

Resilience Roadmap

Resilience Glossary:

Summarized by the [Resilience Roadmap Project](#)

This glossary of resilience-relevant terms was pulled together from U.S. federal government sources. In some cases, multiple definitions for a single term were identified.

Definitions:

Adaptation: Adjustment in natural or human systems to a new or changing environment that exploits beneficial opportunities or moderates negative effects. (Source: [USGCRP Glossary](#))

Alternate definitions:

Adjustment in natural or human systems in anticipation of or response to a changing environment in a way that effectively uses beneficial opportunities or reduces negative efforts. (Source: [DODD 4715.21](#))

Adjustment in natural or human systems to a new or changing environment that exploits beneficial opportunities or moderates negative effects. (Source: [House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis](#))

Adaptation science: Integrated scientific research that directly contributes to enabling adjustments in natural or human systems to a new or changing environment in a way that exploits beneficial opportunities or moderates negative effects. (Source: [USGCRP Glossary](#))

Adaptive capacity: The potential of a system to adjust to climate change (including climate variability and extremes) to moderate potential damages, take advantage of opportunities, and cope with the consequences. (Source: [USGCRP Glossary](#))

Extreme events: A weather event that is rare at a particular place and time of year, including, for example, heat waves, cold waves, heavy rains, periods of drought and flooding, and severe storms. (Source: [USGCRP Glossary](#))

Frontline communities: Those communities that experience climate change first and often feel the worst effects. They are communities that have higher exposures, are more sensitive, and are less able to adapt to climate change impacts for a variety of reasons. (Source: [USGCRP Glossary](#))

Preparedness: Actions taken to build, apply, and sustain the capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, and ameliorate negative effects. (Source: [USGCRP Glossary](#))

Resilience: A capability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant multi-hazard threats with minimum damage to social well-being, the economy, and the environment. (Source: [USGCRP Glossary](#))

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Alternate definitions:

The ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions. (Source: [DODD 4715.21](#))

The capability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant multi-hazard threats with minimum damage to social well-being, health, the economy, and the environment. (Source: [House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis](#))

The ability to prepare and plan for, absorb, recover from, and more successfully adapt to adverse events (Source: [NAS](#))

The ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions (Source: [EO 13653](#))

The ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions such as significant multi-hazard threats with minimum damage to social well-being, the economy, and the environment (Source: [49 CFR § 602.5](#))

The ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions through adaptable and holistic planning and technical solutions (Source: [DOE Resilience Roadmap](#))

Community resilience is the ability to prepare for anticipated hazards, adapt to changing conditions, and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions. Activities, such as disaster preparedness—which includes prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery—are key steps to resilience. (Source: [NIST](#))

Vulnerability: The degree to which physical, biological, and socio-economic systems are susceptible to and unable to cope with adverse impacts of climate change. (Source: [USGCRP Glossary](#))