


# Atlantic County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update



**Kickoff Meeting**  
**May 20, 2021**  
**10:00 AM**  
 Virtual Meeting



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## Today's Agenda

Welcome and Opening Remarks.....	Atlantic County Office of Emergency Management
Mitigation, Mitigation Planning, and Plan Updates.....	AECOM
Overview of the Current Plan and Benefits of Continued Participation.....	AECOM
The Plan Update and Participation Requirements .....	AECOM
Project Timeline.....	AECOM
Closing Remarks.....	Atlantic County Office of Emergency Management
Questions .....	All
Adjourn	

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## Mitigation, Mitigation Planning, and Plan Updates: *Breaking the Cycle*



- Natural hazards are a part of our past and they will continue to occur.



- Damages and impacts from an event can be staggering and have long-term consequences.



- Federal dollars are not always available to aid in the recovery process for every occurrence.

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## Mitigation, Mitigation Planning, and Plan Updates: *Breaking the Cycle*

### Hazard mitigation:

- Sustained actions taken to eliminate or reduce long-term risk to people and property from future disasters.
- Breaks the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.

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## Mitigation, Mitigation Planning, and Plan Updates: *Breaking the Cycle*

### Hazard mitigation plans:

- Identify potential hazards that may impact participating communities.
- Assess community risks and vulnerabilities.
- Set forth mitigation strategies to reduce identified risks.
  - Implementing these mitigation strategies will make our communities more sustainable and resilient to natural hazards.

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## Mitigation, Mitigation Planning, and Plan Updates: *Breaking the Cycle*



- Our communities are vulnerable to a variety of hazards ranging from floods, hurricanes, and severe winter weather to storms, extreme winds and heat waves.
- When natural hazard events take place in undeveloped areas, no disaster occurs.
- The severity of a disaster depends on the intensity of the event, the number of people and structures exposed, and the effectiveness of pre-disaster mitigation actions in protecting people and property.

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## Mitigation, Mitigation Planning, and Plan Updates: *Breaking the Cycle*

Hazard mitigation is the key to resiliency because...

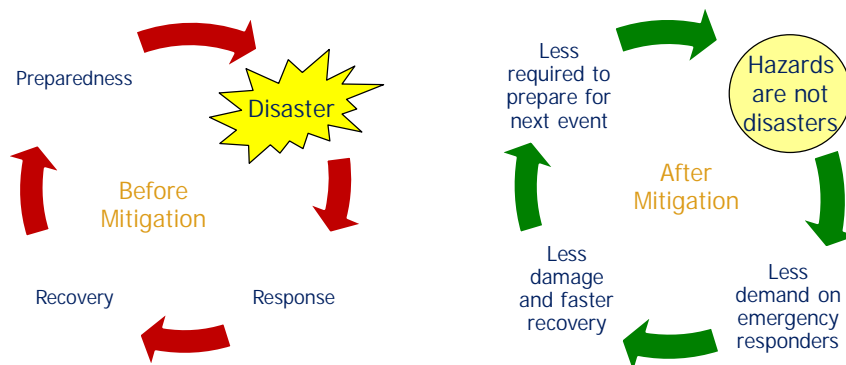


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## Mitigation, Mitigation Planning, and Plan Updates: *Breaking the Cycle*

Hazard mitigation breaks the cycle.



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## Mitigation, Mitigation Planning, and Plan Updates:

### Breaking the Cycle

Updated study by the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council (part of the National Institute of Building Sciences):

National Benefit-Cost Ratio Per Peril <small>*BCR numbers in this study have been rounded</small>		Federally Funded	Beyond Code Requirements
<b>Overall Hazard Benefit-Cost Ratio</b>		<b>6:1</b>	<b>4:1</b>
 <b>Riverine Flood</b>		<b>7:1</b>	<b>5:1</b>
 <b>Hurricane Surge</b>		Too few grants	<b>7:1</b>
 <b>Wind</b>		<b>5:1</b>	<b>5:1</b>
 <b>Earthquake</b>		<b>3:1</b>	<b>4:1</b>
 <b>Wildland-Urban Interface Fire</b>		<b>3:1</b>	<b>4:1</b>

Table 1. Benefit-Cost Ratio by Hazard and Mitigation Measure.

