

V. Goals

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The *Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan* is intended to serve as a guiding document for project selection under the Project Impact initiative. The goals for the Project Impact are therefore directly linked to the goals for this plan. The goals of the Project Impact initiative are as follows:

- A. Protecting the lives of our citizens to the best of our abilities from natural and man-made environmental hazards.
- B. Assessing the extent of our vulnerability to natural and man-made environmental hazards.
- C. Establishing cooperative relationships between the public, private, and non-profit sectors to enhance our preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation for hazard events.
- D. Educating our citizens regarding their vulnerability to natural hazards and steps which may be taken to reduce that vulnerability.
- E. Reducing vulnerability of our infrastructure and built environment to natural and man-made environmental hazards through specific mitigation projects that will also consider the historic and environmental resources of our area.

The mission of the “Project Impact” initiative is also an integral part of this plan. This mission is as follows:

The mission of the Charleston Region “Project Impact” initiative is to create a more disaster resistant community through cooperative efforts of the private, public, and non-profit sectors.

Based upon the responses to the pre-planning questionnaire, following would be the goals for this plan (*listed in the order of importance*):

- A. **Minimize future hurricane damage**
- B. **Protect public health**
- C. **Minimize future flood damage**
- D. **Reduce existing flood damage**
- E. **Minimize future earthquake damage**
- F. **Preserve environmental resources**
- G. **Improve hazard resistance of infrastructure**
- H. **Minimize future tornado-related loss of life**

- I. Minimize future wildfire damage**
- J. Improve water quality**
- K. Promote long-term economic prosperity**
- L. Preserve open space**
- M. Preserve historic building inventory**
- N. Minimize future hazardous material incidents**
- O. Encourage recreational activities**
- P. Minimize future terrorist activity incidents**

The graph included as attachment V-A provides the actual average importance ratings for each of these goals as determined from the questionnaire responses.

In addition to the goals as ranked by the original questionnaire, the Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Project Committee determined the following additional goal should be included for this plan (with no specific ranking for this goal indicated):

- 1. Enhance provision of emergency shelters for areas of the Region not currently serviced by emergency shelters within a close proximity, recognizing that shelters in certain areas should not be provided due to a lack of safe locations for such facilities, and that shelters not sanctioned by the American Red Cross are to be classified as “shelters of last resort”**

The committee also determined that jurisdictions may have additional goals that they would like to pursue through this plan, and that these additional goals should be included as those jurisdictions deem appropriate.

A plan update questionnaire was distributed to plan signatories and others with an interest in hazard mitigation during 2006-2007 that asked respondents to prioritize the goals for this plan, including the goal added by the committee after the original questionnaire, to determine if the goals had changed in ranking since the original plan questionnaire was analyzed in 1999. While several of the goals maintained their ranking as determined through the original questionnaire, others changed in ranking as a result of this new survey. Following is the ranking of the goals as determined through the 2006-2007 questionnaire analysis:

- A. Minimize future hurricane damage**
- B. Protect public health**
- C. Minimize future flooding**

- D. Minimize future wildfire damage**
- E. Minimize future earthquake damage**
- F. Preserve open space**
- G. Promote long term economic prosperity**
- H. Improve hazard resistance of infrastructure**
- I. Minimize future hazardous materials incidents**
- J. Enhance provisions for emergency shelters**
- K. Reduce existing flood damage**
- L. Minimize future tornado loss of life**
- M. Improve water quality**
- N. Minimize future terrorist incidents**
- O. Encourage recreational activities**
- P. Preserve historic building inventory**

With Project Impact receiving the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) grant and developing the *Charleston Region Toxics Risk Assessment* which identified particulates and ozone as air pollutants of potential concern in the Charleston Region, improving air quality has also become an important consideration for this hazard mitigation plan. The Project Impact committees and the committee that determines revisions to this plan therefore determined that a goal of “improve air quality” should be added to the goals for this plan as a part of the 2009-2010 update.

The average of the ranking of these goals, however, demonstrates that all of these goals are considered important for this plan, since they all were between moderately and very important based on the average raw score, and all of the goals are within a maximum of 1 point of each other. Given this relative importance assigned by the survey respondents to these goals, these goals accurately reflect the overall vision for the hazard mitigation activities to be performed in the region.

The goals for this plan are also consistent with the hazard vulnerabilities as determined through the *State of South Carolina Hazards Assessment* (SCEMD, 2002 and 2005) and the frequency/severity of hazard events risk assessment methodologies for those hazards considered most likely to damage buildings and/or cause loss of life (e.g. hurricanes, floods, wildfires and earthquakes). The goals from the questionnaire for which no particular hazard is identified (e.g. protect public health,

preserve environmental resources, improve hazard resistance of infrastructure, promote economic prosperity, preserve open space, and so forth) are also potentially applicable to any type of hazard faced in the Charleston Region. For those hazards identified as potential risks to the Charleston Region that may not be specifically addressed in the goals identified through the questionnaire process (e.g. drought, severe storms, winter storms, dam failure, and tsunami), the “Project Impact” goals address these hazards in more general terms. These latter hazards are also those for which large-scale building-related losses are considered to be relatively less likely. Working towards achieving all of these goals is expected to minimize hazard-related losses associated with any of the hazards within the Charleston Region.

See Attachment V- A File for A Chart of Goal Priorities Based Upon Original Questionnaire