



# Adaptation Framework

- Montgomery County is already experiencing the effects of climate change.
- To promote resilience comprehensively, the County must put a “climate change lens” over hazard mitigation, natural resource management, human health plans and other responsibilities.
- The adaptation recommendations follow a dual path of acting today based on the best information available, while developing better assessments and plans for future impacts,
- Focus is on the most vulnerable people and communities.
- Recommendations build on existing hazard mitigation and other planning and operations already underway.
- Some County plans and operations will require modifications and, in some cases, extensions, to respond to more significant and variable climate-driven hazards and to integrate climate adaptation deeper into County activities.

# Getting to Resilience: The big picture

- Prioritize the most vulnerable
- Prepare for hotter summers
- Build resilience to more intense rain and wind storms
- Protect public health (vector borne, water borne, food, heat, mold, auto accidents....)
- Protect drinking water supplies
- Protect and enhance our natural resources and agriculture
- Leverage the economy; finance and incentivize adaptation
- Educate and inform
- Update county codes, strategies, operations, data

# *1. Protect the most vulnerable*

1.1 Adopt strategies and actions that focus on building resilience for vulnerable communities.

- incl. community engagement, proximity of services, landlord incentives and requirements, avoid causing further inequities

1.2. Focus on reducing health risks exacerbated by climate

## 2. *Extreme Temperature*

2.1 Monitor, model, and target hot areas

2.2 Cool and energy efficient building standards  
i.e., cool materials, green roofs, etc.

2.3 Urban canopy, green corridors, streetscaping

2.4 Private sector landscaping to expand shade and reduce urban heat islands.

2.5 Community-based resilience

## *3. Flood and wind*

3.1 Improve hydrological analysis of wet weather and storms; overlay with trends in land use/land cover change.

3.2 Adopt aggressive requirements for all new development.

3.3 Retrofit existing homes and buildings to protective standards.

3.4 Comprehensive review of transportation infrastructure, dams, and other public utilities

## *4. Public health threats*

4.1 Integrate climate risks into County HHS, hazard mitigation, and emergency response operations

4.2 Food, water and vector borne disease

4.3 Heat & flood related (Asthma, heart attacks, mental health...)

4.4 Motor vehicle accidents and drowning

4.5 Public outreach on managing health risk of climate change

## *5. Drinking water supplies*

5.1 Long-term water supply and demand strategies

5.2 Water quality protection strategies

5.3 Actions that recognize the interdependency between water, energy, and other strategies.

## *6. Natural resources and agriculture*

- 6.1 Conserve, expand, and connect natural and protected areas.
- 6.2 Restore degraded habitat and enhance suburban habitat.
- 6.3 Manage invasive and nonnative species.
- 6.4 Reduce non-climate stressors on native species and ecosystems.
- 6.5 Promote climate resilient agricultural practices.

## *7. Economy and financing*

7.1 Business and development: minimizing disruption and maximizing opportunities.

7.2 Financing adaptation.

7.3 Incentivizing adaptation.

## *8. Public and multi-jurisdictional engagement*

8.1 Build awareness about the County's actions on hazard mitigation and adaptation.

8.2 Inform the public how they can protect their own families and homes

8.3 Engage the business community about the potential impacts and opportunities

8.4 Coordinate other jurisdictions

## *9. County operations, strategies, and codes*

9-1. Create a common set of scenarios using moderate to high GHG projections.

9-2. Conduct a bottom-up evaluation of county departments, operations and facilities and update county codes, operations, and services.

9-3. **Implement and Improve** the County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

9-4. Revise county codes, operations, and services that incorporate consideration of impacts of climate change.

9-5. Update data, information, and monitoring to inform risk assessments.