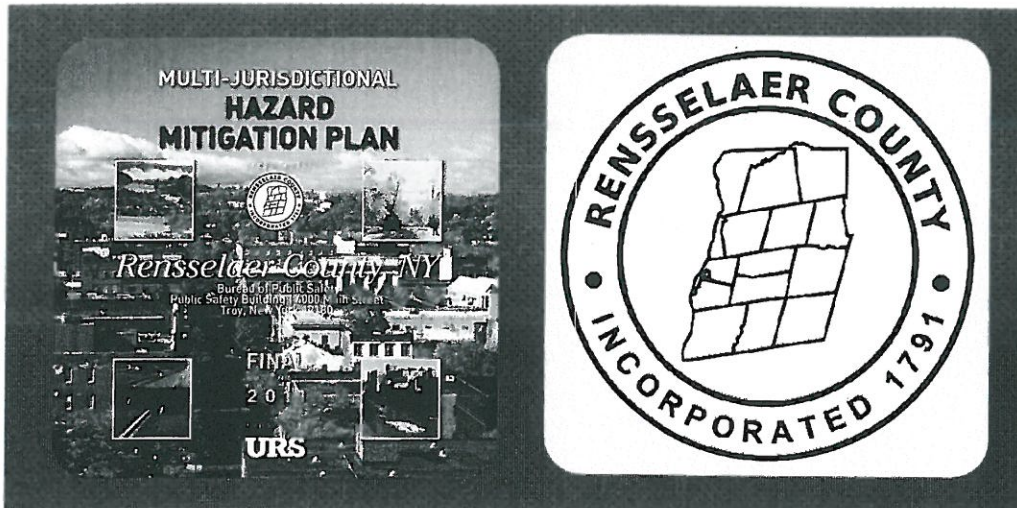


# Rensselaer County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update



Natural hazards are a part of life throughout Rensselaer County. All of these hazard events have the potential to cause property loss, economic hardship, environmental degradation, and threats to public health and safety including loss of life. An important part of emergency management involves **hazard mitigation**

**planning** aimed at minimizing these impacts and improving resiliency. The Plan describes the hazard risks that can occur, identifies vulnerable community assets, and presents mitigation strategies comprised of actions and projects that will be implemented to reduce key hazard risks.

## Purpose and Need for the Plan

The **Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for Rensselaer County** was adopted in 2011 to meet the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (or "DMA 2000"). The Plan allows for potential future Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding opportunities for participating jurisdictions to implement hazard mitigation projects. Its development was led by the County, and planning costs were offset by a FEMA planning grant. The County opted to use what FEMA calls a "multi-jurisdictional" approach as a form of municipal shared service, meaning that instead of just being a plan for the County government, every municipality participated as an equal partner. As such, the plan includes information

for each municipality that has been adopted at the local level. The Plan also includes a capability assessment, risk assessment, mitigation strategies, and utilization and maintenance guide. To remain in compliance with DMA 2000, and maintain eligibility to apply for FEMA mitigation project funding, the plan must be updated regularly. The County has once again obtained FEMA grant funding for this first plan update. Representatives from each municipality and various stakeholder groups within the County, as well as the public, will have opportunities to attend meetings and provide feedback throughout the plan update process.

## For More Information

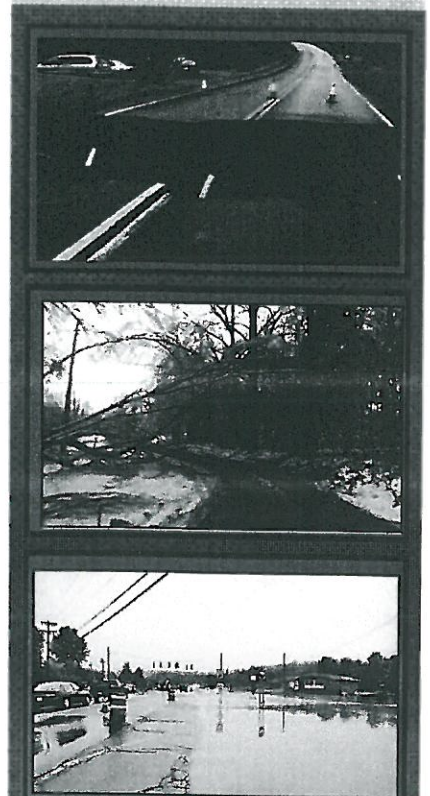
For questions or other feedback, or to find out how you can become involved, please contact Jay Wilson, Director, and Rensselaer County Bureau of Public Safety at 518-266-7676 or at [Jwilson@rensco.com](mailto:Jwilson@rensco.com).

