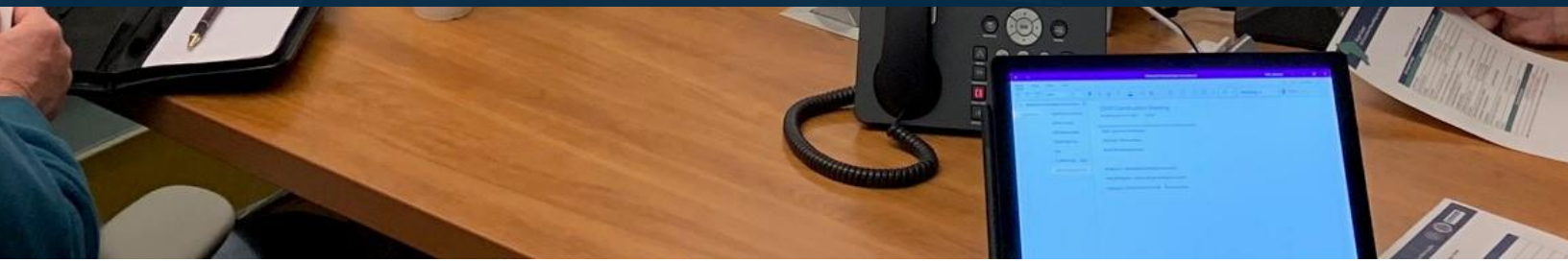




3.0 PLANNING PROCESS



3.0 PLANNING PROCESS

3.1 PROCESS AND PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

The Bergen County HMP update includes a robust planning process and participation strategy. The project is led by the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) which is a Division of the Bergen County Department of Public Safety. The HMP Project Manager is the Bergen County Deputy County Emergency Management Coordinator, Ronald Salzano. Bergen County selected Michael Baker International, Inc. (Michael Baker) to support the development of the Bergen County HMP (the Project Team).

The Bergen County HMP update was prepared through numerous meetings, both In Person and virtual, with the with the Steering Committee, regional stakeholders, all 70 municipalities, and members of the public. The County's Office of Emergency Management webpage was used throughout the plan update to bring awareness and give the public an opportunity to provide comments. The Bergen County HMP followed FEMA's HMP process by following their four core steps in completing a HMP update.

Table 3.1-1 Bergen County HMP Process

FEMA's Core Planning Steps	Bergen County HMP Action
Organize the Planning Process and Resources	Created an online project website for public input, meeting notices, general information on hazard mitigation, and links to additional resources.
Assess Risks and Capabilities	Provided risk estimates based on FEMA's NRI, which was based on an updated critical facility data layer and reviewed local capabilities at the municipal meetings.
Develop a Mitigation Strategy	Developed Mitigation Action Worksheets, which document each jurisdiction's analysis of actions considered to reduce the impacts of hazards identified in the risk assessment.
Adopt and Implement the Plan	After receiving formal approval from both NJOEM and FEMA, the County will adopt this plan and each of the 70 municipalities will formally adopt a resolution approving the finalized Bergen County HMP update.

This plan update was completed through a combination of research and municipal, stakeholder, and public participation. The Project Team researched existing local plans, reports, projects, and ordinances in addition to acquiring data from the County, New Jersey Geographic Information Network (NJGIN), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and FEMA to write the Bergen County HMP update.

Plan participation began with kick-off meeting between Michael Baker and Bergen County OEM in September 2023 and concluded when the final plan was submitted to FEMA. After receiving formal approval from both NJOEM and FEMA, each jurisdiction formally adopts a resolution approving the finalized Bergen County HMP update, documenting their commitment to strive to implement the actions and projects identified in the mitigation strategy to reduce or eliminate long-term risk from natural hazards and disasters in their community.

New to this plan update is the inclusion of high hazard potential dam (HHPD) owners in the planning process. There seven dams are classified as high-hazard potential by the DEP-Bureau of Dam Safety and Flood Control: Woodcliff Lake Dam, Lake Vreeland Dam, Ramapo Lake Dam, Lake Tappan Dam, Oradell Reservoir Dam, Mill Pond Dam, and Crystal Spring Lake Dam. These dams are owned by five different public and private agencies. The Project Team had a virtual meeting with four of the five owners, and all five owners completed a survey on the status of their HHDP. The survey asked for the point of contact for the HHPD, recent hazard impacts, current vulnerabilities, existing capabilities, and future mitigation needs. The Project Team incorporated this information into each HHPD mitigation action, which is located in the municipal appendix of the municipality the HHPD is located in. For more information, please see the municipal appendix for Park Ridge Borough, Mahwah Township, Ramsey Borough, Hillsdale Borough, Old Tappan Borough, Ordell Borough, and Oakland Borough.

