

## Resilience Linkage – Overview

### Comp Plan Implementation Element

This section provides background and an overview of new resilience policy that was integrated, for the first time, as a new cross-cutting framework as part of the second amendment cycle to the District's 2006 Comprehensive Plan. The resilience policies and actions take a broad approach and address not only environmental stresses and shocks, but economic and social as well. OP developed the resilience policies and actions in coordination with other key agency partners and through input from residents. OP also ensured that the new language aligned with the District's various resilience related plans and initiatives.

During the course of the amendment process it was determined that it would be most impactful to include resilience throughout the Comprehensive Plan as part of multiple Citywide and Area Elements instead of as a stand along chapter. The Framework Element introduces the concept of resilience for Washington, DC and the importance of integrating it into the Comp Plan to help the District become a more resilient city.

The vision of a resilient Washington, DC has evolved over time and will continue to do so as the District's key challenges, and opportunities to address them, are better understood. The following objectives were created to help guide the creation of resilience policies and actions for the Comp Plan and to communicate the expected outcomes from their implementation.

#### A Resilient DC Will:

1. **Address the Diversity of Stresses and Shocks.** The District will address a large universe of chronic stresses and acute shocks related to resilience. More importantly, resilience should focus on the adverse effects of shocks or stresses in addition to the specific causes and the ability to quickly recover from these challenges. These effects may include threats to human health and safety, physical damage, service interruption, social inequity, economic loss or environmental degradation.
2. **Recognize and Maximize the Co-Benefits of Resilience Policies and Actions.** Resilience is intertwined with all aspects of community planning and development, providing many mutually beneficial opportunities to advance other policy objectives. Thus, the District will seek to develop and implement multi-objective strategies that produce additional social, economic or environmental benefits and demonstrate public value in ways that extend beyond resilience.
3. **Be Flexible and Opportunistic.** Resilience policies and actions should minimize or eliminate risk to stresses and shock in a continuous and adaptive manner, while also leveraging any foreseeable opportunities to do so during and/or following an episodic event. The District will seek innovative policy and engineering solutions for our current and future challenges.
4. **Address and Promote Equity.** Stresses and shocks disproportionately impact vulnerable populations including racial and ethnic minorities, lower income residents, older residents, people

with health challenges or disabilities, and others who also have special or functional needs. Thus, all resilience policies or actions should ensure that any disparities or inequities among different groups of people are mitigated.

5. **Empower the Community to be Resilient to Identified Hazard Threats.** The District takes a “whole community” approach to disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. This requires understanding and meeting the actual needs of the whole District of Columbia, engaging and empowering all parts of the community, and developing the community’s strengths to foster a culture of resilience.
6. **Address Current and Potential Future Impacts from Climate Change.** The District’s approach to resilience must address the need to prepare and adapt to climate change. These impacts include rising temperatures and anticipated increases in the frequency and severity of impacts from extreme heat, rainfall and flooding, and sea level rise and storm surge. The District should continually evaluate the latest climate science and adapt its plans accordingly.
7. **Protect Cultural and Historic Assets and Landscapes.** As a city with a rich heritage going back more than 225 years, and as the Nation’s Capital, Washington, DC is a city of historic and cultural significance. The resilience of national historic structures and local places is important to not only preserve these assets for their cultural legacy but also to protect from acute shocks and recognize their importance to the economy of the District.
8. **Address Social and Economic Infrastructure.** Community resilience addresses not only physical infrastructure whether it be public or private, but also equity and access issues related to social and economic infrastructure, including education, social services, public health, and job diversification and employment opportunities.
9. **Create Redundant and Reliable Systems.** the District of Columbia is a historic city with both aging infrastructure and newly constructed infrastructure. Whether old or new, redundancy and reliability is critical to infrastructure’s long-term resilience, including the capacity to withstand and quickly recover from acute shocks.
10. **Expand Partnerships to Address Complex Problems and Resolve Interconnected Issues.** To be resilient, the District needs to address not only public sector infrastructure and services, but also collaboration with the business community, non-profit organizations, neighborhood groups and other civic organizations, and adjacent communities. Since stresses and shocks impact all parts of the city and multiple jurisdictions across a large metropolitan region, the District government will continue collaborating across agencies in the development and integration of holistic and long-term solutions. The District remains committed to effective governance and leadership, inter- and intra-governmental coordination, and cross-cutting strategies to address the identified chronic stresses and acute shocks. The District also commits to its ongoing engagement with the community’s diverse set of stakeholders to prepare and plan for, respond to, recover from, and more successfully adapt to such conditions or incidents.

The new resilience policies and actions in multiple Citywide and Area Elements of the Comp Plan are organized around the following overarching themes and topics:

- **Built and Natural Environment**
  - Housing
  - Infrastructure
  - Transportation
  - Natural Environment
  - Historic and Cultural Resources
  
- **Community Resilience**
  - Health and Equity
  - Community Engagement
  - Economy
  
- **Leadership and Strategy**
  - Governance
  - Stakeholder Collaboration and Public-Private Partnerships

*Refer to the Citywide and Area Elements for the new resilience policies and actions. The resilience actions are also included within a separate table along with all of the other Comp Plan actions as part of the Implementation Element.*