



American Planning Association
Rhode Island Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

2014 Award Winners

Current Topic: Planning for Climate Change

Adaptations to Natural Hazards and Climate Change

Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program and
University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center / RI Sea Grant

The Town of North Kingstown, in coordination with the RI Statewide Planning Program and the University of RI Coastal Resources Center/RI Sea Grant, has been working on ways to address sea level rise in its comprehensive plan.

This project is congratulated for considering the long-term resilience of the Town's and the state's economic vitality, natural and cultural resources and overall quality of life as coastal conditions change. It illustrates how Rhode Island's state regulatory agencies and municipal governments are actively undertaking programs to develop, review and test strategies for long-term resiliency to the effects of climate change and coastal hazards.

This project is also lauded for its comprehensiveness and inclusion. Land use concerns, transportation concerns, storm water, building stock, municipal properties and facilities, emergency management facilities, wastewater, drinking water, groundwater, wetlands, historic and cultural resources, contaminated sites, open space, recreation, and public access, vulnerable populations (coastal neighborhoods, commercial districts, elderly and LMI housing, schools, day cares), greenhouse gas reduction, utilities and infrastructure, communications, and municipal operations have all been thoroughly identified and considered.

This project ensures that significant attention is paid to developing a plan to protect town's assets so they can withstand projected sea level rise and natural storm impacts in decades to come. <http://rhody.crc.uri.edu/accnk/>

Excellent Comprehensive Plan

City of Warwick Comprehensive Plan

City of Warwick

The Warwick Comprehensive Plan, titled 21st Century Warwick: City of Livable Neighborhoods is commended for its solid content, the transferability of its ideas and approaches to other communities, its accessible layout and design, and the very extensive public engagement process used to develop it.

The strategies and concepts envisioned in the plan, from Village District zoning, to compact development options to help preserve open space, to enhancing connectivity throughout the City, to pursuing a thoughtful economic development agenda, all work together to tell a clear and exciting story about the City's future. Further, in keeping with this year's theme of Planning for Climate Change, the plan includes a "Sustainability & Resilience" Chapter, which concentrates especially on energy- and resource-efficiency and on hazard mitigation and resilience, particularly in relation to local concerns about flooding, coastal storm surge, and sea-level rise.

The plan is organized in an easy-to-read format, with color-coded document navigation graphics, helpful summaries at the start of each section, and a user-friendly implementation guide. Finally, the City is commended for the great effort it put into the public participation process, including more than 30 public meetings, extensive survey work, and an active and engaging project website. <http://www.warwickcompplan.com/>

Excellence in Neighborhood Planning

