

PREPARING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IN DOVER

GAINING INSIGHTS AND CHARTING A COURSE

“Meeting Summary,” from group discussions at Project Kick-off October 21, 2014 | 6:00-8:30pm – McConnell Center café

*The project kick-off involved a climate change presentation followed by small group discussions around three themes: people, infrastructure, and natural resources. Participants brainstormed concerns about climate change impacts to the City of Dover, followed by possible actions to address those impacts. These discussions were recorded on flipcharts and posted around the room at the end of the evening. Attendees used sticky dots to indicate the **priority actions** they wanted to explore moving ahead. The numbers in parentheses are the number of sticky dots or “votes” placed by participants on each topic and/or bulleted item.*

The steering committee suggests focusing on the topics of “Changes in Land Use Regulations” and “Green Infrastructure.” As small working groups explore these topics at subsequent workshops, the committee has also suggested that each topic consider (1) How the city can lead by example, (2) Opportunities for public education.

What potential actions can Dover take to reduce the impacts of climate change?

(12) Topic: Public Education

- Public education – Schools, senior citizens, immigrants, boards (planning) (4)
- School board/curriculum – active/outdoor learning (1)
- Encourage outside experiences (1)
- Climate
- Individual/city preparedness
- Emergency housing
- Develop shelter plan – access needs
- Raising public awareness (about impacts to natural resources)

- Less building in wetlands
- Building codes – Raised above Base Flood Elevation
- Open Lands plan – with this filter
- Incentives for property owners – stormwater, power
- Regional planning participation
- Flood protection downtown
 - Consider downstream impacts upstream
- Actions to support wildlife, e.g. plantings to benefit wildlife (more native plants & diversity), culverts, connectivity, large habitat areas

(9) Topic: Changes in Land Use Regulations

- Change new construction to reflect latest data planning & zoning boards (1)
- Enable dense infill development (Develop where things are already developed) (1)
- Buffer zones, enforcing & increasing buffers for wetlands and streams
- Impervious surfaces
- Storm water regulations
- Anticipate climate change through regulations

(7) Topic: Green Infrastructure

- Rain gardens, rain barrels & other creative solutions to control storm water (3)
- Biomimicry/engineering → biologically based design, “soft” infrastructure (3)
- More conservation land → less development (1)
- Plant more resilient plants, specifically street trees, that can survive future conditions

- Wetland restoration
- Protect buffer areas
- Stormwater – alternatives to impervious cover
- Tree-lined streets – green roofs, white roofs?
- Community gardens dispersed
- Greenhouses
- Address food access & education, explore models
- Evaluate sewer system – pipes, power impacts
 - Inflow & Infiltration – water in/out of system

(7) Topic: Energy and Power

- Harden emergency systems, power, energy (3)
- Renewable/energy program (2)
 - Energy efficiency – existing building (2)
 - Winter windows closed!
 - Look for good examples from away
 - City Fleet improvements – energy
 - Building code energy efficiency above state regulation
 - Reduce greenhouse gases in homes
 - Awareness of low cost cooling options
 - Public housing back up power
 - Renewable energy capacity in public buildings
 - Utilities underground option

(5) Topic: City goal to “Lead by example” (4)

- Encourage public support for action → political (1)
- Use most recent data to make decisions

(5) Topic: Transportation

- Diversity of options (1)
 - Bikes (2)
 - Business continuity plan

- Reducing parking spaces, promoting public transit, other mitigation actions (2)
- Transportation options for low income & everyone

(4) Topic: Emergency Preparedness

- Emergency plan review (1)
 - Clean water
 - Health focus, hospitals
- Emergency shelters
 - Pet care in emergency (1)
- Need for more police enforcement/planning & fire dept (1)
- Neighborhood network, neighbors watching/helping neighbors (1)
- Access to cash for emergency preparedness
- Emergency Plan, Dover Download – mobile ready?
- Training for emergency response and residents

Topic: Communications

- Make better connections among groups
- How to deal with barriers like science deniers
- Communication networks
- Address board coordination gap – community wide/education
- Knowledge of most vulnerable locations
 - Phone tree, prioritize

Other

- Continue to build and make accessible baseline data for water quality, wildlife, etc.
- Asset Management Plan – need to do one
- Disease control, ID who is responsible?
- CSPACE