

STEP

7

Monitor and Reassess

YOUR GOAL

Maintain your community's resilience program over time by monitoring progress, incorporating new data and information, adjusting strategies, and continuing to engage all populations within the community.

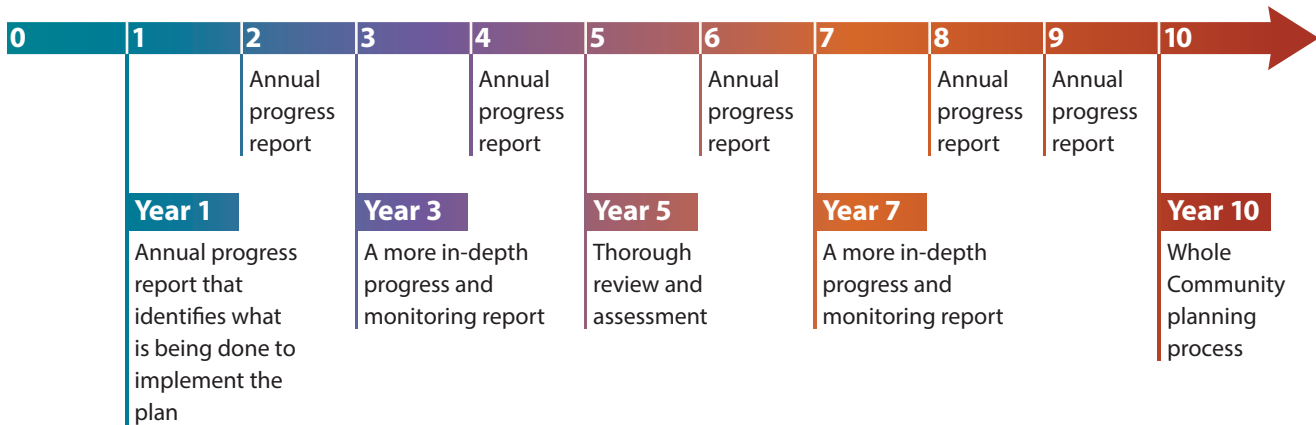


S U M M A R Y

At this point in the process, you and the Implementation Team are managing a long-term resilience program for your community that is becoming increasingly embedded in the local culture and decision-making processes. As climate change progresses and impacts become more clear, strategies will need to be adjusted over time. Resilience strategies are often new or innovative, which means they may work well, or they may fail at times, making regular assessments and redirection critically important to long-term success.

As a reminder, here is our suggested timeline for progress reports, updates, and revisions to the Plan initially shared in Step 5.

Suggested Revision Schedule for Climate Resilience Plans



In order to be effective, your Climate Resilience Plan will need to be regularly updated and revised. Due to changes in technology, the progression of climate change, better models, socioeconomic changes to the community, and widespread changes to natural systems and their services, many important features of the Plan will change over time. In response, you will need to follow the scheduled review and update timeline, and invest in full plan revisions at regular intervals. The reviews and updates rely on monitoring information that tells you where progress is being made, and where changes in strategy are needed.

During the review, it is important to be able to answer the following questions:

- 1 Did the strategy get implemented as planned? If not, why? If the strategy is still relevant, how can the Implementation Team move it to implementation?
- 2 If the strategy has been implemented, how effective is it? If it is less effective than planned, can any adjustments be made? If it is successful, can the strategy be implemented more widely?

Natural systems and vulnerable populations

Natural systems provide vital services, such as clean water, flood abatement, recreation, and quality of life. Healthy and functional natural systems are the foundation for healthy, vibrant communities. Similarly, healthy and functional populations, including the most vulnerable populations, are also the foundation for vibrant communities. It will be important to regularly consider whether the strategies being implemented are supporting both of these important systems. Are any of the strategies causing stress to ecological function? To vulnerable populations? Are any vulnerable populations missing out on the benefits? Are there ways to improve implementation to better protect and enhance both vulnerable people and nature?



Some of the data used in your initial planning process may make it difficult to fully commit to a particular strategy. For instance, some models may predict that your planning area is likely to be drier while others may predict more precipitation. Over time, tracking actual precipitation patterns will help you determine the direction to take and conflict between models may be resolved.

As you adjust existing strategies and develop new ones, make sure you identify monitoring processes to help you track the success of those strategies just as you did in your initial planning process. And, as monitoring processes from the initial strategies become less relevant, be ready to change how you invest in the community's monitoring needs.

Maintain the public engagement aspects of the resilience program, paying special attention to people in positions that have significant responsibility for implementing the plan. Consider developing an ongoing program of training and equipping elected

officials, municipal department directors, and community leaders from other sectors with the knowledge and tools they need to successfully maintain and support the local climate resilience program.

It is critically important that innovators, like you and the Implementation Team, working at the community level share stories of success and failure so that others can learn and replicate or avoid strategies as needed. Stay connected with others like you and be courageous in sharing those great ideas that did not work out. Try to understand why something did not work so that you can know the lesson to share with others.

Finally, the costs associated with climate impacts are expected to be substantial and to rise over time. Therefore, investment now to reduce the cost of impacts later is very important. As you continually report back to your community, include an economic assessment of the money, property, and lives saved over time, when possible.



Ben Brennan, FEMA

TIP FOR SUCCESS

Be sure to monitor co-benefits as well, which can often bring in more support from businesses and the public than the climate resilience benefits of a particular strategy. This is especially true if those strategies create jobs, reduce social inequities, improve environmental conditions, and improve safety.