

## ***The Application of the U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit and its “Five Steps to Resilience” to Support Municipal Planning***

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Municipalities are seeking to incorporate resilience into their planning processes as they prepare for climate-related hazards and extreme weather events. One challenge that municipal planners face is including climate resilience in the context of other decisions, concerns, and goals in their communities. In working with municipal planners to build resilience to climate-related hazards, we are applying the U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit and its “Five Steps to Resilience” at the community level in Asheville, NC, as well as regionally through the Southeast Sustainability Directors Network. The steps in this resilience planning process include: (1) explore threats and hazards; (2) assess risks; (3) investigate options; (4) prioritize actions; and (5) take action. This process is based on understanding the vulnerability of community assets, which may include people, infrastructure, or community services.

In Asheville, we have evaluated residential and commercial properties, transportation infrastructure, and other community assets for their vulnerabilities to impacts from flooding, drought, wildfire, and landslide hazards. These community assets were then assessed for their risks to each hazard. This approach recognized both physical and socioeconomic factors that contribute to vulnerability and risk. Options to build resilience are being identified that reduce the exposure of community assets to climate-related threats or that increase adaptive capacity to better cope with potential impacts. A multi-hazard assessment tool is also being used in the process, which provides spatially explicit information and data visualization to assist municipal planners in developing and prioritizing options to build resilience.

In this presentation, we will provide lessons learned and examples of how the Steps to Resilience are being applied in a municipal planning process. We will also share ideas for how this process can be applied and used by other municipalities and communities in the Carolinas.