

Climate Change Resilience Plan

Preparing Rochester for the impacts of climate change is critical to the city's continued economic prosperity, and will ensure that Rochester remains a safe, inclusive, and vibrant place to live and visit.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What Is the Climate Change Resilience Plan?

The Climate Change Resilience Plan (CCRP) is a plan that the City of Rochester is developing to prepare for and respond to climate change. The Plan will recommend actions that the community can take to become resilient to the impacts of climate change.

What does “resilience” mean?

Resilience is the ability of our community to withstand and adapt to the pressures of climate change, and to react to difficult events by getting stronger instead of breaking down.

Why now?

Rochester's climate is changing. Over the next 25 years, Rochester will see more days over 90°F, more heatwaves, more extreme storms, and more rainy days. These changes will affect important parts of our infrastructure, natural resources, and social systems, and affect minorities, the poor, and the elderly the most. This plan will help Rochester prepare for these changes.

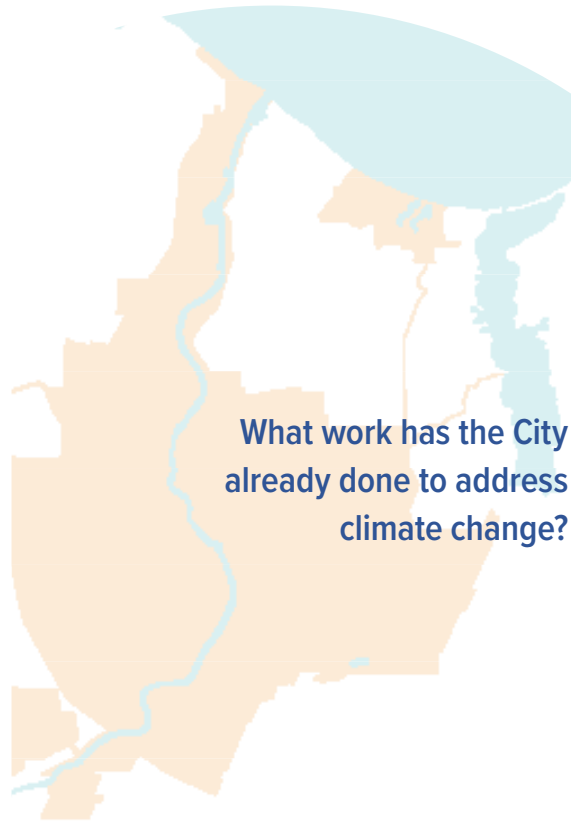
What is the goal of the plan?

The purpose of the CCRP is to ensure a sustainable future for the Rochester community. The plan's Vision Statement is: “Rochester will remain a safe, inclusive, and vibrant place to live, work, and visit in the face of a changing climate. Our community will thrive today and into the future by minimizing risks to our infrastructure, enhancing health and mobility, creating equitable access to resources, and valuing regenerative practices for our natural environment.”

What are some examples of actions other communities have taken to become more resilient?

The City of Albany is reducing the impacts of extreme heat and flooding by using “green infrastructure” in outdoor community spaces. Projects include rain gardens, tree plantings, and porous asphalt to manage stormwater.

The City of Binghamton is helping residents access solar energy to



What work has the City already done to address climate change?

reduce the risk of power outages following extreme storms. “Solar for All”, gives low-income households free community solar subscriptions.

New York City introduced Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines, which help designers and engineers make buildings that can withstand high winds, increased rain, and higher temperatures.

The City of Rochester made a Climate Action Plan in 2016, which focused on how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. The City also did a Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA), which looked into who and what would be most affected by climate change, and how well they might be able to adapt. The CVA helps the City focus the CCRP on the communities and infrastructure in Rochester that are most vulnerable.

Visit <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/climateactionplan/> to read more about the Climate Action Plan, and <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/ccrp/> to check out this resilience planning process.

Who is managing the project?

The City’s Office of Energy and Sustainability is leading the project, with the support of consultants Highland Planning LLC and VHB.

How will the public be involved?

The plan will be developed with the help of a committee that includes organizations who represent people affected by climate change and organizations responding to climate change. The City and other participating organizations will hold workshops where the public can discuss and improve the plan. Online surveys will be released alongside the workshops. After incorporating the public’s feedback, the City will present the draft plan to the public for final comment.

What is the schedule?

The planning process will begin during the winter of 2019 and continue into the spring. The public will be involved throughout the summer of 2019. The City will incorporate public feedback and complete the plan in the fall of 2019.

Stay engaged!

You can learn more, take surveys, find out about upcoming events, and sign up for email updates at cityofrochester.gov/ccrp.

