

Appendix C

Community Engagement Plan

Community Engagement Plan

Albany County 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

DRAFT: January 26, 2024

1.1 Introduction

Note: Sections 1.1 through 1.10 were completed in the early stages of development of the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) Update. Section 1.11 was completed after engagement strategies had been carried out, near the end of the HMP Update.

Albany County is updating its current 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), which expired in 2023. The updated HMP will incorporate the new 2023 guidelines provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and New York State's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES), and will allow the County to remain eligible for future mitigation funding. The purpose of the HMP is to document the natural hazards that affect Albany County, and outline practical mitigation strategies that can be implemented to reduce the effects of such hazard events.

As part of this HMP update, Albany County has developed a Community Engagement Plan to detail the Project Team's approach to identifying key stakeholders, advancing public understanding of the project, encouraging and collecting stakeholder and public input to inform the direction of the HMP, and building a strong community commitment and engaged actors for implementation. Additionally, the Community Engagement Plan takes an equity approach, seeking to prioritize involvement strategies for people who are most vulnerable to the hazards identified in the HMP, as well as demographics who have historically been excluded from public engagement processes.

This Engagement Plan serves as an internal guidance document for identifying required and suggested opportunities for engagement activities and methods of engagement for the duration of the HMP update. This document is envisioned as a working draft that will be continuously updated as the hazard mitigation planning process advances.

1.2 Goals

The Community Engagement Plan is guided by three main goals:

1. Inform key stakeholders, vulnerable populations, and the general public about the HMP update.
2. Effectively solicit and consider public and stakeholder input, providing community members with avenues for meaningfully contributing to the HMP update, including the mitigation strategy.
3. Ensure that people who are most vulnerable to hazards have a substantial voice in the development of the HMP update.

1.3 Core Participants

Core participants in the HMP include the project team and a few additional key stakeholders. The project team consists of the Executive Steering Committee; Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C.; and Highland Planning LLC.

1.3.1 Executive Steering Committee

The Executive Steering Committee, in consultation with Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. and Highland Planning LLC, will take the lead on the development of the Albany County HMP update.

The Executive Steering Committee consists of staff from several County departments and representatives from DHSES. The Executive Steering Committee will meet monthly during the hazard mitigation planning process. These meetings will primarily be used to provide updates on the status of the HMP, discuss strategies for meetings and public outreach, and to assess gaps in data and information that may be provided by other County departments. Members of the Executive Steering Committee and their affiliations are included in Table 1, along with additional Key Stakeholders.

Table 1. Executive Steering Committee

Name	Position	Planning Participant
Patrick Curran	Climate Policy Analyst, Office of the County Executive	Executive Steering Committee
Christina Rust	Health and Mental Health Policy Analyst, Office of the County Executive	Executive Steering Committee
Brian Wood	Emergency Management, Albany County Sheriff's Office	Executive Steering Committee
David Poole	Albany County Sheriff's Office	Executive Steering Committee
Beth O'Reilly	NYS DHSES Planning Manager	Executive Steering Committee
Kevin Clapp	NYS DHSES Supervisor	Executive Steering Committee
Brent Meredith	Highway Superintendent	Executive Steering Committee
Scott Duncan	Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Works	Executive Steering Committee, Key Stakeholder

1.3.2 Key Stakeholders

Key Stakeholders will serve in an advisory role and will be responsible for offering project guidance and local community knowledge throughout the planning process in addition to promoting public input opportunities. Key Stakeholders will meet on an as-needed basis during the development of the HMP update.

Table 2. Key Stakeholders

Name	Position	Planning Participant
Scott Duncan	Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Works	Executive Steering Committee, Key Stakeholder
Tricia Bulatao	Director for Public Health Emergency Preparedness	Key Stakeholder
Erin Stachewicz	Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services	Key Stakeholder
Angelo Gaudio	Commissioner, Water Purification District	Key Stakeholder
Justin Atlas	Commissioner, Department of Parks and Recreation	Key Stakeholder
Susan Lewis	Executive Director, Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District	Key Stakeholder

1.3.3 Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C.

Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. (B&L) is a multidisciplinary consulting firm providing technical services to public and private clients. B&L has assisted communities across New York State with the creation of and updates to their HMPs, including Albany County's HMP in 2018. B&L will assist the County with the entire HMP update process, including community engagement strategies.

1.3.4 Highland Planning LLC

Highland Planning LLC (Highland Planning) is a consulting firm that specializes in public engagement and outreach, socio-economic and demographic analysis, and research and program management, among other practice areas. Highland Planning will assist in interviewing municipalities and developing jurisdictional annexes for the HMP update. They will also participate in Executive Steering Committee meetings as necessary, and assist with the development of select plan components.

1.4 Vulnerable Populations

Natural hazards do not equally impact everyone within a population; certain groups are more vulnerable to these hazards than others. Various socio-economic factors, such as income, housing, and education levels, can contribute to increased vulnerability, which can reduce communities' ability to adapt to such impacts. With this in mind, the Project Team seeks to prioritize involvement strategies for people who are most vulnerable to the hazards identified in the HMP, as well as demographics who have historically been excluded from public engagement processes.

