

POLICY 6: FLOODING + EROSION

Minimize loss of life, structures, infrastructure, and natural resources caused by flooding and erosion, and increase resilience to future conditions due to climate change.

GOALS OF REVISIONS

- Require projects to consider the risks associated with coastal flooding based on climate change projections, and encourage applicants to minimize these risks through design strategies that will enhance their ability to withstand and quickly recover from weather-related events.
- Projects should explore strategies as elevating or waterproofing the lowest floor of potentially vulnerable buildings and choosing salt-water-tolerant plants for parks that may face temporary inundation in the event of a storm surge.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

- In sub-policy on minimizing losses from flooding and erosion, adds that shoreline protection measures should be designed to account for future sea level rise (6.1 A) and “can be structural, natural, or a hybrid ...to protect public health and safety while minimizing impacts on ecosystems and public access.” (6.1 B) Adds that “shoreline treatments that provide for ecological function, including hybrid approaches, are preferred within the SNWAs, sites with natural resources within the ESMIA, and RECs” (6.1 C); and “In SNWAs, ESMIA, RECs, and wherever else achievable, use salt-water-tolerant plantings and non-structural measures to manage flooding and erosion based on site characteristics” (6.1 E).
- Adds new sub-policy 6.2 on climate change: “Integrate the latest New York City projections of climate change and sea level rise (as published by the NPCC, or any successor thereof) into the planning and design of all projects in the city's coastal zone.”
 - A. In the planning of projects, vulnerabilities to and impacts of sea level rise, coastal flooding, and storm surge over the lifespan of the proposed project should be assessed. (A list of the types of information that may be considered in this assessment is provided in sub-policy 6.2 A.)
 - B. Incorporate design techniques in projects to address the potential risks identified. Climate resilience techniques should aim to protect lives, minimize damage to systems and natural resources, prevent loss of property, and, if practicable, promote economic growth and provide additional benefits such as provision of public space and intertidal habitat. To the extent that potential techniques are identified but not taken, an explanation should be provided as to why incorporating techniques is not practicable for the given project. (A list of possible design techniques is provided in sub-policy 6.2 B.)
 - C. The project should also provide a qualitative analysis of potential adverse impacts on existing resources as a result of the anticipated effects of climate change (6.2 C).
 - D. Projects that involve construction of new structures directly in the water or at the water line should be designed to protect inland structures and uses from flooding and storm surge (6.2 D).