

## Milwaukee County Carbon Neutrality Framework

### Group Exercise: Resilience

Evidence suggests that climate change is already occurring in Wisconsin, and that some populations may be disproportionately impacted (see *City of MKE - Climate Vulnerabilities Flyer.pdf*).

Although the primary focus of Milwaukee County's carbon neutrality initiative is reducing emissions, there may be opportunities to increase community resiliency to climate change ('climate resiliency'). For example, tree planting can provide shade that helps reduce building energy use and emissions, while increasing access to green space.

In considering climate action strategies, it can be helpful to think of climate change as an imminent car crash. Under this metaphor, reducing emissions is like applying the brakes – it will reduce the impacts of climate change. Acting to improve climate resilience (i.e., 'adaptation') is like deploying the airbags - it will soften the blow. We need both to survive the crash intact. *Source: ILG*<sup>1</sup>.

#### Sample Definitions

1. [Executive Order 13693](#) defines resilience as "the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions".
2. The [Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities](#) defines urban resilience as "the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt, and grow no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience."
3. The [Colorado Recovery and Resilience Office](#) defines resilience as "the ability of communities to rebound and positively adapt to or thrive amidst changing conditions or challenges ... and maintain quality of life, healthy growth, economic vitality, durable systems and conservation of resources for present and future generations." *Source: NREL*<sup>2</sup>.

#### Sample Outcomes

- Employee and community safety
- Workflow continuity
- Supply chain continuity
- Uninterrupted operations
- Capability of going off grid with on-site water and electricity sources

*Source: IFMA*<sup>3</sup>

#### Group Discussion

1. Which above sample definitions of resiliency do you prefer and why?
2. What could Milwaukee County do to improve resiliency while reducing emissions?

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<sup>1</sup> Institute for Local Government (2011). *Integrated Strategies for a Vibrant and Sustainable Fresno County*.

[http://ilgc.org/wordpress/docs/adaptation/fresno/Integrated\\_Strategies\\_for\\_Vibrant\\_Sustainable\\_Fresno\\_County\\_3011.pdf](http://ilgc.org/wordpress/docs/adaptation/fresno/Integrated_Strategies_for_Vibrant_Sustainable_Fresno_County_3011.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> National Renewable Energy Laboratory (2019). *Resilience Roadmap: A Collaborative Approach to Multi-Jurisdictional Planning*. <https://www.nrel.gov/resilience-planning-roadmap/pdfs/defining-resilience-exercise.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Source: Roper, K. (2019). *Climate Change Fundamentals for Facility Management Professionals*. IFMA FM Research & Benchmarking Institute. [https://community.ifma.org/knowledge\\_library/m/members\\_only\\_content/1058127](https://community.ifma.org/knowledge_library/m/members_only_content/1058127)