



State Hazard Mitigation Plan Implementation

2025 Progress & 2026 Priorities

Vermont Emergency Management



State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP)

- The State Hazard Mitigation Plan is a blueprint for statewide action to address vulnerabilities to natural hazards and improve **resilience**.
- It is a climate **adaptation** plan that assess all environmental hazards for Vermont.
- Updated every 5 years and approved by FEMA
- A FEMA-approved SHMP is required for FEMA grants for State agencies and municipalities under Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs.

<https://vem.vermont.gov/plans/SHMP>



SHMP Hazards



Fluvial Erosion



Inundation
Flooding



Heat



Wind



Snow



Ice



Drought



Infectious Disease
Outbreak



Cold



Invasive Species



Landslides



Wildfire



Earthquake



Hail

Assets Considered for Impacts



Built Environment

Homes,
Infrastructure,
Structures



People

Health and
wellbeing of all
people in Vermont



Economy

Supply chains,
businesses,
employment



Natural Environment

Ecosystems,
natural resources,
agriculture

2023 SHMP Actions

Goal	Strategy	Action Number	Actions	Source	Hazard(s) Addressed	Lead	Partners	Feasibility	Impact (Positive)	Impact
Establish a statewide conservation and buyout program		20	Complete a review of nationwide building codes (to include residential and energy codes) to determine what codes could be best suited to Vermont, including standards for new construction and best practices for existing buildings (e.g., weatherization, retrofit - tied into manufactured housing) - integration into existing Vermont codes, including impacts to frontline communities (BRIC scoping application).	2018 SHMP (Action 26) /2023 SHMP	All Hazards	Norwich	Norwich, DPS - Fire Safety	Medium	Medium	Low
		21	Evaluate methods for resilient construction standards of manufactured housing that maintain affordability for low- and moderate-income residents.	2023 SHMP	All Hazards			High	High	Low
		22	Develop an application under FEMA's annual Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program to complete a scoping study to assess the value of developing a residential building code in Vermont.	2023 SHMP	All Hazards	VEM		High	Medium	Low
		23	Create a mechanism for monitoring tax-sale/foreclosed properties and other for sale properties located within SFHA and State River Corridor maps to identify flood-vulnerable structures for removal (BRIC scoping application).	2018 SHMP (Action 53)	Inundation; Fluvial Erosion	VEM	ANR, VEM, VT Realtors, ACCD, VLCT	Medium	High	Medium
		24	damaged repetitively but are not on the FEMA Repetitive Loss (RL) or Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) list to be used for buyout/conservation prioritization (BRIC scoping application).	2018 SHMP (Action 54)	Inundation; Fluvial Erosion; Landslide	VEM	VEM, ANR, RPCs, ACCD	Medium	Medium	Low
		25	Develop a Benefit-Cost Analysis methodology to facilitate buyouts in areas at risk from flood-related erosion and role of the River Corridor and outside of FEMA-mapped Special Flood Hazard Areas (BRIC scoping application).	2018 SHMP (Action 55)	Inundation; Fluvial Erosion	VEM	VT Silver Jackets, VEM, ANR, ACCD	Medium	High	Low
		26	Develop a modified BCA process more adequately incorporating social and equity considerations specific to Vermont within the BCA tool (BRIC Scoping).	2023 SHMP	All Hazards	VEM	ACCD, UVM, CVOEO, CAO, EJ CRU	Medium	High	Low
		27	Create a mechanism for monitoring the relocating or re-profiting of small businesses and parks at the time of sale or substantial rehabilitation.	2018 SHMP (Action 56)	Inundation; Fluvial Erosion	ACCD	ACCD, CVOEO, UVM	Medium	Medium	Medium
		28	Pilot engagement strategies for buyouts and re-location of manufactured housing communities to develop outreach materials and develop case studies on program coordination and successful resilience improvements.	2023 SHMP	Inundation; Fluvial Erosion	DEC	DEC, UVM, CVOEO, CAO	Medium	Medium	Medium
	Incorporate flood resilience in transportation planning, engineering and programming	29	Define process for updating and maintaining the data within the Transportation Resilience Planning Tool (TRPT) as well as explore tool additions i.e., rail infrastructure and enhancements e.g., coordination with Reducing Great Damages (GDP-21 Part 667). (Resource: PROTECT Planning funds, 2% required)	2023 SHMP	Inundation; Fluvial Erosion	DEC	DEC - Rivers, Norwich University	High	High	Low
		30	Evaluate transportation programs, standards, policies, etc. for the integration of resilience planning, design, and construction methods including geomorphic compatibility assessments.	2023 SHMP	Inundation; Fluvial Erosion	VTTrans	VEM	Medium	Medium	Low
		31	Develop a Resilience Improvement Plan (RIP) and identify funding options for implementation under the PROTECT program and in coordination with other funding.	2023 SHMP	Inundation; Fluvial Erosion	VTTrans	VEM	High	High	Low