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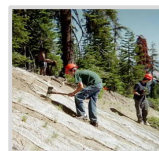
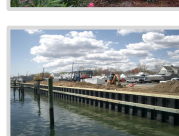
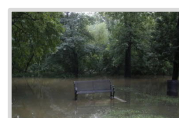


## Mitigation, Mitigation Planning, and Plan Updates:

### Breaking the Cycle

#### Examples:

- Elevation of Structures
- Property Acquisitions
- Elevation of Utilities
- Storm Shutters
- Minor Flood Reduction
- Safe Rooms
- Soil Stabilization
- Codes and Standards



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## Mitigation, Mitigation Planning, and Plan Updates:

### Goal:

- More sustainable and disaster resilient communities



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## Our Plan, and its Second Update – In Context

### The current Hazard Mitigation Plan:

- Is a requirement to comply with DMA 2000 and, in turn, eligibility to apply for hazard mitigation project grants
- Is multi-jurisdictional, with local municipalities participating as equal partners with the County
- Initial plan approved in 2010 (County + 19/23)
- First update approved in 2016 (County + 23/23)
- Second update kicked off in 2021

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## Our Plan, and its Second Update – In Context

Hazard mitigation plans must be:

- Developed to meet the requirements of DMA 2000
- Implemented on an ongoing basis (projects)
- Updated every five years

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## Our Plan, and its Second Update – In Context

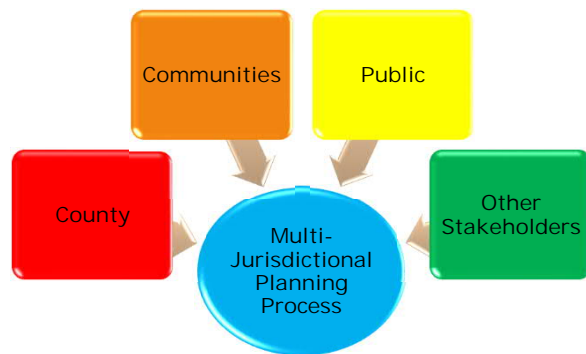
Second plan update process is ongoing:

- Draft Update targeted for November 2021
- Initial plan, its first update, and this second update, have been funded by FEMA mitigation planning grants

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## Our Plan, and its Second Update – In Context



Every community is an equal participant with the County – this is your plan

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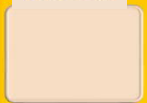
## Our Plan, and its Second Update – In Context



Most recent planning process was conducted between 2014 and 2015



Plan was approved by FEMA in February 2016



Addressed natural hazards



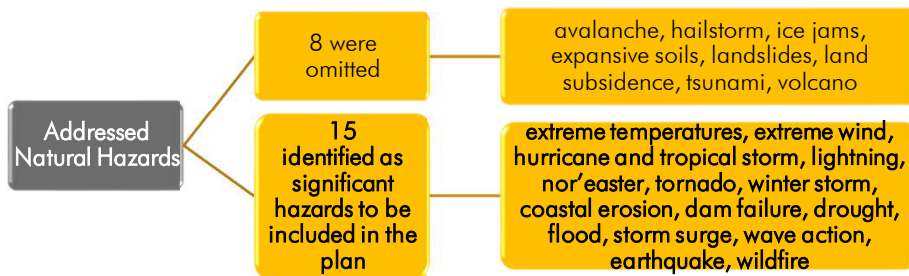
The County and 23 of its 23 municipalities met participation requirements to be included in the plan

