

EPA Tools & Resources Training Webinar: Using the Equitable Resilience Builder (ERB) Tool to develop a resilience plan

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Training Overview

- I. Background: Key concepts
- II. Introduction to the Equitable Resilience Builder (ERB) tool
- III. Plan and Engage (demo)
- IV. Assess (demo)
- V. Strategize and Move Forward (demo)
- VI. Wrap-up: Getting started with ERB



Why resilience and equity? Disproportionate impacts of climate change

Why resilience and equity? Avoid inequitable impacts of resilience projects

Which neighborhoods get projects?



Whose needs are prioritized?



Whose voices are heard?



Equitable resilience planning

Process matters

- Inclusive decision making and extensive engagement
- Informed by local knowledge and culturally appropriate
- Acknowledges differential vulnerabilities to specific hazards

Outcomes matter

- Solutions are holistic & address intersecting hazards and threats
- Solutions tackle social and environmental inequities
- Solutions pay attention how benefits and costs are distributed



What is ERB?

A downloadable tool for inclusive resilience planning for disasters and climate change

It helps you:

- Engage with public, private, and civic organizations and local residents on resilience topics
- Identify local hazards and equity challenges
- Assess the resilience of social, built, and natural environment systems
- Incorporate local knowledge and experiences into a resilience plan
- Identify, evaluate, and begin to take actions to strengthen resilience in an equitable way

Who could use ERB and for what?

Tribal environmental agency carries out a climate vulnerability assessment for culturally significant natural resources

Emergency management and public health staff update the county's hazard mitigation plan to include lessons learned from the pandemic

Urban sustainability director and community organizations work to create a citywide heat resilience plan

Land use planner needs to add climate adaptation into comprehensive development plan



Community Engagement and Planning for Watershed Resilience

Grand Rapids Urban Waters
Federal Partnership



<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/0f304067072d40a6a9d21f398902e990>

Trauma-informed engagement

- Disaster survivors may experience trauma
- Long-term stress and marginalization also cause trauma
- Resilience practitioners should be aware of and acknowledge trauma in order to repair relationships and build trust
- Practices: empathy, transparency, accountability

Trauma: Any disturbing experience that results in significant fear, helplessness, dissociation, confusion, or other disruptive feelings intense enough to have a long-lasting negative effect.... Traumatic events include those caused by human behavior...as well as by nature...and often challenge an individual's view of the world as a just, safe, and predictable place (American Psychological Association, 2023a).

5 Customizable Sections

Plan

Goal setting, core team

Engage

Diagram connections, engagement plan

Assess

Share stories, participatory mapping

Strategize Actions

Action identification and strategy planning

Move Forward

Implementation, funding, monitoring



Equitable Resilience Builder

Inclusive planning for disasters and climate change



What is ERB?

- The 5 sections of ERB
- How ERB centers equity
- Examples of ERB projects



Get Started

- Start a new project
- Continue your project
- Explore the tool



Support

- Quick-start guide
- How to customize ERB
- About

What Communities Get from Using the ERB



STRONGER
COMMUNITY
CONNECTIONS
AND NETWORKS



LEARNING
ABOUT
HAZARDS,
EQUITY, AND
RESILIENCE



ACTIONS AND
COMMITMENTS
TO IMPLEMENT
THESE ACTIONS



VISUALIZATIONS



DOCUMENTATION
OF THE
ASSESSMENT

Getting started with ERB

Website landing page

Download tool, read user guide, view how-to video, get Zoom link for office hours

<https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response-research/equitable-resilience-builder>

Pilot coaching program

- EPA staff help users select activities, craft engagement
- Meet 2 hours per month one-on-one with the core team



Office Hours
Free! Drop-In! Virtual!
2nd Wed. 3-4 pm ET
3rd Fri. 2-3 pm ET

For information on coaching, contact: Eisenhauer.Emily@epa.gov or Nee.Raven@epa.gov

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ERB tool and user guide

<https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response-research/equitable-resilience-builder>

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Thank you! Questions?

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Community case studies: EPA Regions 2, 4 & 5, FEMA, NYS, Climate Resilience Consulting, Adaptation International, KLA

Additional reading

Fry, M., et al. (2023). Centering equity in the development of a community resilience planning resource. *Climate Risk Management* 40:100520. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crm.2023.100520>

Eisenhauer, E. and J. Finley. (2022). *Equitable Resilience to Flooding: A resource for practitioners on understanding economic, health, and social vulnerabilities and inequities in response and recovery*. Washington, D.C. EPA/600/R-23/214. https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?dirEntryId=359626&Lab=CPHEA

Maxwell, K. (2018). A coupled human–natural systems framework of community resilience. *Journal of Natural Resources Policy Research* 8 (1-2): 110–130. <https://doi.org/10.5325/naturesopolirese.8.1-2.0110>

EPA (2017). *Evaluating Urban Resilience to Climate Change: A Multi-Sector Approach*. Washington, D.C. EPA/600/R16/365F. https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_report.cfm?Lab=NCEA&dirEntryId=322482