3.2 STEERING COMMITTEE

Bergen County formed the Planning Team through the creation of a Steering Committee prior to the start of the planning process to guide the HMP development. The first Steering Committee meeting took place on September 18, 2023. This meeting included the following topics: the role of the steering committee; an overview on hazard mitigation and the six-step planning process; changes since the last plan and new FEMA guidance; high-level overview of the planning process, risk and vulnerability assessment, capability assessment, and mitigation strategy; and the project schedule. The Project Team reviewed the previous plan's goals, objectives, and profiled hazards. As a follow-up to the meeting, the Project Team circulated two worksheets for the Steering Committee to evaluate the goals and objectives and profiled hazards from the previous plan. Hazards profiled by the New Jersey State Hazard Mitigation Plan (2024) were considered for this plan update. The Project Team received several completed worksheets by both the Steering Committee and municipalities.

The second Steering Committee meeting, convened on September 19, 2024, included an update on the project schedule, discussion on the format and content of upcoming public meetings and municipal meetings including the grants workshop and one-on-ones with the project team. The steering committee also discussed socially vulnerable populations and how best to include them in the plan, in terms of data and analysis but also what representatives in the county could be brought to the table while updating the HMP. Other topics of discussion during this meeting included recent hazard events in the county and developments such as the NJDEP Inland Flood Design Elevation Rule which was decided to be included in the plan update.

Steering Committee members include the following:

- Michael Marsh, Bergen County OEM
- Ron Salzano, Bergen County OEM
- Matthew Tiedemann, Bergen County OEM
- Matthew Zimkiewicz, Bergen County OEM
- Thomas Longo, Bergen County Environmental Health
- Anny Scardino, Bergen County Risk Management
- Nancy Dargis, Bergen County Planning and Engineering
- Peter Kortright, Bergen County Planning and Engineering
- Kathryn McSorley, Bergen County GIS
- Michael Pagan, Bergen County Planning and Engineering
- Derek Sands, Bergen County Deputy Chief of Staff
- Jessica Zohlen, Bergen County Planning and Engineering
- Meghan Wren, FEMA Region 2

3.3 ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Bergen County HMP was developed using a multi-jurisdictional approach to include all municipalities within Bergen County. All jurisdictions are required to participate in the multi-jurisdictional planning process in order to have their own plan to be eligible for FEMA funding after a disaster. Local municipalities also have the legal authority to enforce compliance with land use planning and development issues.

This HMP update included a broad range of stakeholders, **including five County agencies and departments, nine regional stakeholders, and each of the 70 municipalities**. Even more stakeholders were invited to participate in this HMP update, including stakeholder organizations and nonprofits that support underserved populations, climate change experts,

neighboring counties, agencies that have the authority to regulate development, and other private and nonprofit interests involved in hazard mitigation activities. This section includes tables of meetings listing invited stakeholders and those who attended the meeting.

The Project Team held the following meetings during this plan update:

- Municipal Coordinators' Meeting
- Municipal Meetings
- County Meeting
- Regional Stakeholder Meeting

Municipal Coordinators' Meeting

Municipalities were first engaged with this plan update at the county Municipal Coordinators' quarterly meeting on December 13, 2023. This meeting included the following topics: an overview on hazard mitigation and the six-step planning process; changes since the last plan and new FEMA guidance; high-level overview of the planning process, risk and vulnerability assessment, capability assessment, and mitigation strategy; and the project schedule. The Project Team made the announcement that Michael Baker will be meeting with each municipality as part of this plan update and municipalities were asked to begin thinking about who should be at the table at those meetings as well as to begin thinking about new mitigation actions they would like to see in their communities. Municipalities were encouraged to discuss hazard mitigation with neighboring jurisdictions and think about regional solutions specifically.