➤ 112 Total Actions

➤ 43 Priority Actions

➤ 10 Top Priority Actions for 2024

➤ 14 Top Priority Actions for 2025

➤ Two overarching priorities for 2026

Mitigation Strategy Goal Areas

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL SYSTEMS:

Protect, restore and enhance Vermont's natural resources to promote healthy, resilient ecosystems.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT:

Enhance the resilience of our built environment - our towns, infrastructure, buildings, and cultural assets.

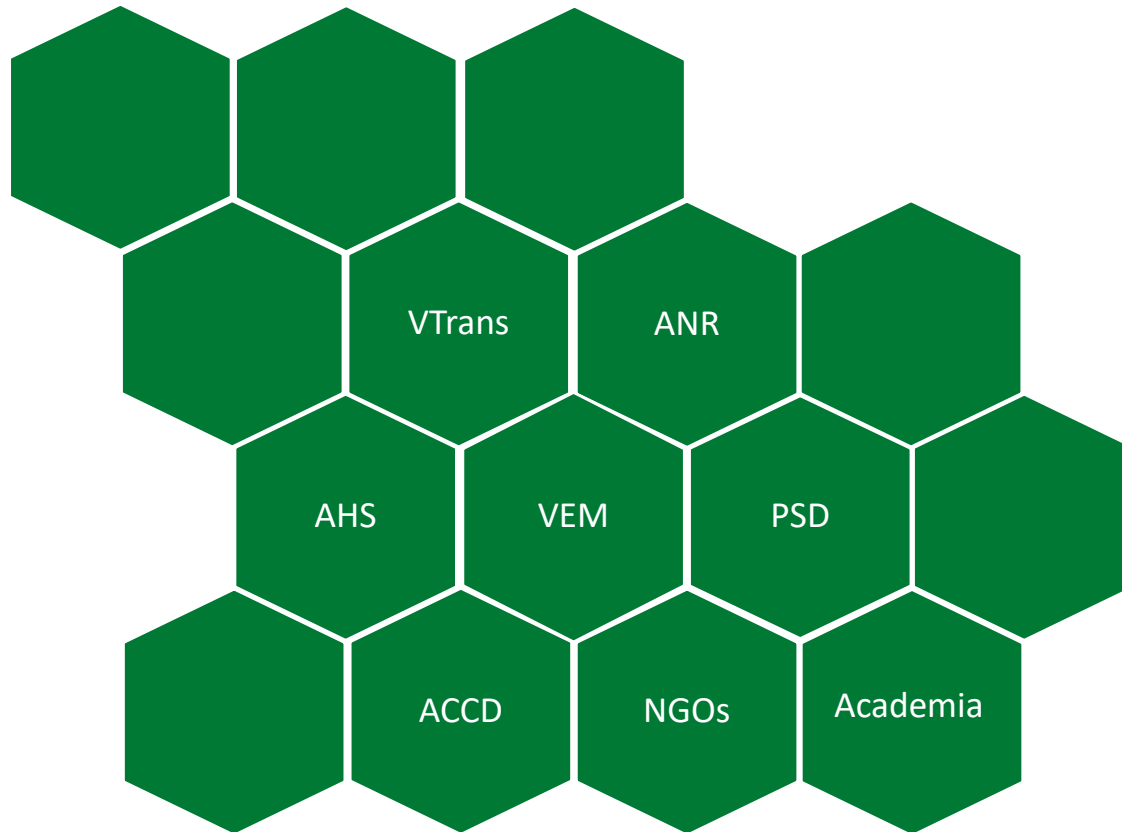
PLANS & POLICIES:

Develop and implement plans and policies that create resilient natural systems and built environments.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH:

Create a common understanding of – and coordinated approach to – mitigation planning and action.

Process for 2025 Implementation Updates - A Unified State Effort



- The 2023 SHMP is not just a VEM document; it is a multi-agency and NGO roadmap to statewide resilience for our communities.
- VEM maintains the SHMP Implementation Tracker survey tool, allowing action leads across all agencies to provide real-time updates as work is completed.

