



National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies

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NAFSMA Climate Adaptation Policy

Approved by the NAFSMA Leadership on September 15, 2021

NAFSMA is committed to supporting local, regional, and other national organizations striving to build resilient and healthy community environments. There is scientific consensus that global temperatures have been rising over time, which is changing climate patterns and increasing the likelihood of weather-related natural disasters. The devastating effects from sea level rise in coastal communities, increased flooding in communities near rivers and creeks, urban flooding, more frequent wildfires, and more extreme heat days in urban communities, are all occurring throughout the United States.

As stewards of the water resources environment, NAFSMA supports local, regional, state, and federal efforts to develop adaptation and mitigation strategies to protect and improve the natural and built systems that support sustainable economies and environmental resilience. NAFSMA defines resilience as the ability of natural and built systems to withstand disturbances and recover more quickly and fully from disasters related to changing climate.

NAFSMA urges climate equity throughout the nation. A climate equity framework needs to prioritize areas most burdened by these extreme changes in climate and those most socially vulnerable to it. Climate equity ensures that these communities play a central role in the just transformation of the systems that have established, and continue to perpetuate, the unequal burden of climate impacts. This means that policies and projects to mitigate or adapt to changing weather patterns must prioritize benefits to areas facing the strongest impacts and reduce existing burdens and bar future regulatory burdens to these communities.

NAFSMA promotes the restoration and protection of green infrastructure and ecosystems which can aid and provide multiple environmental and economic benefits. These benefits include decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing carbon sequestration, reducing heat island temperatures, minimizing localized and urban flooding, and improving stormwater quality. Through changes in land use development techniques and patterns communities can provide multiple benefits that protect public health and contribute to a more sustainable environment.

NAFSMA joins our partners working at the local, regional, and national levels to address climate challenges and commits to work with appropriate federal agencies as they integrate climate adaptation goals into their individual policies and programs.

For more information on NAFSMA's climate adaptation policy and activities please contact Executive Director Susan Gilson at sgilson@nafsma.org or Director of Government Affairs and Member Programs Sunny Simpkins at sunnys@nafsma.org.