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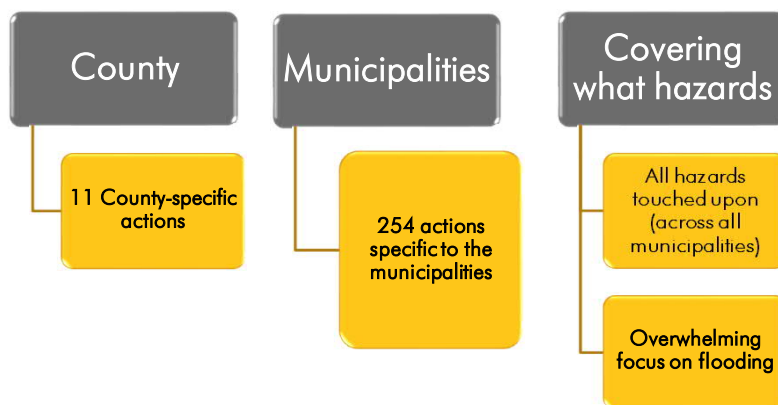
## Our Plan, and its Second Update – In Context



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## Our Plan, and its Second Update – In Context



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## The Plan Update and Participation Requirements

### Regular updates ensure:

- That the plan remains applicable to present-day understanding of vulnerabilities based on most recent studies, reports, event histories, etc.; and
- That the plan continues to present the best path forward for reducing future damages when hazard events, inevitably, occur.

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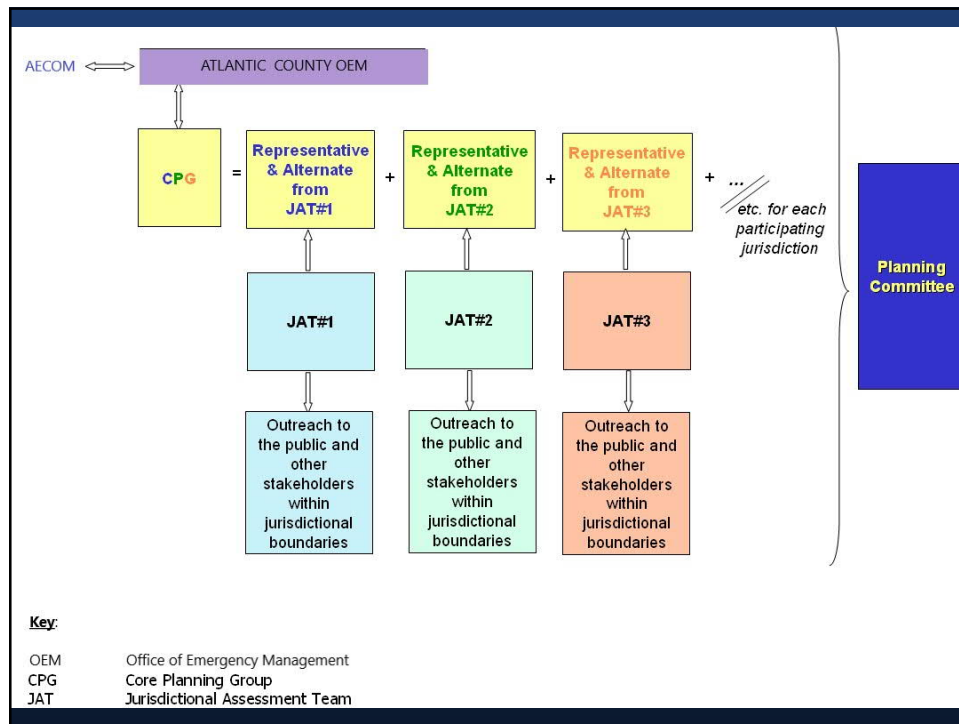


## The Plan Update and Participation Requirements

### 5-year Updates to Reflect CURRENT Conditions:

- Assess current development patterns and development pressures.
- Evaluate new hazard or risk information.
- Describe progress in local plan maintenance and plan integration efforts.
- Assess previous goals and actions.
- Summarize progress in implementing actions.
- Adjust actions to address current realities.
- Explain changes in priorities.
- Address changes in Federal/State requirements.

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## Benefits of Continued Participation

### Continued Compliance with DMA 2000

- All jurisdictions who participate in the process will:
- Maintain compliance with DMA 2000 once FEMA approves the final updated plan and the jurisdiction's local governing body formally adopts it.
- Maintain eligibility to apply for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants.