Table 3 and Table 4 shows some populations in Albany County who may be more vulnerable to hazards. Additionally, Figure 1 displays an At Risk Population Profile for Albany County in visual form, and Figure 2, Figure 3, and Figure 4 show the geographic

locations of vulnerable populations. Notably, 43.5% of households in the County are renters, and 32% of Albany's population are people of color. Additionally, Albany County has a daytime population (382,029) that is larger than the residential population (315,038), signifying a significant number of commuters entering the County. Other vulnerable populations include but are not limited to: pregnant persons and people with pre-existing medical conditions. Geographically, vulnerable populations are most commonly found in the City of Albany, with some in Menands, Watervliet, Green Island, Cohoes, Colonie, Guilderland, and Bethlehem as well.

Outreach to members of these vulnerable populations will be essential in ensuring that the HMP is equitable in its efforts to protect Albany County residents from natural hazards. It is also a step towards addressing the marginalization of some of these communities, and has the power to create community buy-in for mitigation actions. With this in mind, heightened focus will be provided for vulnerable populations within Albany County. In addition, care will be taken to ensure that feedback from these communities is incorporated into the HMP and informs the mitigation strategy; that engagement strategies are accessible to vulnerable populations where practical; and that engagement with these communities continues after the HMP is developed. A plan for engaging vulnerable populations is described below in Section 1.5.

Table 3. Select hazard vulnerability indicators in Albany County

Population	Examples of Vulnerability*	Percentage
Renter Households	Lack of agency over home maintenance, preference of recovery funds towards homeowners, threat of eviction from damaged homes, rate increases after disaster, under-insured	43.5%
Persons of Color	Historically forced to live in areas with outdated infrastructure, discrimination in healthcare access, income disparities	32.0%
Youth (<18 years)	Impacts to physical and mental health, less access to nutritional resources, disruptions to education, increased exposure to violence	17.5%
Persons Aged 65+	Increased vulnerability to temperature, lower immunity, limited mobility, pre-existing conditions	16.9%
Persons with a Disability	Transportation barriers, health conditions which increase vulnerability to heat/cold, legal barriers to accumulating savings	13.8%
Households below Poverty Line	Live in locations with higher risk of natural hazards, harder to afford home improvements	12.5%
Households without Vehicle	Reduced ability to evacuate or obtain critical supplies	12.5%
Households without Internet Subscription	Reduced access to preparedness information and notifications, reduced access to disaster aid, barriers to economic activity using Internet	8.9%
Persons who do not Speak English Well	Communication barriers before and during disasters	4.8%
Persons without Health Insurance	Less able to get medical care during/after disasters	3.5%

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau (2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, 2020 Decennial Census Redistricting Data, 2022 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, 2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables)

*These examples do not necessarily apply to everyone in a given population.

Table 4. Municipalities with Vulnerable Communities

Municipality	Indicator*
Albany (City)	CEJST (13 census tracts) DAC (15 census tracts) PEJA (44 census block groups) High SoV (9 census tracts)
Bethlehem (Town)	DAC (1 census tract)
Cohoes (City)	CEJST (2 census tracts) DAC (3 census tracts) PEJA (3 census block groups) High SoV (1 census tract)
Colonie (Town)	PEJA (3 census block groups)
Green Island (Village/Town)	DAC (1 census tract)
Guilderland (Town)	PEJA (1 census block group)
Menands (Village)	DAC (1 census tract) PEJA (1 census block group)
Watervliet (City)	CEJST (1 census tract) DAC (3 census tracts) PEJA (4 census block groups)

*These indicators are explained below:

- CJEST – [CJEST Disadvantaged Communities](#) - disadvantaged census tracts identified through the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) that meet thresholds for at least one category of burden (climate change, energy, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, water and wastewater, workforce development) or are within boundaries of Federally Recognized Tribes. Federal metric.
- DAC – [NYS Disadvantaged Communities](#) - census tracts identified by the NYS Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) Climate Justice Working Group, using 45 indicators. Indicators include environmental burdens, climate risk, population characteristics, and health vulnerabilities. New York State metric.
- PEJA – [Potential Environmental Justice Areas](#) – census block groups with over a certain percentage of people of color and/or low-income residents. New York State metric.

- High SoV – [High Social Vulnerability](#) – the 10 census tracts in Albany County with the highest scores on the CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index, out of 85 total census tracts. The Social Vulnerability Index depicts vulnerabilities to hazard events, calculated based on Socioeconomic Status, Household Characteristics, Racial and Ethnic Minority Status, and Housing Type/Transportation. Federal metric.

