

PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

Overview

This “briefing booklet” has been prepared as part of the process of preparing an update to the 2008 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) for Branford. This booklet is intended to familiarize the members of the POCD Update Committee and others existing and potential future strategies related to sustainability and resiliency.

What Is “Sustainability” and “Resiliency”?

For the purposes of the POCD, “sustainability” refers to the philosophy of encouraging activities that allow present generations to meet their needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

The term “resiliency” refers to the community’s ability to withstand, respond to, and readily recover from sudden changes or adversity.

Sustainability



Resiliency



Background

For the POCD, sustainability relates to being efficient and economical in our use of resources using approaches that are economically viable, of social benefit, and environmentally responsible. Some of the items to be considered as part of an overall approach to sustainability could include:

Energy-Related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing energy use (and considering life-cycle costing) • Becoming more efficient in use of energy resources • Providing for alternative generation approaches (solar, wind, fuel cell, micro-grids, etc.)
Water-Related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing water use • Reducing water waste / recycling water
Waste-Related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing waste (including food waste) • Increasing recycling

For the POCD, resiliency relates to being able to absorb and/or recover from impactful events in an efficient and timely way. The elements of being a resilient community can include:

Avoidance-Related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification / avoidance / risk reduction
Mitigation-Related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating probability / risk scenarios • Evaluating approaches (protection / adaptation) • Balancing of cost / benefit • Hardening infrastructure (e.g. burying utilities) • Requiring resilient buildings in coastal areas • Promoting grid independence / interconnected community
Response-Related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-event education / training • Pre-event response plans

Branford has participated with adjacent communities and the South Central Regional Council of Governments on the preparation of a Hazard Mitigation Strategy to identify and then reduce or eliminate risk to human life and property resulting from recurring natural hazards such as hurricanes, flooding and winter storms. Recent hurricanes and major storm events have proven this to be a worthwhile exercise and exercises like this should continue so that Branford can be a resilient community when events like these occur in the future.

Possible Strategies For 2018 POCD

See briefing booklet on Coastal Issues for discussion of strategies related to resiliency and mitigation in coastal areas.

Promote Sustainability / Resiliency

NEW
STRATEGY

A. Promote Sustainability	Comments
1. <u>Promote energy conservation / sustainability.</u>	
a. <u>Evaluate and implement ways to reduce energy usage, increase reliability, and save money with regard to municipal facilities and services.</u>	
b. <u>Consider reactivating the Clean Energy Task Force to address energy sustainability issues.</u>	Actions are being taken internally within Town government at present
c. <u>Continue to participate in the Connecticut Clean Energy Community Program.</u>	Program is still active in 2017.
d. <u>Encourage residents and businesses to reduce energy usage and increase energy efficiency.</u>	
e. <u>Evaluate opportunities to create transit-oriented and pedestrian friendly areas to reduce motor vehicle use.</u>	
f. <u>Consider establishing carbon reduction targets along with a plan to meet these goals.</u>	Too detailed?
2. <u>Promote water conservation.</u>	
3. <u>Promote waste reduction / recycling.</u>	
4. <u>Continue to educate residents about sustainability concepts.</u>	

B. Promote Resiliency	Comments
1. <u>Continue efforts to identify, avoid, reduce, mitigate, and recover from impactful events.</u>	
a. <u>Continue to participate in updating the regional Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to address risks and obtain funding.</u>	
b. <u>Implement the Hazard Mitigation Plan, as amended.</u>	

Are there any other policies or action steps you believe should be included in Branford’s sustainability / resiliency strategies?

If so, please make notes below.

Reference Materials

- 1. Branford Plan of Conservation and Development (2008)
- 2. SCRCOG Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan (2014)
- 3. Presentation – Municipal Resilience Planning Assistance Project
- 4. Energize CT – Residential New Construction Program

Notes & Comments

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