Assessing Climate Change Readiness in Your Community

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Do you know your community’s climate?

- Becoming familiar with your community’s climate is the first step in assessing your climate readiness
  - Does your community experience drought?
    - If so, what’s the worst drought that has ever occurred there?
  - What is the 100-year, 24-hour storm for your location?
    - How frequent have these storms happened in recent years?
  - Does your community experience lake-effect snow?
    - If so, what’s the most intense lake-effect snow you have received?
  - Does your community experience heat waves?
    - If so, what’s the worst heat wave that has ever occurred?

How do these climate events impact your community?

- During a drought, is your water supply secure?
- How does drought affect your city infrastructure?
- Are your stormwater pipes able to handle the 100-year, 24-hour storm? A 100-year, 2-hour storm?
- What level of heat wave intensity severely stresses your community?
- During a heat wave, what citizens are stressed the most? (the elderly?, those without A/C?)

Climate Impacts

- Communities have and always will be impacted by weather and climate
  - i.e., extreme rainfall events, drought, intense heat wave, etc.
Future Climate

- Climatologists and other scientists have found that the climate in the Midwest may be shifting
  - Changes may include...
    - More frequent extreme storm events, increasing temperatures, reduced ice cover, or greater wind speeds

Question...

What do these changes mean for our communities when for decades we have been planning, making decisions, and building infrastructure based on a stable climate?

Climate Change Adaptation

- IPCC 2007 definition:
  - Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities
- In simpler words...
  - Help people prepare for the effects of climate change, either by minimizing negative impacts or taking advantage of potential opportunities
  - Risk management
  - Increasing resilience

A Self-Assessment to Address Climate Change Readiness

- Simple and inexpensive method to review their community’s potential vulnerabilities to climate trends
- A way to begin the conversation of how and when to incorporate these trends into planning and projects within our communities
A Self-Assessment to Address Climate Change Readiness

**Categories:**
- Critical infrastructure flooding readiness
- Critical facilities flooding readiness
- Built Environment and Infrastructure
- Operations and Maintenance
- Water Resources
- Ecosystem and habitats
- Tourism and Recreation
- Business Plans and Equipment
- Community Plans

**Process for Self-Assessment**
- Complete to the best of your knowledge
  - If you can’t fill out all of the categories, that is okay
- Find someone who can fill in the category you can’t
- Other recommendations...
  - Have more than one department complete the section(s) that best fit their knowledge area
  - Have various departments complete all sections
- **Send the completed self-assessment to me**
  - mollyw@illinois.edu
  - 2204 Griffith Drive, Champaign, Illinois 61820

**My Role in Self-Assessment Process**
- Review the Climate Readiness Assessment specific to your community
- Provide suggestions for goals and strategies over next year for your community to consider
- Continue to work with your community in providing education and information on climate impacts and adaptation
- Suggest potential funding sources as they become available
- Make this process easier for you!!
Thank you for listening!

Questions??