SHMP Action Leads

ACCD	Agency of Commerce and Community Development – Community Planning and Revitalization
AHS	Agency of Human Services
Dam Safety Office	Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environment Conservation – Dam Safety Office
Rivers Program	Agency of Natural Resources – Department of Environment Conservation – Rivers Program
State Geologist	Agency of Natural Resources – Department of Environment Conservation – Division of Geology and Mineral Resources
CAO	Agency of Natural Resources - Climate Action Office
FPR	Agency of Natural Resources – Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation
Norwich University	Norwich University
PSD	Department of Public Service
SHPO	Agency of Commerce and Community Development – State Historic Preservation Officer
UVM - CDAE	University of Vermont – Community Development and Applied Economics and Center for Rural Studies
UVM - VSCO	University of Vermont – Vermont State Climatologist Office
VAAFM	Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
VDH	Agency of Human Services - Vermont Department of Health
VEM	Department of Public Safety - Vermont Emergency Management
VNRC	Vermont Natural Resource Council
VTrans	Agency of Transportation

+ Partners

Coordinating Vermont's Climate & Resilience Planning



We all agree! Vermont's major planning efforts—the SHMP, CAP, and RIS must be aligned and reinforcing.



The 2018 and 2023 SHMP informed both the prior and current CAP, as well as the newly developed RIS – but there is more to do.



We are coordinating closely with the Vermont Climate Action Office to continue improve our integration across plans and tools.



Coordination allows us to build on each other's work, reduces duplication, and supports cohesive implementation across agencies.

