



## Resilience and Sustainability

This award recognizes a strategy that creates a more sustainable community and/or increases the ability of a community to recover from and adapt to shocks and stresses (economic impacts, natural disasters, human-caused disasters, climate change, etc.), resulting in it becoming stronger, more equitable, and better prepared for the future.

*Examples: A comprehensive plan, climate adaptation plan, or other plan that addresses resilience in substantive and innovative ways; a program or project such as use of green infrastructure to protect a community from hazards and build resilience; community engagement that increases understanding of resilience and leads to action; public health efforts or economic development plans or initiatives that improve the overall human and fiscal health of the community, etc.*

### Eligibility

Open to APA members and nonmembers.

### Criteria

1. **Originality and innovation.** Identify how the strategy builds upon best practices and identifies innovative approaches for addressing a community's specific needs or reducing its risks. How does the initiative improve recovery efforts if a disaster does strike, or address cascading disasters or stresses (i.e. landslides result from excessive rains, public health emergencies create economic stress)?
2. **Engagement.** Describe how the strategy used an inclusive planning process and engages diverse partners and stakeholders, and/or breaks down institutional or structural barriers to facilitate decision making so all community members' voices are represented. Describe what steps were taken to build momentum and support for your entry. Explain how planners helped facilitate outcomes that gained support for planning practices.
3. **Integration.** Describe how the strategy integrates or augments existing planning efforts within the community, county, or region such as corresponding comprehensive or master plans or other related initiatives. Explain how the effort or initiative can be adapted or applied by other jurisdictions and supports the broader needs of the community and surrounding region.
4. **Economic Impacts.** Describe how the strategy represents realizable and practical actions, leveraging multiple funding sources and partnerships to deliver co-benefits for

diverse populations. How will the effort lessen the financial impact disasters or economic downturns can have on communities?

5. **Effectiveness and Results.** Demonstrate how the initiative has strengthened the resiliency of the community. Identify what benchmarks were used to determine success and be explicit about how the results have made a difference in the lives of people affected. How has this initiative increased resident understanding and awareness about potential disasters, as well as the roles and responsibilities of individual community members, along with the community as a whole, in helping to mitigate the severity of potential disasters? How has this initiative positioned the community for a stronger, more resilient future?