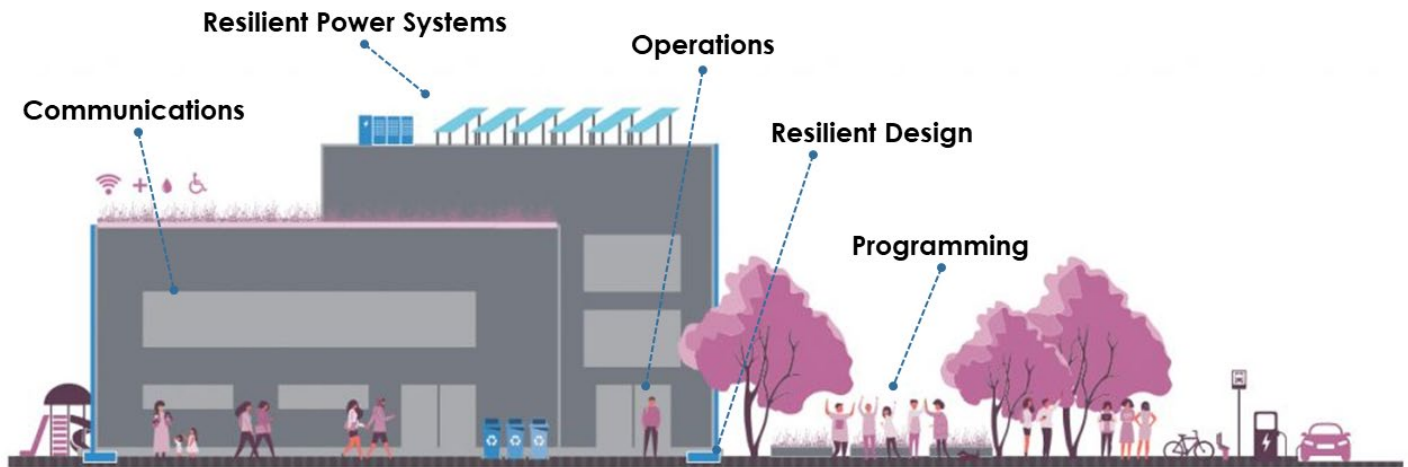


A VISION FOR

# COMMUNITY RESILIENCE HUBS

IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



## WHAT IS A COMMUNITY RESILIENCE HUB?

Climate Ready DC and Resilient DC call for a network of community resilience hubs throughout the District of Columbia. A **resilience hub** is a community facility that connects residents to resources and services to help a community be prepared for disruptions, including chronic stressors and acute emergencies. Resilience hubs are open in times of emergency as well as in everyday “steady state” to connect residents to resources, build climate resilience-related skills, and cultivate relationships in the communities they serve. Community resilience hubs support communities to

become more self-determining, socially connected, and successful. Resilient power systems (for example, solar panels and battery storage systems) are a strategic feature of community resilience hubs that enable these facilities to operate and provide services such as refrigeration, cell phone charging, and communications during power outages. However, resilience hub programs in cities like Baltimore and Los Angeles have incorporated trusted community facilities that support residents without solar and battery storage.

**“Resilience** is the ability of people and their communities to anticipate, accommodate and positively adapt to or thrive amidst changing climate conditions and hazard events. Resilient communities enjoy a high quality of life, reliable systems, and economic vitality, and they conserve resources for present and future generations. The term resilience is often used interchangeably with emergency preparedness and response, but these elements only address part of this important concept.”

—Urban Sustainability Directors Networks Guide to Developing Resilience Hubs, 2019



## RESILIENCE HUBS: THREE MODES OF OPERATION

As climate change brings more flooding, heat waves, and severe storms, community resilience hubs will complement our existing emergency response services and, critically, serve District communities year-round by promoting health; providing meeting spaces; educating the community about risks and resources; supporting emergency preparedness; and fostering

workforce development. Community resilience hubs will operate in **normal/steady state mode** (also called “blue skies”) more than 99% of the time. The hubs will be critical to serving residents if the community is in **disruption mode** (major flooding event, snowstorm, heat, or other climate emergency), and **recovery mode** (post-emergency).

	NORMAL/STEADY STATE ("BLUE SKIES")	DISRUPTION	RECOVERY
PROGRAMMING	Promote community preparedness, well-being, economic vitality, trust-building.	Meet community needs: refrigeration, charging, information, medical supplies, communications, etc.	Support long-term recovery. Operational base for residents.
RESILIENT DESIGN	Physical space accommodates programming.	Resilient building withstands extreme weather and accommodates peak programming demand.	Include necessary spaces to meet new recovery programming and planning, in addition to steady state activities.
OPERATIONS	Personnel and resources to support programs.	Enhanced personnel, augmented by volunteers. Government agencies coordinate relief efforts and distribute emergency supplies through the hub.	Prepare for a second wave of disruption or support a return to steady state.
COMMUNICATION	Consistent communications, build presence and trust.	Facilitates emergency communications through trusted community channels; partners with government.	Facilitate community planning and communication about recovery.
POWER	Solar and battery storage reduces utility costs, reduces emissions, and may provide energy grid support.	Resilience hub can “island” to provide back-up power.	Reconnect to the grid, resume normal power operations.

## TOWARDS A COMMUNITY RESILIENCE HUB PILOT

The Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) is collaborating with the Ward 7 Resilience Hub Community Committee (RHCC)—a group that is comprised of residents from various Ward 7 neighborhoods—which selected the F.H. Faunero Center for a community-led partnership to establish the District’s first resilience hub (Resilience Incubator@FH Faunero). The District’s climate adaptation plan, Climate Ready DC, identified the neighborhoods along the Watts Branch

stream as being at high risk from flooding and other climate change impacts. The pilot resilience hub in Ward 7 continues to further “blue sky” operations and programming, including climate-related workforce development. DOEE is providing technical assistance, including support to install solar panels and battery storage, and climate-related programming. The pilot project will inform how future community resilience hubs can be established to create a network of hubs throughout the District of Columbia.

## REFERENCES

Resilience Hub Community Committee. “Ward 7 Resilience Hub Proposal.” June 2022. Available at <https://faunero.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/RHCC-Report-Year-1.pdf>.

Baja, Kristin. “Guide to Developing Resilience Hubs.” Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN), 2019. Available at <http://resilience-hub.org/>.