Table 3.3-1 Municipal Coordinators Meeting Participation

Municipality	Municipal Coordinators' Meeting Attendance
Allendale, Borough of	✓
Alpine, Borough of	✓
Bergenfield, Borough of	
Bogota, Borough of	
Carlstadt, Borough of	
Cliffside Park, Borough of	
Closter, Borough of	✓
Cresskill, Borough of	✓
Demarest, Borough of	
Dumont, Borough of	✓
East Rutherford, Borough of	✓
Edgewater, Borough of	✓
Elmwood Park, Borough of	
Emerson, Borough of	✓
Englewood Cliffs, Borough of	
Englewood, City of	
Fair Lawn, Borough of	
Fairview, Borough of	
Fort Lee, Borough of	✓
Franklin Lakes, Borough of	✓
Garfield, City of	✓
Glen Rock, Borough of	
Hackensack, City of	✓
Harrington Park, Borough of	
Hasbrouck Heights, Borough of	✓
Haworth, Borough of	
Hillsdale, Borough of	✓
Ho-Ho-Kus, Borough of	✓
Leonia, Borough of	
Little Ferry, Borough of	✓

BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2026

Municipality	Municipal Coordinators' Meeting Attendance
Lodi, Borough of	
Lyndhurst, Township of	✓
Mahwah, Township of	✓
Maywood, Borough of	
Midland Park, Borough of	
Montvale, Borough of	
Moonachie, Borough of	
New Milford, Borough of	
North Arlington, Borough of	
Northvale, Borough of	
Norwood, Borough of	✓
Oakland, Borough of	✓
Old Tappan, Borough of	✓
Oradell, Borough of	✓
Palisades Park, Borough of	✓
Paramus, Borough of	✓
Park Ridge, Borough of	✓
Ramsey, Borough of	✓
Ridgefield Park, Village of	
Ridgefield, Borough of	✓
Ridgewood, Village of	
River Edge, Borough of	✓
River Vale, Township of	
Rochelle Park, Township of	✓
Rockleigh, Borough of	
Rutherford, Borough of	
Saddle Brook, Township of	
Saddle River, Borough of	✓
South Hackensack, Township of	✓
Teaneck, Township of	✓
Tenafly, Borough of	✓
Teterboro, Borough of	
Upper Saddle River, Borough of	
Waldwick, Borough of	✓
Wallington, Borough of	
Washington, Township of	✓
Westwood, Borough of	
Wood Ridge, Borough of	✓
Woodcliff Lake, Borough of	✓
Wyckoff, Township of	

Municipal Meetings

In December 2024, the Planning Team met individually with each jurisdiction in the county. In order to best accommodate each of the 70 municipalities in the county, the planning team held an “office hour” style meeting. In this format, the planning team selected two locations in the county (Mahwah in the north and Hackensack in the south) where meetings would be held all day. Each municipality was able to register for an hour-long meeting with the planning team with the date, time and location which worked best for them. These meetings were held on the following dates and locations.

- December 5, 2024, in Mahwah
- December 17, 2024, in Hackensack
- January 8, 2025, in Mahwah
- January 16, 2025, in Hackensack

- February 11, 2025, in Mahwah

The planning team coordinated with those municipalities which were unable to attend the in-person meetings to attend a virtual meeting in the months of February and March. Table 3.3-2 below summarizes the municipal meeting schedule by municipality, date, and format.

During these municipal meetings, the municipality was asked to rank each hazard of concern as high, medium, or low concern, and gathered information related to past hazard incidents and recent and future development trends. The planning team reviewed municipal risk maps to discuss specific vulnerabilities and potential future risk. Each municipality was asked to review and update their critical facilities list using FEMA’s community lifelines as a framework. Finally, in consultation with the jurisdiction, the planning team reviewed and updated the mitigation actions from the 2021 plan, adding any new actions identified during discussion.

Information gathered from these meetings was compiled and synthesized to create each municipality’s appendix to the plan. These documents can be found in Appendices Volume I- Jurisdictional Information.

