Collect Hazards Data

## [Purpose](#_[Name_of_Chapter)

Review existing sources of information on hazards, disasters, and threats your community experiences or may be impacted by in the future.

## What you’ll Need

**Who:** One or more members of the core team

**Where:** Varies

**How long will it take:** 2 hours

**Materials:** Internet access

## Instructions

There are several data and information sources that can help you understand the natural hazards and climate change impacts you may experience.

* NOAA's [Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation](https://resilience.climate.gov/) portal provides real-time maps showing where climate-related hazards are occurring and summarizes climate change projections such as temperature change and intense rainstorms for specific cities.
* FEMA’s [National Risk Index](https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/) has county level scores for risk from 18 natural hazards as well as social vulnerability, community resilience, and expected annual loss.
* The White House Council on Environmental Quality’s [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#4.1/38.72/-90.38) provides data on disadvantaged communities based on climate change, health, housing, pollution, and other sectors relative to the national average.
* FEMA's [Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool](https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/resilience-analysis-and-planning-tool)  has data on hazards such as historical tornado tracks, wildfire incidents and storm surge, demographics (county and census tract level), and infrastructure such as hospitals, wastewater treatment plants, and power plants.
* EPA’s [EnviroAtlas](https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas) has data related to ecosystem services, chemical and non-chemical stressors, human health, and demographic Census data.
* The [National Climate Assessment](https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/) has chapters for each region of the country which describes the climate change impacts that the region is currently experiencing or may experience in the future.

If you are unfamiliar with hazards data or these kinds of data tools, it may be helpful to reach out to someone from a university, an environmental organization, or your state environmental protection office for help. They may even already have reports or resources you can use. When looking at existing plans, pay attention to the description of the process and who was involved. Were they representative of the community?

Once you have found some sources of information, try to identify what the pressing threats and impacts to your community in the near and medium term may be.

## Hazards Information Template

1. Based on the data you see, list the most significant climate change risks over the next 50 years, or whatever planning timelines are relevant for you.

For example:

Sea level is expected to rise 6 inches.

The number of days above 90 degrees is expected to increase by 20.

1. What other risks do you know of that are relevant for your community that you do not have information about?

For example:

We have a nuclear power plant that is in a flood zone.

We have information systems vulnerable to cyber-attack.

## What to do next

Debrief with your core team and, if possible, fill out some thoughts in the table below considering what you learned in the storytelling workshop. Then, return to the ERB tool to continue collecting data on equity.

Hazard Data Table: For each hazard, list the potential impacts on your community’s built and natural environment, and people.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Hazard | Built environment | Natural environment | People |
| Sea-level rise (SLR) | Flooded streets, crumbling sea walls, | Saltwater intrusion, habitat loss | Property values, tourism, transportation interruption |
| Heat | Energy grid, roads | Fish kills, algae bloom, agriculture impacts | Heat stress, health conditions, recreation |
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