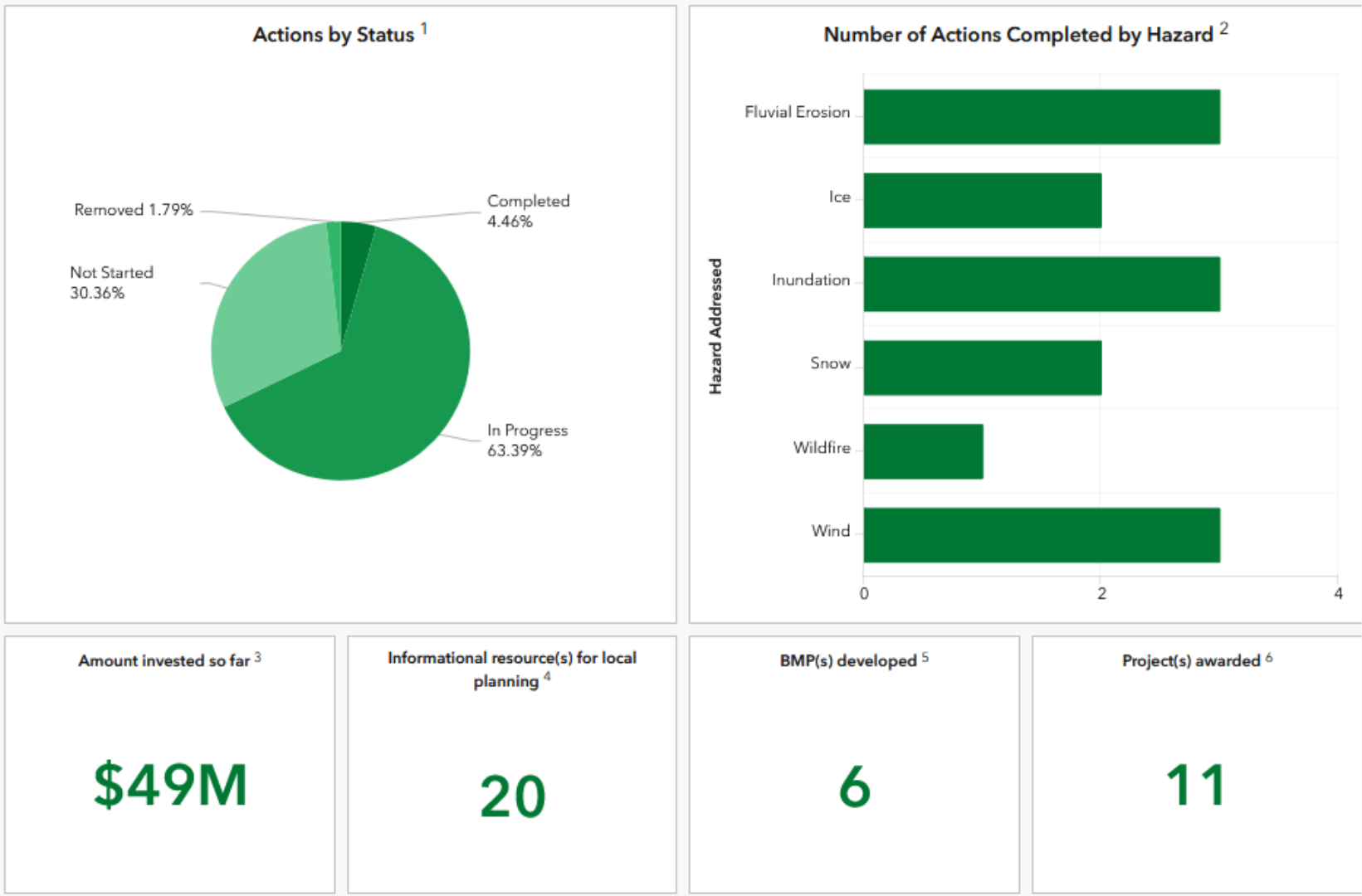


Vermont State Hazard Mitigation Plan Annual Report

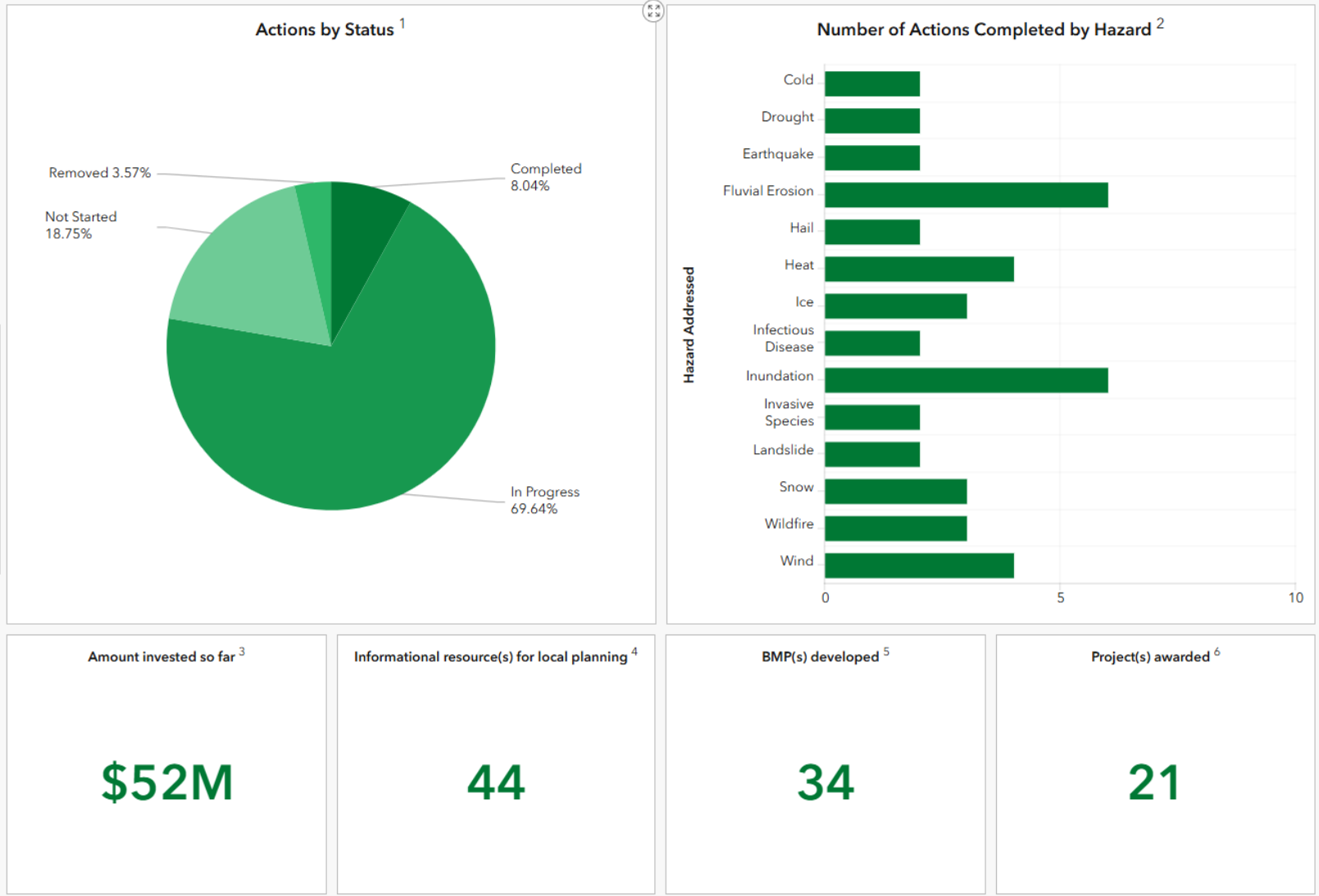
2025



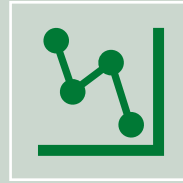
2024 Implementation Overview



2025 Implementation Overview



Natural Resources – 2025 Highlights



Advanced our understanding of drought in Vermont to make informed planning decisions.