Table 3.3-2 Municipal Meeting Schedule

Municipality	Date	Format
Allendale, Borough of	1/8/2024	In Person
Alpine, Borough of	3/20/2025	Virtual
Bergenfield, Borough of	3/25/2025	Virtual
Bogota, Borough of	2/25/2025	Virtual
Carlstadt, Borough of	1/8/2024	In Person
Cliffside Park, Borough of	2/13/2025	Virtual
Closter, Borough of	2/11/2025	In Person
Cresskill, Borough of	12/17/2024	In Person
Demarest, Borough of	1/8/2024	In Person
Dumont, Borough of	2/11/2025	In Person
East Rutherford, Borough of	2/11/2025	In Person
Edgewater, Borough of	3/20/2025	Virtual
Elmwood Park, Borough of	2/11/2025	In Person
Emerson, Borough of	1/8/2024	In Person
Englewood Cliffs, Borough of	12/17/2024	In Person
Englewood, City of	2/11/2025	In Person
Fair Lawn, Borough of	1/8/2024	In Person
Fairview, Borough of	1/8/2024	In Person
Fort Lee, Borough of	2/6/2025	Virtual
Franklin Lakes, Borough of	12/5/2024	In Person
Garfield, City of	2/11/2025	In Person
Glen Rock, Borough of	3/25/2025	Virtual
Hackensack, City of	1/16/2024	In Person
Harrington Park, Borough of	2/18/2025	Virtual
Hasbrouck Heights, Borough of	2/11/2025	In Person
Haworth, Borough of	2/11/2025	In Person
Hillsdale, Borough of	1/8/2024	In Person
Ho-Ho-Kus, Borough of	12/5/2024	In Person
Leonia, Borough of	3/25/2025	Virtual
Little Ferry, Borough of	4/10/2025	Virtual
Lodi, Borough of	3/27/2025	Virtual
Lyndhurst, Township of	12/5/2024	In Person
Mahwah, Township of	12/5/2024	In Person
Maywood, Borough of	12/17/2024	In Person
Midland Park, Borough of	2/11/2025	In Person
Montvale, Borough of	2/11/2025	In Person
Moonachie, Borough of	3/18/2025	Virtual
New Milford, Borough of	2/11/2025	In Person

BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2026

Municipality	Date	Format
North Arlington, Borough of	2/11/2025	In Person
Northvale, Borough of	3/28/2025	Virtual
Norwood, Borough of	1/8/2024	In Person
Oakland, Borough of	2/11/2025	In Person
Old Tappan, Borough of	12/5/2024	In Person
Oradell, Borough of	1/8/2024	In Person
Palisades Park, Borough of	12/17/2024	In Person
Paramus, Borough of	1/8/2024	In Person
Park Ridge, Borough of	2/6/2025	Virtual
Ramsey, Borough of	12/5/2024	In Person
Ridgefield Park, Village of	1/16/2024	In Person
Ridgefield, Borough of	3/31/2025	Virtual
Ridgewood, Village of	1/8/2024	In Person
River Edge, Borough of	1/16/2024	In Person
River Vale, Township of	1/8/2024	In Person
Rochelle Park, Township of	1/16/2024	In Person
Rockleigh, Borough of	3/20/2025	Virtual
Rutherford, Borough of	2/11/2025	In Person
Saddle Brook, Township of	2/11/2025	In Person
Saddle River, Borough of	1/8/2024	In Person
South Hackensack, Township of	1/8/2024	In Person
Teaneck, Township of	2/11/2025	Virtual
Tenafly, Borough of	2/11/2025	In Person
Teterboro, Borough of	3/18/2025	Virtual
Upper Saddle River, Borough of	2/11/2025	In Person
Waldwick, Borough of	2/11/2025	In Person
Wallington, Borough of	3/20/2025	Virtual
Washington, Township of	2/11/2025	In Person
Westwood, Borough of	1/16/2024	In Person
Wood Ridge, Borough of	12/17/2024	In Person
Woodcliff Lake, Borough of	2/11/2025	In Person
Wyckoff, Township of	2/11/2025	In Person

County Meeting

On April 30, 2025, the Project Team met with various county departments to update this HMP. During the meeting the Project Team presented information on the following: an overview on hazard mitigation and the six-step planning process; changes since the last plan and new FEMA guidance; high-level overview of the planning process, risk and vulnerability assessment, capability assessment, and mitigation strategy; and the project schedule. Finally, the planning team reviewed and updated each mitigation action from the 2021 plan in consultation with the county, also identifying several new actions related to flood, dam failure, and wildfire. The county agreed to return any requested information to Baker by mid-May.

