

NJ Highlands Council Regional Master Plan Update: Planning and Implementation Agreement (PIA)

The Highlands Council shall consider the following guidelines and suggested actions in updating the RMP to address Climate Resiliency Planning and Environmental Justice & Social Equity within the Highlands Planning Areas, pending further guidance from NJDEP.

Nov-20

Topic	Item No.	Activity	Reference	Time Frame	Comment (updates in bold <i>italics</i>)
Intergovernmental Coordination/Guidelines	A1	On June 3, 2020, the SPC approved execution of an updated MOU among the Highlands Council, the SPC and the OPA whereby the Parties agreed to coordinate planning processes, and move forward with the process of Endorsement of the Highlands Regional Master Plan (RMP). The SPC endorsed the RMP on November 4th, 2020, subject to the completion of a Plan Implementation Agreement (PIA) that commits the Highlands Council to update the RMP to address State Climate Resiliency Planning and Environmental Justice & Social Equity goals pursuant to Governor's Executive Orders No. 89 and 23, respectively, upon the next update of the RMP.	SPC Resolution No. 2020-08 SPC Resolution No.2020-12	Ongoing	

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Intergovernmental Coordination/Guidelines	A2	Section B1 of the SPC-approved MOU among the Highlands Council, the SPC and the OPA specifies that during the development of any revision to the RMP pertinent to the Planning Area, the Highlands Council and its staff shall consult with the SPC and the Office of Planning Advocacy and shall review the State Plan, the SPC's endorsement of the RMP, and the Plan Endorsement rules, regulations and guidelines prior to submission of any such revision to the RMP for endorsement.	SPC Resolution No. 2020-08	Ongoing	
Intergovernmental Coordination/Guidelines	A3	Highlands Council: Procedures for Considering Proposals to Amend the Highlands Regional Master Plan. Also provides specific requirements for public notice and participation, including local and county government.	RMP Addendum 2018-1 Procedure for Considering Proposals to Amend the Highlands Regional Master Plan	Ongoing	

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Environmental Justice & Social Equity	B1	<p>The Highlands Council shall refer to the Plan Endorsement Guidelines, Part III Consistency Standards, page 34-36 for guidance on comprehensively addressing Environmental Justice & Social Equity: Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address aspirational considerations • Address listed principles and best practices for the effective consideration of environmental justice in local programs and activities. • Create and support forums for diverse voices • Protect and assist vulnerable communities • Develop and Implement [Municipal] Action Plans 	<p>Res. No. 2020-10: Authorizing an Amendment to the Plan Endorsement Guidelines, as adopted by the SPC on October 7, 2020.</p> <p>Compliance with Executive Order 23 and related enacted legislation, State guidelines and regulations.</p>	<p>Draft update completed within 1 year after DEP provides new guidelines. Final amendment adopted within 2 years.</p>	
Climate Resiliency Planning	B2	<p>Provide basis in the RMP for implementing programs to assist municipalities (and to the extent applicable, counties) in undertaking the 3-step process (as outlined in the Plan Endorsement Guidelines) for how municipalities should evaluate and address local climate change impacts in the Planning Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Step 1: Assess Vulnerable Areas, Critical Assets and Infrastructure •Step 2: Develop a Local Resiliency Strategy •Step 3: Periodically Demonstrate Action to Address Vulnerabilities 	<p>The Highlands Council shall refer to the Plan Endorsement Guidelines, Part III Consistency Standards, pages 55-57 for guidance on comprehensively addressing Climate Resiliency Planning.</p> <p>Compliance with Executive Order 89 and associated, State guidelines and regulations.</p>	<p>Draft update completed within 1 year after DEP provides new guidelines. Final amendment adopted within 2 years.</p>	

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Greenhouse Gas Reduction as part of Resiliency Planning	B3	<p>Provide basis in the RMP for implementing programs to assist municipalities (and to the extent potentially applicable, counties) in addressing the following:</p> <p>Municipal [County] Greenhouse Gas Reduction Action Plans should include:</p> <p>1. Phased steps to reduce GHG emissions from Municipal [County] operations and facilities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Renewable Energy Generation •Greening the Municipal [County] Fleet •Facility Decarbonization and Energy Efficiency <p>2. Foster widespread community electric vehicle adoption by implementing the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Make Your Town [County] Electric Vehicle (EV) Friendly •Make Your Town [County] Renewable Energy Friendly 	<p>The Highlands Council shall refer to the Plan Endorsement Guidelines, Part III Consistency Standards, pages 36-38 for guidance on comprehensively addressing a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy as part of Climate Resiliency Planning.</p> <p>Compliance with Executive Order 89 and associated, State guidelines and regulations.</p>	<p>Draft update completed within 1 year after DEP provides new guidelines. Final amendment adopted within 2 years.</p>	
Report to SPC	B4	<p>Report to the SPC about the status of RMP amendment adoption and implementation of Planning Area-related efforts specific to the above actions.</p>	<p>Step 10: Monitoring and Benefits, pages 18-19.</p>	<p>1 year after PIA and then pursuant to the MOU thereafter.</p>	<p>Status reports to discontinue upon Highlands Council adoption of RMP amendments satisfactorily addressing PIA items B1-B3 above. Highlands Council Annual Report and on-going coordination pursuant to the MOU, to serve thereafter.</p>