

Identifying Mitigation Projects for the City's All-Hazard Mitigation Plan



Q: What is a mitigation action?

A: A mitigation action is a project, plan or policy that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their impacts. Actions that you identify should either be led by your agency/organization, or actions that you are working on in collaboration with other partners.

There are several types of mitigation actions identified in the Hazard Mitigation Plan:

Local Plans and Regulations: These actions include plans, ordinances, policies, and regulations that influence the way land and buildings are built and developed.

Structure and Infrastructure Projects: These actions involve modifying existing structures and infrastructure to protect them from a hazard or remove them from a hazard area. This could apply to public or private structures as well as crucial facilities and infrastructure. This type of action also includes the construction of manmade structures to reduce impacts to hazards.

Natural Systems Protection: These actions aim to minimize damage and losses by preserving or restoring the functions of natural systems.

Education and Awareness Programs: These are actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them.

Q: What makes a good mitigation action?

A: Some factors to think about when identifying good mitigation actions include:

- **Hazard Risk Reduction:** The project should reduce risk to one or more hazards identified in the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- **Feasibility:** The action can be reasonably accomplished within the next 5-10 years.
- **Effectiveness:** The action has a proven ability to reduce risk to one or more hazards identified in the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The implementation of this action will not inadvertently increase hazard risk in other areas.
- **Equity:** Considers the whole community, with a focus on reducing risk to populations disproportionately impacted by disasters in Philadelphia.
- **Critical facilities, infrastructure & systems:** Mitigation actions that reduce risk to critical facilities, infrastructure or systems are more competitive for certain mitigation grants
- **Future Conditions:** Mitigation actions should consider future climate conditions whenever possible and should aim to reduce both current and future hazard risk whenever relevant.



Questions? If you are unsure whether a project qualifies as a good mitigation action, please do not hesitate to reach out to OEM's Hazard Mitigation Program at Emma.Giardina@phila.gov and Noah.Palau@phila.gov.

Q: Why include your mitigation actions in the plan?

A: Raise awareness and generate buy-in

The plan showcases what we are already doing as a City to reduce hazard risk, but it also provides us with the opportunity to feature “wish-list” items. These are mitigation projects that we’d like to implement as a City if we have the proper funding, buy-in and resources. Including your project in this plan raises awareness with City Council, City leadership, State and Federal partners, and even private partners, which could potentially help generate more buy-in and open opportunities for collaboration.

Funding Opportunities

Projects included in the hazard mitigation plan are *potentially* eligible for FEMA’s post-disaster and pre-disaster mitigation funding opportunities such as BRIC, FMA and HMGP. Please reach out to OEM for more details on specific eligibility requirements for these grant opportunities

Partnership Opportunities

The hazard mitigation planning process includes a wide array of stakeholders. Being involved in the planning process and identifying mitigation actions may open you up to opportunities for partnerships and collaboration where goals and objectives align.

Q: How do I get a project featured in the Hazard Mitigation Plan?

A: Any entity located in the City of Philadelphia can submit a potential mitigation action as long as the project meets the criteria described above, and the entity submitting the project can demonstrate a capacity and has the authority to lead the project.

To submit a potential mitigation action to the City’s Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee, please reach out to OEM’s Hazard Mitigation Program at Emma.Giardina@phila.gov and Noah.Palau@phila.gov. The City’s Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee reviews potential projects two times a year and votes on whether projects meet citywide goals and objectives as identified in the plan. For more information on project selection and prioritization selection criteria, see *Section 6.3: Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Techniques* of the [plan](#).

Projects will be added to the City’s All-Hazard Mitigation Plan through a plan amendment after review and approval from the City’s Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Partners with projects in the plan are expected to remain an active participant in Hazard Mitigation Plan updates and annual reviews.

Other Available Resources

[Mitigation Action Portfolio](#), FEMA, 2020

[Mitigation Ideas](#), FEMA, 2013

[Building Community Resilience with Nature-Based Solutions](#), June 2021

[Floodplain Management and Mitigation Success Stories in Pennsylvania](#)