Expanded River Corridor & Wetland Easements, protecting 307 acres statewide since 2023.

Built Environment – 2025 Highlights



Initiated development of a statewide electric grid resilience framework to address increasing outage risks from extreme weather.



Expanded the Transportation Resilience Planning Tool to include state-owned rail infrastructure and updated flood risk scores using recent damage data.

Education & Outreach – 2025 Highlights



Launched Climate Conversations with linguistically diverse community leaders to connect frontline communities with state climate resources.



Advanced statewide performance tracking through development of the Measuring and Assessing Progress tool for climate resilience outcomes.

Plans & Policies – 2025 Highlights



Launched new publicly accessible tools and databases to advanced climate adaptation work across State agencies.



Strengthened flood disclosure requirements for property transactions.

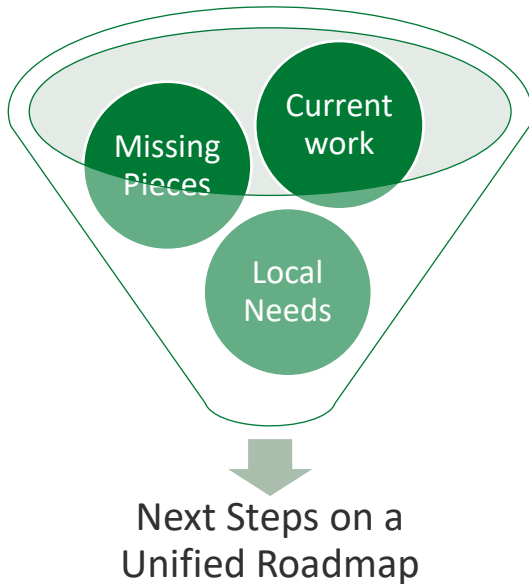


Created the State-led buyout program to reduce local burden and increase efficiency in FEMA processes.

Questions & Feedback



Process for 2026 Priority Development



Priorities were developed during an all-day strategy meeting in December 2025 with SHMP implementation leads and partners.



A review of Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs) produced a gap analysis of where towns need more support for resilience planning and implementation.



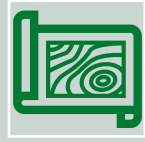
VEM, in coordination with the Climate Action Office (CAO), mapped each of the 2026 priority items to crosswalk State Hazard Mitigation Plan actions and Resilience Implementation Strategy (RIS) actions.

Shared Priorities

Improve data sharing and mapping tool accessibility.

Strengthen state support for local implementation.

Improve Data Sharing And Mapping Tool Accessibility: Part 1



Complete statewide landslide hazard mapping.



Assess tax-sale/foreclosed properties data availability for buyout prioritization.



Improve accessibility of digitized dam inundation areas to improve emergency response and mitigation planning.

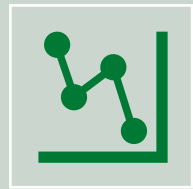


Strengthen data sharing between VEM and the DEC Wetlands Program.

Improve Data Sharing And Mapping Tool Accessibility: Part 2



Update the inventory of hazard planning map products

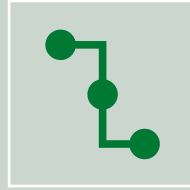


Assess and implemented opportunities for increasing the groundwater monitoring network.

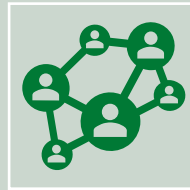


Integrate drought impact survey data into Local Hazard Mitigation Plans.

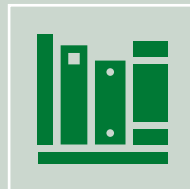
Strengthen State Support For Local Implementation: Part 1



Evaluate the true impact of the Emergency Management Preparedness Grant program in moving resilience forward.



Advance the statewide resilience hub assessment.



Inventory all applicable guidance materials for after disaster.

Strengthen State Support For Local Implementation: Part 2



Coordinate across agencies on wildland fire mitigation.



VEM will complete buyout reuse guidance.



Integrate DEC Rivers Program-led study on barriers to environmental and social equity.



Support the development of a combined LHMP and Town Plan.

2028 SHMP Update

- 2028 SHMP must be FEMA-approved by November 2028
- With funding we can move from static pdf plan to a living, digital planning platform
 - HMGP 4720 application with FEMA
- The next update is designed to:
 - Improve usability and decision support
 - Reduce local planning burden
 - Strengthen risk-based investment



Hands Mill Dam prior to demolition



Hands Mill Dam post-construction

Discussion

