

Flood Resilience Training for Municipal Staff

As the global average temperature rises, communities are experiencing the impacts of climate change in localized weather pattern shifts, including more days with temperatures above 90°F, extreme precipitation, and severe storms that threaten the resiliency of New York communities.

In many cases, municipalities lack the technical expertise and/or capacity to identify and use applicable tools and resources to improve their resiliency to the impacts of climate change.

Building from previous work, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) and partners provided code enforcement officers, floodplain managers, and municipal staff and boards with training on general community resiliency, floodplain management, and green infrastructure best practices.

Workshop sessions included the opportunity to consider the "State of the Shoreline," learn about the National Flood Insurance Program and about FEMA elevation certificates, develop a post-disaster floodplain administrator response, and delve into the Rochester and Monroe County Green Infrastructure Retrofit Manual.

Based on evaluations from training events in Greece and Batavia in 2018 with a combined 110 participants, NYSG is developing similar training events for 2019.

As a result of this NYSG-facilitated educational programming, resilient communities will be better able to sustain vital services, healthy ecosystems and economic vitality, making them less susceptible to future hazardous events and more attractive to businesses and residents alike.



*Municipal staff at a flood resilience training developed by NYSG.
Photo: NYSG/Mary Austerman*

"This is an important and timely topic and you all did a great job of bringing it together in an informative, yet digestible format!"

– Rebuilding After the 2017 Lake Ontario Flood:
A Primer for Code Enforcement Officers' workshop
participant survey comment

Partners:

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Stormwater and Floodplain Managers Association
- Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center

Funding:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Community Climate Adaptation Initiative

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is New York Resilient Communities and Economies

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