take to effectively foster community resilience, adaptation, and/or sustainability planning?

Community Resilience, Adaptation, and Sustainability Planning: Experiences and Expectation of Local Staff and Officials

Survey conclusion

Thank you for your valuable contributions. Would you be interested in participating in a follow-up survey discussing these or related topics in greater detail?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

NIST
National Institute of Standards and Technology
U.S. Department of Commerce

Community Resilience, Adaptation, and Sustainability Planning: Experiences and Expectation of Local Staff and Officials

Survey conclusion

We're very pleased to hear of your interest. Please provide your preferred contact email address in the space below.

Finally, is there anything else you would like to share with NIST at this time regarding your experiences with community resilience, adaptation, and/or sustainability planning?

Public Burden Statement

A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with an information collection subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 unless the information collection has a currently valid OMB Control Number. The approved OMB Control Number for this information collection is 0693-0078. Without this approval, we could not conduct this survey. Public reporting for this information collection is estimated to be approximately 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collection. All responses to this information collection are voluntary. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Attn: Chris Clavin, NIST, 100 Bureau Drive, MS 8662, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8662; via telephone: 240-205-5860; or via email: christopher.clavin@nist.gov.

NIST
National Institute of Standards and Technology
U.S. Department of Commerce

Community Resilience, Adaptation, and Sustainability Planning: Experiences and Expectation of Local Staff and Officials

Survey exit

Ok, thank you. Is there another employee(s) in your community who works on resilience, adaptation, and/or sustainability planning that you believe would be a more appropriate respondent for this survey? If so, please provide their name(s) and contact information.

(If you believe you arrived at this page in error, you can select the "Prev" button, below, to return to the previous page and continue the survey.)

Public Burden Statement [early survey exit]

A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with an information collection subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 unless the information collection has a currently valid OMB Control Number. The approved OMB Control Number for this information collection is 0693-0078. Without this approval, we could not conduct this survey. Public reporting for this information collection is estimated to be approximately 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collection. All responses to this information collection are voluntary. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Attn: Chris Clavin, NIST, 100 Bureau Drive, MS 8662, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8662; via telephone: 240-205-5860; or via email: christopher.clavin@nist.gov.