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Figure 1. At Risk Population Profile for Albany County

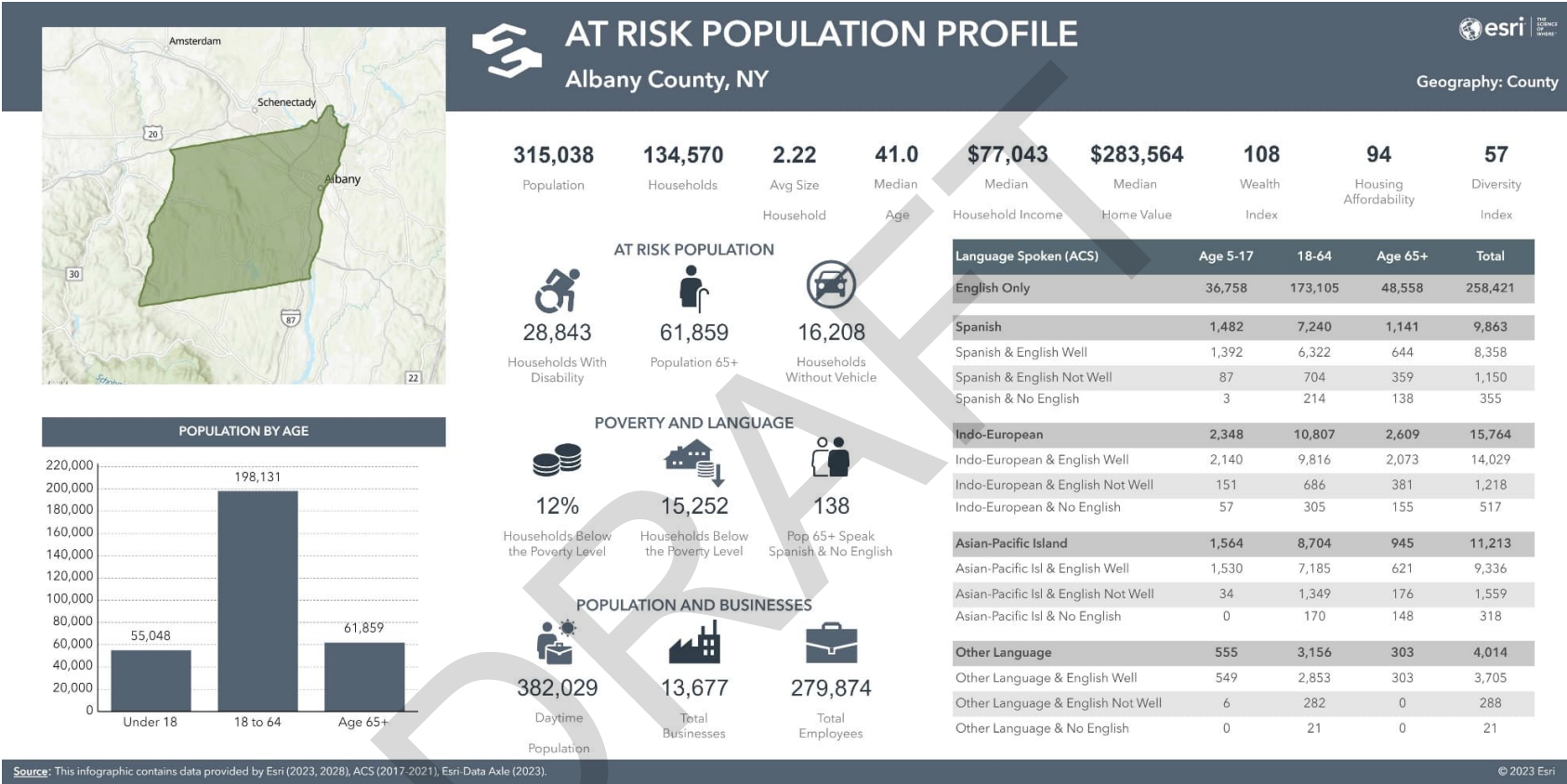


Figure 2. Disadvantaged Communities and Potential Environmental Justice Areas in Albany County

