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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Workshop Policy Brief
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Prepared for:
The City of Madison

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Research Question

How does **climate change** threaten **resilience** in Madison, specifically for **frontline and vulnerable populations**, and what steps should city leaders, the Sustainable Madison Committee, and other stakeholders take to implement a resilience plan?

Methods

This report includes analysis of historical climate patterns, models of current and future climate scenarios, a socioeconomic analysis of Madison neighborhoods, and qualitative interviews of Madison residents and subject matter experts. The report also includes case studies of four U.S. cities employing resilience strategies.

The full report will be available at
<http://www.lafollette.wisc.edu/outreach-public-service/service-learning>

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Addressing Local Social Effects of Climate Change

In the next 50 years, Madison is likely to experience more frequent extreme precipitation and flooding events, and up to 50 days per year of dangerous heat wave conditions. These events will have disproportionate effect on young children and older adults. Low-income and under-resourced populations are both more exposed to extreme climate events and more at risk of long-term, potentially life-threatening consequences. A city resilience strategy can address the acute shocks and chronic stresses of climate change and mitigate these risks and disproportionate effects.

Based on the Rockefeller Foundation 100 Resilient Cities Framework, an analysis of case studies in four U.S. cities, and several City of Madison stakeholder groups, this report recommends:

To the Madison Common Council and Mayor

- Hire a Chief Resilience Officer to lead the city's resilience strategy planning and implementation.
- Develop a Madison-specific climate adaptation and resilience task force. Members could include technical and operational experts, a Sustainable Madison Committee representative, and local leaders across sectors.

To the Sustainable Madison Committee

- Establish accountability measures for a climate resilience strategy including, goals, monitoring, and tracking of initiatives and actions.
- Support a culture in City departments that understands and uses resilience models to help anticipate the effects of climate change-related chronic stresses and of acute shocks, into planning and programs.
- Conduct a stakeholder mapping of residents and city leaders to understand community priorities related to resilience.
- Support the City to pursue improvements in housing quality and energy efficiency.

To City Departments

- Establish strategies to identify vulnerable populations and sub-populations; for example, non-native English-speaking communities.
- Target 2023 for completion of a formal resilience plan. Resilience leaders can expect the planning process to take about two years.
- Strategically leverage nonprofit service providers, especially those who provide services to older adults.
- Develop an equity-based climate risk assessment tool similar to the Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative tool that departments can modify and adapt to their responsibilities.
- Consult with surrounding communities and municipal stakeholders to explore a regional resilience strategy.
- Establish Neighborhood Disaster Preparedness Liaisons to build social networks within neighborhoods.