Table 3.3-3 County Meeting Participation (April 2025)

County Department Invited to Meeting	Attended County Meeting
Administration	
Risk Management	✓
Engineering	✓
Planning	
Health	
Human Services	
Parks	
Public Safety	✓
Public Works	✓

County Department Invited to Meeting	Attended County Meeting
Transportation	
County Roads	✓

Regional Stakeholder Meeting

On May 7, 2025, the Project Team met with stakeholders from neighboring counties, agencies that have the authority to regulate development, and organizations involved in hazard mitigation activities within the region. During the meeting, the Project Team provided an overview of hazard mitigation planning and the status and schedule of the Bergen County 2026 HMP update. The team then summarized risk assessment findings and discussed the hazards of concern. Open discussion started with the question of any hazard impacts to stakeholders since the last plan in 2021. Participants noted that the primary hazard of concern in the region is flooding with the various counties in attendance; NJ Transit and the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority (NJSEA) reported that they experience frequent flooding issues in the County. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) discussed the hazards associated with their two main assets in the county, Teterboro Airport and George Washington Bridge, which are flood and high winds respectively. The Highlands Council reported that flooding and landslides are a concern with steep slopes. In addition to these profiled hazards, the Council is concerned about the hazards associated with harmful algal blooms (as the region is a regional source of drinking water) and tree diseases which impact wildfire, health and power outage risks.

The Project Team asked the regional stakeholders what existing capabilities and mitigation projects they are undergoing to reduce hazards of concern. PANYNJ discussed the organization wide water conservation effort they put in place during drought as well as the various risk assessments they conduct including a climate risk assessment and a terrorism risk assessment. Findings from these studies result in recommendations for each facility within their portfolio. NJSEA discussed the 2020 Master Plan Update and the 2022 Floodplain Management Plan (to be updated again in 2027). NJ Transit discussed several actions including a North Jersey Rail and Light Rail Resilience Study, which will include the Main-Bergen and Pascack Valley Lines and a North Bus Resilience Study, which will focus on 5 bus garages, including Oradell Bus Garage (which is at significant risk for flooding). NJ Transit has also developed internal tools such as their Climate Vulnerability Dashboard and weather-related outages dashboard. Passaic County is considering purchasing lands along the river for flood storage (early stages). Hudson County is currently updating their hazard mitigation plan and preparing to submit to FEMA. More information on regional capabilities are located in Section 5.4.

Lastly, the planning team asked participants to consider mitigation strategies at the regional level that they may be able to partner with Bergen County to pursue. Passaic County expressed interest in partnering with Bergen to reduce wildfire risk. For the email inviting stakeholders to this stakeholder meeting, please see Appendix F in Appendices Volume II – Other Plan Materials.

Table 3.3-4 Regional Stakeholder Participation

Organization Invited to Meeting	Attended Regional Stakeholder Meeting
Passaic County	✓
Essex County	✓
Hudson County	✓
Morris County	✓
Rockland County (NY)	✓
New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority	✓
New Jersey Highlands Council	✓
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey	✓
Palisades Park Conservancy	
Bergen County Utility Authority	
North Bergen Municipal Utilities Authority	
Northwest Bergen Municipal Utilities Authority	
NJ Transit	✓

BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2026

Organization Invited to Meeting	Attended Regional Stakeholder Meeting
Fair Share Housing Center	
The Westwood House	
Westwood Borough Social Services	
Heart to Heart Associates	
New Concepts for Living	
Center For Hope and Safety	
Borough Food Pantry, Senior Center, Youth Activity	
Crescent Commons	
Orchard Commons	
Roberts House	
Allendale Senior Housing	
Eastern Christian Men's Home	
Senior Citizen Advisory Committee	
Fairlawn ADA Committee	
Food Pantry (Dumont)	

3.4 SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATION

Table 3.4-1 includes a summary of all stakeholder attendance, by meeting, organized by stakeholder group (County agency/department, regional stakeholder/State agency, or municipal representative).

Table 3.4-1 Summary of Planning Participation

Participation	Meeting Type			
	Municipal Coordinators' Meeting	Municipal Meeting	County Meeting	Regional Stakeholder Meeting
County Agency/Department				
Administration				
Risk Management			✓	
Engineering			✓	
Planning				
Health				
Human Services				
Parks				
Public Safety			✓	
Public Works			✓	
Transportation				
County Roads			✓	
Regional Stakeholders				
Passaic County				✓
Essex County				✓
Hudson County				✓
Morris County				✓
Rockland County (NY)				✓
New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority				✓
New Jersey Highlands Council				✓
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey				✓
Palisades Park Conservancy				
Bergen County Utility Authority				
North Bergen Municipal Utilities Authority				
Northwest Bergen Municipal Utilities Authority				
NJ Transit				✓
Fair Share Housing Center				
The Westwood House				
Westwood Borough Social Services				