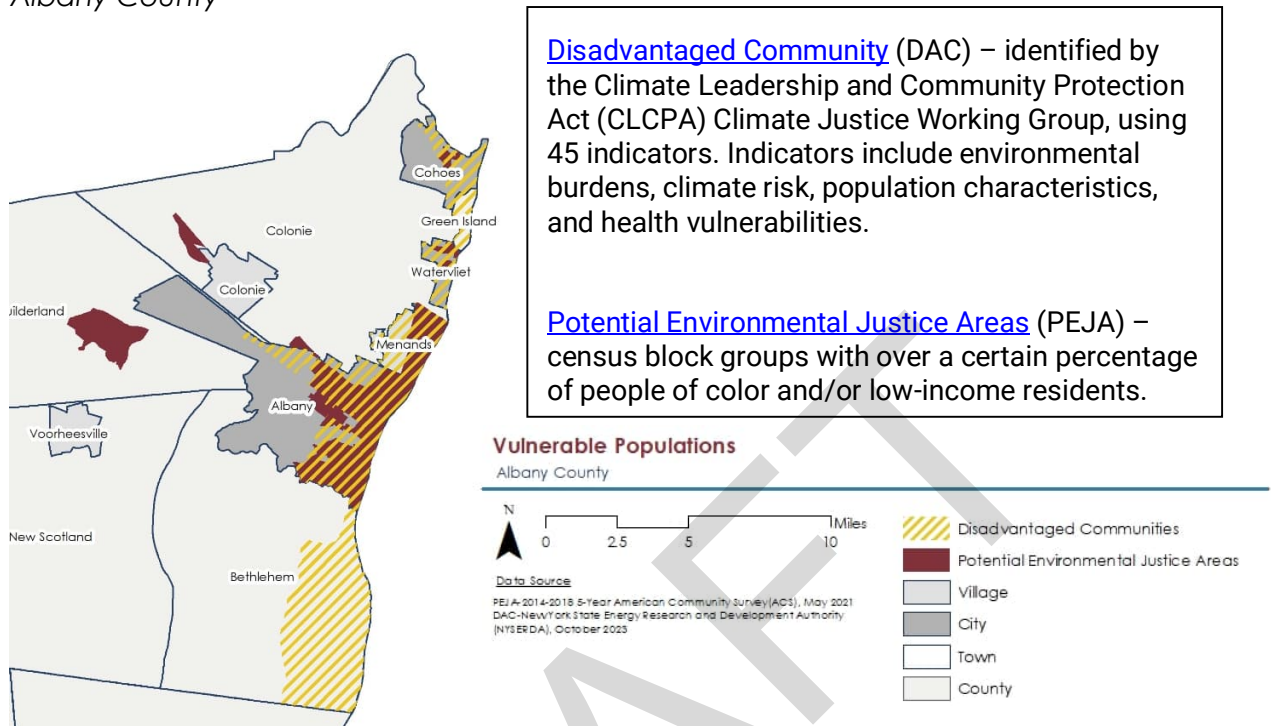
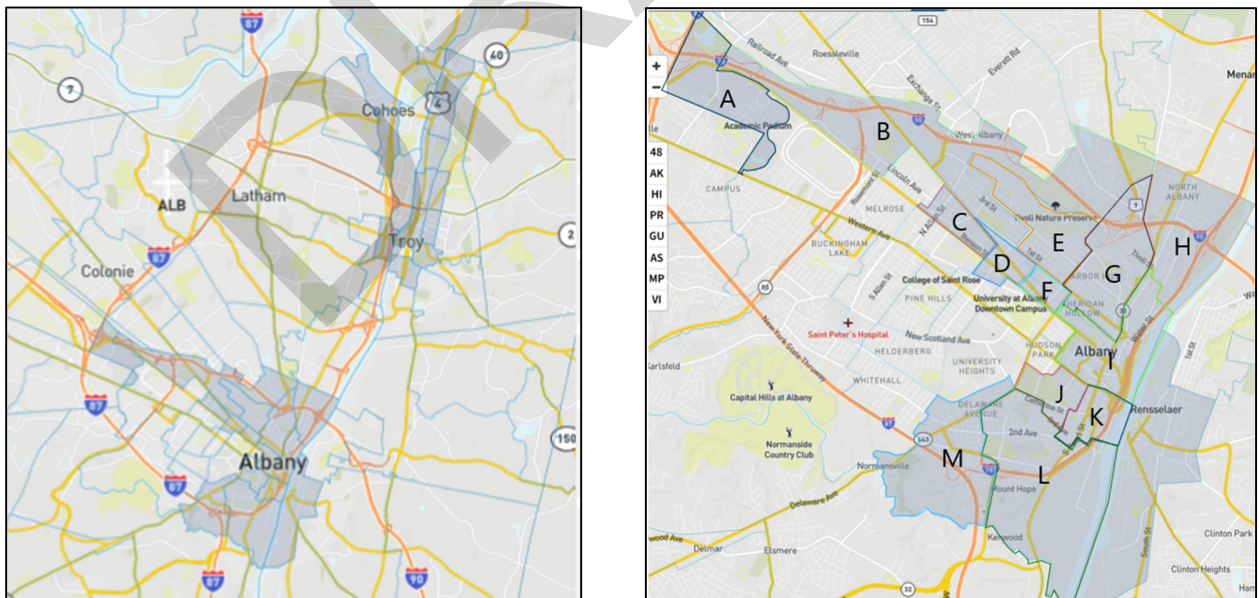
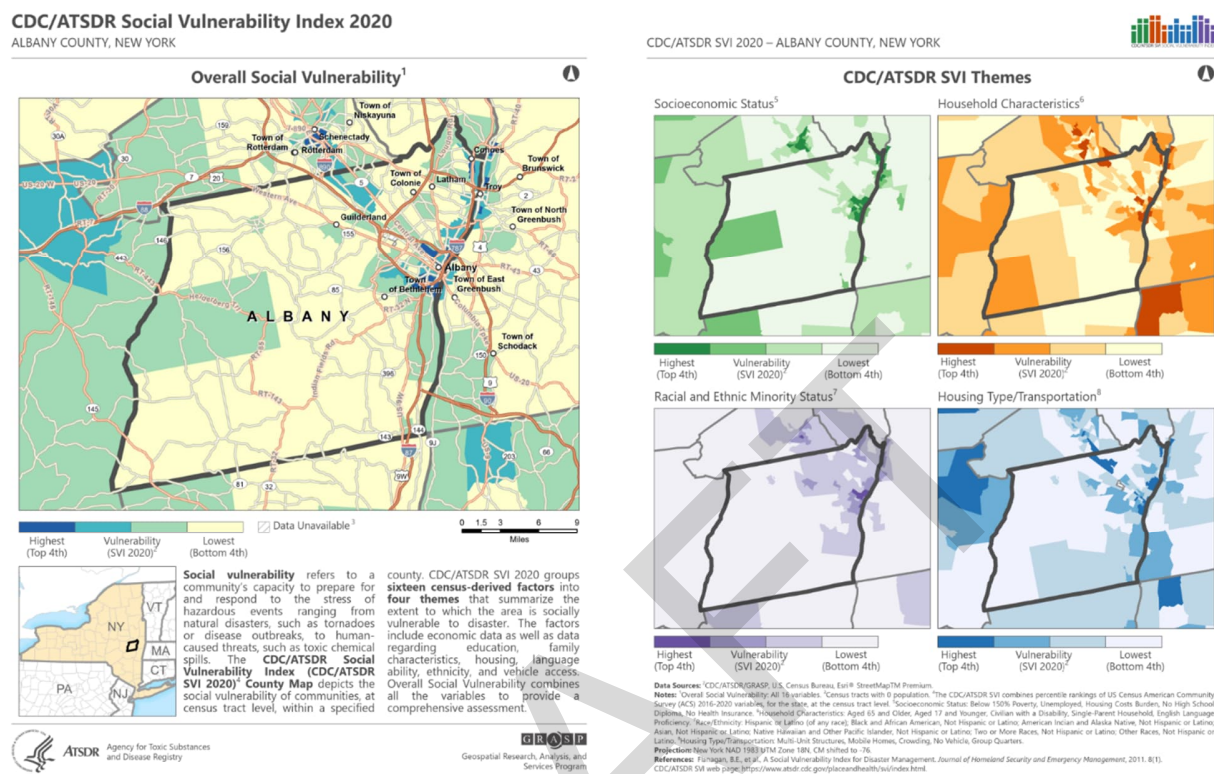


