

## INITIATE YOUR CLIMATE RESILIENCY EFFORT

# MILESTONE 1

The following chapters recommend how to reach CRC Milestone One, “Initiate Your Climate Resiliency Effort”:

Chapter 4: Scope the Climate Change Impacts to Your Major Sectors

Chapter 5: Build and Maintain Support to Prepare for Climate Change Impacts

Chapter 6: Build Your Climate Change Preparedness Team

**Chapter 7: Identify Your Planning Areas Relevant to Climate Change**

## chapter 7 identify your planning areas relevant to climate change

This chapter helps you to develop an inventory of your *planning areas* – defined as the areas in which a government or community manages, plans, or makes policy affecting the services and activities associated with built, natural and human *systems*. Your inventory of planning areas, and ultimately your prioritization of these planning areas (Chapters 8 and 9), will serve as a focus for your preparedness efforts and will allow you to apply the climate change information you accumulate strategically.

Planning areas could be as broad or as specific as you deem necessary. Examples of planning areas include water supply, wastewater treatment, public health, road and bridge operations and maintenance, forestry, and parks. We suggest that you group these planning areas by sector (using the list in Table 4.1 or some variation).

After listing your planning areas, identify current and expected stresses to systems in these planning areas. In articulating the stresses to your built, natural or human systems, be sure to consider the effects of both known climate conditions and non-climate stresses such as population growth, economic development and other major trends. Organize your results in a form like Table 7.1.

**PLANNING AREAS** are the areas in which a government or community manages, plans, or makes policy affecting the services and activities associated with built, natural and human *systems*.

**SYSTEMS** refer to the built, natural and human networks that provide important services or activities within a community or region.

You should also consider listing the planning areas for which your government is not directly responsible but have relevance to the overall well-being of your community (e.g., public health services from a county or state agency, interstate transportation infrastructure, timber production, outdoor recreation).

Add these planning areas to your table. You might also consider adding information about the entity responsible for management of each planning area (although this information is not reflected in Table 7.1). You will need to work with these entities to coordinate efforts on climate change preparedness.

It is particularly important to review non-climate related stresses to your planning areas at this stage in the process. As you are no doubt aware, governments have limited resources. Although

1. Sectors	2. Planning Areas	3. Current and Expected Stresses to Systems in This Planning Area
Hydrology and water resources	Water supply management	Low water supply during hot, dry summers; managing drought ( <i>current and expected</i> )
		Poor water quality during flood events ( <i>current and expected</i> )
		Poor water quality during summer ( <i>current and expected</i> )
		Aging infrastructure and lack of funding for system upgrades ( <i>current and expected</i> )
		Meeting increased demand from population growth ( <i>expected</i> )
Infrastructure	Stormwater management	Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) during heavy rainstorms ( <i>current and expected</i> )
		Lack of funding for system upgrades ( <i>current and expected</i> )
Transportation	Road operations and maintenance	Road buckling during heat waves ( <i>current and expected</i> )
		Winter road maintenance (snow/ice removal) ( <i>current and expected</i> )
		Managing brush fires along roadways ( <i>current and expected</i> )
		Erosion around bridge footings ( <i>current and expected</i> )

**Table 7.1 – Current and expected stresses to systems in sample planning areas of water supply, stormwater management, and road operations and maintenance**

at this stage of your climate preparedness efforts you are still essentially studying the scope of your climate change challenges, as you progress through the remaining chapters in the book you will begin the process of evaluating both the benefits and the costs of your proposed climate preparedness actions.

Ultimately your prioritization process will not only compare competing climate-related strategies, but will likely spill over into resource decisions regarding non-climate related planning areas as well. At this stage, the more explicit you are in articulating non-climate related stresses to planning areas, the better informed you will be as you select and prioritize your preparedness actions and implement your climate plan later on.

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**Checkpoint:** Upon finishing this section, you should have a list of planning areas relevant to climate change, as well as a description of current and expected stresses to built, natural and human systems in each of these planning areas. You may also identify other entities with whom you need to collaborate on preparedness efforts.

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