Participation	Meeting Type			
	Municipal Coordinators' Meeting	Municipal Meeting	County Meeting	Regional Stakeholder Meeting
Heart to Heart Associates				
New Concepts for Living				
Center For Hope and Safety				
Borough Food Pantry, Senior Center, Youth Activity				
Crescent Commons				
Orchard Commons				
Roberts House				
Allendale Senior Housing				
Eastern Christian Men's Home				
Senior Citizen Advisory Committee				
Fairlawn ADA Committee				
Food Pantry (Dumont)				
Municipalities				
Allendale, Borough of	✓	✓		
Alpine, Borough of	✓	✓		
Bergenfield, Borough of		✓		
Bogota, Borough of		✓		
Carlstadt, Borough of		✓		
Cliffside Park, Borough of		✓		
Closter, Borough of	✓	✓		
Cresskill, Borough of	✓	✓		
Demarest, Borough of		✓		
Dumont, Borough of	✓	✓		
East Rutherford, Borough of	✓	✓		
Edgewater, Borough of	✓	✓		
Elmwood Park, Borough of		✓		
Emerson, Borough of	✓	✓		
Englewood Cliffs, Borough of		✓		
Englewood, City of		✓		
Fair Lawn, Borough of		✓		
Fairview, Borough of		✓		
Fort Lee, Borough of	✓	✓		
Franklin Lakes, Borough of	✓	✓		
Garfield, City of	✓	✓		
Glen Rock, Borough of		✓		
Hackensack, City of	✓	✓		
Harrington Park, Borough of		✓		
Hasbrouck Heights, Borough of	✓	✓		
Haworth, Borough of		✓		
Hillsdale, Borough of	✓	✓		
Ho-Ho-Kus, Borough of	✓	✓		
Leonia, Borough of		✓		
Little Ferry, Borough of	✓	✓		
Lodi, Borough of		✓		
Lyndhurst, Township of	✓	✓		
Mahwah, Township of	✓	✓		
Maywood, Borough of		✓		
Midland Park, Borough of		✓		
Montvale, Borough of		✓		
Moonachie, Borough of		✓		
New Milford, Borough of		✓		
North Arlington, Borough of		✓		

Participation	Meeting Type			
	Municipal Coordinators' Meeting	Municipal Meeting	County Meeting	Regional Stakeholder Meeting
Northvale, Borough of		✓		
Norwood, Borough of	✓	✓		
Oakland, Borough of	✓	✓		
Old Tappan, Borough of	✓	✓		
Oradell, Borough of	✓	✓		
Palisades Park, Borough of	✓	✓		
Paramus, Borough of	✓	✓		
Park Ridge, Borough of	✓	✓		
Ramsey, Borough of	✓	✓		
Ridgefield Park, Village of		✓		
Ridgefield, Borough of	✓	✓		
Ridgewood, Village of		✓		
River Edge, Borough of	✓	✓		
River Vale, Township of		✓		
Rochelle Park, Township of	✓	✓		
Rockleigh, Borough of		✓		
Rutherford, Borough of		✓		
Saddle Brook, Township of		✓		
Saddle River, Borough of	✓	✓		
South Hackensack, Township of	✓	✓		
Teaneck, Township of	✓	✓		
Tenafly, Borough of	✓	✓		
Teterboro, Borough of		✓		
Upper Saddle River, Borough of		✓		
Waldwick, Borough of	✓	✓		
Wallington, Borough of		✓		
Washington, Township of	✓	✓		
Westwood, Borough of		✓		
Wood Ridge, Borough of	✓	✓		
Woodcliff Lake, Borough of	✓	✓		
Wyckoff, Township of		✓		

3.5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Starting at the beginning of the planning process, members of the public were given the opportunity to be involved in the planning process. The Project Team hosted three public meetings throughout the planning process. The County OEM website was the main point of communication throughout the planning process.