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## Benefits of Continued Participation

### Collaboration and Partnerships

- Multi-jurisdictional planning committees can provide a forum for engaging in partnerships that could provide technical, financial, and/or staff resources to help reduce the effects, and hence the costs, of hazards.
- Multi-jurisdictional planning creates economies of scale.

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## Benefits of Continued Participation

### Implemented hazard mitigation measures will reduce:

- The risk of damage to lives and property.
- The impacts of a hazard event on the economic and social fabric of a community.
- Response time and costs.

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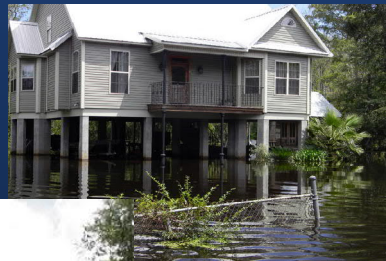
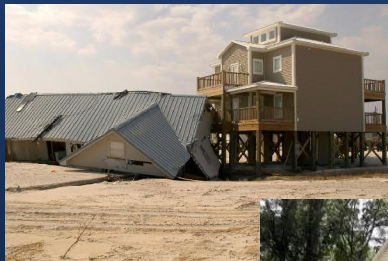
## Benefits of Continued Participation

Once the plan is approved, jurisdictions that participate fully will be eligible to apply for grant funding for projects like these:

- Acquire/elevate/floodproof/relocate structures
- Road raising/relocation
- Culvert upgrades
- Bridge retrofits
- Wind retrofits
- Utility system protective measures
- Minor localized flood reduction projects (inc. retention/detention basins)
- Soil stabilization (geotextiles, rip rap, etc.)
- Wildfire mitigation (defensible space, ignition-resistant construction, fuel reduction)
- Generators and similar types of projects for energy resiliency

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## Mitigation Works!



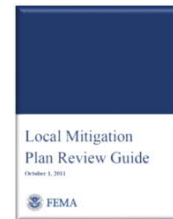
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## Plan Update: Key Steps

### Planning process just as with the original plan.

- Outreach to the public and other stakeholders.
- Update hazard and vulnerability data to reflect recent events, new data/studies/reports, etc.
- Update NFIP data (i.e., RLP, SRL, DFIRMs).
- Updates to reflect changes in development in hazard prone areas.



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## Plan Update: Key Steps

- Describe status of each action in previous plan:
  - Completed? If not, why?
  - Still relevant?
  - Will it be carried forward? If not, why?
  - Have any priorities changed? If so, how/why?
- Update/expand mitigation strategies to ensure a comprehensive range of mitigation actions covering highest hazards and key risks and vulnerabilities in each jurisdiction.

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## Plan Update: *Participation Requirements*

Each municipality must directly participate and engage in the update in order to receive approval from FEMA and eligibility to apply for hazard mitigation projects grants.



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## Plan Update: *Participation Requirements*

- Direct participation and engagement
- Representation from each jurisdiction
- Occur continuously throughout the plan update process timeline



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## Plan Update: *Participation Requirements*

### Participating jurisdictions must:

- Attend meetings
- Conduct outreach throughout the project timeline
- Provide feedback (\*worksheets\*)
- Update their municipal mitigation action plans
- Review and comment on the Updated Plan Draft
- Implement the plan and monitor progress

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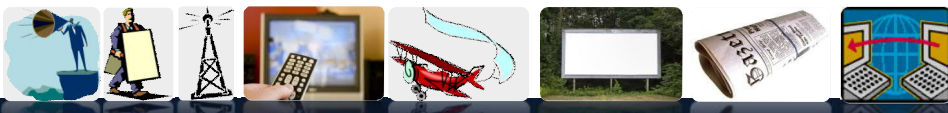


## Participation Requirements: *Outreach to the Public and Other Stakeholders*

### Outreach

- To the general public and other stakeholders
- Throughout the update process and during the plan maintenance phase
- Concerted efforts using various avenues

