

Newton Actions

The City of Newton has already taken numerous steps to improve its resilience to extreme weather. Flooding, heat waves, and drought are projected to become more frequent and severe over the course of this century, but they are not new concerns. Thus, while planning for climate resilience is a relatively new endeavor, Newton starts with a firm foundation to support its future efforts with the following *plans and policies*.

- Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)
- Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP)
- Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement Plan (SIIP)
- Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP)
- Street Tree Planting Plan (STPP)
- Flood Ordinance
- Zoning Ordinance
- Complete Streets policy that promotes green infrastructure
- Stormwater Infiltration Policy
- Stretch code for energy conservation and resilience to heat events
- Coordination of climate efforts through the Planning Department and Sustainability Office
- Protection of open space that provides flooding buffers and preserves habitat

In accordance with the plans and policies listed above, Newton has instituted many specific *adaptation strategies*, including:

- Creation of a stormwater utility with incentives for stormwater infiltration
- Opening cooling centers during heat waves
- Investing in stormwater analysis and improvements, including green infrastructure projects
- Establishing strong emergency planning
- Administering public health and wellness programs
- Conducting senior outreach and support activities

In addition to those adaptation strategies, Newton has instituted many specific *mitigation strategies*, including:

- Coordinating with National Grid to repair gas leaks
- Starting a Home Energy Savings program
- Starting a Business Energy Savers program
- Creating a transportation strategy that encourages alternatives to car use
- Home weatherization and solar credits for low-income households