Figure 3. Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) Disadvantaged Communities in Albany County (left) and City of Albany (right)



CEJST Disadvantaged Communities are shaded in blue above. On the right-hand side, each letter indicates a separate Disadvantaged Community.

Figure 4. CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index 2020



Data Source:

https://svi.cdc.gov/Documents/CountyMaps/2020/New%20York/NewYork2020_Albany.pdf

The Social Vulnerability Index depicts vulnerabilities to hazard events, calculated based on multiple census variables. These variables are grouped into Socioeconomic Status, Household Characteristics, Racial and Ethnic Minority Status, and Housing Type/Transportation.

1.5 Engaging with Key Stakeholders and Groups

In an effort to solicit input from a diverse pool of stakeholders and community members, Albany County has identified several stakeholders and groups that will be actively engaged in the hazard mitigation planning process, as listed below.

Table 5. Key Stakeholders and Engagement Strategies

Category	Notes for Executive Steering Committee	Who Will Be Engaged	Planned Engagement Strategies
Jurisdictional representatives	Required.	Elected officials and staff members from the 18 municipalities plus Albany County	• Kickoff meetings (2) with elected officials • Jurisdictional interviews • Executive Steering Committee meetings (for Albany County officials)
Local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities	Required. Examples: public works, emergency management, local floodplain administration and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) departments.	• Highway Superintendent • Department of Public Works • Sheriff's Office (including Emergency Management) • Department of Health • Water Purification District • Department of Parks and Recreation • Soil & Water Conservation District • Municipal officials and staff	• Membership in Executive Steering Committee or invitation to select meeting(s) of the committee
Agencies that have the authority to regulate development	Required. Examples: zoning, planning, community and economic development departments; building officials; planning commissions; or other elected officials.	TBD (see Section 3.3 in main body of the HMP)	• Invitation to select Executive Steering Committee meeting(s)