*Note: Meetings with your own municipal staff members are JAT activities - not 'outreach'*

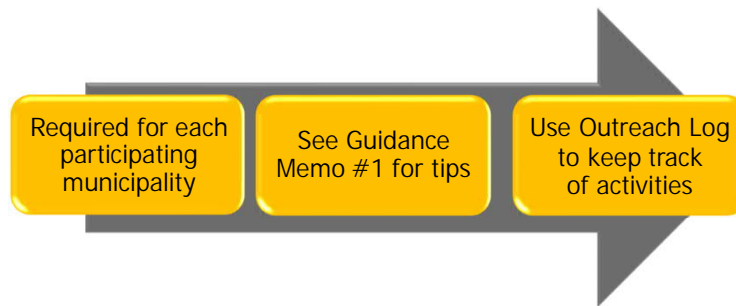


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## Participation Requirements: *Outreach to the Public and Other Stakeholders*



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## Participation Requirements: *Outreach to the Public and Other Stakeholders*

**Get the word out about the plan on a regular basis – starting now**

### Ideas for reaching the general public:

- Discuss the plan update at open public meetings (i.e., council meetings, planning board meetings, school board – anything)
- Widely distribute the fact sheet (notice boards, mailing insert).
- Use municipal web sites and social media.
- Newsletters/newspapers and radio/tv.
- Ensure that the public and other stakeholders are invited to review and provide comments and feedback - particularly about updates to your action plan (projects), as well as on the Draft Plan Update document itself, when released this fall.

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## Participation Requirements: *Outreach to the Public and Other Stakeholders*

### Who Are Other Stakeholders?

#### Must include:

- ◆ Neighboring communities
- ◆ Local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities
- ◆ Agencies that have authority to regulate development
- ◆ Other interests

#### Other interests, include:

- ◆ Non-profit organizations (i.e., Red Cross, Salvation Army)
- ◆ Environmental groups
- ◆ Historic preservation groups
- ◆ Church organizations
- ◆ Parks organizations
- ◆ State, federal, and local government offices
- ◆ Business and development organizations
- ◆ Transportation entities
- ◆ Emergency service providers
- ◆ Academic institutions
- ◆ Utility providers
- ◆ Hospitals
- ◆ Tribal groups
- ◆ Large businesses
- ◆ Regional planning organizations

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## Participation Requirements: *Outreach to the Public and Other Stakeholders*

**Get the word out about the plan on a regular basis – starting now**

Targeted outreach to key stakeholders can be as simple as a phone call, letter or email sent to a list of key stakeholders that:

- Alerts them to the plan update.
- Provides them with a link to the County web site for more information on the process.
- Identifies a point of contact if they have detailed questions or would like to become involved.
- Offers to send them copies of meeting minutes and a notification when the Draft is released, on request.

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## Participation Requirements: Outreach to the Public and Other Stakeholders

### Web Site

Atlantic County, NJ  
Serving the Needs of County Residents, Businesses and Visitors

NO RESIDENTS - VISITORS - BUSINESS - COUNTY GOVERNMENT - HOME

#### Atlantic County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning Project

Natural hazards have the potential to cause property damage, loss of life, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety. Hazard mitigation measures are the things you do today to be more protected in the future. They are measures taken before a disaster happens to reduce the impact that future disasters will have on people and property in the community. Mitigation reduces the risk of loss and creates a more disaster-resistant and sustainable community. Hazard mitigation measures are essential to breaking the typical disaster cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.

Hazard mitigation plans are developed BEFORE a disaster strikes. The plans identify community policies, actions, and goals for long-term implementation to reduce risk and potential for future losses. Adopted, implemented and maintained on an ongoing basis, these plans will gradually, but steadily, lessen the impacts associated with hazard events in Atlantic County.

Atlantic County initiated the process for development of its initial Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2010. The County and 19 of its 23 jurisdictions opted to participate. This plan was later approved by FEMA in 2010 for 19 participating jurisdictions. View/download the 2010 version of the plan.

