



# Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Unveils Flooding Mitigation Report

**Hartford, CT – September 17, 2024** – The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is pleased to announce the release of a comprehensive report on flooding mitigation, developed in collaboration with leading engineering firm Fuss & O'Neill. This pivotal study aims to address the growing concerns surrounding flood risks across Connecticut and provide actionable recommendations to enhance the resilience of our communities.

The report, entitled "Strategic Flooding Mitigation for Connecticut: Challenges and Solutions," evaluates current flood management practices and outlines a series of strategic interventions tailored to the state's unique environmental and infrastructural needs. The study represents a significant investment in the future safety and sustainability of Connecticut's municipalities.

## Key Recommendations

1. Flood Risk Estimation and Awareness
  - a. Augment FEMA flood hazard maps to reflect actual flood risk more accurately for municipalities and property owners.
  - b. Develop statewide pluvial flood hazard mapping.
  - c. Support more frequent updates to FEMA flood hazard maps
  - d. Promote flood insurance coverage and other flood risk reduction strategies for properties outside.
  - e. FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas
2. Floodplain and Flood Resilience Design Standards
  - a. Develop and implement statewide climate resilience design standards and guidance to incorporate climate and flood resilience into budgeting, coordination, capital planning, grant-making, and implementation of State and municipal capital projects.

- i. a. Incorporate a scientifically based process that produces a consistent outcome and uniform guidelines for users in the selection of planning horizon, return period, and design criteria.
3. Grant Funding and Grant Management Capacity
  - a. Provide state funding to cover a portion of the required local match for federal resilience grants.
  - b. Increase funding levels for the CT DEEP Climate Resilient Fund grant program.
  - c. Streamline the CT DEEP Climate Resilience Fund application process.
  - d. Create a state grant program for municipalities to replace undersized and degraded culverts.
  - e. Provide ongoing coordinated resilience grant funding and management capacity building and technical assistance.
4. Dedicated Funding Sources
  - a. Encourage and incentivize municipalities to develop local funding or financing mechanisms to generate ongoing revenue for flood resilience projects and to leverage state and federal grant funding.
    - i. Stormwater Authorities
    - ii. Coastal Resilience Reserve Funds
    - iii. Municipal Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience, and Erosion Control Boards
    - iv. CT Green Bank
    - v. Resilience Improvement Districts
  - b. Provide ongoing outreach training and tools to municipalities on these local funding mechanisms.
5. Interagency Collaboration and Regional Approaches
  - a. Strengthen the role of the Councils of Governments (COGs) to manage and administer regional flood resilience programs on behalf of their respective participating municipalities.
  - b. Provide additional state funding to COGs to support grant procurement and administration and a full-time flood resilience manager or coordinator for each regional COG, modeled after a position recently created by WestCOG.
6. Technology and Tools
  - a. Implement a statewide system to track municipal flood resilience actions.
  - b. Integrate local and state culvert data and mapping into statewide.
  - c. GIS resources
  - d. Develop statewide evacuation route mapping to support municipal evacuation planning Implement flood warning systems and public notification methods for high-risk communities and areas.
  - e. Develop a flood resilience “implementation” toolkit to augment similar tools that have been developed for resilience planning.

**CCM Board President, Laura Hoydick** expressed her enthusiasm for the report, stating, “Flooding poses a serious threat to our communities, and this report provides

us with a roadmap to address these challenges effectively. By working with Fuss & O'Neill, we've gained invaluable insights that will help us protect our residents, safeguard our infrastructure, and ensure sustainable growth across Connecticut.”

**Fuss & O'Neill Vice President & Project Manager, Erik Mas**, added, “Our team is proud to have contributed to this important project. The report’s recommendations are designed to be practical and adaptable, offering municipalities clear, actionable steps to mitigate flood risks and improve overall community resilience.”

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities is committed to collaborating with state and local leaders to implement the report's recommendations. Through continued partnership and proactive measures, CCM aims to enhance flood preparedness and ensure a safer future for all Connecticut residents.

The full report is available for download on the CCM website at [www.ccm-ct.org/flood-study](http://www.ccm-ct.org/flood-study). For additional information or media inquiries, please contact:

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**About the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM):**

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is the leading advocacy organization for municipal governments in Connecticut. CCM provides support, guidance, and resources to help local leaders effectively address challenges and enhance the quality of life in their communities.

**About Fuss & O'Neill:**

Fuss & O'Neill is a premier engineering and environmental consulting firm, offering innovative solutions and expert analysis to address complex infrastructure and environmental challenges. With a commitment to sustainability and excellence, Fuss & O'Neill partners with clients to deliver practical, forward-thinking solutions.