Category	Notes for Executive Steering Committee	Who Will Be Engaged	Planned Engagement Strategies
Neighboring communities	Required. Examples: adjacent local governments, including special districts, such as those that are affected by similar hazard events or may share a mitigation action or project that crosses boundaries. Neighboring communities may be partners in hazard mitigation and response activities, or may be where critical assets, such as dams, are located.	TBD (see Section 3.3 in main body of the HMP)	Neighboring Communities Survey
Businesses and other private interests	Required. Examples: private utilities, major employers that sustain community lifelines, chambers of commerce, dam owners	TBD (see Section 3.3 in main body of the HMP)	Invitation to Public Information Meetings
Academia	Required. Examples: Colleges/Universities	TBD (see Section 3.3 in main body of the HMP)	Invitation to Public Information Meetings
Nonprofits/ community-based organizations that work with vulnerable communities	Required. Examples: housing, healthcare, disability or social service agencies, faith-based organizations, NGOs, housing advocacy groups, neighborhood associations.	- Department of Social Services - Health and Mental Health Policy Analyst (Executive Steering Committee member)	- Invitation to select Executive Steering Committee meeting(s) - Provision of Focus Group Materials (if requested)

Category	Notes for Executive Steering Committee	Who Will Be Engaged	Planned Engagement Strategies
Underserved communities & vulnerable populations	Required. Examples: specific neighborhoods or census tracts (see above), renters, people of color, older adults, people with disabilities, low-income residents, households without a vehicle, non-English speaking residents, no health insurance. Outreach and engagement efforts should respond to specific needs of these communities. (Requirement A3)	TBD (see Section 3.3 in main body of the HMP)	Led by B&L: - Community Survey - Public Information Meetings Led by Executive Steering Committee as resources permit: - Focus groups led by organizations that serve vulnerable populations (B&L can provide questions as necessary) - Attend neighborhood or church meetings - Special events in neighborhoods with vulnerable communities - Partner with organizations to publicize survey & meetings - Partner with college/university/high school to further define, locate, and reach at-risk groups; develop communication strategies; and partner with community groups to further mitigate hazards. - Add a mitigation action to conduct future research & outreach

Category	Notes for Executive Steering Committee	Who Will Be Engaged	Planned Engagement Strategies
Populations without computer or internet access	Required. Examples: - Printed copies of draft plan, comment cards, and/or survey in key locations - Utility bills include info on how to access survey & draft plan - Send materials directly to residents in areas with little internet access (e.g. plan summary, meeting invitation, comment card) (Requirement H4)	TBD (see Section 3.3 in main body of the HMP)	• Community Survey • Public Information Meetings • Print draft plan and survey and place in key locations, such as local libraries (See Section 1.6) • In-person public meeting • Printed flyers placed in libraries, popular coffee shops, or other gathering places
The general public (including the populations above)	Required. The public must be involved during the drafting stage and prior to plan approval. The plan must document how public feedback was included. There are additional requirements for posting and getting feedback on the draft plan. (Requirement H4)	General public	• Community Survey • Public Information Meetings
Community Lifelines	Recommended. “The most fundamental services in the community that, when stabilized, enable all other aspects of society to function.” Recommended by FEMA. Examples: • Safety and Security • Food, Water, Shelter • Health and Medical • Energy • Communications • Transportation • Hazardous Material	Executive Steering Committee members	Executive Steering Committee meetings

1.6 Additional Publicity

- **Press Release** – B&L's Project Team will be available to assist in press release development. The Executive Steering Committee will be responsible for revising and sending the press release to various media outlets.
- **Printed Engagement Options** – B&L will assist with the preparation of printed materials for engagement, where necessary to reach a broader audience. For example, B&L may prepare a printed survey if deemed necessary to reach those with limited computer or Internet access. The Executive Steering Committee will be responsible for distributing these printed materials, collecting feedback, and providing summaries to B&L (such as survey results).

1.7 Accessibility and Inclusion

Implementing accessibility strategies makes it easier for all populations to be involved in the planning process, especially vulnerable populations. Throughout the engagement process, the following accommodations will be considered and implemented as practical:

- **Plain Language** – All public-facing communications will aim to translate complex ideas into streamlined concepts that use audience-appropriate voice and vocabulary. A general rule of thumb for content directed at the general public is to utilize no higher than an 8th-grade writing level.
- **Readable Materials** – Where practical, materials related to the project will follow best practices for accessibility, such as using font that is clear and easy to read, and having high contrast colors and images.
- **Promotion of Accessibility** – Promotional materials for public events will include information about the accessibility services available.
- **Virtual Event Accessibility** – For virtual activities, platforms will be selected with accessibility in mind. For example, closed captions will be included for online meetings.
- **In-Person Event Accessibility** – For in-person public events, the following steps will be taken:
 - Meeting locations in areas with vulnerable populations will be prioritized, and at locations where those populations are comfortable going to. As feasible, the Project Team will consider multiple meetings in different locations to reach multiple vulnerable populations that are geographically diverse. For example, the team may hold one meeting in a more urban area and another meeting in a more rural area.
 - Physically accessible facilities located on routes with access to transit stops will be prioritized, where feasible.
 - Where feasible, the Project Team will consider meeting practices that make events more accessible, such as having food and water available, offering

activities for kids or even child care, and holding meetings on day(s) of the week and at time(s) of day when more people are available.