The plan must be updated and re-approved by FEMA on a five-year cycle. In August 2014, the planning team initiated the process for the first of the plan's formal updates since its inception. All 23 of the County's municipalities are being invited to participate. The update was approved in February 2016.

For more information please download our "Project Fact Sheet". The fact sheet presents an overview of the Atlantic County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning Project.

2016 Final Plan Update

Department of Public Safety  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
Contact and Address Information

Office of Emergency Preparedness

General Information  
Core Planning Group Meeting Information  
Planning Group Information  
Participating Jurisdictions  
Planning Committee Guidance  
2016 Plan Update Final  
The 2016 Draft Plan Update Draft  
Contact Information  
Office of Emergency Preparedness  
Department of Public Safety

Links  
New Jersey Office of Emergency Management  
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)  
FEMA - Mitigation Grant Program  
FEMA - Mitigation Planning Information  
FEMA - Hazard and Disaster Information

<https://www.atlantic-county.org/hazard-mitigation/>

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## Participation Requirements: Outreach to the Public and Other Stakeholders

### Fact Sheet

Atlantic County  
Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Adopted Plan Cover, 2010

Background

Natural hazards are a part of life throughout Atlantic County. All of our hazards have the potential to cause property loss, loss of life, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety. An important part of emergency management involves hazard mitigation.

Purpose and Need

The Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for Atlantic County was adopted in 2010 to meet the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (or DMA 2000). Its development was led by the County under a FEMA planning grant that covered the costs of its preparation. Though it wasn't required, Atlantic County opted to use what FEMA calls a "multi-jurisdictional" approach - meaning that instead of it just being a plan for the County government, every municipality was invited to participate as an equal partner with the County. Adopting a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan opened the door for all participating municipalities to be in compliance with DMA 2000, and

which is, essentially, actions and projects undertaken to protect things before they get damaged. A hazard mitigation plan describes the hazards that can occur in a community, and then presents actions and projects that will be done to reduce key risks.

eligible to apply for hazard mitigation project grants. To stay in compliance with DMA 2000, the plan must be updated every five years. The update ensures that the plan remains current in its discussion of local risks and risk reduction strategies. The County has once again obtained FEMA grant funding to cover the cost of the first plan update, and has opted to continue its "multi-jurisdictional" approach. Each jurisdiction in the County is attending meetings, providing feedback in a series of topic areas, reaching out to the public and other key stakeholders, and updating their local mitigation strategy.

Planning Timeline

- First plan adopted in 2010; updates are required every five years
- Update process began in August 2014 and is ongoing
- Submission of the updated plan to FEMA is anticipated in 2016

Natural disasters cannot be prevented from occurring but, if we tackle some of the biggest risks with hazard mitigation projects, eventually, our hazards won't become disasters.

For More Information

For questions or other feedback, or to find out how you can become involved, please contact your local elected official or Emergency Management Coordinator at the Atlantic County Office of Emergency Preparedness.

Preparedness at 609-407-4742 or visit our web site at [www.aepnj.org/naep](http://www.aepnj.org/naep).

Here, a flood prone home was destroyed and the property was converted to parking. During several years that residents were safe in their new home on higher ground, and no damage was incurred on the parcel.

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## GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM #1

### Outreach to the Public and Other Stakeholders During the Plan Update Process

To: Atlantic County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update  
Core Planning Group  
From: Anna Foley, Project Manager, AECOM  
Date: May 2021  
Re: Outreach

