



CIRCA's Resilient Connecticut Project



About CIRCA

The Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) is a University of Connecticut research institute that brings together experts in the natural and social sciences, engineering, economics, finance, policy, and law to address climate impacts at a local and state level. The mission of CIRCA is to increase the resilience of communities vulnerable to the growing impacts of climate change.

CIRCA and our partners work together to help communities with topics of sea level rise, coastal and inland flooding, heat and wind vulnerability, critical infrastructure, living shorelines, and climate policy and planning.

More information on CIRCA projects can be found at circa.uconn.edu.

More information on Resilient Connecticut can be found at resilientconnecticut.uconn.edu.

What is Resilient Connecticut?

CIRCA, along with state agencies, regional Councils of Governments (COGs), and municipalities, initiated the Resilient Connecticut project in 2018. This project focuses on communities impacted by Superstorm Sandy in New Haven and Fairfield Counties. Activities include science-based risk assessments, community outreach, and pilot project designs. Products include maps, policy recommendations, and academic research. The goal of this work is to help decision makers prepare for changes in heat, flooding, and precipitation and advance planning for more resilient housing, transportation, and healthy communities. Resilient Connecticut has three phases:

1. Develop a Resilience Planning Framework.
2. Engage and collaborate with partners to develop resilience strategies, tools, and training.
3. Develop implementation plans for select pilot projects.

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Products for Resilience Planning

Importantly, Resilient Connecticut builds off existing planning efforts at the local and regional levels and uses CIRCA's climate research and tools for decision making. Many of these products will be used to create a Municipal Toolkit to help local and state agency staff. The Toolkit will help decision makers better understand climate vulnerabilities and how to plan for them.



Technical Tool Examples

data viewers • storm surge and wave height viewer for CT's coastal towns • story maps • social vulnerability index • vulnerability assessments for flood, sea level rise, and heat

Planning Tool Examples

stakeholder inventory • resilience planning checklist • model regulations for municipal resilience • case studies • mapped areas of climate risk • and zones of shared risk

(map image) Resilient Connecticut supports inland and coastal communities with planning that considers economic and transit-oriented development, conservation strategies, and critical infrastructure improvements.

Ways to Engage

CIRCA is using a variety of activities to help get the word out about this project. Attend one of our events, sign-up to receive our monthly Resilience Roundup newsletter, and follow us on social media.

Share information about vulnerable areas in the region where you live and work. Is there flooding that happens frequently around a train station, over roadways, or along evacuation routes? Are there

critical facilities that are important to protect like a wastewater treatment plant or power station? To help CIRCA identify projects that benefit both regional and local needs, tell us your thoughts.

- What are the ways climate change is impacting your community?
- What actions do you think would help to make your community and the region stronger and more resilient to these impacts?

Visit our website to provide general comments or provide feedback (form on home page), sign up for the Resilience Roundup newsletter, follow us on social media, and more.

resilientconnecticut.uconn.edu



Funding for this project is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Community Block Grant National Disaster Recovery Program, as administered by the Connecticut Department of Housing.