- An online as well as in-person attendance option for meetings will be considered where feasible.
- **Trust Building** – Where feasible, existing community partners that are trusted by vulnerable populations will promote and introduce events. This may make vulnerable populations more likely to be engaged.

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1.8 Incorporating Feedback

The project team will take the following steps to incorporate feedback into the plan:

1. Engage stakeholders and the public early in the process so that feedback can inform the mitigation strategy.
2. After each engagement effort, discuss how to incorporate feedback into the plan.
 - a) Incorporate feedback into the mitigation strategy where practical.
 - b) Where impractical to incorporate feedback into the mitigation strategy, discuss how feedback could be conveyed to other agencies or incorporated into other plans.
 - c) Consider including additional research as a mitigation strategy, where appropriate.
3. Include a summary of feedback in the main plan, and supporting documentation in the appendices.

1.9 Evaluation and Adjustments

Following each activity, the Project Team will evaluate the level of participation and the feedback received, such as the number of participants, number of questions and comments received, and whether the participants represented the targeted audience. Then, adjustments will be made accordingly for future activities and promotion of them.

1.10 Draft Schedule

	Lead	Task	Description	Stakeholder Group(s)	Format	Timeline
Kickoff Meeting with Elected Officials	B&L	Elected Officials Kickoff Meetings	The Project Team will hold two kickoff meetings with elected officials at the beginning of the HMP update process, to educate them about the hazard mitigation planning process and how their jurisdictions can participate.	Jurisdictional Representatives	Online	Sept 2023
Executive Steering Committee Meetings	Project Team	Monthly Meetings	The Executive Steering Committee members will be tasked with meeting monthly and collaborating to ensure that the HMP is meeting its goals, while also ensuring that the unique needs and objectives of their respective departments are being met.	County Representatives, Local and Regional Agencies, NYS DHSES, guests from other stakeholder groups	Online	Jan 2024 – July 2024
Community Engagement Strategy Development	B&L	Develop Community Engagement Strategy	B&L will work with the Executive Steering Committee and any invited guests to develop a Community Engagement Strategy. B&L will draft a strategy based on a shared understanding, then modify as needed based on feedback from the Committee and other stakeholders.	Core Participants, County Representatives, Local and Regional Agencies, NYS DHSES, guests from other groups	Online	Jan 2024 – March 2024
Meetings with Key Stakeholders	Executive Steering Committee, B&L	As Necessary	The Executive Steering Committee will be responsible for organizing any additional meetings with key stakeholders, and presenting at these meetings as necessary. B&L can prepare printed materials as necessary (up to 2 per meeting) but the Executive Steering Committee will be responsible for preparing any slides.	Community Organizations	Online	Jan 2024 – July 2024
Jurisdictional Interviews	B&L, Highland Planning	Municipal Interviews	The Project Team will meet with each municipality, as well as County representatives, to create new hazard mitigation actions and update each jurisdiction's planning mechanisms, critical facilities, previous mitigation actions, and more. Each jurisdiction will be encouraged to invite relevant staff and officials, as these topic areas will involve information from multiple perspectives.	Jurisdictional Representatives	TBD	March 2024 – May 2024
Public Information Meeting	B&L	Public Information Meeting #1	B&L will prepare for and facilitate one public presentation to inform the public about the hazard mitigation planning process and solicit input. B&L will take steps to make the meeting accessible and inclusive, especially of vulnerable communities, as discussed above.	All	Hybrid	Feb 2024

	Lead	Task	Description	Stakeholder Group(s)	Format	Timeline
	B&L	Public Information Meeting #2	B&L will prepare for and facilitate a second public presentation later in the planning process, after the draft plan has been posted. The meeting will inform the public about the hazard mitigation planning process and solicit input. B&L will take steps to make the meeting accessible and inclusive, similar to those listed under Public Presentation #1.	All	Hybrid	May 2024
Additional Presentations	B&L, Executive Steering Committee	Presentations to Community Groups and Key Stakeholders (up to 2 presentations)	B&L can give up to two (2) additional presentations. The Executive Steering Committee will be responsible for organizing the logistics of these presentations, and will be responsible for giving any additional presentations if desired.	TBD	TBD	March 2024 – June 2024
Online Engagement Tools	B&L	Community Survey	B&L will create a survey (with both an online and hard-copy version) that invites community members to assist in the initial identification of ongoing and potential future climate action initiatives.	All	Online & Hard-Copy	Feb 2024 – May 2024

1.11 Engagement Strategies Accomplished

The following engagement strategies were accomplished as part of the HMP update:

- **Hazard Identification Meeting** – B&L met with County representatives on January 22, 2024 via Zoom to select natural hazards that most affect the County. B&L presented a review of informational resources, historical data, and climate projections, then discussed with attendees. 9 Albany County representatives were present, including personnel involved in emergency management, social services, public health, and infrastructure projects.
- **Neighboring Communities Survey** – A Neighboring Communities Survey was sent to Schoharie County, Saratoga County, Schenectady County, Rensselaer County, Columbia County, and Green County via email on 3/8/2024.
- **Public Input Survey** – A Public Input Survey was posted to the County's Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram sites in March 2024. The survey was also advertised to the public via a flyer and social media post provided to the County and to 6 municipal officials who had agreed to advertise public engagement opportunities for the plan. The survey closed on June 11, 2024. Sixty-two (62) people responded to the survey. Highlights from the survey were incorporated into Section 3.5 and Section 8 of the main report. Results were presented to the Executive Steering Committee, including suggestions of new mitigation actions based on public feedback, and new mitigation actions that were approved by the Committee were incorporated.