Public Meeting Advertisement

For each public meeting, the County published a public workshop handout (see Figure 3.5-1 Public Workshop #1 Flyer) on the County OEM website, used the County's social media pages to post information about each public meeting (Figure 3.5-2), and sent an email to the following stakeholders:

- Municipal Mayors, Clerks, Borough Administrators List (includes all 70 towns)
- Local newspapers (Figure 3.5-3)
- Libraries
- Municipal environmental committee/shade tree commissions
- Organizations that represent socially vulnerable populations

Figure 3.5-1 Public Workshop #1 Flyer

BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY 2026 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN



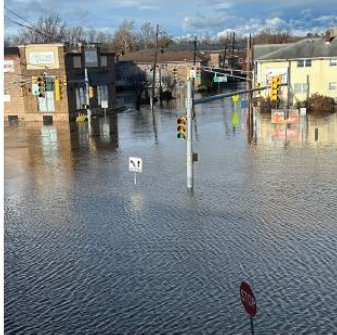


OVERVIEW

The Bergen County Office of Emergency Management is updating its 2021 Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Hazard mitigation planning identifies risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural disasters and develops long-term strategies for protecting people and property from future hazard events. A HMP is required by state and federal agencies to be updated every five (5) years in order for communities in Bergen County to be eligible for certain types of state and federal disaster relief funds after a disaster occurs.

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

The County of Bergen, alongside consultant Michael Baker International, Inc., will host a series of public workshops during this plan update. The purpose of the workshops is to provide an update on the project and to gather input from residents. Public input will help the project team better understand risks, vulnerabilities, and impacts of natural hazards to the community and identify potential mitigation actions to reduce that risk.



Flooding on Main Street at Route 46 in Lodi Township, Dec. 2023

To review the 2021 Bergen County HMP or learn more about hazard mitigation planning, please visit: <https://www.co.bergen.nj.us/emergency-management/all-hazard-mitigation-plan>.



ATTEND THE WORKSHOP!

Wednesday, January 24, 2024
6:00 - 7:00 PM

One Bergen County Plaza
(Hudson St. at County Pl.)
4th Floor Learning Center
Hackensack, NJ 07601



QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

Contact:

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Consultant Project Manager
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(e) brittany.dremluk@mbakerintl.com
(p) 609-807-9556

Ronald Salzano
Deputy County Emergency Management Coordinator
Bergen County Office of Emergency Management
(e) rsalzano@bcoem.org
(p) 201-785-5747

Figure 3.5-2 Bergen County Social Media Promoting Public Workshop #1

BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY 2026 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN



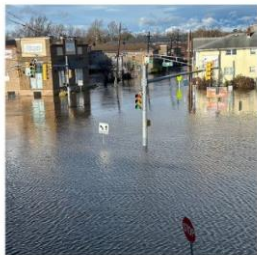


OVERVIEW

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Flooding on Main Street at Route 46 in Lodi Township, Dec. 2023

To review the 2021 Bergen County HMP or learn more about hazard mitigation planning, please visit: <https://www.co.bergen.nj.us/emergency-management/all-hazard-mitigation-plan>.



ATTEND THE WORKSHOP!

Wednesday, January 24, 2024
6:00 - 7:00 PM

One Bergen County Plaza
(Hudson St. at County Pl.)
4th Floor Learning Center
Hackensack, NJ 07601



QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

Contact:

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bergencountynj The Bergen County Office of Emergency Management is updating its 2021 Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Hazard mitigation planning identifies risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural disasters and develops long-term strategies for protecting people and property from future hazard events.

The County of Bergen, alongside consultant Michael Baker International, Inc., will host a series of public workshops during this plan update to provide updates on the project and to gather input from residents. Public input will help the project team better understand the risks, vulnerabilities, and impacts of natural hazards to the community and identify potential mitigation actions to reduce those risks.

Please join us for our first public workshop on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM in the One Bergen County Plaza Learning Center.

To review the 2021 Bergen County HMP or learn more about hazard mitigation planning, please visit: <https://www.co.bergen.nj.us/emergency-management/all-hazard-mitigation-plan>

