

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLANNING IN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

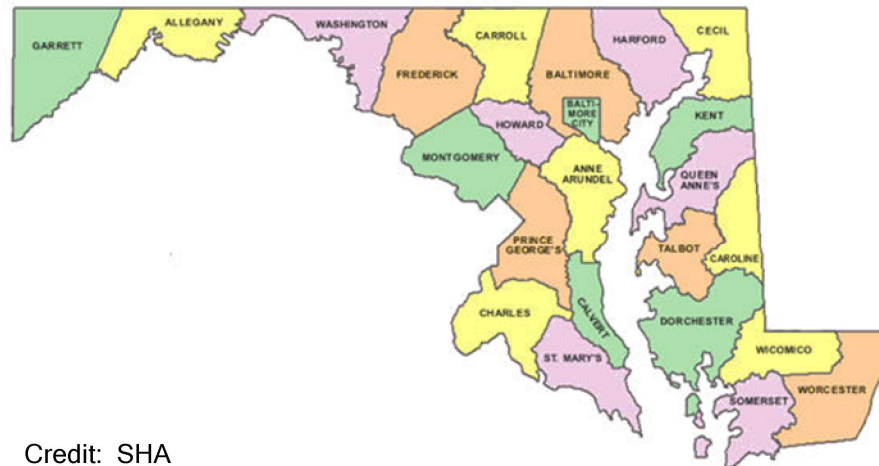
Adaptation and Response
Working Group

December 11, 2017



APPROACH FOR THE ANALYSIS

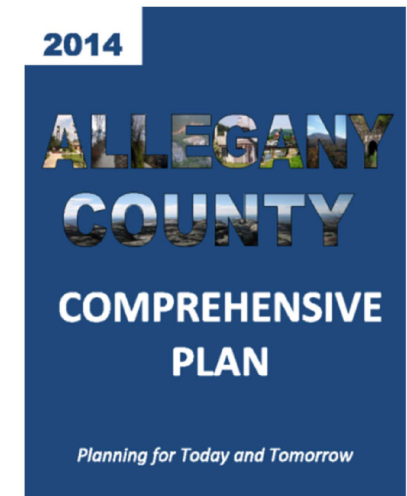
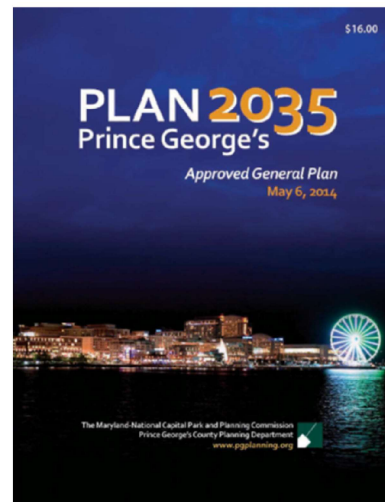
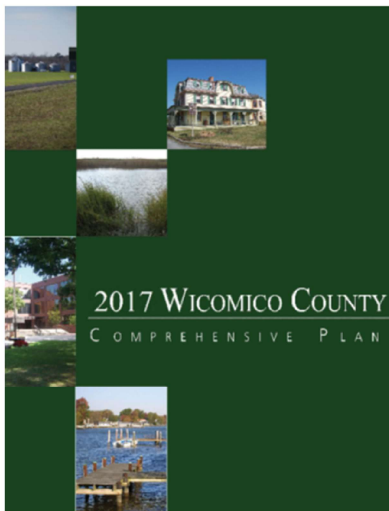
- Assess county capacity for adaptation planning
- Comprehensive plans versus hazard mitigation plans
- Reviewed plans for 23 counties and City of Baltimore



Credit: SHA

IDENTIFY PLANS THAT MENTION CLIMATE CHANGE

- 14 county comprehensive plans
- 2 other adaptation plans



Analysis

TERMS USED TO DISCUSS CLIMATE CHANGE

- For the 16 county plans:
 - Climate change
 - Sea level rise
 - Coastal resiliency



Analysis

IDENTIFIED SPECIFIC HAZARDS

- 16 county plans
- Hazards that are associated with climate change
 - Coastal hazards
 - Precipitation variability
 - Extreme weather
 - Direct or indirect reference to climate changes



Analysis

FINDINGS

- Excerpts of Plans - highlighting:
 - Climate change terminology
 - Policies and recommendations
 - Resources impacted
 - Direct or indirect reference to climate change

5. Limit forest fragmentation. Adopt regulations that protect forest hubs (greater than 100 acres) and forest corridors for the survival of the remaining biodiversity and Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS) of Charles County. Under the Forest Conservation Ordinance, add a requirement that priority forests be maintained on development sites, unless a variance is granted by the Board of Appeals. [DIRECT LINK](#)
6. **Shoreline.** Adopt buffers and development setbacks from areas vulnerable to over 3 feet of sea level rise in the next 100 years to protect private and public investments, and accommodate inland wetland migration.
7. Transfer of Development Rights. Enhance the effectiveness of the Transfer of Development Rights program per recommendations of the LPPRP.

Land resources - including floodplains, steep slopes, and forest lands

[INDIRECT LINK](#)

- 5.8 Restrict development within 100-year floodplains.
- 5.9 **Conserve remaining wooded areas in the County.** Pursue grant opportunities or other programs to increase, enhance and protect forests, and require new native plantings to support other natural resource objectives including enhancing riparian buffers, reducing erosion and sedimentation, improving air quality, and mitigating the effects of stormwater runoff. [INDIRECT LINK](#)
- 5.10 Retain as much of the forest and tree cover as practical within urban areas.
- 5.11 Require special engineering and construction standards when development occurs on erodible soils, steep slopes, or areas requiring special geotechnical consideration.

FINDINGS

- Summary Table:
Plans with Climate Change Hazards

County - Comprehensive Plans	General Terms Used			Specific Climate Change Hazards Mentioned												
	Climate Change (General)	Sea Level Rise	Coastal Resiliency	Coastal Hazards			Precipitation Variability				Extreme Weather				Air Quality	
				Hurricanes	Storm Surge	Coastal Inundation	Precipitation Variability*	Winter Storms	Drought	Dam Failure	Wind	Tornados	Heat	Wildfires		
Allegany (2014)	✓						X									
Anne Arundel (2009)		✓		X	X	X				X						
Baltimore City (DP3) (2013)	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓
Baltimore County (2010)	✓	✓			X											



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEWS COMPLETED - WHAT'S NEXT?

- Review hazard mitigation plans in collaboration with MEMA
- Evaluate strength of existing policies
- Resources impacted



QUESTIONS?

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SHAPING STATE ADAPTATION PLANNING GUIDANCE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- Best practices
- Mechanisms for proposing/implementing best practices
- Coastal Resilience Element
- Recognizing and addressing obstacles
- Identify lessons learned/case studies