- **Presentation to Albany County Strategic Alliance for Health** – B&L staff and key stakeholders presented to the Albany County Strategic Alliance for Health on March 21, 2024. Presentation topics included an introduction to the Albany County HMP, vulnerable populations in the County, planned engagement strategies, and an opportunity for feedback.
- **Planning Mechanisms and Capabilities Meeting** – B&L staff held a meeting on March 22, 2024, to assess the County's Planning Mechanisms and Capabilities, and identify opportunities to expand and improve the capabilities to achieve mitigation. Feedback was incorporated into the County's annex and was used to inform the mitigation actions developed.
- **County Roundtable** – B&L staff held a County Roundtable on March 26, 2024 and April 23, 2024, to review draft mitigation actions. Feedback was incorporated into the mitigation action section of the plan.
- **Jurisdictional Interviews** – B&L and Highland Planning conducted interviews with all municipalities in Albany County, between February and June 2024. These interviews consisted of questions that related to information in each jurisdictional annex. Follow-up meetings were conducted as necessary.
- **Presentation to Albany County Local Emergency Managers Meeting** – B&L staff presented to local emergency managers on May 10, 2024. The meeting took place in-person at the Emergency Management Office in Clarksville, NY. Fourteen (14) people were in attendance, including Albany County staff, staff from municipalities within the County, and DHSES representatives. The presentation provided an overview of Hazard Mitigation Planning, the Albany HMP planning process and assessment, mitigation actions to date, and next steps. Attendees were also given an opportunity to provide feedback via a Feedback Request form, and 6 forms were collected. Comments were integrated into the plan and presented to the Executive Steering Committee for consideration.
- **Public Information Meeting #1** – B&L staff presented to the public at 2 virtual Zoom meetings, both on June 4, 2024 (12 p.m. and 5 p.m.). Topics included background about the hazard mitigation planning process, key takeaways, proposed mitigation actions to date, and next steps. Attendees were given the opportunity to participate through three online polls throughout the meeting and a Q&A box. They were also notified about the online survey where they could give further input. Aside from the 3 panelists at each meeting, there were 2 attendees at the 12 p.m. meeting and 3 attendees (one a repeat attendee) at the 5 p.m. meeting. The meetings were advertised to the public via a flyer and social media post provided to the County and to 6 municipal officials who had agreed to advertise public engagement opportunities for the plan. Feedback from the meetings is listed in Section 3.5 of the main body of the HMP, along with ways in which this feedback was integrated into the plan. Recordings from both meetings were posted under the Hazard Mitigation Plan tab on the Team Green section of the County website (<https://www.albanycounty.com/government/team-green>).
- **Floodplain Managers Roundtable** – B&L staff held a roundtable discussion with local floodplain administrators in Albany County. The event was held at the Albany County Sheriff's Office, located at 58 Verda Ave. in Clarksville, NY, on Thursday, July 18, 2024. From 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., floodplain administrators had the opportunity to attend a

free training event from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation: T02-07-3005: Post Disaster Floodplain Administrator Response and Flood Insurance Implications. Then, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., B&L facilitated a discussion with floodplain administrators about flood mitigation as it relates to programs and policies, land use development, critical facilities, and potential mitigation projects. The event was advertised to a list of floodplain managers in the County, via email. 14 people were in attendance, including DHSES representatives and the presenters.

- **Albany County Climate Analysis** – Albany is one of five communities selected to be a part of AT&T's Climate Resilient Communities initiative. As part of this program, AT&T engaged Project IN-CORE to conduct a Climate Analysis for Albany County, leveraging data from the Climate Risk and Resilience Portal (ClimRR, available at <https://climrr.anl.gov/>). The ClimRR Portal is the result of a collaboration between AT&T, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory. The portal offers free, dynamically downscaled climate projections produced using Argonne's supercomputer. The results of the Albany County analysis can be viewed on this storymap (<https://arcg.is/1PObHP>) and were integrated by the County into the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- **Public Information Meeting #2 [information to be added upon completion of this meeting]**
- **Public Comment Period [information to be added upon close of comment period]**

A summary of the feedback received from these engagement strategies is included in Section 3.5 of the main body of the HMP. More information and relevant materials for the above engagement strategies are included in Appendices D and E.