- The Project:** An update of the current effective 2016 Atlantic County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for continued compliance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and its implementing regulations.
- The Issue:** To meet FEMA's requirements for plan approval, municipal staff members must participate in the plan update process through attending meetings, providing various types of information and feedback, identifying and assessing mitigation actions, and reviewing draft documents. In addition, it is also required that the public and other stakeholders (such as neighboring jurisdictions, agencies, businesses, academia, nonprofits, and other interested parties) be given an opportunity to comment and become involved. **More information can be found in FEMA's Local Mitigation Planning Handbook (Chapter 3, specifically), online at: [https://www.fema.gov/media/default/Files/2020-06/FEMA-local-mitigation-planning-handbook\\_03-2013.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media/default/Files/2020-06/FEMA-local-mitigation-planning-handbook_03-2013.pdf).**
- Memo Purpose:** This memorandum has been prepared to provide the Core Planning Group (CPG) - Atlantic County and its participating municipalities - with suggestions for engaging the public and other stakeholders in the plan update in a manner that will meet FEMA's requirements for plan approval.
- Keep In Mind:** AECOM, as the consulting company, is able to provide the CPG with guidance on potential means to satisfy the FEMA requirements. Nevertheless, it is the members of the CPG (Atlantic County and its participating municipalities) who are ultimately responsible for undertaking activities that they feel are most appropriate for their respective communities, and submitting a completed Outreach Log (OutreachLog.docx) for AECOM's use and incorporation into the plan. CRS communities should confer with their local CRS Coordinator to maximize credits under that program.
- Action Items:** Outreach to the public and other stakeholders starting immediately and continuing on an ongoing basis throughout the plan update process. Track your activities using the [Outreach Log](#). Track incoming comments using the [Comments Log](#). Please don't hesitate to contact Anna Foley of AECOM if you have any questions (phone 973-883-8562; email [anna.foley@aecom.com](mailto:anna.foley@aecom.com)).

Guidance Memorandum #1: Outreach to the Public and Other Stakeholders  
Atlantic County, NJ - Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

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#### Atlantic County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Second Update 2021

#### OUTREACH LOG: Summary of Outreach Activities to the General Public and Other Stakeholders

PARTICIPATING JURISDICTION: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF ACTIVITY	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY DETAILS	LEAD DEPARTMENT AND/OR STAFF TITLE WHO UNDERTOOK ACTIVITY
			Press 'tab' here and extra table rows will automatically be added on the next page.

Please add additional pages as needed.

Outreach to the Public and Other Stakeholders  
Atlantic County, NJ - 2021 Plan Update

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# COMMENTS LOG - Atlantic County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan - Second Update 2021

Please provide one comments log per jurisdiction at the end of the project timeline.

Please fill in the contact details for the person filling in this page in the blue rows immediately below. One log from each jurisdiction will be collected at the end of the project timeline.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Community name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 County: Atlantic County, NJ  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#	Comment	Comment Submitted By	Comment Submitted To	Comment Submitted on Date	How was comment submitted?	Disposition (Consent; non-consent; will evaluate)	Response / Action Proposed	Responsible Party	Action taken
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## Project Timeline

START YOUR OUTREACH ACTIVITIES  
NOW AND CONTINUE THROUGHOUT  
THE PROJECT TIMELINE

- CPG Kickoff Meeting – May 20, 2021
- CPG Progress Meetings – Dates TBD
- County-led Public/Stakeholder Meetings – Dates TBD
- Worksheet Feedback from All Participating Jurisdictions
  - Rollout May 27, 2021
  - Due August 17, 2021
  - Pencils Down September 16, 2021
- Draft to CPG - Early November
- Draft to State – Late November

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## Project Timeline: *Near-term Actions for Participating Jurisdictions*



Send in your Statement of Authority to Participate to OEM

Develop your JAT and send in WS1 to OEM so we know who is on your team



Begin your outreach efforts

- Discuss the plan update at regularly scheduled council/board meetings
- Post the plan update Fact Sheet on notice boards and virtually
- Establish a link on your jurisdiction's web site to the overall County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update page
- Targeted outreach to key local stakeholders

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## Project Timeline: *Long-term Actions for Participating Jurisdictions*



Continue your outreach efforts - these should be ongoing throughout the project



Complete your worksheets



Begin fleshing out ideas for more robust mitigation action plans with your JAT. Solicit feedback from public and stakeholders.

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## Questions and Closing Remarks

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## Contact Information

**Atlantic County  
Office of  
Emergency  
Management**

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**AECOM**

Anna Foley  
anna.foley@aecom.com, 973-883-8562

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