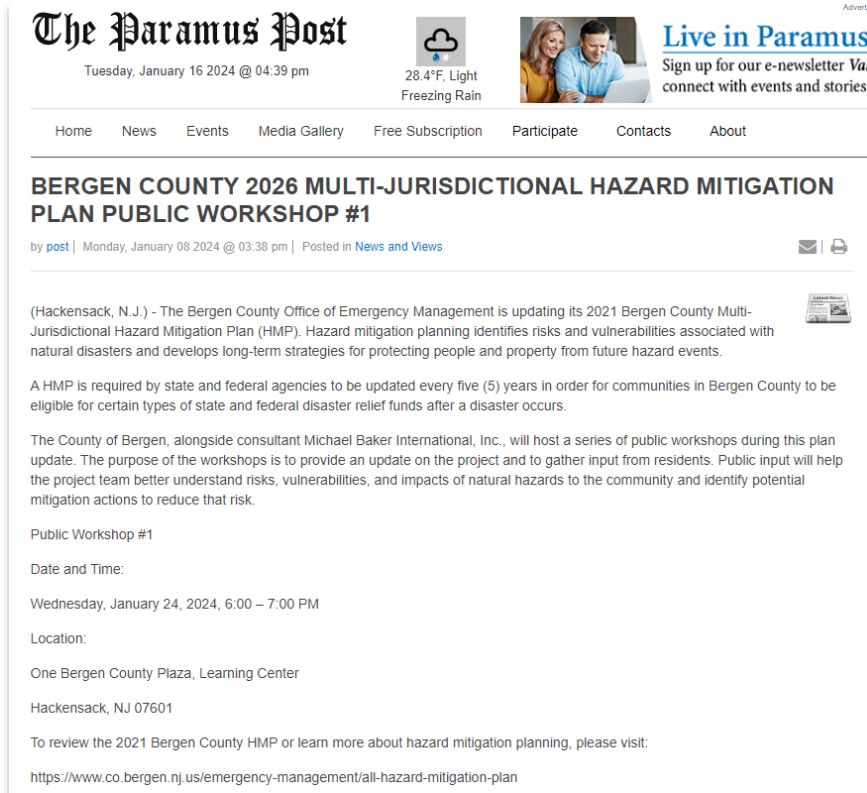
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Figure 3.5-3 Local Papers Advertising Public Workshop #1



Public Meeting #1

The first public meeting held during the planning process occurred in-person on January 24, 2024 at One Bergen County Plaza in Hackensack from 5:00- 6:00 pm. The meeting began with a presentation from the project team including an overview of hazard mitigation, a discussion of each of the plan elements including the risk assessment, the capability assessment and the mitigation strategy. The team went over the project schedule and next steps then opened up the floor for discussion.

During discussion, residents expressed local concerns such as increasing flood risks due to urban development, inadequate reservoir management, and environmental restrictions on dredging waterways. Additional concerns include repetitive flood losses, grant funding challenges, and zoning regulations that fail to prevent worsening drainage issues. The project team stressed the importance of community engagement, early reporting of flood-prone areas, and securing FEMA approval for mitigation funding as well as the need for a regional approach to flood mitigation and stronger coordination between municipalities. Finally, the meeting ended with information opportunities for the public to remain involved in the HMP update process.

Public Meeting #2

Public Meeting #2 took place on November 14, 2024, from 1:00 to 2:30 pm 2024 in-person at the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management (285 Campgaw Road, Mahwah, NJ). The second public meeting served as a mitigation grants workshop to understand which hazard mitigation grants the state prioritizes. The meeting began with a presentation from the planning team, including an update regarding the project schedule and the role of the municipalities in the process.

Chris Testa of NJOEM provided an in-depth hazard mitigation grants overview, beginning with an outline of hazard mitigation and FEMA hazard mitigation grants. Mr. Testa discussed previously funded projects as well as upcoming grant

opportunities. The presentation provided an in-depth look at flood mitigation strategies, focusing on repetitive loss (RL) and severe repetitive loss (SRL) properties. It outlined the types of activities eligible for funding, such as elevation and acquisition, while also clarifying ineligible activities that do not align with grant objectives. The discussion covered essential planning requirements needed for municipalities to qualify for funding and detailed the key elements of a successful grant application, including documentation and cost-benefit analysis. Additionally, the presentation introduced pre-calculated benefits and decision support tools designed to streamline the application process. The overarching goal was to equip communities. Participants left the meeting with the knowledge and resources needed to develop effective and community specific mitigation strategies and be able to pursue funding for those activities.

Public Meeting #3

The Project Team hosted its third public meeting on October 7, 2025, online via Microsoft Teams to discuss updates to this HMP. During the meeting, the team provided an overview of the HMP update process, including its purpose, timeline, and key highlights from the draft plan. These highlights included a community profile, hazard identification, capability assessment, mitigation strategy, and plan maintenance. The team shared county-scale and selected municipal-scale maps detailing FEMA Flood Zones, NJ Inland Flood Elevation, Sea Level Rise, and the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). Updates on mitigation strategies were also presented, revealing 85 new actions, 590 ongoing actions, 150 completed actions, and 65 withdrawn actions across the county. The discussion concluded with a review of next steps for plan maintenance, including the process for towns to submit annual progress reports for additional actions before the next plan update.