Information is also available on our web site at: <http://www.rensco.com/departments/public-safety/hazard-mitigation-planning/>

## Planning Timeline

- The initial hazard mitigation plan was adopted in 2011
- Regular updates are required by FEMA
- The first plan update process began in October 2018 and is targeted for completion in 2019

**Natural hazard events cannot be prevented from occurring. However, by implementing the hazard mitigation projects identified in the Plan, we can reduce vulnerabilities, risks, and future damage. Over time, our hazards will result in fewer disasters.**





### LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

#### Hazard Mitigation Planning for Resilient Communities

Disasters can cause loss of life; damage buildings and infrastructure; and have devastating consequences for a community's economic, social, and environmental well-being. Hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. In other words, hazard mitigation keeps natural hazards from becoming natural disasters.

Hazard mitigation is best accomplished when based on a comprehensive, long-term plan developed before a disaster strikes. Mitigation planning is the process used by state, tribal, and local leaders to understand risks from natural hazards and develop long-term strategies that will reduce the impacts of future events on people, property, and the environment.

#### The Local Mitigation Planning Process

The mitigation plan is a community-driven, living document. The planning process itself is as important as the resulting plan because it encourages communities to integrate mitigation with day-to-day decision making regarding land use planning, floodplain management, site design, and other functions. Mitigation planning includes the following elements:

**Public Involvement** – Planning creates a way to solicit and consider input from diverse interests, and promotes discussion about creating a safer, more disaster-resilient community. Involving stakeholders is essential to building community-wide support for the plan. In addition to emergency managers, the planning process involves other government agencies, businesses, civic groups, environmental groups, and schools.

**Risk Assessment** – Mitigation plans identify the natural hazards and risks that can impact a community based on historical experience, estimate the potential frequency and magnitude of disasters, and assess potential losses to life and property. The risk assessment process provides a factual basis for the activities proposed in the mitigation strategy.

**Mitigation Strategy** – Based on public input, identified risks, and available capabilities, communities develop mitigation goals and objectives as part of a strategy for mitigating hazard-related losses. The strategy is a community's approach for implementing mitigation activities that are cost-effective, technically feasible, and environmentally sound as well as allowing strategic investment of limited resources.

#### Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, is intended to "reduce the loss of life and property, human suffering, economic disruption, and disaster assistance costs resulting from natural disasters."

Under this legislation, state, tribal, and local governments must develop a hazard mitigation plan as a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance through the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs. The regulatory requirements for local hazard mitigation plans can be found at Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations §201.6.

For more information about FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants, visit: [www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance](http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance).

At a Regular Meeting of  
the Town Board of the  
Town of North Greenbush  
held at 7:00 p.m. on December  
13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Town Offices

IN THE MATTER OF THE PARTICIPATION IN  
THE RENSSELAER COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL  
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN PROCESS

WHEREAS, the current Rensselaer County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) includes the Town of North Greenbush through which is eligible for potential pre and post hazard mitigation planning assistance and funding; and

WHEREAS, in order to continue to reduce hazard risks, strengthen community resiliency and remain eligible for potential FEMA mitigation project funding, the Town of North Greenbush Town Board hereby commits to participation in the development of the first update of the Rensselaer County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes Anthony J. Germano, Town Comptroller as the representative and David Keevern, Police Chief as the alternate to serve on the Rensselaer County HMP Core Planning Group to actively participate throughout the process and lead a municipal Jurisdictional Assessment Team tasked with carrying out local participation requirements and at the conclusion of the project when FEMA approves the updated plan, will by resolution formally adopt the final updated Multi-Jurisdictional HMP for submittal to FEMA by the Rensselaer County Bureau of Public Safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be provided to Rensselaer Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Rensselaer County Bureau of Public Safety.

Councilman <sup>uo</sup> Hoffman moved, Councilman Bott  
seconded and the Town Board voted as follows:

Councilwoman Sabo	<u>aye</u>
Councilman Bott	<u>aye</u>
Councilwoman Hoffman	<u>aye</u>
Councilman Spain	<u>aye</u>
Supervisor Desso	<u>aye</u>